

Razakers being rewarded

Speakers tell discussion on Bangbandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called upon people from all walks of life to wage a tougher movement for establishing the spirit of Liberation War.

Razakers (collaborators of Pakistani Army in 1971) are now being rewarded with all kinds of state facilities while the freedom fighters are the most disadvantaged in the society, they said.

They said these while addressing a discussion organised by Bangla-desh Muktiyuddha Projanma marking the 84th birth anniversary of Bangbandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Liberation War Museum premises in the city. "Former president Ziaur Rahman paid tribute to Banga-bandhu as the Father of the Nation and never claimed himself as the proclaimer of the country's independence in place of Bangabandhu what now his followers are frequently doing," Major General (Retd) Subed Ali Bhuiyan, member of Awami League (AL) Advisory Committee, said.

"The government should not try to tarnish the image of the country



Dr Gias Uddin takes over as VC of Primeasia University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

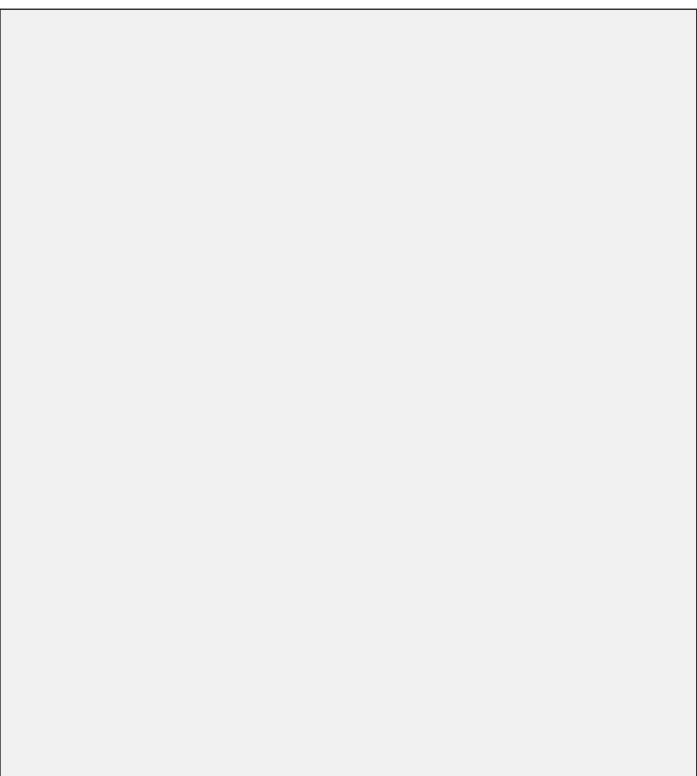
Prof Dr Gias Uddin Ahmad, former dean, faculty of engineering, and head of the physics department, Buet, took over as vice-chancellor of Primeasia University recently.

He did his M.Sc. in physics at Dhaka University and obtained Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from Glasgow University, Scotland in 1967, says a press release.

Prof Ahmad, having a teaching experience of 43 years at home and abroad, is also the president of Bangladesh Medical Physics Association and the editor-in-chief of Bangladesh Journal of Medical Physics. He has about 40 publications in international and national journals and co-authored several textbooks.



Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Fakhru Azam inaugurated the Air Defence System Automation (ADSA) at the Air Defence Operation Centre (ADOC) of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.



by dishonouring Bangabandhu while the whole world pay tribute to him for his greatest contribution in achieving the independence," A Latif Khan, chairman of Bangladesh Mujibnagar Karmochari Sangsad, said.

Even 34 years after the independence, the dreams of the freedom fighters are yet to be materialised, Nurul Alam Babul, general secretary of Muktiyuddha Projanma aggrieved.

AL Presidium Member Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, AL Advisory Committee Member Major General (Retd) KM Safiulla (Bir Uttam), freedom fighter AKM Rahmatulla, Abul Kalam Azad and Muktiyuddha Projanma President Syed Jahidul Islam Milon also spoke at the discussion.

Govt plans separate housing zone for journalists in city

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir yesterday said the present government is keen to ensure residential facilities for the journalists.

He told this while he was exchanging views with journalists on the allocation of residential land for them in Dhaka at the ministry here.

Alamgir Kabir said the plots that are being allocated by the government have quotas for journalists, authors, writers, players and artists. It is a noble initiative of the government, he added.

Besides, he said the government at the instruction of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has decided to allocate land for developing a separate housing zone for the journalists in the capital.

He asked the authorities concerned for resolving all complications in the process of allocating the land to the journalists as well as preparing design for it.

He urged the journalists leaders for being careful in allocating plots to journalists.

Secretary of the ministry Iqbal Uddin Chowdhury, acting chairman of the National Housing Authority and joint secretary of the ministry Md Golam Nabi, joint secretary (Development) Bijan Kanti Sarkar and concerned officials were present.

Secretary of 'Dhaka Journalist Cooperatives Association Limited' MA Aziz led a six-member team at the meeting.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia waves at the supporters at a public meeting at Chandpur Stadium yesterday. Chnadpur district BNP organised the meeting.

CCC polls campaign begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin yesterday started campaign for mayoral polls, a day after the announcement of election schedule.

Mohiuddin will contest the election to retain his post as the candidate of Chattagram Nagarik Committee backed by Awami League (AL) while Mir Nasir, also the president of city BNP, will vie for the mayorship with BNP ticket.

Meanwhile, two separate clashes between the BNP and AL activists in the city left five people injured yesterday. Police arrested eight AL men following the clashes took place over voters' registration ahead of the CCC polls.

In the afternoon, Nasir addressed a huge rally of slum dwellers organised by Chittagong City Chhinnamul Bastibashi Samannoy Sangram Parishad at

organised a rally here yesterday in support of Nasir's candidature. Speaking at the meeting, the alliance leaders assured Nasir of their full support in the campaign for May9 polls.

Addressing the rally, Nasir, also a former mayor, vowed to establish a dynamic and corruption-free governance in the Chittagong City Corporation.

Local leaders of BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh Jatiya Party and Islami Oikya Jote and their front organisations addressed the rally presided over by local amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Moulana Shamsul Islam.

Nasir also held a meeting with the leaders of ward and thana units of local BNP and front organisations. Later, a procession was brought out in support of Nasir.

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CAMPAIN FOR NASIR
The ruling four-party alliance

Set up more legal aid clinics

Beneficiaries urge BNWLA

Participants at a view-sharing meeting with Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) urged the organisation to increase the number of its legal aid clinics for the rights-deprived women and children.

They also discussed the beneficiaries' problems at the meeting held at Uttara Ladies Club in the city yesterday, says a press release.

It began with the welcome address by Advocate Touhida Khondokar and Advocate Rehana Sultana.

A five-member committee, to

work hand in hand with the association aiming at preventing violence against women within the family and ensuring rights under the family law, was also formed at the meeting.

The committee members are Uttara Ladies Club Chairperson Jahanara Islam, Ward Commissioner Hafizul Islam Kusum, social workers Hosne Ara Begum, Hosne Ara Rosy and Advocate DilAfroz.

Congratulations



food and nutrition, says a press release.

Earlier, she secured first class second position in B.Sc. (hons.) examinations in the same subject.

Daughter of Fatema Sultana and M Hashem, Sharmin is now serving as technical officer (nutrition) at

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



home at Madda Moulvibari in Chouddagram, Comilla, today, says a press release.

Laldighi Maidan.

MOHIUDDIN'S MASS CONTACT
Chattagram Nagarik Committee (Chittagong Citizens Committee) candidate Mohiuddin Chowdhury started mass contact and addressed rallies at two wards of the city yesterday.

While talking to The Daily Star at his office, Mohiuddin said campaign for him would start officially later by the Nagarik Committee.

He said he believes in the battle of ballots and politics of ballot. "I am confident of winning the poll," he said. "I will resist any conspiracy to foil the election."

Mohiuddin said his commitment to the city dwellers would be to put the dignity of the city to the standard and height of an international city.

BNP-AL CLASHES

Five activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of BNP, were injured in a clash between BNP and AL activists over registration of names in the voter list.

The clash took place when a group of AL men went to the regional office of Deputy Election Commissioner at Jamal Khan to submit some 2,000 voter's forms.

Injured JCD activists Rana and Salahuddin were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Police arrested two AL activists -- Sukanta Das and Titu Barua -- following a case filed by JCD accusing 14 AL men with Kotwali Police Station.

Another clash between the AL and BNP men occurred at the same office at noon. Police nabbed six AL men from the spot in this connection.

Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Advocate Hasmat Ali, a prominent lawyer and social worker of Mymensingh, will be observed today.

Hasmat Ali is the father of ATM Zahid Hasnat Bulbul, convenor of Mymensingh district unit of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and doa including, feeding to the destitute, will be held at his No-1 College Gate residence.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

M Salimullah



Qurankhwani will be held at his village home Kalitara in Noakhli today.

Foods will also be distributed among the destitute.

Dr AMA Alamgir

Today is the 7th death anniversary of Dr A M A Alamgir, founder of Mahanagar Clinic, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 279/A Dhanmondi, Rd No-8/A (New) after Asr prayers today.

Friends and relatives are requested to attend the milad.

Plan to release over 500 child prisoners

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to bring down the number of the children in prison to 500 from its existing over 1000 in different prisons.

According to the estimate of the jail authorities, there are over 1,000 children now detained in the prisons in 64 districts.

The decision was taken at the fourth meeting of the National Task Force on improving the condition of children in prison on Wednesday with Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. Kamal Siddiqui in the chair.

Directives were issued to all divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, concerned police officers and officials of social welfare department to take effective monitoring system to expedite the process of releasing children from prison and also to solve this problem.

The meeting decided to take necessary steps to repeal the Vagrancy Act, 1943, and appoint an additional probation officer for Dhaka Metropolitan city.

Held at the Prime Minister's Office, the meeting decided to monitor the progress of the committees formed in this regard, issue directives to all concerned to be more child friendly in performing their duties.

Concerned secretaries of different ministries, senior government officials, and representatives of the donor agencies and NGOs attended the meeting.

The third meeting of the task force was held on October 17, 2004.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite vigorous campaign to raise social awareness, adolescents are still getting married at an early age.

The mean age at marriage for female was 14.3 years while for male it was 22.2 years, reveals a recently concluded endline survey on adolescent reproductive health (ARH).

The findings of the survey were disclosed at a dissemination session titled 'Lessons Learned and Endline Survey on Adolescent Reproductive Health' at a city hotel yesterday.

The three-year survey, designed to improve reproductive health status of adolescent girls, was conducted by the Department of Youth Development in collaboration with the UNFPA.

The three-phases survey in four districts under a project titled 'An initiative for improving reproductive health of adolescent girls in Bangladesh through peer education and personal social education' found that nearly 40 percent of married adolescent girls have never used contraceptives.

The findings on early marriage showed that millions of adolescent, about 23 percent of the total population, are now faced with the impact of early marriage that includes incomplete education, child bearing, and threat of HIV/Aids transmission.

The survey also showed that around 48 percent of 15-19 years old adolescent girls are married, and about 60 percent of them are becoming mothers before reaching the age of 19.

The findings also pointed out that a

high percentage of adolescents were lacking adequate knowledge on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

"We must acknowledge our responsibilities for the overwhelming young population of the country," said State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Fazlur Rahman while speaking as chief guest at the session.

He requested UNFPA to continue such projects and use the findings in future policy formulation.

Suneeta Mukherjee, UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh, said adolescents make up about one fourth of the total population. They need life skills and right sexual and reproductive health knowledge.

She said, "With limited knowledge about their bodies and physical changes they are highly vulnerable to unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Early marriage often leads to early childbearing which not only limit life opportunities but also carries serious health risk."

Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Syed Shujauddin Ahmed and Director General of the Department of Youth Development SM Waliur Rahman also spoke.

In his keynote presentation, Dr Noor Mohammad of UNFPA shared the ARH project experiences while Dr Khalid Hasan of ACNielsen presented the study findings at the working session.

Professionals from development partners, NGOs and academics were also present.

Mob gouges out eyes of 6 robbers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An angry mob gouged out the eyes of six robbers on Wednesday noon while they were trying to run away after committing armed robbery on an air-conditioned coach of Eagle Paribahan at Khajura on Jessore-Magura road.

The AC coach no 78 was bound for Khulna from Dhaka when the armed dacoits boarded in the guise of passengers from Motijheel, Dhaka at 8 am on Wednesday, taking control of the coach by overpowering its driver at Katakhal of Magura.

According to passengers, the dacoits fled in a white microbus from

Keshtapur of Magura but were caught by an angry mob from three villages when they reached Khajura. The mob set the microbus on fire, and assaulted the robbers. The dacoits admitted to Jessore Sadar hospital with their eyes gouged out were identified as Rabiul Islam (24), Amirul (30), Rezaul (30), Zafar Shikdar (34), Kismat Gayeen (30) and Nitai Saha(28).

Four dacoits of the gang however, managed to escape looting with a sum of Taka 10 lakh, 50 cell phones, 50 tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables. According to Police, 15 passengers were injured when they were beaten by the dacoits in the coach.