

Decision to cancel food for edn programme condemned

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman yesterday protested and condemned the government decision to cancel food for education programme, saying the decision will make education of lakhs of children uncertain.

In a statement, Zillur said, the previous Awami League government continued the programme to ensure education of the children of the poor.

But, he said, the BNP government has pushed the education of lakhs of poor students into uncertainty by canceling the programme.

During the Awami League rule, Zillur said, BNP, Chairperson Khaleda Zia brought false allegation of cancelling the people-oriented programme and threatened to go for movement.

But, the government of Khaleda Zia, in its first ECNEC meeting, took the decision to cancel the programme, he said and demanded resumption of the programme.

SC Legal Aid committee formed

BSS, Dhaka

A legal aid body styled as 'Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee' was formed on Thursday to extend legal assistance to political cases.

Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan was made chairman, while Barrister Amirul Islam, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed and Abdul Baset Majumder, president of Supreme Court Bar Association, were made co-chairmen of the 151-member committee.

Senior Advocate Mohammad Ozair Farooq will act as member-secretary of the Committee.



Bangabandhu Sangkritik Jote formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club yesterday protesting cancellation of public holidays on March 17, birthday of Bangabandhu, and August 15, National Mourning Day.

'Country was liberated through united struggle, not by a single party'

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said the country had been liberated through a united struggle of all irrespective of caste, creed and religion in 1971.

The country was liberated not by a single man or a single party though a party has been claiming the credit of liberating the country distorting facts of the War of Liberation, they said.

The speakers said these while taking part in a discussion organised by Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal in celebration of the Victory Day at the Bhashani Bhawan in the city.

Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, MP, took part in the discussion as the chief guest while Jubo Dal

Vice-President and State Minister for Commerce Barkatullah Bhulu was in the chair.

Among others, Jubo Dal General Secretary Goyeswar Roy, Vice President Sayeed Moazzem Hosain Alal, MP, Jubo Dal leaders Javed Iqbal, Anwar Hossain Khan and Mia Mohammad Selim also participated in the discussion.

They said the Awami League has been persistently claiming that the party alone brought the liberation of the country and that its leaders had played the pioneering role.

"Bangladesh is not an asset of any particular political party or any person as the whole nation shed its blood and took up arms to liberate the country," they added.

Laying emphasis on setting up "Youth development bank", Advocate Mahbubur Rahman said, "We have to concentrate now on grooming the country's youth force self-reliant to implement the ideals of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman".

"We have to wage another war for achieving economic emancipation of the country's millions of people," he added.

State Minister for Commerce Barkatullah Bhulu, called upon the country's youth forces to help implement the government development programmes across the country and supplement its efforts in all respects.

ILO-sponsored training on labour laws ends

BSS, Dhaka

A two-day exclusive training on labour laws for lawyers ended at the Bangladesh Bar Council Bhawan on Thursday, Bar Council sources said.

ILO with the help of Legal Education Training Institute (LETI) provided the training to 30 lawyers from different bar associations of the country aimed at establishing labour rights in the country.

Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim distributed the certificates among the participants as chief guest at the concluding session of the training.

Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council and Chairman of LETI chaired the function. Bar Council member Advocate SS Halder, Advocate Syed Rezaul Karim, LETI Secretary Judge Baharul Islam and Bar Council Secretary Mohammad Tasli Uddin Khan addressed the function.

Barisal Club executives

BSS, Barisal

The annual general meeting and election of Barisal Club was held on the club premises at Club Road of the town yesterday.

A ten-member executive committee of the club was formed unanimously with Divisional Commissioner M Zulfikar Hyder Chowdhury as president and Pourashava Chairman M Ahsan Habib Kamal as honorary general secretary.

Shubhash Chandra Das was elected joint secretary, Ruhul Amin treasurer and M A Berek vice-president.

The other six executive members are Mozammel Hossain Sikder, Syed Asadul Huq, Alamgir Khan Alo, A Khalek Shyammat, Motiur Rahman Khan and Gyanranjan Shil.



Information Minister Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan speaking at a trainee conference of BILS/LO-FTF Project at BIAM campus in the city yesterday.

Provision of minimum wages for workers a must

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday stressed the need for keeping provision of minimum wages for the workers in the country.

"There should have provision of minimum wages and that must be ensured to help protect the workers' rights," he said at the inaugural session of a two-day conference in the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM).

He said that production in mills and factories could never reach satisfactory level without looking into the rights of the workers.

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) organised the conference to discuss matters relating to trade unions and hammer out ways and means to prepare a action plan for the year 2002.

Around 650 trade unionists, who had been trained in different aspects of labour issues since the inception of the BILS in 1995, are taking part in the conference with the aim of sharing experiences about the field level union activities across the country.

Vice Chairman of BILS and Advisor to the Prime Minister Prof. Jahanara Begum, Labour Secretary

Sirajul Islam, Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk, ILO Director in Dhaka Gopal Kumer Bhattacharya, BILS/LO-FTF Project Director Hans Kastrop Anderson, BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan and Secretary Shirin Akhter also spoke on the occasion. BILS Chairman Ahsanullah Master, MP, presided.

The information minister said the condition of workers in mills and factories is really poor and they need help to get rid of the situation.

"We all, including the government and industrialists, have to put in sincere efforts to improve the living condition of workers," he said, adding that the government is pledge-bound to stand by the poor.

He underscored the need for proper utilisation of limited resources of the country and said

both workers and owners will have to maintain cordial relations for their mutual benefits. "Fraternal relations are a must for higher production," he said.

Dr. Moyeen Khan said one of the reasons for workers' deprivation was lack of unity among them. "They are disorganised and lacked basic sense of trade unionism," he observed.

He said the time has come to organise the workers and thus brighten the image of trade unionism. Private organisations like BILS, he said, can play a vital role in this context.

BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan briefed on the objectives of the BILS and said that it was a non-political organisation, established to help develop skills of labour movements and protect the rights of workers.

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