



'Govt inaction encourages killings of intellectuals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday said the inaction of the government had encouraged unabated killings of the intellectuals.

They demanded immediate resignation of the government for its failure to provide security to the intellectuals.

The speakers urged all progressive forces to be united to resist the heinous activities of the anti-liberation groups.

They also called upon the people to stand up against the religious fanatics who are tarnishing the image of the country.

The rally was organised by Shikha Andolon Mancha at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city to protest the killing of Prof. Mohammad Yunus, a teacher of Rajshahi University (RU).

Prof. Yunus, who was also the president of RU unit of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association, was stabbed to death on December 24.

The speakers blamed the Jamaat-e-Islam and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for the killing.

Ajoy Ray, president of Shikha Andolon Mancha and former teacher of Dhaka University, urged the government to ensure the security of the intellectuals.

"We cannot expect any justice from the government as it never paid any heed to our demands," said Prof. Shahidul Islam of RU.

Prof. Anu Mohammad of Jahangirnagar University said slaying of intellectuals would continue if proper investigation and trial are not conducted.

Ashraf Uddin Akash, general secretary of Shikha Andolon Mancha, Shamsunnahar Jyosna, general secretary of Samajtantrik Mahila Forum and Prof. A Rashid also addressed the rally.

Representatives of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Sammilita Samajik Andolon, Projonma-71, Sammilita Nari Samaj, and Democratic Lawyers Association took part in the rally.

After the rally, a procession was brought out carrying banners, festoons and placards.



Shikha Andolon Mancha stages a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to protest the killing of Prof. Mohammad Yunus.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at a few places over Barisal, Sylhet, Dhaka and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions till 6.00pm today.

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

Highest temperature 27.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 9.0 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:30pm today and rises at 6:44am 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	18.8	15.5	78	91
Chittagong	22.0	13.4	76	77
Rajshahi	23.3	11.8	89	86
Khulna	19.5	14.2	90	86
Barisal	20.0	14.4	100	--
Sylhet	22.0	12.4	80	75
Cox's Bazar	26.0	14.0	68	62

Valuables looted from engine boat

UNB, Keraniganj

Pirates looted valuables worth about Tk five lakh from an engine boat in the Buriganga river on Monday.

Local people said a gang of about eight pirates swooped on an engine boat laden with hardware in Ainta area when Siddique, a trader, was taking the goods to Shariatpur. They looted the goods at gunpoint.

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Judgement in Jayanti Reza murder case January 17

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The defence lawyers of Azam Reza, an accused in the killing of his wife Jayanti Reza, yesterday sought acquittal of their client.

They told the court that their client did not kill his wife Jayanti Reza. Jayanti had committed suicide but he was implicated in the case to harass him. So they prayed for acquittal of Azam Reza.

After completion of arguments from the two sides, Judge AR Masud of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4, Dhaka fixed January 17 for judgement of the case.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 13 prosecution witnesses. Azam Reza was present in the court during the hearing yesterday.

HIGHWAY HOLDUP Two arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two people for their alleged involvement with a gang of robbers who gunned down an accountant of a textile industry and looted around Tk 31 lakh on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway on Monday.

"We have arrested two suspects and expected to make a headway within a short time," said Nazrul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of the East Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

He, however, declined to disclose the names of the arrestees.

BNP programmes to observe Zia's birth anniversary

UNB, Dhaka

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday drew up elaborate programmes to observe the 69th birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman with due respect on January 19.

The programmes include a discussion meeting and a cultural programme on January 18, hoisting party flag atop the party offices, placing wreaths and offering feteha at the Zia's majar on January 19, and illumination of the party offices in the evening.

The programmes were finalised at a joint meeting of BNP and its front organisations at the BNP central office. Party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan presided.

Addressing the meeting, Bhuiyan said the conspirators killed President Ziaur Rahman, but they could not erase his name from public mind.

He urged the party leaders and activists to march forward imbued with the spirit of Zia's political philosophy, honesty and patriotism, and complete his unfinished tasks to lead the country towards prosperity and progress.

He said Zia had made a revolution in the country uniting the rural and urban people through the politics of development.

Legal aid needed to stop domestic violence Speakers tell meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Domestic violence should be considered as crime, said the speakers at a consultation meeting yesterday.

They said apart from increasing awareness, legal aid is necessary to stop domestic violence.

The consultation meeting on 'Domestic Violence: In search of a Legal Framework' was organised by Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association (BNWLA) in the city.

The meeting was held as a part of a BNWLA research project titled 'Combating Violence against Women and Children' at its shelter home.

Manusher Jonno, a non-government organisation, is funding the project.

A research study conducted last year revealed that 51 percent of 313 women were the victims of spousal abuse since their marriage, and only 55 percent of them went for legal actions.

Ninety-nine percent of 72 lawyers thought that spousal abuse should be treated as a crime, but they prefer to solve the problems through mutual understanding.

Meanwhile, 98 percent of 55 police could not arrest the spousal abusers for lack of proper law, said the study.

The meeting had threadbare discussions on the definition of domestic violence, nature of the trial of domestic violence cases and interim protection for the victims and witnesses.

Recommendations for more shelter homes and treatment facilities for the victims, and coordination among the police, doctors, lawyers and shelter home authorities also came out from the study and the meeting.

The speakers said wife abuse cases should be taken under the jurisdiction of family court with proper implementation of the existing laws.

BNWLA Executive Director Salma Ali blamed the patriarchal society for domestic violence and laid emphasis on the enactment of domestic violence prevention law.

"As violated women who come to us mostly want a peaceful and mutual solution, only legal aid will not however work much without steps to stop domestic violence," she added.

BNWLA Secretary Advocate Fahmida Nasrin, Advocate Sharmin Farooq, Advocate Towhida Khondker, Public Prosecutor Arfan Uddin Khan and Showkat Ullah Khan were also present at the consultation meeting.

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Bangladeshi student drowns in Sydney beach

Taha Bin Bashar Roni, a Bangladeshi student of Sydney University of Technology, drowned in the sea beach of Sydney while he was swimming on January 6. He was 26, says a press release.

Roni, an MBA student of the university, left behind his father, mother and sister to mourn his death.

He completed his BBA from North South University.

He will be buried at the Eidgah graveyard at Mohammadpur in the city.

His father Abul Bashar and mother Lutfunnesa have requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

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