

Bangabandhu murder Lawyers demand execution of verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of lawyers of the Supreme Court yesterday at a rally at the Press Club demanded immediate execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case.

They also demanded restoration of the security arrangement for Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, which was earlier withdrawn by the government.

Earlier, the lawyers under the banner of Nyai Bihar Protishtha Sangram Parishad also brought out a procession from the Supreme Court premises which ended at the Press Club. The procession paraded city streets chanting slogans for execution of verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Former Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khosru said the government has been using the police and court for their own interest.

Advocate Rahmat Ali, MP, Barrister Shawkhat Ali, Vice President of Dhaka Lawyers Association Advocate Anwarul Kader, Advocate A M A Kamrul Hasan Khan, Advocate Sucharita Sengupta and Convener of the Association Motazuddin Ahmed Mehdi were present at the rally.

Scholastica expansion project

UNB, Dhaka

Scholastica, a leading English medium school, will receive Tk 16.50 crore term loan from Industrial Development Leasing Company (IDLC) for its expansion project.

The money will be spent for construction of a boarding, sports complex and some other establishments on the Scholastica's main campus at Uttara in the city.

IDLC syndicated the loan along with five private banks and one private development financial institution.

An executive of Scholastica (Pvt) Ltd said the construction work would start at the end of this year and would be completed within one year.

The six-storied boarding would accommodate 135 students. Besides, there will be a four-storied house masters' apartment and a sports complex with a swimming pool and gymnasium.

Scholastica management has also planned to develop a wide campus at Hemayetpur, Savar, which would include dormitories for 2200 students and a teachers' training school, the executive said.

Established in 1977, Scholastica has been offering high quality 'O' and 'A' level education under the University of London. Student enrolment figures around 4,500 at its five campuses in the city.



The Action Council for Ensuring Justice formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding execution of the verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Noise pollution posing serious health hazards in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increasing noise pollution in the city has been posing serious health hazards to millions of people, specially the children, according to a research paper.

The research paper said the increasing noise pollution led to problems like headache, heart ailment, hearing problem and bad temper for the city-dwellers.

The Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB), a social organisation, conducted the research. Amit Ranjan Dey, project officer of WBB, presented the research paper at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday.

The paper identified horns of cars, loud speakers, brick-breaking machine, factories and public rallies as the main sources of noise

pollution in the city.

"The horns of cars are major noise polluters. The impact of honking of cars on children is very harmful. It hampers their normal psychological growth as well as their studies at home and school."

The paper said the noise pollution level has exceeded four times the level recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The WHO has recommended that sound of horns should be within 40 decibel or less for the normal living, but in the city most of the cars use horns of 140 decibel. "The continuous noise pollution by honking in such a magnitude could make a child deaf," it said.

The noise produced by the brick-breaking machine in the residential areas and the noise coming from various cassette shops are dangerous for the heart patients as it increases blood pressure and led to headache and irritation, the paper pointed out.

The researchers found that as most of the drivers of buses and trucks are illiterate, they are not aware about the noise pollution and bad effect of honking. Even the initiatives of the government and the civil society are not sufficient to contain noise pollution, they said.

There are laws regarding use of hydraulic horns and loud speakers, but these are not being enforced properly.

The researchers suggested implementing the existing laws as well as enacting new laws regarding brick-breaking machines, use of loud speakers and loud music in cassette shops to check noise pollution.

They also called for raising awareness about noise pollution and said that mass media could play a vital role in this regard.

The researchers surveyed a total of 2500 people. Of them, 1000 were schoolchildren, 1000 were common people and 500 were drivers.

Abu Naser Khan of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Sirajul Islam Mollah of Sundar Jibon and the researchers were present at the press conference.

Film star Sohel Murder Case Warrant of arrest against Bunty

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday cancelled the bail of Bunty Islam and issued a warrant of arrest against him, an accused in the film star Sohel Chowdhury Murder Case.

Judge Mollah Mostafa Kamal passed the order as the accused was absent from the court on two consecutive dates.

The court also adjourned the hearing till November 10 following a time petition by the prosecution lawyers.

Sohel Chowdhury, a film star was shot dead by a group of assailants in front of the Club Tramps under Gulshan thana at about 8:00 pm on December 18, 1998.

Victim's brother Towhidul Islam Chowdhury, filed a murder case with Gulshan thana against Adnan Siddique the same day.

The Investigation Officer of the case submitted a charge sheet against nine people, including Aziz Mohammad Bhai and Bunty Islam on July 30, 1999.

The court framed charges against nine people, including Aziz Bhai and Bunty Islam on October 30, last year.

Four of the nine accused in the case, including Aziz Bhai, now on bail were present in the court during the hearing while Tariq Saif Khan Mamun now in the custody, was also present in the court.

The other accused -- Ashish Roy Chowdhury alias Bottle Chowdhury and Sanjiddul Hasan alias Iman have been absconding since the incident.

BSTI realises Tk 66,000 in fines

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) collected Tk 66,000 in fines from traders and shop owners and filed 37 cases against them for using traditional methods of weight and measurement.

The BSTI conducted a mobile court at Mouchak, Anarkoli Market, Malibag Super Market, City Heart Market and adjoining areas on Tuesday and found that jewellery, cloth, rod, cement, hardware, meat, fish shops are using old weighing and measuring units.

The court filed cases against the jewellery shops for using bhori (tola) instead of gram and cloth shops for using yardstick instead of metre. It also seized many weighing stones and yardsticks, said a press release.

BUET receives 65 computers

A four-member delegation headed by Md W Adnan Wahed, Chief Operating officer, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Limited, Dhaka Main Office, handed over 65 personal computers for the Electronic Circuit Lab 1 and 2 and Control Lab of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department of BUET to Prof Dr Nouruddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor on Wednesday at his office, says a press release.

Prof Dr Shahidul Islam Khan, Dean, Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Dr M M Shahidul Hassan, Prof EEE, and representative of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Ltd Khandaker Nazre Murshed Operations Manager, Jamsed Atick Manager Information and Technology and Mizanur Rahman Information officer were present at the ceremony.

Saifur leaves for Johannesburg to attend WSSD

UNB, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman left Dhaka on Tuesday night for South Africa to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

The minister will lead the Bangladesh delegation at the World Summit. He will return home on September 5.

Besides, a two-member parliamentary team headed by Zahiduddin Swapan MP left Dhaka for Johannesburg to attend a two-day parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the WSSD.

The meeting titled 'Sustainable Development: The Role of Parliaments in Ensuring Implementation and Accountability' will be held on August 29-30.

The other member of the team is M Harunur Rashid MP, said a parliament secretariat press release.

7 listed criminals arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,592 people, including seven listed criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6am yesterday.

They also recovered 13 firearms, 11 other weapons and 75 bullets during the drive and filed 12 cases against 16 people under Arms Act, said a press release.

Help stop cheating in exams: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Tuesday urged all concerned, including teachers, students and guardians to help stop cheating in all public examinations in future.

She was talking to teachers and

officers, who were injured while resisting cheating in the SSC, HSC, Degree, Alim, Fazil and Kamil examinations held this year under different education boards.

A total of 18 injured teachers and officers from different parts of the country, who came under attacks during discharging their

duties in the public examinations, met the prime minister at her office.

The prime minister handed over cheques for Taka 25 thousand to each of the injured teachers and officers as recognition of their bold acts and for bearing expenses of their treatment.

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