

New forum to fight for 'freedom of expression'

Sammitito Nagorik Samaj to form human chain March 25

CITY CORRESPONDENT

A section of intellectuals, writers, journalists and cultural activists of the country have come together and formed a new forum called Sammitito Nagorik Samaj (SNS).

This citizens' group has vowed to fight for freedom of expression as it felt that their right is under threat following a series of attacks on journalists, writers and cultural personalities in recent months.

Demanding arrest of the attackers of Dhaka University (DU) teacher and author Humayun Azad, protection of democracy and good governance, the forum has launched a united movement across the country last week.

Different cultural and professional groups of the city have already offered their support to the new organisation.

The forum has announced plans to form committees in every district of the country by March 25 and a national convention with the participation of all district representatives on March 31. There, the next programme will be announced.

On the midnight of March 25, SNS will form a candle-lit human chain from the Central Shaheed Minar to Shikha Chironton.

The SNS announced the programme during a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar on March 13 where speakers asked home minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury to resign immediately for the failure in apprehending the assailants of Dr. Azad even 15 days after the attack.

The citizens' group demanded a ban on communal politics and blamed the fundamentalists and communal factions within the ruling four-party alliance for the attack.

Professor of Dhaka University Dr Anisuzzaman said that a vital question has been raised after the brutal and inhuman attack on Dr Azad.

"Do we have any freedom of expression in Bangladesh?" he asked.

"Miscareants will not be able to raise heads in the long run if there is a concerted movement of people," added Dr. Anisuzzaman.

Dramatist Mamunur Rashid said that it was now time for 'counter-offensive' against those committing crimes against humanity.

Outraged intellectuals took the decision to form this organisation in an open discussion meeting held at Shahid Tajul auditorium of Moni Shing Farhad Memorial Trust. The meeting was organised by Sammitito Sanskritik Jote recently where the discussants formed a 14-member steering committee to lead the movement.

Many prominent writers, journalists and cultural activists were present in the meeting. They include poet and novelist Syed Shamsul Haque, Justice K M Sobhan, journalist Faye Ahmed, drama personality Ramendu Majumder, president of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA), Professor Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique, member of parliament Asaduzzaman Noor, writer-publisher Mafidul Haque, Dr Sarwar Ali, Jamaluddin Chowdhury, dramatist, Mamunur Rashid, Mannan Heera, Kazi Aref, Progga Laboni, Hasan Arif, agriculturist Bahauddin Nasim and Kamal Pasha Chowdhury.

The members of SNS's steering committee are Dr Anisuzzaman, Syed Shamsul Haque, Barrister Rokouddin Mahmud, Kamal Lohani, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Ramendu Majumder, Dr. Arefin Siddique, Ayesha Khanam and Nasiruddin Yusuf.

Ad Club set for second festival on April 24

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

A day-long Dhaka Advertising Festival 2004 will be held at the Hotel Sheraton on April 24.

Advertising Club Dhaka is organising the show for the media professionals and it will give the general public an insight on how the art of advertisement is being developed in the country.

"Advertising festivals are arranged in many countries around the world. We had held our first show last year. This will be the second edition," said Sanaul Arefeen, convener of Advertising Club Dhaka.

The organisers hope to establish a proper environment for the professionals of the advertising industry through this festival. It is expected to act as a platform for exchanging ideas with the participation of production houses, photographers, publication houses and the professionals of the information industry, press and electronic media.

There will be print and outdoor exhibition of advertisements, display of television commercials, discussions and cultural programmes throughout the day at different stalls.

The Advertising Club will acknowledge the contribution of some of the leading personalities of this sector during the festival. To encourage young creative ad-makers, some selected works will be screened. The last date for entry at the festival is April 10. The categories include television, newspaper and magazine ads.

The entry ticket for visitors at the festival has been fixed at Tk. 20 per person. The fee for member participants is Tk. 500 and non-members Tk. 800. A stall can be rented at Tk. 30,000. Dinner table sponsor has to pay Tk.



A file photo of last year's festival

20,000. A normal ad on the souvenir will cost Tk. 25,000. The last date of registration is 20 April.

The Advertisement Club Dhaka started its journey as a forum for media professionals in June 2002. Professionals related to the media industry can become members of the club. At present the club has 318 members.

"The club arranges training programmes for the media professionals so that they can compete in the international market," said Nazim

Farhan Choudhury, a member of the club.

The organisers observed that foreign products and commercials dominate the local advertisement market. Foreign models are also used in local adverts ignoring Bangladeshi models.

They felt that the government should come up with a policy to save this sector from the clutches of foreign domination.

A stepping-stone to improving movies

ERSHAD KAMOL

Turning the course in tertiary curriculum, Stamford University in Dhanmondi has introduced a department of film and media studies to students first ever in Bangladesh.

The university viewed the venture as a stepping stone to the improvement of film and media

which needs transformation.

"The film industry needs young talent for this area of entertainment," said Dr MA Hannan, president and vice-chancellor of the university.

Dr Hannan further said the initiative taken by the university administration was in keeping with the need of the country.

"We want to broaden our curriculum. It is now

confined to monotonous areas. The addition of film and media studies will encourage students to diversify their interest in further studies," he said.

The comprehensive Bachelor of Arts (Honours) programme consists of 56 courses with 143 credits, which began on the Shiddheswari campus of the university. The degree will be equivalent to any international qualification in the same field.

The major courses will include acting, directing, editing, photography, play and script writing and multimedia and a few other minor courses will be included to enhance the quality of the major courses.

Dr Afsar Ahmed, dean of the arts faculty, said the university hopes to build infrastructure to live up to the global standards.

"We know the infrastructure is not up to the international standards, but we will do our best to meet such standards in a short time," Dr Afsar said.

The thrust of the department's activities will be towards the study of cinema in its aesthetic, historical and sociological settings in line with film technology.

"Once the course is completed, our students will have to do an internship at the Film Development Corporation (FDC)," he said.

Dr Afsar said the FDC provided the university with technical support and agreed to allow students to use their equipment free.

The associations related to the film industry have agreed to grant deserving students scholarships.

Along with five permanent faculty members, the university will have specialised guest teachers such as Professor Montazuddin Ahmed, Mostofa Monwar, Uttam Guha, Mohammed Hossain Jaimy, Tanveer Mokammel and Tariq Anam Khan.



Vice Chancellor Dr. MA Hannan flanked by Ashrafuddin Ahmed Ujjal, general secretary of the Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association (left) and Wasimul Bari Rajib, managing director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, discussing issues related to film department at Stamford University

WASTE DUMPING ON

Waste dumping on the Dhaka city protection dam continues. Illegal occupiers are also setting up structures along the slope threatening the dam. But both the city fathers and the Water Development Board (WDB) seem indifferent to it.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59
- Burn**
Dhaka Medical College Hospital
Burn Unit-8626812-6
- Cancer**
National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9
- Diabetes**
Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50
- Mother & Child Care**
Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
Azimpur Mother & Child Health

- Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980
- Eye**
Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807
- Dental**
Dental College -9002035
- Orthopaedics**
National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150
- General**
Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

- Shamarita Hospital- 9131901
Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69
Salimullah Medical College Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR)- 8811751-60
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135
- Blood Bank**
Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-9
- Eye Bank**
Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
- Ambulances For Dead Body**
Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
Al-Markazi Islam 9127867,

- MARKET CLOSED**
- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
Elephant Road-Friday
Bishal Center-Friday
Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
Polwell Market-Friday
BCS Computer City-Friday
Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
Stadium Market-Friday
Bangabazar Market-Friday
National Museum-Thursdays
Ahsan Manzil--Thursdays.
New Market-Tuesday
Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Eastern Plaza-Sunday
Farmview Super Market-Sunday
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

- Yellow Cab**
Navana 9558065
Salida 9344477, 0171620881
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
Cab One 7113282-3
Nihon 8624741-2
Orion 9347277
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
Capital 9352847
- Union 8130485**
Kool 0171826731
- Black Cab**
Cab Ex 9358401
Cabline 8321162
JBS Cab 019364575
Sajan 018126036
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
- TRAIN TIMING**
- Subarna Express**
Mahanagar Prabhathi
Mahanagar Godhuli
Turna
Parabat Express
Joyantika Express
Upaban Express
Tista Express
Ekata Express
Upakul Express
Padma Express
- Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am
Leaves Dhaka at 3-05 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6-30 am
Leaves Dhaka at 12-30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9-30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6-00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

- Cab One 7113282-3**
Palki 0171052500
Cab I 7113282
Jatri 0171540074
Nipun 9572277
R-Cab 8914782
Star Cab 9571919
Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
KGN 8620011
- Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 2-55 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 9-11 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 7-05 am
Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-55 pm
Reaches Noakhali at 1-35 pm
Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

- Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**
- Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412