

'Anti-crime law anti-democratic'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Various socio-political and professional organisations protested the new law styled as 'Law and Order Disruption Crimes (Speedy Trial) Act, 2002'...

In a statement yesterday, the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association said the new law is a shattering blow to the basic human and constitutional rights.

Expressing grave concern over the passage of the law, Federation president R I M Aminul Islam and secretary general Dr. Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury said the government may use the law as a weapon of political vindictiveness.

They also demanded an end to the torture on the arrested who are taken on remand.

In another statement, the 11-Party alliance said the government had betrayed the people by passing such a law.

The new law will be used to harass the people and torture the opposition activists, they said.

The party will stage a demonstration with black flags in the city today to protest the passage of the law.

Jatiya Party acting president Sheikh Shahidul Islam and secretary general Anwar Hossain Monju, in another statement, said the new law is contrary to the freedom of speech and freedom of thinking.

Pragatishil Ainjibi Front described the new law as anti-democratic and contrary to human rights.

Samajtantrik Sramik Front also condemned the law in its central committee meeting yesterday.

Addressing the meeting, its president Abdullah Sarker said the government turned the country into a police state by passing such a law.

He said the government failed to maintain law and order and the ruling party leaders were harbouring the terrorists and criminals.

Biva placed on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Biva Rahman, arrested on charge of claiming herself as daughter of late president Ziaur Rahman, was placed on a three-day fresh remand yesterday for interrogation.

On expiry of a three-day remand, Kairali police produced Biva before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka at 3:00 pm yesterday with a prayer for a seven-day remand for further interrogation.

In the forwarding report police said, Biva gave important information about her entrance into the house of Khaleda Zia. Moreover, some political parties might be involved in it, the report said.

Biva, 40, a resident of Banogram under Boalia thana in Rajshahi district, had turned up at the entrance of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Cantonment residence on April 5. She tried to enter the house to meet Khaleda Zia, claiming that she is the daughter of Ziaur Rahman.



Teachers and students of Kalyani accorded a reception to Sultana Sarwat Ara Zaman, founder of the Bangladesh Pratibandhi Foundation, in the city yesterday on her winning the Dr MR Khan and Anwara Trust gold medal for her outstanding contribution to the welfare of the disabled.



French envoy Michel Lummaux and Tareque Masud, director of 'Matir Moyna' (The Bird), a Bangla feature film, hold a poster of the film at a press conference in the city yesterday. The artists of the film were introduced in the programme.

Forged 500-taka notes on CU campus

CU CORRESPONDENT

A number of forged 500-taka notes has been in circulation on the Chittagong University (CU) campus since last month.

The victims of the forgery are the students and teachers who were being harassed while buying anything in exchange for 500-taka notes.

The teachers and the students alleged that a well-organised gang in collusion with the cashiers of a bank located on the CU campus is circulating the fake notes.

One of the teachers of the university was harassed recently when he paid the bill of some stationery goods with the fake notes unknowingly.

The teacher said the fake notes came with the monthly salary he drew from the Agrani bank branch at CU.

VC Prof. Nuruddin Chowdhury asked the bank manager to take steps in this regard when the teacher brought it to his attention. The VC, however, was not available for comment as he is now staying in Dhaka.

When contacted, the proctor of the university said they had informed the bank manager of the forgery. The bank will take steps in this regard, he added.

Romiz Ahmed, manager of the bank, said he is going to take proper measures to nab the culprits.

He, however, denied the involvement of the bank staff in the forgery.

But he added that he will transfer the cashier of the bank to another post in the bank.

Other sources said some 'hundi businessmen' were circulating the fake notes in collusion with a section of bank officials.

Consignment of imported cloths seized in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

A customs team on Tuesday night seized a large consignment of cloths imported free of duty for making exportable garments.

The cloths were seized while being sold to the traders in Teribazar in the city.

Police said the cloths, worth about Tk one crore, were imported by Arco Apparels of Dhaka and unloaded at the port last week. Instead of transporting the consignment to the factory in Dhaka, the cloths were being sold in the open market.

On information, customs officials from Dhaka came to Chittagong and seized the cloths at 8 pm.

Customs also issued notice on the Arco Apparel and its C&F agent asking them to explain why legal action would not be taken against them in this regard.

20 newborns die every hour

Study reveals at a workshop

BSS, Dhaka

Twenty newborns die an hour and 1.5 lakh babies within 28 days of their births each year in the country due to infection, premature delivery and other delivery complexities.

Besides, around 10 lakh underweight babies encounter deaths every year and one lakh die in mothers' womb, according to a study disclosed at a workshop here yesterday.

Department of Family Planning and Save the Children USA jointly organised the workshop styled as "Saving Newborn Lives: Bangladesh Perspective" at Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM).

Dr Uzma Syed, associate programme manager of Save the Children, USA, presented the keynote paper in the workshop which was addressed by Programme Manager Dr Izaza Rasul, Director General of Family Planning Fazlur Rahman and Director General of Health Directorate Dr Prof A B M Ahsanullah.

Helen Gallaher, field office director of Save the Children USA, and Dr Ashraf Ali also spoke on the occasion. A number of physicians, health workers and media personnel attended.

It was observed in the workshop that all the indicators of the health sector have shown a positive sign of improvement in the health status of the people of the country with subsequent reduction of child mortality and morbidity.

"The rate of child death has come down by almost fifty per cent," Prof Ahsanullah said adding that the situation is still at the alarming stage. "We have to do more," he added.

Red Crescent concert to raise fund tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will organise a musical concert to raise fund for the poor at the Army Stadium in the city tomorrow.

Sponsored by Pepsi, the concert titled 'Abar Mato Dhaka' will be performed by leading band groups of the country including LRB, Nagar Baul, Swadhinata, Vikings and Warfaze.

Price of the ticket is Tk 120 per person. Tickets are being sold at different fast food shops and commercial establishments, said a press release yesterday.

Tickets will also be available at the gate of the venue at 11.00am.

FAO Representation in Bangladesh Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Communities for Livelihood Security (BGD/97/017) Expression of Interest. The GOB/UNDP/FAO project "Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Communities for Livelihood Security" works with the Government of Bangladesh to empower the disadvantaged and resource poor coastal fishing communities...

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AZIZ PIPES LIMITED 93, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 NOTICE This is for the general information of all the valued Shareholders of Aziz Pipes Limited that the Extra Ordinary General Meeting for Right Issue scheduled to be held on Sunday, 21st April, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. at National Shooting Complex, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 is hereby postponed due to unavoidable circumstances until further Notice. By order of the Board Sd/ (S.A. Jabbar) Company Secretary

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