



The BADC Employees' Union stages a demonstration in front of the Krishi Bhaban in the city yesterday to press for their various demands.

'Peacekeeping a foreign policy priority'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Peacekeeping is a foreign policy priority for Bangladesh, said Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations. Bangladeshis peacekeepers are spreading the values of pluralism, liberalism, human rights and gender justice during their mission and sharing with host societies the models of development activities such as micro-credit, poverty alleviation and non-formal education, he said. Dr Iftekhar Ahmed was speaking at a debate on 'Peacekeeping' at the UN Security Council on Monday, according to a message received in the city. He said Bangladesh has so far participated in 27 peacekeeping operations and would contribute troops to Haiti, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire and Burundi this year. He called on the international community to support the UN peacekeeping role with adequate resources.

Death anniversary

CU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the ninth death anniversary of veteran journalist Kazi Kabir Uddin Ahmed. On this day in 1995, Kazi Kabir, editor of the now-defunct Daily Azan, died of old age complication at the age of 94. A milad mahfil has been arranged at the House No-297, Road No-8, CDA residential area, Agrabad in the port city after Maghrib prayers. Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

DR AFTAB HOSSAIN MURDER CASE Two get death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Speedy Trial Tribunal of Sylhet yesterday sentenced two men to death in the sensational Dr Aftab Hossain murder case. Dr Aftab was the assistant director of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. The tribunal passed the sentence on convicts Sujan Mian, 28, son of Badal Miah alias Sadaruddin, and Jasim Uddin of village Raigarh under Golapganj Upazila but acquitted four other accused. Of the convicts, Jasim has been tried in absentia. He went into hiding after the murder. Judge Shah-e-Aiam Chowdhury pronounced the verdict in a jam-packed courtroom. According to the prosecution, the assailants called out Dr Aftab Hossain of his private chamber at Dhakadakhshin Bazaar, Golapganj, on the night of September 14, 2002 and asked him to go with them to see an elderly patient. But they took him to a place at village Ghoshgaon in his motorcycle and stabbed and shot him, leaving him dead on the spot. They also took away his motorcycle, mobile phone and money. His body was found the next morning. The killing of Dr Aftab was a sequel to a feud with a local gang of extortionists. The gruesome murder sparked widespread protests in Golapganj upazila and in the divisional headquarters. People and different profes-

sional groups, including Bangladesh Medical Association, observed hartal and work abstention programmes in the district demanding punishment to the killers. Zakir Hossain, son of Dr Aftab, expressed satisfaction over the judgement yesterday. He, however, said it would have been better if all the accused had been punished. Dr Nurunnahar, wife of Dr Aftab, could not see the end of the trial. She died at a private clinic on April 29. Dr Nurunnahar, dean of the school of medical science, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, was the head of department of microbiology at Osmani Medical College.

ACD workshop begins in China May 22

UNB, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister M K Anwar left here for Beijing yesterday to attend a two-day minister-level continental workshop on agriculture development to be held on May 22-23. Chinese Agriculture Minister Du Qinglin is hosting this first Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) workshop. Agriculture ministers of the Asian countries will take part in the workshop to promote agricultural cooperation, share experiences and information in agriculture development and give full play to the cooperation mechanism of ACD member countries. The workshop aims at exchanging experiences in agriculture development of ACD member countries and exploring the effective means to enhance agriculture exchanges and cooperation. An action plan for agriculture cooperation among ACD member countries will be forwarded in the workshop to ensure proper interventions to the challenges of agriculture development in the continent. The minister will also attend the regional conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in Beijing to be held on 20-21 May. He will also visit Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science in Beijing and different agri-farms in some provinces, says an official handout.

Bar Council election results on Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Results of Bangladesh Bar Council election will be announced on Friday. Earlier, May 19 has been fixed for the announcement of the results. Attorney General AF Hassan Ariff, ex-officio chairman of the council, will announce the results after the final count. The election was held across the country on May 13-14. The vote counting will be held at the Bar Council building and the candidates or their representatives can watch the counting, said a Bar Council press release yesterday. According to the unofficial results, opposition-backed lawyers' panel led by Supreme Court Bar Association President Rokonuddin Mahmud won 12 posts out of 14 and the ruling alliance-backed panel got two posts.

'Preserve thousand yrs' history, heritage'

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday called upon the authorities concerned to preserve the thousand years' history and heritage of the nation in museum and unveil those before the world community. "I'm urging the authorities concerned to enrich our museum by preserving thousand year's history and heritage of Bangladesh to aware the future generation of education, history and heritage," he told the inaugural function of International Museum Day at National Museum in the city. The function, jointly organised by Bangladesh National Museum, ICOM Bangladesh National Committee and Officers Association of Bangladesh National Museum, was presided over by Secretary of Cultural Affairs Ministry Modabbar Hossain Chowdhury. State Minister for Culture Begum Selima Rahman also spoke as the special guest.

Consensus on nat'l issues can help end confrontational politics

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Building consensus on major national issues can help end confrontational politics, speakers said at a seminar in the city yesterday. They said criminalisation and dominance of money and muscle have made politics confrontational. The Centre for Strategic and Peace Studies organised the seminar on 'Politics of confrontation and way out' at the Cirdap auditorium. Politicians, academicians and senior journalists took part in the seminar. Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said, "Dominance of money and muscle over politics has frustrated true and dedicated political activists." He called on the political parties to shun the path of confrontation and bring changes to the mindset. The political parties must accept the electoral verdict to evade confrontation, he added. "Institutional confrontation, instead of competition, among the political parties is a phenomenon in today's politics," said Prof. Syed

Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University. Alternative political platform and leadership are a must to come out of the present confrontational politics, he added. Presenting a paper, Dr Abdur Rob Khan of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies said building consensus on major national issues could help end political confrontation. Opposition leader's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, "Confrontation in politics is not harmful if the tension is managed through dialogue." "But it is dangerous when the state apparatus plays a part in political confrontation," he added. Awami League presidium member Tofail Ahmed said lack of mutual respect among politicians is the main reason for confrontation. Confrontational politics began in the country with the brutal killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he said. Columnist Sadeq Khan also presented a paper focussing on detailed perspective of political confrontation.



Law Minister Moudud Ahmed shakes hands with Awami League presidium member Tofail Ahmed at a seminar on 'Politics of confrontation and way out' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

Duta demands separate pay scale

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) handed over their demand papers comprising separate pay scale and marginal facilities of teachers to Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at his office yesterday. The VC has assured the Duta members that a committee headed by Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider would begin work soon for quick implementation the demands after an approval from the university syndicate. Duta President Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique and General Secretary Prof Dr MAkhteruzzaman, Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and Treasurer Syed Rashidul Hasan were present.

Death threats to RU teachers protested

RU CORRESPONDENT

About 200 pro-liberation teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday brought out a silent procession on the campus protesting the death threats to former vice-chancellor and other teachers by the newly appointed employees of the university. Later addressing a rally, the speakers blamed the authorities for their failure to ensure the security of the teachers. They also demanded cancellation

of controversial appointment of 544 employees and resignation of VC Prof Faisal Islam Faruki and Pro-VC KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondol. Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) President Prof Khalekuzzaman, Joint Secretary Sadekul Afrin Matin and Progressive Teachers Association (PTA) Convener Prof Entajul Haque addressed the rally. The PTA also decided to boycott the academic council meeting tomorrow in protest against the controversial appointment of the employees.

A group of newly appointed employees gave death threat to former vice chancellor Prof Saidur Rahman Khan at his residence on Saturday. The ruling BNP cadres also gave death threat to RUTA President Prof Khalekuzzaman over telephone. The activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) also brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus yesterday to protest the indefinite strike and boycott of classes and examinations by the teachers.



The Jatiya Ganotantrik Front stages a demonstration in the city yesterday to protest the closure of mills and factories.



Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6.00pm today. Day temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 38.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and the lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Rangpur and Sayedpur. The sun sets in the capital at 6:36pm today and rises at 5:14am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
	Max	Min	in Celsius	percentage
Dhaka	35.6	27.6	61	61
Chittagong	33.4	26.4	74	69
Rajshahi	37.0	27.6	66	56
Khulna	35.0	27.5	73	70
Barisal	33.7	27.2	73	68
Sylhet	34.7	27.5	56	74
Cox's Bazar	--	27.0	57	--