

DUTA to expel Dr Aftab

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) yesterday decided to expel Dr Aftabuddin Ahmed, a teacher of the Political Science Department, from the organisation for his derogatory remarks about the national anthem, reports BSS.

A general meeting of DUTA with its president Prof R I M Aminur Rashid in the chair adopted a resolution in this regard, concerned sources said.

The meeting empowered the Executive Committee to execute the decision immediately, sources added.

The meeting urged the university authorities to expel Dr Aftab from the university as his remarks hurt the national sentiment, which was against the sovereignty of the country.

It also urged the government to take action against him on charge of anti-state activities under the Penal Code.

Dr Aftab recently at a seminar commented that "the national anthem should be changed as it was written by an Indian Hindu poet."

Ananda Mohan College teacher assaulted

From Our Correspondent MYMENSINGH, Dec 17 : A teacher of Mymensingh Ananda Mohan College was assaulted allegedly by a student today.

Sarwar Jahan, a teacher of Philosophy Department, was assaulted by Rajput, a student of Management Department when he refused to admit a student in the Philosophy Department illegally.

Later, the teachers at an emergency meeting, demanded of the college authorities to expel Rajput from the college.

They also threatened to go for tougher action programme if Rajput was not arrested within 24 hours.

Meanwhile, BCL district unit condemned the incident.

AL rally

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over the rally.

AL sources said, today's rally is part of the week-long programme taken up by the party's central working committee (ALWC) at an emergency meeting on the day the High Court gave a split verdict in Bangabandhu murder case.

One judge of a Division Bench upheld the death sentences of 10 out of the 15 accused and acquitted five while the other judge confirmed the death sentences of all the 15.

The week-long programme began yesterday with country-wide demonstrations. The programme would culminate in a series of such rallies at Paltan over the next five days, to be organised by various front organisations of the ruling AL.

Khulna BNP

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The logic behind keeping him ignored is very clear that he miserably failed to call a council meeting to form a new district committee as earlier directed by party chairperson Khaleda Zia.

He was made convenor of the ad-hoc committee. But he failed to call a council meeting, said signatories of the ultimatum.

The party was so long run by some leaders who want to grasp power and post for their self-interests, said the signatories.

Powell

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He described Powell, 63, who rose from humble origins to be the first African American nominated to the nation's top diplomatic job, as "an American hero, an American example, and a great American story."

Powell, son of a seamstress and shipping clerk who came to America from Jamaica in 1920, was an adviser to the last three presidents. Bush said he had "provided good counsel, strong leadership and an example of integrity for every one for whom he serves."

Both men had tears in their eyes during Bush's glowing introduction.

"It was emotional because I so admire Colin Powell. I love his story... It was a great moment and he's going to do a fantastic job," Bush told reporters later as he, Powell and Vice President-elect Dick Cheney sat down to ham and cheese sandwiches at Bush's ranch.

Powell is known internationally after overseeing the US military in the 1991 Gulf War, when American built a powerful coalition to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Reward

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As per the decision, the Director General of Customs Intelligence A T M Sarwar Hossen will get Tk 2.50 lakh. Deputy Director Hafizur Rahman and Joint Director Atiqur Rahman will get Tk 1.50 lakh each.

Intelligence Officer Abu Akkas will get Tk 1.10 lakh and Customs Inspector Rezaul Karim will get Tk 65,000. Some other intelligence officials will get Tk 50,000 each.

A police sergeant of Gulshan thana will also get Tk 40,000 for helping the customs team in detecting and seizing the smuggled goods from a house at Gulshan in the city.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with the Awami League leaders and activists placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar on occasion of the Victory Day on Saturday. -Star photo



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, accompanied by her party leaders and activists, paying tributes to the martyrs of the War of Liberation on the Victory Day at the National Memorial at Savar. -Star photo

Donors fail to keep their pledges New army chief

Edn Minister A S H K Sadique says

Education Minister A S H K Sadique said that donor agencies have failed to keep their pledges and contributed only three per cent of resources they promised in the Jomtein summit for educational development, reports BSS.

"Many educationists now feel that the Jomtein summit concentrated too much on the numerical growth. The quality [of education] was not forgotten but it has suffered," the minister said yesterday while inaugurating a symposium titled 'National Consultation on Education for All' at post-Dakar follow up in the Planning and Development Academy auditorium at Nilkhet.

Action Aid-Bangladesh, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), National

Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD), Oxfam (Great Britain) and Save the Children jointly organised the symposium under the banner of Education Coalition, Bangladesh.

Executive Director of BRAC Fazle Hasan Abed presided over the function. Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed of Dhaka University, Dr Manzoor Ahmed of UNICEF, Education Advisor of Save the Children Deepika Nair, Director of CAMPE Rasheda K Cloudhury and NFOWD President Khondokar Jahurul Alam, among others, addressed the opening session.

The education minister said that the national governments which were party to the Jomtein summit contributed 65 per cent of the resources and one of the

major donors, World Bank, concentrated on the educational development of East Europe and Caribbean countries.

He added that necessary bills will be placed before parliament in the coming month to enhance monitoring of the standard of English medium schools across the country.

Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed said education has already emerged as a commodity and the affluent section of the society is flexing muscles in this sector. The process has generated conflicts and sharp division in the society.

He said donor dependant education system is never sustainable and no nation which possesses self-respect could switch over to commercial mode of education.

Excluding some numeric growth our achievement, a decade after Jomtein summit is so far limited. "Education For All (EFA) is more than schooling, and EFA covers learning from birth up to adulthood and beyond," Prof. Ahmed said.

UNICEF's Advisor Dr. Manzoor Ahmed said participatory approach should be taken while planning and implementing EFA programmes. He urged all to eliminate influence of partisan politics from the arena of education.

Ms Deepika Nair said some of the growing concerns in the field of education include deteriorating quality of education, low retention, unreliable statistics and failure to meet new dimensions for youth and adults.

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and Harun at her office yesterday morning, the sources said.

Maj Gen Harun-ar-Rashid, an Infantry Corps officer, is now Chief of General Staff (CGS). He is known in military circles as an efficient commander and professional soldier.

He was born at Katirhat in Hathazari thana of Chittagong.

He joined the Pakistan Air Force Academy in 1964 to become a pilot. As he was not given the job of flying, he left.

Later, he joined the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in 1970 as a member of the 24th War Course and was commissioned on September 6 that year.

He was commissioned in the Fourth Battalion of the then East Bengal Regiment stationed in Comilla. He fought during the

War of Independence.

Harun was awarded Bir Pratik title for his gallantry during the War. He attended the Staff College at Mirpur in the city and had higher training at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London, where he obtained 'reds'.

He was a Counsellor at Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh for three years.

He commanded a Brigade at Savar cantonment and was Commander of 19 Division in Mymensingh.

After the present government took over, he was Principal Staff Officer to the Prime Minister from September 1996 to early 1998.

He was Chief Military Observer in Georgia, Russia, under the United Nations for one year and nine months.

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expel him."

Hasina told newsmen that later it appeared that they were dilly-dallying about taking him out of Bangladesh.

The prime minister wondered how a diplomat could speak against a sovereign country while staying in that country. "Bangladesh is an independent country and not a province or colony of Pakistan. Pakistan government should be cautious and properly brief its diplomat before sending him to any country," she said at a press meet with OCAB members.

"We earned our independence through a bloody war and will not tolerate any utterance against our independence."

Hasina mentioned that she had a scheduled meeting with the Chief Executive of Pakistan Gen Parvez Musharraf in New York last September, but he did not turn up as he was hurt by her speech at the Security Council seeking action against military takeover in any member state of the UN.

The prime minister said she had always stood for democracy and fought against military rule since 1980. Even when she was a schoolgirl, she joined processions against military rule of Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan in Pakistan and military dictators of Zia and Ershad later on.

"I believe in democracy and will always raise my voice against military rule," Hasina said.

Asked if Iran's expulsion would affect her peace initiative in the region by holding the stalled SAARC summit, the prime minister said her endeavour would continue since regional peace and stability is necessary for economic development of the countries in South Asia.

PM: Raja's expulsion

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About SAARC, she said it is working at the official level and the forum is alive and would remain alive.

In reply to a question about India, the prime minister said the BNP government of Khaleda Zia allowed duty-free access of Indian goods to Bangladesh market reducing 300 to 400 per cent of import duties.

After assuming power, she said, her government negotiated with the Indian government about duty-free access of Bangladesh exports to Indian market. Some export items started going to India, but negotiations continued on this point.

Asked about US attitude towards Bangladesh with the election of George Bush as US president, Hasina said US foreign policy does not change fundamentally with change in power.

Boxes in Bay

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It was learnt that these heavy boxes were collected from a wooden trawler from the sea on December 16. There was a plan to unload those boxes at a place named Gohira, near Chittagong outer anchorage, the release added.

The Pakistani citizen named Mohammad arrived in Bangladesh 12 days ago and boarded a boat on the night of December 15.

The arrested Pakistani citizen neither speaks nor answers any questions," the ISPR said.

Naval Ship MR Amin will escort the two boats to harbour and hand them over to the authorities concerned for legal action against them.

Fresh vow

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Dhanomdi. AL hoisted both national and party flags atop party offices throughout the country.

After offering wreaths at the mausoleum on behalf of her party, BNP chief Khaleda Zia went to Chandrima Udayan in the city to place wreaths at the grave of late President Ziaur Rahman.

Victory Day celebration kicked off even before the dawn as the Dhaka University campus was vibrated with fireworks right after Friday midnight. Thirty big balloons were released in the air to hail the august day.

Freedom fighters, their sons and daughters, students and cultural activists burnt effigies of war criminals at TSC on Dhaka University campus and brought out a colourful rally from Institute of Fine Arts.

Important establishments and many high-rise buildings were tastefully illuminated while road islands were decorated with red-green miniature national flags on the day.

National dailies brought out special supplements highlighting the day's significance. State-run electronic media as well as private television channels also aired programmes befitting the day's importance.

According to reports from across the country, the 30th Victory Day was observed amidst due fervor and gaiety elsewhere in the country.

Besides, the day was also observed with due solemnity in the country's missions abroad.

AL to launch polls campaign

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general elections as opposition's propaganda against us proved wrong. People became confident about Awami League and are enjoying the benefit of Awami League rule."

The prime minister said since the election is not far away, the opposition does not need to go for any agitation as it would be futile.

"Rather they should come back to parliament to do good to the people," Hasina said questioning the motives of their boycott.

It is still unintelligible why the opposition stays off parliament sessions when they are attending the meetings of parliamentary standing committees, enjoying all facilities as MPs, including red passport, salary and foreign travels, she said.

The prime minister criticised the opposition movement and said they even failed to implement their decision on resignation from parliament.

In reply to a question, Hasina indicated that her party might not go for any electoral coalition to counter the BNP-led four-party electoral alliance.

She said her party is enough to single-handedly deal with the four-party alliance. More so as the opposition line-up, she added, is now in disarray.

Hasina, however, cautioned that the parties that are doubtful about their election victory might resort to various conspiracies to foil people's franchise and urged journalists and people to remain alert about them.

"One thing that I have ensured through movement is a political system. Now one won't be able to capture power by making a declaration on radio. Now election will be held, people will cast vote and government will be formed."

Giving a brief resume of her

government's successes, she claimed that her's is the most efficient administration since 1975.

Narrating success stories, Hasina said press and judiciary are enjoying maximum freedom, rural economy got a boost through various socio-economic, housing and micro-credit schemes, literacy rate rose to 62 per cent and per-capita income to 386 dollars.

On the economic front, she said the country reaped bumper crops for five consecutive seasons and attained food autarky. Lifting tax on medical equipment and computer, progress in getting quota- and duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to EU market, inflation to 2.7 per cent, better performance in export and revenue earnings are the other remarkable attainments, she said.

She said import of capital machinery and raw material increased reducing import of consumer items while volume of remittances went up. At this moment the food reserve is around 11 lakh metric tons.

The Prime Minister said discipline had been restored in the financial sector and foreign investment was going up. US investment alone shot up to 800 million dollars from a paltry 20 million dollars, and it is expected to cross the 1000 million-dollar mark.

"After four and a half years' rule, we have put the economy on the right track and set a strong ground for economic takeoff," she told the journalists representing foreign media.

The prime minister however said despite all her willingness, she could not complete the decentralisation process by completing election to Upazila and

Zila parishes.

She said it would have been good for the country if all these elections could be held, transferring power to local governments to quicken the development process particularly in rural areas.

"But people know why it could not be done," said Hasina, attributing the shortcomings to the opposition's strong objection, election commission and court injunctions on the holding of election to Upazila and Zila parishes.

Referring to the power problem, the prime minister said power production increased with the increase in its demand.

About autonomy to radio and television, Hasina said as per her election commitment, she would give it as per guidelines before next election. She however indicated opposition from radio-TV employees to the autonomy.

Hasina said her government had gone one step ahead of autonomy by allowing the first-ever private TV channel.

In reply to a question about the possibility of scrapping the Special Powers Act 1974, she said although Awami League government had framed it, subsequent governments of Zia, Ershad and Khaleda did not annul it, rather admitted its usefulness in running the country.

Even caretaker government of Shahabuddin Ahmed applied it in arresting the deposed president Ershad, she pointed out.

"I never said I would scrap it. We have framed it, why should we scrap it," Hasina posed a counter-question.

Asked whether the government would set up special tribunal to try the 1971 war criminals, the PM said it would require framing of a new law needing constitu-

tional amendment. The provision for trying the killers was scrapped by Ziaur Rahman by a martial law ordinance which was ratified through the fifth amendment. She also blamed Zia for releasing war criminals jailed on specific charges.

Asked whether she would want to see the execution of the court's verdict against the killers of Bangabandhu before going for general elections, the prime minister said she does not want to relate it with the court's decision.

"The government can't do anything here since the judiciary enjoys full freedom," she said, referring to the split judgement. "It's up to the Chief Justice now, who will send the matter to a third judge."

Hasina however said: "We are satisfied that trial has been held, justice has been done... I don't want to make any further comments at this moment."

OCAB President Farid Hossain presided over the press meet while general secretary Nadeem Qadir delivered a welcome address.

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circulated leaflet a few months ago, terming him a terrorist and extortionist, the sources mentioned.

Police said they were looking for Hemayet since his photograph was published in Friday's newspapers.

Meanwhile, the DU authorities formed a probe body to investigate terrorist activities in the vicinity of the campus. But a DU official pointed out that even if Hemayet is found involved in the incident, they would not be able to take any action against him since he is no longer a student of the university.

An appeal to the Head of the Government

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young political activist of the EFSU (the leftist student's body) I saw him from far and greatly admired the courage, the single-mindedness, the commitment and the patriotism with which he led us all. As a freedom fighter his intangible presence, his words and especially his historic speech of March 7 th. 71 were constant source of inspiration for us in those fateful days of Liberation War. Following independence when I saw him relinquishing his post as the President (of the provisional government) and becoming the Prime Minister, I rejoiced in the knowledge that he did not make the fatal mistake of the founder of Pakistan, and opted for parliamentary democracy rather than the Presidential.

When I read the contents of our original Constitution I marvelled at its liberal, secular, democratic and pro-people contents. When he went for the 73 elections to seek a fresh mandate in the independent soil of Bangladesh as a novice journalist I instinctively felt that he was doing the right thing, slightly marred by the knowledge of forced victories (totally unnecessary) in some constituencies. Obviously BKSAL

smashed much of my dreams but that is not the subject of my writing today.

The cruelty against Bangabandhu becomes even more unbearable and the outrage against the perpetrators more intense when we think that our Constitution was amended by an Indemnity Act, first brought into effect as an ordinance by Khandaker Mustaq and subsequently added to our Constitution as an amendment by Ziaur Rahman. In my view Ziaur Rahman's most immoral act was to protect these killers. From April 79 till its scrapping in November '96, for good 17 years Bangladesh was the only country in the world to have the unique feature of protecting self-confessed killer through a Constitutional Amendment, thanks to President Zia. What is also sad is that Khaleda Zia, who came to power through a free and fair election unlike her husband) also carried on this shameful Act and did nothing to try these killers. How could democracy and Constitutional protection of killers continue side by side? But it did in Bangladesh.

As the daughter of Bangabandhu you must harbour an additional sense of anger as

successive governments patronised his killers with plum diplomatic postings instead of trying them for his assassination. We think this anger is fully justified. This writer, and millions like me who believe in the rule of law also harbour a similar anger. I have written about it many times (before AL came to power). The paper that I have the honour to edit, was perhaps the first, to demand that 15th August be declared the 'National Mourning Day' back in 1993 within two years of our publication - much before it became fashionable to do so. This writer under his own name wrote numerous times about the scrapping of the Indemnity Act before you came to power.

I have said all the above to try to convince you that though my opinions about your government may have angered you from time to time and no doubt will in the future, for that is the unfortunate nature of my professional responsibility but my feelings for Bangabandhu remains unwavering. And it is these feelings of my undying admiration for Bangabandhu that I say please do not shoot out one of your usual volleys against the higher judiciary in your public meeting today.

Please understand that passed a judgement is not a popularly contest. It is meticulous examination of every scrap of evidence and judging it with the appropriate requirements of the law. When you say that the judgement did not meet public expectation, you must remember that for a judge there is no public. There is only the evidence and the law. Remember that famous blindfolded lady who holds the balance in her hand. She symbolises the fact that justice is blind.

When you initiated the trial of Bangabandhu's killers you deliberately chose the path of ordinary courts and did not set up any special tribunals. This move earned you a lot of praise and gave the trial global credibility. We have arrived nearly at its end. Now if you lose patience and launch what is apparently a pressure tactics on the judiciary the trial will get a bad name and the killers undue and undeserved sympathy. Remember in the trail of assassinations of many great men in history several accused got acquitted. In this case we have 10 death sentences upheld. About the rest five judicial avenues are still open to you to have their cases reviewed.

But if political activities are

launched throughout the country against the verdict then impressions will be created that the judges are being pressured to give their judgements in a particular way. The attack on the house of a brother of one of two justices did not go well at all. What has been an acceptable judicial process will become questionable if you lose patience now. Widespread violence and indiscriminate breaking of cars the other day against which you did call for calm, but did not reprimand the culprits- did not bode well.

I most fervently request you to think of your speech today. Yes, you are the daughter of Bangabandhu and your mother, yes you are the sister of Sheikh Kamal and Jamal, and of that sweet young boy, Sheikh Russell. But you are also the elected Prime Minister of the country, and oath bound to uphold the law and the Constitution both in the letter and the spirit. You are highest administrator and the most exalted symbol of everything that is legal and proper. It is tough to be all that at this moment. But that is what you need to be. Please do not spoil the image of the trial by rallying the public against the judiciary.

Rab murder Hitler placed on remand

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Dec 17: Rafiqul Islam Hitler, an activist of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was taken on a six-day remand today in connection with AL mayoral candidate SMA Rab murder case.

An eight-member team of KMP interrogated Hitler for his alleged involvement in Ganesh murder during a six-day remand that expired on Friday, said a member of the team.

Hitler gave no information about arms used by his party PBCP for killing Mir Elias Hossain Dilip and Alifaz of Jhenidah, Phulatala UP chairman Abul Kashem, AL leader of Daulatpur Hasan Tarafdar, BCL leader Bikash Baroi, Chhatra Moitree leader Alok Dey, JCD leader Chanchal and AL mayoral candidate SMA Rab.

But Hitler said that PBCP had decided in a meeting held in 1996 to murder some leaders and armed cadres of Awami League and BNP.

"I am afraid of none but armed cadres of 'Sramajibi Mukti Andolan'," Hitler told police during interrogation.

Police quoting Hitler said he had come to Khulna town to take money from Mithu, one of the accused in JCD central leader Chanchal murder case.

Four killed in Mymensingh road accident

From Our Correspondent MYMENSINGH, Dec 17 : At least four people were killed and 30 injured when a bus fell into a roadside ditch in Bhaluka upazila on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at about 7:15 pm yesterday.

Of the dead, three were identified as Khokon, 30, Mubarak Hossain, 30, Aman Ali, 29 while the other could not be identified.

Police said the accident occurred when a Mymensingh bound passenger bus from Dhaka fell into a roadside ditch at Zorakanda as its driver lost control over the steering killing two on the spot. However, two others died on way to hospital.

The injured were admitted to local clinics and Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. The bodies were sent to the morgue for autopsy.

SUMMON / NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF ARTHA RIN ADALAT, NARAYANGONJ
ARTHARIN SUIT NO. 9 OF 2000

ANZ Grindlays Bank Limited
2, Dilkusha Commercial Area,
Dhaka- 1000 and its branch at
26, Shaista Khan Road,
Narayangonj-1400.

..... **Plaintiff.**

-Versus -

Md. Abul Kalam
132/1, west Deobhog,
Bepari Para, Narayangonj and of
11/1, Baburaila, Narayangonj and of
Village-Bakharpur, P.O.- Bakharpur,
P.S. Chandpur Sadar, District-Chandpur.

..... **Defendant.**

Whereas the Plaintiff Bank has instituted the aforesaid money suit on 08.05.2000 for realisation of Tk. 1,06,478.32 as on 31.03.2000 from you. Notice is hereby given upon you with a direction to appear before this Court on 04-01-2001 at 10.00 a. m. either personally or through your appointed lawyer and to file written statements or to take necessary steps in the suit, failing which the suit will be herad and disposed of in your absence.

By Order
মোঃ হাবিবুল্লাহ মাদবর
Sharastader
Artha Rin Adalat, Narayangonj.