



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh form a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding that the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban be declared a national heritage site.

Stop construction of buildings on JS premises: Bapa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday urged the government to stop permanently the construction of residences for Speaker and Deputy Speaker on the premises of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban showing honour to the verdict of the High Court.

They also called on the government to refrain from filing an appeal against the court verdict to show respect to the popular demand of the people.

The rally was organised jointly by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) at Shahbagh crossing in the city.

The speakers called upon the government to declare immediately

the Sangsad Bhaban premises a National Heritage as per the verdict of the High Court.

They also called for government initiative to declare the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and its adjacent areas as World Heritage through the Unesco.

The High Court in its verdict declared the under-construction residences of Speaker and Deputy Speaker illegal as they violate the original design of Louis I Kahn, the world famous architect.

The court issued the verdict following a writ petition filed by Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA).

The speakers said the Sangsad Bhaban is a pride of the country and

it has made Bangladesh well-known to the architects around the world.

We shall have to protect this prestigious work through our united efforts, said the speakers.

IAB President Mobashwer Hossain said a photo of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban was used in the cover of a book titled 'A history of Architecture' edited by Spiro Kostoff, a renowned critic of architecture.

BAPA General Secretary Abu Naser Khan said the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban is one of the greatest architectural pieces in the world.

A human chain was also formed on this occasion.

People from different ages and over 200 representatives from various organisations with banners and festoons participated in the human chain.

Housewife strangled, another beaten to death in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Two people, including a newly married woman, were killed in separate incidents in the district in the last two days.

The housewife, Ruby Akhter, was strangled allegedly by her husband Jahangir Alam, a rickshawpuller, at East Madarbari in Double Mooring thana of the port city on Thursday night.

Police arrested Jahangir yesterday after the owner of victim's rented house filed a case, sources said.

In the other incident, Sitakunda police recovered the body of a youth, Didarul Alam, from the coast at Bhatary yesterday morning.

Quoting local people, police said the security guards of a ship-breaking yard at Jahanabad beat Didar to death after he was caught red-handed while stealing scrap metals in the early hours of yesterday.

Later, they dumped his body to the sea.

In another incident, three women and a man were injured in a clash over a disputed land at Saral village under Banskhali thana at around 10.30am yesterday.

Of the injured, Mahfuza Khatun, 47, and Nadia, 70, were admitted into Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the others, Laila, 28, and Nurul Afser, 38, are undergoing treatment at a local health complex.



PHOTO: STAR
Visitors at the 15th Young Artists' Art Exhibition that began at the National Art Gallery at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. The exhibition will continue till July 22.

'Make cooperative movement a success'

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called on all to make the cooperative movement a success.

In a message on the occasion of 'International Cooperatives Day,' the president said cooperatives have a very significant role in poverty alleviation, self-employment and rural development in this country like other parts of the world.

Honest leadership, intense coordination and mutual tolerance can lead the cooperative movement to a right direction, he said and urged all to work with utmost sincerity to this effect.

The first Saturday of July is observed as the International Cooperatives Day every year.

In another message, Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia said proper cooperative movement can help establish a balanced and equitable economic system and protect human rights.

She said the cooperatives have a very important role in changing socio-economic condition of underprivileged people in developing countries.

Cooperatives are considered an effective tool both in developed and developing countries to alleviate poverty, she added.

The prime minister expressed her solidarity with 80 crore cooperatives of the globe to achieve the main message of the theme of the day: 'Cooperatives for Balanced Globalisation: Create Opportunity for All.'

Cancel by-polls, demands 11 Party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left-leaning 11 Party yesterday demanded cancellation of Dhaka-10 by-polls held on Thursday.

Speaking at a meeting, the party leaders termed the election farcical.

They alleged that the voters were not allowed to exercise their franchise.

The leaders said the government violated the High Court's directive for not deploying army in all polling centres.

They urged the people to support the country-wide dawn-to-dusk hartal for July 11 called by Shilpa Samik Roksha Samonay in support of their demands.

Presided over by Alhaj Abdus Samad, the meeting was also addressed by Manjur Ahsan Khan, Bimol Biswas, Abdullah Sarkar and Ruhin Hossain Prince.

'Fine arts can help check moral decadence'

BSS, Dhaka

Practice of fine arts can help check crimes and degradation of moral values in society, said Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday.

"Any work of fine arts sharpens human consciousness and contributes to building a society more sensible," he added.

The minister was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of 15th Young Artists Art Exhibition-2004 at the National Art Gallery at the Shilpakala Academy. He also distributed prizes among the winners.

The art exhibition will remain open from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm daily till July 22.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman, Secretary Abu Solaiman Chowdhury and renowned artist Monirul Islam also

spoke. Shilpakala Academy Director General Ahmed Nazir presided.

Shamsul Islam said Bangladesh have passed the period of childhood and juvenile in the field of painting and now its artists have been projecting their works in the international arena.

He paid tributes to the memories of great artist Shilpachariya Zainul Abedin and his contemporaries for playing a pioneer role in establishing painting as an art media in the country.

Selima Rahman said the academy has been playing a vital role in projecting painting to the people by patronising the Young Artists' Art Exhibition.

Referring to historical background of painting in this region, Ahmed Nazir said architecture, sculpture and painting upheld the thinking and taste of a nation.



PHOTO: STAR
Participants at a condolence meeting observe one minute's silence in memory of Liberation War inspirer and noted writer MR Akhtar Mukul at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. The Sammilita Sangskritik Jote organised the meeting.

Tributes paid to MR Akhtar Mukul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a condolence meeting yesterday recalled the contribution of journalist M R Akhtar Mukul to country's liberation war and language movement.

They said by reading out 'Charam Patra' over Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, a radio centre in exile during the liberation war, Mukul inspired the freedom fighters as well as the countrymen to intensify the war.

The condolence meeting was organised by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil said the nation will ever remember Mukul for his contribution to the liberation war.

"Mukul, as a journalist, never compromised with the false and stood firm in favour of truth," he added.

The AL general secretary said Mukul always dreamt of a secular and democratic society.

He urged all pro-liberation forces to be united to establish a democratic country as Mukul dreamt of.

Prof Anisuzzaman said Mukul was closely involved with the language movement in 1952.

"He was one of them who decided to break Section 144 demanding Bangla as mother tongue," Anisuzzaman added.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu said all pro-liberation forces have to be united to establish a secular and democratic country.

He recalled the contribution of Mukul and said he was always vocal against communalism.

Editor of the Sangbad Bazarur Rahman said the spirit of the liberation war has to be transmitted to the new generation to materialise the dream of Mukul.

Presided over by Jote President Nasir Uddin Yousuf, the meeting was also addressed by Asaduzzaman Noor MP, Prof Mustafa Monowar, Kabita Parvez, daughter of M R Akhtar Mukul and Jote leader Dr Mohammad Samad.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna divisions during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period, Met Offices said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 24 degrees at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:16am tomorrow.

The 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	27.6	79	82
Chittagong	31.8	26.5	82	92
Rajshahi	33.6	28.1	83	74
Khulna	34.6	27.7	75	67
Barisal	33.6	27.5	73	69
Sylhet	32.8	25.4	83	69
Cox's Bazar	34.4	26.4	78	79



PHOTO: STAR
Police prevent the leaders and activists of Jubo League from marching through the city as the demonstrators tried to bring out a procession from Muktagang demanding cancellation of Dhaka-10 by-polls and arrest of those involved in the bomb attack on an Awami League rally at Sunamganj.

BCL activist stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Assailants yesterday stabbed to death a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist in Narayanganj apparently over political rivalry.

Mohammad Shahin, 22, a garment waste trader and son of Mofazzal Hossain of South Laxmankhola of Bandar, was setting business with labourers of Shohagpur Textiles Mills near his house at around 10:30am when the assailants swooped on him.

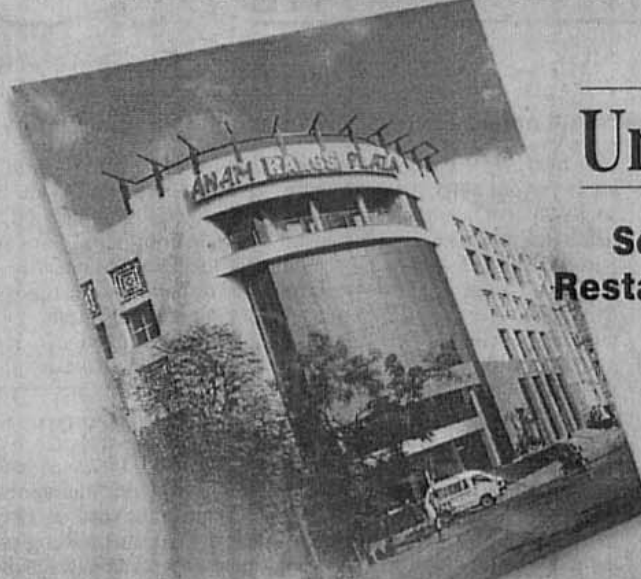
Up to 20 men, including Jakir, Mamun and Salam, held Shahin, also a higher secondary student at Government Tularam University College, and knifed him indiscriminately.

Shahin was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctors declared him dead on his arrival at 12:20pm.

Shahin's uncle Shah Alam told newsmen that Shahin, a BCL activist was killed over political enmity. "The attackers are activists of local units of BNP and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and also his rivals in business," he added.

Bandar police admitted Shahin was killed following political clashes in the locality but could not give any detail.

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