

Nat'l consensus a must for keeping students off politics: Moudud

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Moudud Ahmed yesterday said national consensus is a must for keeping students off from mainstream politics and to get rid of vices like campus violence.

The minister was addressing the concluding function of a debate programme organised by Viquarunnisa Debating Club (VDC) at the college auditorium at Bailey Road in the city.

Daily Prothom Alo and Partex Group co-sponsored the 9th Inter-school debate and 7th inter-club debate of VDC.

Principal Hamida Ali presided over the session. Editor of the Prothom Alo Matur Rahman, vice chairman of Partex Group Aziz Al Kaiser and moderator of VDC Shambhu Jahan Ahsan, among others, addressed the function.

Notre Dame College (Gold

team) clinched the debating title in the 7th inter-club debate while Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) became runners-up in the parliamentary format of discourse.

The Law Minister said in the present context the students should be dissociated from mainstream politics. They should prepare themselves for the challenges of a knowledge-based society.

He said concerted movement of civil society leaders, teachers, intellectuals and politicians is required prior to imposing any ban on student politics. Unless we can reach any national consensus on this issue, all our efforts to free campus from terrorism and violence will be futile, he added.

Sanskrit, Pali Teachers' Assoc seminar Friday

CU CORRESPONDENT

The annual seminar of Bangladesh Sanskrit and Pali (Orientation) Teachers' Association will be held at the district council auditorium in the port city at 2 pm tomorrow.

Veteran revolutionist Binod Bihari Chowdhury will inaugurate the programme. Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman will be present at the function as chief guest while Kazi Shahnewaz Begum, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development and Education), Prof AM Nuruddin Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Chittagong University (CU) and Sri-math Sudhanandha Mohather, secretary for Bangladesh Sanskrit and Pali (Orientation) Education Board as special guests.

ADB country director meets L K Siddiqi

BSS, Dhaka

Country Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Toru Shibuchi called on Water Resources Minister Engineer L.K. Siddiqi at his office yesterday.

They discussed matters of mutual interests.

The minister apprised Shibuchi of various development projects undertaken by the government led by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for the development of water resources sector.

Janakantha editor, five others get ad-interim bail in criminal case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Third Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka yesterday granted ad-interim bail to the editor, advisory editor, executive editor and three reporters of Dainik Janakantha in connection with a criminal case.

Judge (in charge) M Shah Alam Miah passed the order upon a bond of Tk 25,000 each with two guarantors.

Those got bail are -- Editor Atiqullah Khan Masud, Advisory Editor Toab Khan, Executive Editor Borhan Ahmed and reporters Kamrul Hasan, Sankar Kumar Dey and Ali Asgar Swapon of the daily.

The accused along with their lawyers appeared before the court, and prayed for bail.

Moving the petition, the lawyers stated that the accused on June 22 filed a petition with the High Court Division seeking anticipatory bail. Hearing both sides, the High Court directed the accused to surrender before the trial court within three weeks from the date of receipt of the order. The court also asked police not to harass or arrest the accused during the period.

As per the High Court directive, the accused surrendered before the court and prayed for bail, the lawyers added.

In the case filed with Ramna thana, it has been alleged that a 35-year old woman filed an attempted rape case against former Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumdar and two others on January 1.

Following the case, Kamal Majumdar was arrested from his Banani residence in the city on January 2.



State Minister for Commerce Barkat Ullah Bulu speaking at a reception in honour of Ambassador Arshaduzzaman (2nd from right) in the city yesterday. The Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) accorded the reception to the ambassador who was awarded the 'Insignia of Officer De La Legion D Honneur' by the French government for his contribution in promoting the Bangladesh-France relations over the past 30 years. From left are French Ambassador Michel Lummaux, BILIA Director Waliur Rahman, Barkat Ullah Bulu and BILIA Chairperson Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam.

More French investment sought

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Commerce Barkat Ullah Bulu yesterday urged for more French assistance and investment for development of the country's economy.

Beside this, he said, Bangladesh would welcome further assistance in its good governance and capacity building efforts.

Bulu was addressing a function to celebrate the conferment of the 'insignia of officer de la Legion d Honneur', the highest honour being given by the French government, on a Bangladeshi former diplomat.

Ambassador Arshaduzzaman received the great honour in recognition to his contribution to promote Bangladesh-French relations for over the past 30 years.

Bulu recalled the continued support of France during the country's War of Liberation and its development pursuits till now. He thanked Arshaduzzaman for promoting Bangladesh-French friendship for over three decades.

Organised by Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA), the function was addressed by French Ambassador to Bangladesh Michel Lummaux, BILIA Director Waliur Rahman, former ambassador Khairul Anam and Ambassador Arshaduzzaman. The function was chaired by Honorary Secretary of BILIA Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam.

Addressing on the occasion as the guest of honour, the French Ambassador recalled the time-tested bilateral friendship between France and Bangladesh. He said despite the ongoing global economic slowdown coupled with the impacts of the September 11 incidents, Bangladesh's export to France did not suffer any setback.

He paid tributes to Arshaduzzaman for his contribution to the enhancement of bilateral relations between the two countries for over a long period. Speaking on the occasion, Arshaduzzaman reminisced his long relations with France in different capacities. He said, "If France is great, it is great for its culture which has significantly enriched the global cultural treasure."

Among others, former ambassadors Abul Ahsan, Masum Ahmed Choudhury, diplomats of foreign missions in Dhaka and business leaders were present on the occasion.



A reception was accorded to the meritorious students, who scored GPA-5 in this year's SSC examinations from Ideal School and College, on the school premises in the city yesterday. The students pose for photographers with Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas and other guests at the ceremony.

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Extortionists loot valuables

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of extortionists took away valuables from the residence of a journalist at Monipur in the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

The gang of four entered the residence of Harun-ur Rashid, a senior reporter of the Sangbad, in the evening and demanded Tk 20,000 from his younger brother Sohul.

As Sohul refused to pay, the gang took away a color television and a cell phone from the flat. Sohul tried to resist them, but the extortionists threatened to kill him brandishing their firearms.

Harun-ur Rashid is the general secretary of the Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association.

Jute production target 40 lakh bales, JS told

BSS, Dhaka

Jute Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikram yesterday said the production target of jute during the current season was fixed at 40 lakh bales, which was expected to be fulfilled by 100 per cent.

He said this while he was replying to a question from M Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury of Jamaat (Nilphamari) in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Replying to a question from Shahjahan Choudhury of Jamaat (Chittagong), he said the government achieved its export targets of jute by 110 per cent by exporting 16.51 lakh bales of raw jute against the targeted 15 lakh bales during

the 1999-2000 fiscal year. "The government achieved 89 per cent of the target of jute goods export by exporting 4.44 lakh bales against the targeted 4.64 lakh bales during the same period," he said.

Replying to several supplementaries, he said low-grade jute seed coming from India was affecting the growth of jute plants in Bangladesh.

"Our scientists have already developed high-breed jute seeds and farmers are growing quality jute now in the country," he said.

The minister said the jute production was now rising in the country to meet the growing demand for raw jute and jute goods in the global market.

One shot during crossfire, woman stabbed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A video game shop owner was wounded in crossfire during a gunfight between two groups of hooligans at Adarsha Nagar in the city's Maddya Badda area yesterday noon.

Abu Mahmud Abdullah Tuhin, 25, was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after he was shot in his left leg at about 1:00 pm.

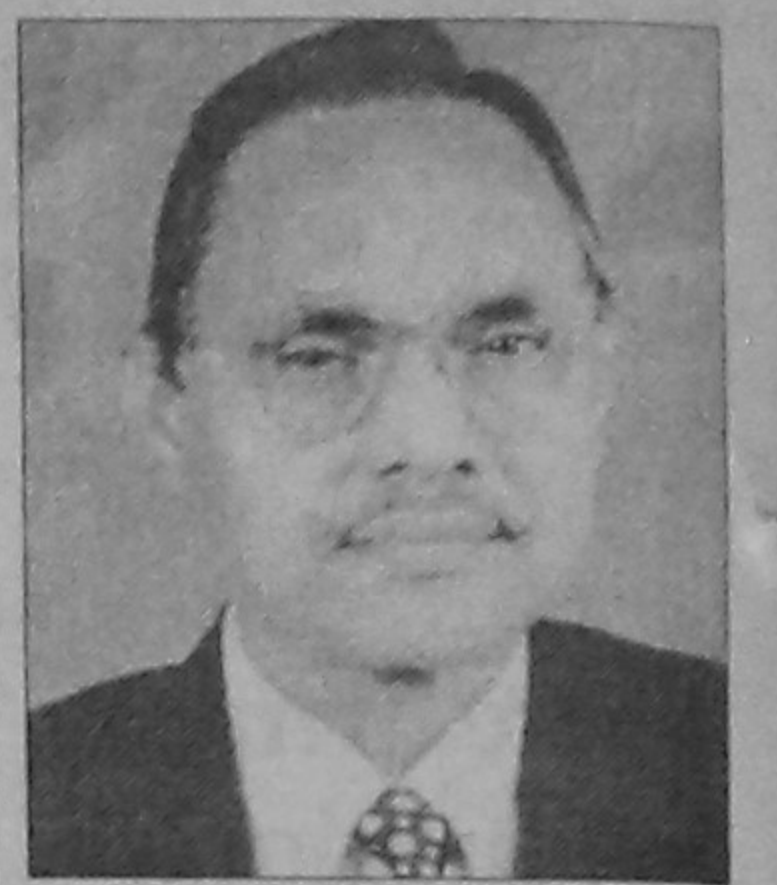
In another incident, a housewife was stabbed by her husband at Nilkhet in the city's Dhanmondi area yesterday afternoon.

Anwar Hossain Liton, a computer operator at the Aziz Co-operative Market, stabbed his first wife Rehana Akther Lata, 22, following an altercation yesterday afternoon.

Sources said that Liton married another woman a year ago with the consent of his first wife.

Three months ago, Lata filed a case against her husband, leading to his arrest. But he was released on bail recently.

Lata was admitted to the DMCH with stab injuries in her left hand.



Justice Altaf Hossain Khan passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Justice Altaf Hossain Khan, an additional judge of the High Court Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court, died yesterday at Escort Heart Institute and Research Centre in New Delhi.

He was 58. Justice Khan left behind his wife, one son, one daughter, mother and host of relations to mourn his death.

He underwent a by-pass surgery of heart on Tuesday, an official release said here yesterday.

A freedom fighter, Justice Altaf was an advocate in Bangladesh Supreme Court and former Deputy Attorney General of Bangladesh.

He was promoted to an additional judge of the High Court Division on February 22, 2001.

Justice Khan was admitted to the Escort Heart Institute and Research Centre on June 28.

His body will be brought to Dhaka today at 4:30 pm by Bangladesh Biman. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Juma prayers tomorrow. He will be buried on July 13 at his village home in Barisal.

Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Moudud Ahmed expressed his deep shock at the death of Justice Khan. In a message the law minister said with the death of Justice Khan the judiciary lost an honest and brave jurist.

Former Law Minister Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru also expressed his deep shock at the death of Justice Altaf Hossain Khan.

KAISER RASHEED 5 years ago, 11th July 1997, you have left us for your onward journey. Friends, relatives, sons, daughters, rich & poor whoever you came across, touched their lives, miss you with nostalgia. You were one of a kind. We seek prayers for Allah's blessing for you from all. KHURSHID JAHAN OMAR KAISER RASHEED. C-1483

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