



Participants at a roundtable on 'Our responsibility in protecting national security and image' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. From left are Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, GM Quader, Attorney General Hassan Ariff and Maj. Gen. (Retd) Nooruddin Khan.

'Political stability a must for national security'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national security faces a greater threat from feudal domestic politics than from foreign enemies, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

Describing the politicians as the 'main threat' for the national security and image of the country, the speakers stressed the need for self-correction, patriotism and political tolerance among them.

The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW), an organisation of Islamic research and propagation, arranged the roundtable on 'Our responsibilities to protect national security and image,' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The primary and toughest task at this moment will be establishing the rule of law in the country in order to

ensure national security, said Attorney General KM Hassan Ariff, the main speaker of the seminar.

Instead of blaming each other, everyone should come up with suggestions on how to improve the election system, he said.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to the leader of the opposition in parliament, said, "We know that we won't be able to reach a consensus on all issues, but what we could definitely do is to reach a consensus on improvisation of the election process since we cannot get into power without it."

GM Quader MP said the present parliamentary democracy is running without any accountability, as the current system itself is not democratic.

The ruling parties seem to be the only decision-maker in parliament,

he added.

On the much-talked 'crossfire' issue, the Jatiya Party lawmaker said the alleged criminals might have been killed without justice only to save the godfathers who once sheltered them.

Referring to the cancellation of the 13th Saarc summit, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said if there was any consensus on at least one serious issue between the opposition and the ruling party, the neighbouring country wouldn't have been able to take such a decision.

Institute President Syed Muhammad Ibrahim moderated the discussion, with former army chief Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nooruddin Khan in the chair.

'Stop construction of Tipaimukh Barrage'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stop construction of Tipaimukh Barrage on the Barak river in India, demanded the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They urged the government to realise compensation from the Canadian oil company for Tengatil gas field blow-out in Sunamganj. The speakers also demanded repeal of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (Tifa) with the United States saying it will help loot

One killed in Gopalganj clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

One person was killed and 15 others were injured in a clash over a cricket match at Gopalganj Sadar last night.

The victim Habibur Rahman Molla, 32, of Golabaria, died on his way to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital. His body has been kept at hospital morgue for autopsy.

Of the injured, six were admitted to hospital.

They are Mohiuddin Chowdhury, 48, Aziz Sheikh, 26, Mamun Sheikh, 18, and Rashed Sheikh, 20, of Bedgram, and Ibrahim Molla, 25, and Halim, 45, of Golabaria.

Police said the clash erupted over the condition of the pitch, and members of both the team used lethal weapons.

A case was filed with Gopalganj Police Station in this connection.

Police arrested Aziz Sheikh and Ismail Sikder.

Rab nabs top outlaw leader

BSS, Rajshahi

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a top leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party from a village in Ataikula, Pabna on Thursday night.

The extremist identified as Moznu Mian, 30, is accused in three criminal cases filed with Ataikula and Sujanagar police stations.

Qulkhwani

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of journalist Abul Hossain Mir, editor of the Faridpur-based daily Jalchhap and Dainik Thikana, will be held after Asr prayers today at his 52/1 RK Mission Road residence.

A member of Council of Editors, Abul Hossain died of a cardiac arrest on Tuesday at the age of 68.

He also wrote a number of books of poems and stories for children.

the country's resources.

The discussion was organised by Samilita Nari Samaj, an NGO for women, at the National Press Club in the city.

"The people will be more vigilant about all disastrous moves by foreign countries against our national interests," said Shirin Akter, executive director of Karmojibi Nari, an initiative for working women.

"Our political parties are always interested in working for the USA to get its support in assuming the power," said Manzur Ahsan Khan, president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Leaders of Samilita Nari Samaj also announced that they would soon go for a long march programme to press home their demands.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal Convenor Kazi Khalequzzaman, Ubinig Executive Director Farida Akter, and Executive Director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association Syed Rizwana Hasan also took part in the discussion.



PHOTO: STAR
Participants at a discussion held at the National Press Club in the city yesterday to mark the International Women's Day on March 8. Samilita Nari Samaj organised the event.

Bird fair held at JU amid festivity

JU CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of bird lovers from the capital and elsewhere in the country thronged Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday as a daylong bird fair was held on the campus.

The 'Bird Fair-2005' gave the campus a festive look with jubilant students, teenagers, kids and their parents enjoying the fair.

The fair, organised by JU zoology department in cooperation with the Bangladesh bird club, nature study and conservation club and Jugantor Swajan Somabesh (JSS), began at 8:00am. It was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman.

Six telescopes were installed at

several points in front of the administrative building through which bird lovers tried to identify and learn about 35 different species of birds, including Sharali, Pocheder, Gargeni, Lenza and Shouveler.

The JU emerged champion both in a bird watching and debate competition while Dhaka University stood first in both categories of a bird identification competition.

The Independent University of Bangladesh, Rajshahi University (RU), Stamford University and Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University also participated in the competitions.

About 200 kids also participated in a painting competition on birds.

Ten stalls on the Shaheed Minar

premises were decorated with birds in a stall decoration competition. Nir, a JU organisation, won the first prize. The JSS, Badhon, an organisation of JU, RU bird club and a bird research centre in Naogaon were among the participants.

The organisers also accorded recognition to four prominent persons for their research and efforts to create awareness about birds.

A cultural function on birds was also held on the occasion. A B M Musa, editor of the Jugantor, distributed prizes among the winners.

The JU bird fair would inspire everyone who loves bird and wants to help them survive, said an elderly visitor at the fair.



Sammilita Sangskritik Jote organised a meeting in memory of Abdul Latif, a music legend and Language Movement veteran, at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Musical programme

A two-day musical programme, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, will be inaugurated by the State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: National Art Gallery Plaza, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6:30pm.

Cultural programme

In observance of the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Amra Suryamukhi, a socio-cultural organisation, will hold a cultural programme. Venue: Liberation War Museum premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4:30pm.

Seminar

Jatir Janak Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust organises a seminar to mark the historic 7th March with Opposition Leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Engineers' Institution auditorium, Ramna. Time: 3:30pm.

Memorial meeting

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote organises a meeting in memory of Shah Ahsan Kibria, a former finance minister

Leadership programme

The third leadership programme on corporate governance for banks and non-banking financial institutions will be inaugurated with Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Gulshan-1. Time: 9:30am.

Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Rajshahi University Old Students Association will be held. Venue: 5/5 Block-C, Lalmoni. Time: 5:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 1:30pm.

Rotary North West

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 7:00pm.



Tahmina Tanvir, a housewife, donates Tk 5 lakh to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Construction Fund to dedicate a bed in the name of her parents - Arifa and Rafique. As part of the donation, she hands over a cheque for Tk 2.5 lakh to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president and chief executive of Dhaka Ahsania Mission at its office in the city on Thursday.