

It's high time to resist politics of arms

Speakers say at Jatiya Oikya Mancha meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday said armed cadres and political link of the teachers have destroyed the environment of educational institutions.

They said the armed cadres are the carriers of the 'sick politics' of some political parties.

The meeting on 'We want educational institutions free from arms and violence' was organised by Jatiya Oikya Mancha at the Diploma Engineers' Institute in the city.

The speakers urged the authorities concerned to disarm and expel the armed cadres and their associates and check the entrance of non-students to educational institutions.

They also demanded of the government to enact laws asking all educational institutions including the universities to get rid of armed cadres with the help of law enforcement agencies.

Jatiya Oikyamancha President Dr Kamal Hossain said division among the students and teachers paves the way for armed cadres to create anar-

chy in the universities.

He said there is nothing so unfortunate when it is heard that the partisan identity plays a role in securing a first class in the examination.

"It is high time to be united to resist the politics of arms," he added.

Bikalpa Dhara Chairman (BDB) AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said violence in educational institutions is not any isolated incident from the mainstream politics.

He said the teachers cannot ignore the order from political parties when they are linked to partisan politics.

He laid emphasis on modern scientific education combined with moral values to end violence from the campus.

"State power is the key target in present politics, and the political parties can do whatever they like for that," BDB Secretary General Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan said, adding that unless this trend is changed and the students are not freed of partisan politics, the scenario in the universities will not change.

Bangladesh Economic Association

(BEA) General Secretary Dr Abul Barakat said armed politics in educational institutions would never end unless the politics and economics of criminalisation end.

Referring to his own study, Barakat said there are 10 to 15 lakh illegal arms in the country and every year 15 crore bottles of blood are brought to the country.

"The youths, especially the students, are the main targets of these arms and drugs," he added.

BEA President Dr Kazi Kholiquzzaman said unless the disparity between the rich and the poor is reduced, it is impossible to solve these problems.

Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Jatiya Oikyamancha leader Abdur Rouf, and Sony Memorial Foundation Executive Chairman FH Khan also spoke at the meeting moderated by BDB Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury.

Uphold Bangladesh's image abroad

Hasina urges Russian unit AL leaders

UNB, Dhaka

The leaders and activists of the Russian Chapter of Awami League yesterday met Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her suite in Hotel Rossija in Moscow.

Awami League leaders Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Syed Abul Hossain, Dr Haasan Mahmud and former Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin, Russian unit President Dr. Motaheb Bahar Patwary, General Secretary Dr. Soumitra Dev Partha, former president Dr. Shafiqul Islam, president of Russia-Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Miah Rafiqul Islam Arju, Abdus Sattar, Dr. Shahidul Huq, Eng Monowar Hossain, Dr. Nazrul

Islam, Sheikh Motaheb, Shah Riaz Mitu, Bahauddin Talukder, Premananda Debnath, MA Hannan and Dr Khadem A Khan were present.

Hasina urged her party faithful to work unitedly to uphold Bangladesh's image abroad.

"The image has been tarnished due to the despotic rule of the BNP-Jamaat alliance," said the opposition leader, urging all to contribute to the movement for ending the coalition rule from their respective positions.

Later, Pavl P. Borodin, State Secretary of the Union of Republic of Belarush-Russian Federation, hosted a lunch in honour of Sheikh Hasina and the members of her entourage.

ISSUE OF LICENCE FOR PRIVATE TV, RADIO

Information ministry sole authority

Supreme Court rules

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday ruled that the Information Ministry is the sole and exclusive authority to issue licence for broadcasting radio and TV in the private sector.

The decision buried a longstanding controversy as to who would issue the broadcasting licence in the case of now defunct ETV.

"Appeal is allowed," pronounced Chief Justice Syed J R

Mudassir Husain setting aside the August 20, 2003 High Court verdict that had vested the licensing authority with Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). The verdict came upon ETV writ petition challenging the inaction of BTRC for granting broadcasting licence.

After losing the legal battle the government and the BTRC moved the Supreme Court.

Attorney General A J Mohammad Ali appeared for the government while T H Khan stood for BTRC and Dr Kamal Hossain, barristers Rakanuddin Mahmud and Tanjibul Alam for ETV.

Fish farm owner stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agang of unknown assailants shot a fish farm owner and stabbed him to death at Kafrul in the city on Saturday night.

The gang shot Abbas Ali, 35, in his thigh and also stabbed him indiscriminately in Baurtek area after he came out of his house at Damalcourt at 9:30pm.

"Abbas went out of the house after receiving a call on his cellphone, but around three hours later a youth called and informed us of the attack on him," said Razia Khatun, sister of Abbas.

"I soon rushed to the spot only to find my brother lying in a place covered in jungle," she told the reporters. Abbas was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead at around 1:00am.

A murder case was filed with Kafrul Police Station but no-one was arrested till 8:00pm yesterday.

Black Bengal Goats for Thai princess

Bss, Dhaka

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman yesterday handed over a pair of 'Black Bengal Goats' to Thai ambassador Suphat Chitranuk oh at a simple ceremony at Zia International Airport.

The Thai Airlines will carry the goats to Thailand.

As per her commitment, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presented the goats to the Thai Princess, an official handout said.

The Black Bengal Goat is a typical species of Bangladesh. It is free from diseases. Its tasty meat and good skin are appreciated everywhere in the world.

Govt to buy electricity from private sector

BSS, Dhaka

The Cabinet Committee on economic affairs yesterday approved five proposals for various projects including the one for purchasing electricity from 10-50 MW capacity power plants in the private sector.

Under the proposal, the government will buy electricity from private sector power plants through mutual agreement.

The approval was given at a meeting of the committee held at the cabinet committee room at Bangladesh secretariat with the chairman of the committee Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The meeting also approved the appointment of the sponsor of constructing Meghnaghat 450-megawatt combined cycle power plant through built-operate-own (BOO) basis under the private sector power generation policy of the government.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Industries Minister Motiur Rahman

Nizami, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Agriculture Minister M K Anwar, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk and State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud attended the meeting.

Cabinet secretary, concerned secretaries and senior officials of concerned ministries were present. Talking to the journalists after the meeting, Saifur Rahman said the meeting also approved the proposals for 10 percent advance for processing the bid of M/s Harbin Power Engineering Company who was considered as the lowest bidder technically and financially at the 5th re-tender for constructing Sylhet 80MW combined cycle power plant (2nd unit) at Fenchuganj under turnkey basis.

He said the meeting approved two other proposals -- the deviation of regulations 18(1) (D) of PPR-2003 for considering revised estimation of the rehabilitation of important roads in Patuakhali-Barguna districts and privatisation of Rangpur Sugar Mills in Mahimaganj of Gaibandha.

Tk 53.8cr N'ganj pouura budget announced

No new tax imposed

UNB, Narayanganj

Narayanganj Pourasava yesterday announced its Tk 53.8 crore budget for 2005-2006 fiscal without imposing any new taxes.

Pourasava Chairman Dr Selina Hayat Ivy announced the highest ever budget allocation in the history of the municipality.

Of the total amount, Tk 27.85 crore has been targeted as revenue income while Tk 25.23 crore as development income.

Besides, Tk 24.07 crore has

been earmarked as revenue expenditure while Tk 28.23 crore for development expenditure.

Dr Ivy said the allocation has been made for construction of municipal building, market, modern bazar, amusement and children's park and one auditorium in each ward.

Former pouura chairman Nazimuddin Mahmood, Jamaat leader Moulana Mainuddin, panel chairman Hazi Wabayedullah, ward commissioners, journalists and local elite were present.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a public meeting in the city yesterday. Dhaka city AL and its front organisations arranged the meeting.

'Admin decentralisation a must for good governance'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a festival yesterday said the government should allocate one-third of its national budget for proper functioning of local government.

They said decentralisation of administrative and financial power is a must for good governance.

The two-day 'Local Government Festival-2005' was organised by the Democracywatch at the Engineers' Institute in the city.

Addressing as chief guest at the inaugural session, LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the present government is firmly working to strengthening the local government institutions for giving democracy an institutional shape.

Without strengthening the local government, the target of the government's most important programme of poverty eradication cannot be achieved, he added.

Chaired by the Executive Director of Democracywatch Taleya Rahman,

the inaugural function was also addressed by USAID Mission Director Gene George, German Ambassador Dietrich Andress, Danish Ambassador Neils Severine Mukn, Privatisation Board Chairman Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, EU Head of delegation Esko Kantrechyanski, Australian High Commissioner Lorraine Barker, and Jai Jai Din Editor Shafique Rehman.

A seminar on 'Best Practice and Challenges of Local Government: Lessons and Recommendations' was held in the afternoon session.

Speaking as chief guest, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said the government is trying to hold election of upazila parishads.

He said there is no need of any other government units except central government, upazila parishad and union parishad.

Later, an open discussion on 'Best Practice and Challenges of Local Government: Lessons and Recommendations' was held.

FM flies to Yemen today to attend Islamic Confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan flies to Yemen today to attend the 23rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM).

He will be accompanied by Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin and other high officials.

The three-day conference begins in the Yemeni capital Sana'a tomorrow.

Official sources said the foreign minister will address the plenary session and hold bilateral talks with his counterparts from a number of OIC member-countries and other dignitaries.

He will also attend other meetings on the sidelines of the conference.

Morshed Khan will raise 'major issues affecting the Islamic Ummah, including the situation in Palestine and the issue of intra-OIC cooperation with a focus on the needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)' in his discussion with his counterparts.

Talking to the reporters, Morshed Khan said a number of foreign minister has sought time to meet him and Bangladesh also contacted several countries for sideline talks during the conference.

Dr Zobaida gets Rotary SEED Award

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Zobaida Hannan has been named for the prestigious Rotary SEED Award 2004-2005 in recognition of her distinctive contribution to education and economic development of the country.

The award is being given by the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka (RCDM). RCDM President Nazma Khan announced it at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

Rotary member Prof. Anwar Hossain, Dr Muhammad Ahsan, AP Bureau Chief Farid Hossain and Kazi Kamal Uddin Ekram were present at the press conference.

Nazma Khan said Rotary SEED award was introduced in 1985 in recognition of the original outstanding works and significant contributions made by notable living worthy citizens of Bangladesh in the fields of science, education and economic development (SEED).

Farid Hossain, also former RCDM president, said SEED is the most prestigious and precious cash award in Bangladesh.

This year, the award carries Tk 2 lakh-Tk 150,000 in cash and 50,000 in terms of gold medal.

The award will be handed over to Zobaida on July 25.

Zobaida Hannan has been chosen for the award for her relentless work to educate and economically develop the village Asharkota under Nagakot upazila in Comilla and transform it into a self-reliant locally.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture observed

UNB, Dhaka

The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was observed yesterday in the country as elsewhere across the globe through campaigns against man's inhumanity to man.

To mark the day, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) formed a human chain in front of the Supreme Court Bhaban to express its solidarity with the victims of torture.

It also organised a public meeting with its National advisor Dr ASM Badrodduza in the chair.

ICJ commissioner and BTRC Chairman Justice AKM Sadeque attended the programme as chief.

Sadeque urged the government and non-governmental organisations to observe the day. He also called upon the political parties, including the ruling and opposition, "not to patronise criminals".

He said that torture on women has risen enormously, "but these victims are not getting social or legal protection for fear of terrorism and influence of money power".

The speakers pleaded for stopping all acts of violence and terrorism and called upon all human rights activists to work for the victims of torture.

District, upazila, thana and municipal units of the BHRC also observed the day through different programmes.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

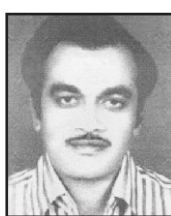


PHOTO: STAR

A.Q. Fazlul Haque, general manager of Gauchhia Jute Mills, passed away due to cardiac arrest in the city on Saturday at the age of 60.

He left behind his wife, one son, two daughters and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

Fazlul Haque was buried at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-ajanaza after Esha prayers on Saturday.

His quikhwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at his Jigatola residence in the city.

Fazlul Haque is the elder brother of Azizul Haque Ershad, a senior journalist of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions and at few places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderate heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and Chuadanga and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:14am 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	32.2	26.8	83	76
Chittagong	32.0	25.8	83	83
Rajshahi	34.0	26.0	86	88
Khulna	34.0	26.5	79	75
Barisal	33.4	26.0	83	82
Sylhet	32.0	24.0	95	77
Cox's Bazar	30.0	25.0	96	95



PHOTO: STAR

The Communist Party of Bangladesh stages a demonstration against the proposed budget and the American Peace Corps in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

AP Bureau Chief Farid Hossain speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka organised the press conference.