



Women activists stage a demonstration in the city yesterday calling on all to resist political killings.

PHOTO: STAR

'Grenade attacks a conspiracy to eliminate best sons of soil'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday expressed deep concern at the government's failure in punishing the criminals involved in the bomb and grenade attacks in the country.

They said the attacks that are taking place one after another are not any scattered incidents, rather they are part of a conspiracy of the vested quarters to eliminate the best sons of the soil.

The rally was organised by Bikkhubdha Nari Morcha, an alliance of aggrieved women, at Mukhtangon in the city protesting the killing of Shah AMS Kibria and four others in Habiganj carnage recently.

The speakers said the government

is not at all serious about the investigations that mostly remains confined to the formation of investigation committees, arrest of some suspects, and in some cases, pressing of charges.

"The stereotyped statements of the prime minister, minister and officials concerned immediately after the incidents seemed like a farce to the family members of the victims," said Nari Morcha Convenor Tasmin Hossain.

She said the killing of people by the law enforcers in the name of 'crossfire' is another act of lawlessness indulged by the government.

On the other hand, the government has not taken any initiative to arrest the so-called Bangla Bhai who is killing the innocent people in the name of eliminat-

ing the extremists, she added.

Shirin Akter, a woman activist, termed the killing of Shah AMS Kibria 'political', and said they would continue their agitation till the criminals are punished.

Women leaders Hena Das, Dr Hamida Hossain, Shaheen Anam, Farida Akter, Khushi Kabir, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Dr Faustina Pereira, Bela Nobi, Rabeya Bhuiyan, Ila Chanda, Shahin Akter, Rehnuma Ahmed, and Sayeeda Kamal were present at the rally.

Later, a procession was brought out that ended at the Central Shaheed Minar after parading different city streets.

UGC to go ahead with streamlining pvt universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission (UGC) will go ahead with its efforts to streamline private universities.

Despite intimidation following a recent evaluation report on private universities the UGC will ensure quality education, Prof M Asaduzzaman, chairman of the commission, told a discussion in Dhaka yesterday.

"Some quarters have even threatened to kill me," said Asaduzzaman. "But we have found many incongruities in a number of institutions and we must correct those," he said.

One of the objectives of the Private University Act is to create efficient manpower, he added. Law, Justice and Parliamentary

Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said new legislation will ensure accountability of private universities.

Vice-president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) Abul Quasem Haider said the emergence of private universities has significantly prevented students from going abroad.

The discussion on role of private universities was organised by Asian University of Bangladesh marking the university's 9th founding anniversary.

Vice-chancellor of Asian University of Bangladesh Prof Abulhasan M Sadeq and Vice-chancellor of North South University Prof Hafiz GA Siddiqi also spoke at the discussion.



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal took out a procession on Dhaka University campus yesterday to protest the bid to create anarchy in the country.

PHOTO: STAR

Marketing a major challenge for agri economy: Anwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marketing and preservation of fresh fruits and perishable vegetables are the major challenges for the agrarian economy of Bangladesh.

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar said this at an agricultural planning meeting spelling out his apprehension that problem in marketing and preservation might have negative bearings on the overall agricultural productions.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the 4-day first annual review and planning meeting of a tri-nation agricultural project on 'Accelerating Technology Adoption to Improve Rural Livelihoods in the Rainfed Eastern

Gangetic Plains' at the Brac Centre in the city.

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) and World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) are participating in the IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) funded 3-year project.

Head of the Social Science Division of IRRI and Leader of this project Dr Mahabub Hossain gave an overview of the project saying that works were going on in 12 specific sites in Bangladesh, Nepal and India bridging the yield gap.

"We're adopting a farmer-

participatory approach and recommending rapid technology transfer at end-users level," he added.

Earlier in his welcome address, Deputy Director General of IRRI Dr Ren Wang appreciated the collaborative moves by various stakeholders and laid emphasis on the development of location-specific crop management.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir addressed the inaugural session as special guest while representatives of other participatory international organisations also spoke.



Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country in the next 24 hours till 6.00pm today, with light to moderate fog in the early morning.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Sandwip and the lowest of 11.5 degree at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:46pm today and rises at 6:38am 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	24.5	16.2	76	53
Chittagong	23.8	13.0	83	54
Khulna	25.4	15.5	84	61
Barisal	25.6	16.0	86	80
Sylhet	26.5	17.2	83	49
Cox's Bazar	25.8	18.5	59	74



Minoru Shikita, chairman, Board of Directors, Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, Japan speaks at a "Special Lecture on Crime Prevention: Precondition for Peace and Prosperity," organised by ACPF, Bangladesh in the city on Tuesday.



Jahangir Alam, a winner of a raffle draw, receives a TV set from Md Zakir Hossain, general manager (marketing) of Concord Entertainment Co. Ltd., at a ceremony at the Fantasy World at Shantinagar in the city recently. Marketing Manager Anup K Sarker was also present.