



Prof Humayun Azad addresses the students at the Aparajeyo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus in the city yesterday.

I still feel insecure: Prof Azad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Eminent writer Prof. Humayun Azad came to the Dhaka University campus yesterday for the first time after the February 27 deadly attack on him.

Addressing the teachers and students at a brief rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla, he said that at present, no-one is safe in the country. "We are now living at gunpoint," he said. "I have returned from death and have got a new life".

"I still feel insecure as the quarters who attacked me are still active," he said.

Prof. Azad also visited the scene where he was critically stabbed in front of the Bangla Academy on his way home from the Amar Ekushey Book Fair on February 27. He placed a wreath there.

"Today is the birth anniversary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. The communal forces could not endanger his life although they opposed his thoughts. My life was endangered but I have returned with a new life on the birth anniversary of Nazrul," he said.

Later, Prof. Azad went to his office room at the lecture theatre building.

He also went to the teachers' lounge and talked to his colleagues before returning home at around 12:15pm.

Exams rescheduled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Diploma in Business Studies and the Diploma in Commerce examinations under Dhaka Education Board will now be held on June 14 instead of tomorrow.

According to board officials, the date has been rescheduled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Improve law and order to woo US investment: Gilman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting former US Congressman Benjamin A Gilman yesterday underscored the need for improving the law and order situation to attract American investment in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh must improve the law and order situation to make the foreign investors feel secure, Gilman said at a meeting with BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his secretariat office in the city.

Mannan Bhuiyan said there have been no major incidents of violence except for one or two minor problems and the government is trying its best to further improve the law and order.

Gilman, who formed the Bangladesh Caucus in the USA and has long been working to resolve problems on behalf of Bangladesh, has come here to see the incidents of 'repression on minorities', Bhuiyan told reporters after the meeting.

The LGRD minister told the

former Congressman that the propaganda regarding the repression is totally false as people of all faiths are living in harmony.

During the meeting, Bhuiyan sought more US investment in Bangladesh, duty-free access of readymade garments to US market and job opportunities for Bangladeshi workers in the US.

He also sought financial and technological assistance for supply of arsenic-free water in different parts of the country.

Describing Gilman as a true friend of Bangladesh, Bhuiyan said Gilman wanted to know about the separation of judiciary and opposition's return to parliament.

Bhuiyan informed the former US Congressman that the government has taken effective steps to separate the judiciary.

About the opposition, he said they did not respond to the government's call for return to parliament.

The government invited the opposition to dialogues to pave the way for their return to parliament, but the main opposition has not yet responded positively, Bhuiyan said.

MANJURUL IMAM MURDER Court accepts charge sheet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court on Monday accepted the chargesheet in the killings of Manjurul Imam, advocate Bijon Bihari Mondol and rickshaw-puller Saidul Islam in August last year.

On March 11, Khulna police framed charges against Shukur Gazi, Sheikh Mohammad Rabbi Ripon, Ganesh Banerjee and Imam

Sarder. The Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Khulna ordered to attach the properties of Ganesh and Imam. The other accused in the case are in jail custody, sources said.

A gang shot dead the AL leader near his residence on Shamsur Rahman Road on August 25, 2003. Saidul died in bomb attack at the same time while Bijon succumbed to bomb injuries the next day.

'Cancel deal with US'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Mukti Council yesterday demanded cancellation of the Memorandum of Intent (MoI) signed between Dhaka and Washington, saying that the deal would make the country subservient to US interests.

"The MoI is designed to protect American interests in the country in defiance of its (Bangladesh) citizens' rights. The deal will strengthen the hand of an imperialist America that have been carrying out attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Badruddin Umar, president of the council, at a press conference in the city.

Faizul Hakim Lala, general secretary of the council, read out a written statement. Council leaders Pranesh Samaddar, Abdul Latif, Prosit Bikash Krishna and Hasibur Rahman were also present.

The leaders said the agreement put the Bangladeshis at risk of being punished for their anti-US stand.

To make the US happy, the government did not even bother to discuss the issue at parliament and signed the agreement in secret, they said.

The leaders alleged that the agreement makes it binding on the government to protect American interests without taking into account the fate of the Bangladeshi citizens.

"It is inconsistent with the people's right to know and freedom of expression," Umar said.

The MoI, signed during the visit of US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca on May 19, aims at installation of the PISCES (Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System), a sophisticated computer software to document passengers travelling into and out of the country and check movement of suspected

'Jamaat has link with int'l extremist networks'

UNB, Dhaka

Former State Minister for Information and Awami League leader Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday said that Jamaat-e-Islami itself is an "extremist and fundamentalist" organisation and it has link with international extremist networks.

Abu Sayeed in a statement yesterday said "Jamaat is the main patroniser of the extremist and fundamentalist forces in the country. Earlier on Monday, Jamaat at a press conference claimed they don't have relation with any extremist force."

"Even a few days back, Jamaat said there is no existence of any fundamentalist group or organisation in the country. But now they are saying that they have no relations with any fundamentalist group," he said.

Many arrested militants in the recent times have confessed that they have links with Jamaat-e-Islami, he said. The leaders of organisations like Jamatul Mujahideen, Harkatul Jihad, AL-Khidmat and Jamaa Atul are cadres of Jamaat, he added.

terrorists. The council leaders said Bangladesh would not benefit from the deal, which would only protect the US interests.

The leaders also came down heavily on the opposition Awami League as it did not take any stand against the agreement.

The council will carry out a month-long 'mass awareness' campaign from May 26 and will hold rallies in all districts on June 14 to raise voice against the deal.



Tommy elected Fellow of Royal Society of Arts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tommy Miah, a Bangladeshi-born and Edinburg-based businessman and restaurateur, has been elected a Fellow of Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).

"My election came as a surprise. You can't just apply to become a fellow. You have to be nominated and elected by existing fellows," Tommy said, according to a press release.

"It's an honour to become a fellow of the 250-year old society and I strongly believe in its ideals," he added.

"My cross-cultural background and connections in the UK, Bangladesh and other developing countries means that I can contribute wholeheartedly to the task of the society," Tommy said.

The Royal Society of Arts was founded in 1754 to further the development of the world.

Over 22,000 fellows of the Royal Society of Arts are working on five key challenges of its manifesto.

Social Harmony Project

Tommy along with 150 helpers will cook halim for 5,000 disadvantaged children at Wonderland Park at Gulshan in the city on May 28, says another press release.

As part of the Social Harmony Project, Tommy will spend four hours to cook free meal for them beginning at 9:00am.

Destitute children from orphanages, homes and streets will be brought by bus to the park where a fair will be organised on this occasion.

There will be theatre performers and stalls set up by the UN World Food Programme for the entertainment of the children at the fair.

Nazrul championed cause of women, downtrodden

President tells poet's 105th birth anniversary programme

UNB, Mymensingh

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said Kazi Nazrul Islam had championed the cause of women and the downtrodden and stood for communal harmony.

"His social responsibility and pragmatic vision inspire and encourage all of us to build the nation," the president said this while he was inaugurating a three-day programme marking the 105th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at Darirampur Academy ground in Trisal, Mymensingh yesterday morning.

He said poet Nazrul stood for

equality, fraternity and liberty. In his writings he dreamt of a classless society.

He said the government is giving priority to evaluation and research on his overall contribution besides keeping his memory alive and publishing his works.

He said a project is being implemented at Darirampur Bichutia Byapari Bari and Kazir Simla with the support of Cultural Affairs Ministry and under supervision of Nazrul Institute and it is now at the final stage.

Moreover, the government has taken initiative to set up a university in Trisal after his name.

He sought cooperation from all quarters in this regard.

Iajuddin hoped that Nazrul's love for his country would inspire us in observance of his birth anniversary.

Chaired by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman, the inaugural function was also addressed by State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain, Cultural Affairs Secretary Modabbir Hossain and DC Mohammad Shafiqul Alam.



Members of the family of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam place wreaths at his mazar in the city yesterday on the occasion of his 105th birth anniversary.

DHAKA TODAY

Nazrul Academy
The inaugural ceremony of a three-day programme drawn by Nazrul Academy to celebrate the birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be held with Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 5.30pm.

Nazrul Institute
Nazrul Institute organises a discussion and cultural function to mark the birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Shaheed Zia auditorium, National Museum. Time: 4.00pm.

Bangla Academy
As part of its programme to celebrate the birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bangla Academy organises a session of lecture and cultural function. Venue: Nazrul Mancha of the academy. Time: 6.30pm.

German film show
Zahir Raihan Film Society, in association with Goethe Institut, will screen two films in the weeklong session of German HEIMAT-film of 1950's. These are 'The Girl of the Moors' (1958) by Gustav Ucicky and 'The Lady Country Doctor' (1958) by Paul May. Venue: The Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Academy film show
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Sylvia' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Lecture
BRAC University organises a public lecture on Photonics in China to be delivered by Samia Islam. Venue: University Building, Mohakhali. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar
American Institute of Bangladesh Studies organises a seminar on 'Video conferencing: Solutions for Bangladesh.' Venue: BRAC Centre Inn, Mohakhali. Time: 10.00am.

Zia Forum
Zia Forum organises a discussion to mark the death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Condolence meeting
Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies organises a meeting to condole the killing of Ahsanullah Master. Venue: WAPDA auditorium, Motijheel. Time: 4.00pm.

Discussion
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion on 'Safe motherhood: Responsibility of family, society and state.' Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 3.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

German film show
In the weeklong session of German HEIMAT-film of 1950's, Zahir Raihan Film Society, in association with Goethe Institut, will screen two films titled 'The Fisher Girl of Lake Constance' (1956) by Harald Reinl and 'Black Forest Girl' (1950) by Hans Deppe. Venue: The Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Academy film show
Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Boom' (2003), an American film titled 'Matchstick Men' (2003) and an Italian film titled 'The Decameron' (1970). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Prize giving ceremony
The prize giving ceremony of 2nd Leonine Grandmaster Chess Competition, organised by Leonine Chess Club, will be held with State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Conference room of National Sports Council. Time: 4.15pm.



Advisor of US government for UN and former Congressman Benzamin Gilman called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

Death anniversary

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Dr MA Sattar, founder of Bangladesh Association for community Education (BACE), says a press release.

To mark the day, BACE has organised a discussion meeting and milad mahfil at its head office at 140 Motijheel in the city at 3.30pm today.

Ln Ziauddin Ahmed

The first death anniversary of Lion Ziauddin Ahmed Chowdhury will be observed today, says a press release. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for his departed soul.

1632 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,632 people, including a listed criminal, during their countrywide drive on various charges in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered 10 firearms, three other weapons and 97 bullets and filed eight cases against 10 people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 22.1 degrees at Srirongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:39pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.4	23.8	74	63
Chittagong	32.5	25.0	75	67
Rajshahi	33.5	22.9	68	66
Khulna	32.4	24.5	81	76
Barisal	32.0	24.0	74	76
Sylhet	31.8	22.8	87	68
Cox's Bazar	33.3	23.8	75	--