

Action against fanatics demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB) yesterday demanded of the government to take action against the Islamic fanatics.

It expressed concern at the death threats issued to journalists, teachers, intellectuals and politicians by the fanatics.

At a discussion at the party office, WPB leaders expressed deep concern over the activities of the fundamentalists against the daily Prothom Alo.

They said the fundamentalists had burnt copies of the Prothom Alo and ransacked its billboards in the capital for publishing stories on the involvement of madrasa students in the activities of the Islamic zealots.

The fundamentalist have also obstructed the sale of the daily at different districts and demanded the cancellation of its declaration, they said.

The WPB leaders blamed Fazlul Haq Amini, leader of the Islamic Oikyajote, for encouraging the fundamentalists.

They expressed concern at the attack on different Ahmadiya mosques.

The party urged all progressive forces to stand united against the fundamentalist forces.

Presided over by party President Rashed Khan Menon, the meeting was also attended by General Secretary Bimol Biswas, Akbor Khan Rono, Abul Basar, Nurul Hasan Monoj Shah and Hajera Sultana.

Brown leaves Dhaka

BSS, Dhaka

United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) Administrator Mark Malloch Brown left Dhaka yesterday after a three-day visit.

UNDP country representative Jorgen Lissner saw him off at the Zia International Airport.

Wife stabbed for dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man stabbed his wife for dowry at Sutrapur in the city on Wednesday night.

Gulshan Ara Begum, 25, who is carrying for seven months, is struggling for life with seven injuries on her body at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Lal Mohammad, a mechanic, returned home at 78/5 Gupibagh from his workplace at Dholaikhal at 7:30pm and stabbed his wife following a feud with her.

Hearing her cry, we rushed to the spot and found her lying in a pool of blood, said her father-in-law Dil Mohammad.

ShewasrushedtotheDMCH.

Gulshan's mother told the reporters that her son-in-law has been demanding a shop at Lal Mohan Saha Street as a dowry for last two months and he might have stabbed her as a dispute over the shop.

"We had bought him a shop at Dholaikhal three years back when he married my daughter, and also gave him Tk10,000 recently," she added.

Lal is absconding after the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique speaks at a condolence meeting in memory of journalist and columnist Santosh Gupta and eminent writer Humayun Azad in the city yesterday. Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad organised the event.

'Empower local govt to establish real democracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Empowerment of local government is essential to help establish real democracy in the country, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said if the local government is empowered properly, then accountability and transparency will also be ensured.

The discussion on 'Union Parishad:

Transparency and Accountability' was organised by Democracywatch at its auditorium in the city.

Executive Director of Democracywatch Taleya Rahman called for setting up of a neutral committee to monitor the activities of union parishad and disclose the results through newspapers.

Organisers of Democracywatch from Jessore, Dinajpur, Nilphamari and Gazipur also took part in the discussion.

DU student stabbed at Lalbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University student was stabbed at Lalbagh in the city yesterday.

Mohammad Farid, 24, a student of Islamic history, went to visit the Lalbagh Fort along with his friends at 4:00pm, and entered into an altercation with a local youth who pushed him accidentally.

Witnesses said as Farid was coming out of the fort after the visit, the youth, allegedly a goon of local Sultan group, stabbed Farid in the stomach.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was undergoing treatment.

'Indigenous people at Kulaura deprived of edn, health care'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous people at Kulaura in Moulvibazar have been deprived of education and health care facilities since the independence, said speakers at a book publication ceremony in the city yesterday.

"Neither a government primary school nor a health complex has been set up for the Khasi community in the last 33 years," said Sanjib Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

"Rather, all the successive governments have tried to evict us from the locality," he alleged.

The Empowerment through Law of the Common People (ELCOP), a human rights organisation, launched the book titled 'Combating the Khasi Uprooting: Humanity Cries' at the programme held on the Liberation War Museum premises.

Criticising the proposed eco-park

project, Sanjib said it would not in any way help maintain ecological balance.

"Ten picnic spots have been proposed in the eco-park which would certainly destroy the forest and make it a commercial spot," he added.

Babli Talan, a Khasi social worker, said, "The only educational facilities in the locality are provided by either missionaries or NGOs."

The Bangalees often harass the Khasis by filing false cases or grabbing their lands, but the government does not take any action against them, said Babli.

Matiur Rahman, editor of the daily Prothom Alo, Justice ATM Afzal, Associate Professor Mesbah Kamal, ELCOP Chairman Prof KAA Qamruddin, Executive Director Dr Mizanur Rahman and Chief Coordinator Mohammad Rahmat Ullah also spoke.

Agreement with Brac to eliminate TB

An agreement to eliminate tuberculosis in Bangladesh was signed between Brac as the principal recipient of the Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria (GFATM), Geneva and nine other partner organisations in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

The GFATM has approved Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Brac to receive 42.46 million US dollar for the tuberculosis programme in Bangladesh for five years. Brac as the principal recipient

NGO has nine partners: Damien Foundation, LEpra, Bangladesh, HEED Bangladesh, Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service, Lamb, Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission and Salvation Army Bangladesh to implement the expansion of Directly Observed Treatment (DOTS) strategy in partnership with MOH.

Initially the contract has been signed with the partner organisations for two years with a budget of 11 million US dollar (Tk67 crore).