



Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Save the Environment Movement) forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding coordinated efforts to prevent a bird flu pandemic to save lives and poultry industry.

WTO's attempt to control agri issues condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a study circle have condemned the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for its 'unjust and undemocratic' attempt to control agricultural issues.

Voice, a research and advocacy forum, organised the study circle titled 'WTO ministerial conference, agreement on agriculture and farmers' rights' at Haji Osman Ali School auditorium in Mymensingh on Thursday.

Chaired by KM Shamsul Alam, headmaster of the school, the study circle was attended by local civil society members, teachers, students, farmers, trade union leaders and representatives from professional bodies.

The speakers laid emphasis on opposing strongly the WTO-imposed unjust trade and role of multinational companies.

Former BADC engineer Humayun Kabir, and farmers Fazlur Rahman, Abul Kasem and Abdus Salam demanded quota-and-duty-free market access to the developed countries and increased rate of subsidy in the agricultural sector.

The participants also underlined the importance of launching movement to raising awareness among the common people about the bad impacts of WTO trade policies on our agriculture.

Voice Co-ordinator Swadhin Chowdhury discussed the objectives and necessity to spread the movement while Farjana Akter, programme officer, presented the keynote paper.

BNP programmes to observe Nov 7

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The ruling BNP have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the November 7 as the National Revolutionary and Solidarity Day marking the civil-military upsurge that led to release of the then army chief Ziaur Rahman on this day in 1975.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its front organisations at its secretary general's residence in the city yesterday. Party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan presided.

As part of the day's programmes of the party, national flag will be hoisted at the party's central office and other offices across the country.

A discussion meeting will be held at 3:00pm at Mahanagar Natya Mancha in the city.

BNP senior leaders, including Tarique Rahman, Mirza Abbas, Abdullah-Al-Noman, Selima Rahman, Barkat Ullah Bulu and Abdus Salam attended the meeting.

SHEIKH RUSSELL'S BIRTHDAY

Art competition held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 41st birth anniversary of Sheikh Russell, the youngest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh Chhatra League unit of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University organised an art competition and open discussion at the institute premises in the city yesterday.

The programme was inaugurated by renowned artist Rafiqunnabi.

Awami League Joint Secretary Obaidul Quader, Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna, artist Muhammad Younus, artist Shishir Bhattacharya, Jamal Uddin Hossain and Tarana Halim attended the programme.

'Zia proved wrong negative notion of Bangladesh'

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Lauding the statesmanship of late president Ziaur Rahman, BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said that Zia was the person who proved the negative notion of Bangladesh wrong.

"Immediately after independence, the country was branded as a 'bottomless basket'... but he was the man who proved the negative notion wrong by restoring the image of the country abroad," he added.

Bhuiyan was addressing a pre-lit discussion at LGED auditorium in the city organised by Ziaur Rahman Foundation (ZRF).

"Due to autocratic attitude of the then government, the country faced severe famine immediately after the independence...not only that they gagged the media... but Zia was the person who made the

media independent," he added.

Listing the coalition government's success in various fields in the last four-year rule, Bhuiyan also urged the people to vote the BNP to power again.

Describing various steps taken by the ZRF for the welfare of the poor hapless people of the country, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman also urged the affluent society to extend their helping hands to bring poor out of poverty cycle.

Tarique, also ZRF president, a non-political organisation, said the organisation is also going to set up an old-home and a child-care centre soon aimed at standing beside them.

Among others, state minister for education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon and deputy minister for food and disaster Asadul Habib Dulu, were present at the programme as special guests.

Khaleda offers prayers on Jum'atul Wida at Kaba Sharif

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, on a visit to Saudi Arabia, offered prayers on Jum'atul Wida, the last Friday of holy month of Ramadan, at Kaba Sharif in Makkah.

She also prayed for the welfare and continuous prosperity of Bangladesh, its people and the Muslim Ummah.

Talking to UNB on Friday over phone, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia SM Ekramul Huq, who is now in Makkah, said Khaleda was scheduled to make an audience with Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Friday evening local time.

The Prime Minister will leave Makkah for Jeddah on Sunday after Zohr prayers and is scheduled to return home on October 31.

Enclave dwellers unlikely to be on voters' list

BDNEWS, Kurigram

Over one lakh Bangladeshis of 51 enclaves of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat inside India are now in confusion whether their names would be included in the fresh voters' list or not.

They were deprived in 1990, 1995 and 2000 of their rights to franchise, as Indian government had not issued them any transit pass.

A total of 18 enclaves of Kurigram and 33 of Lalmonirhat are in the district of Kuchbihar under West Bengal in India. These enclaves have in fact been totally isolated from its mainland, Bangladesh. As a result the inhabitants of these enclaves are deprived of state facilities let alone their rights to franchise, sources said.

Though they are the citizens of Bangladesh no census has been conducted so far on them nor their names have been included in the electoral rolls.

There are two enclaves of Fulbari upazila of Kurigram district and 16 of Bhurungamari upazila of Kurigram district inside India. In 1983 enumerators and supervisors led by an assistant registration officer received permission to enter eight enclaves and prepare voters' list for the first time through the issuance of pass by the Indian authorities. But they are yet to exercise their rights to vote.

During the preparation of voter list in 1990 inhabitants of these enclaves, including those eight were not enlisted in the electoral roll, but some of those enclave dwellers stealthily dodging the vigilant eyes of BSF got their name enlisted raising the total number to 4,000.

After that in 1995 and 2000 they were not also included in the voter lists.

Meanwhile, Bhurungamari Upazila Nirbahi Officer on September 18 in a letter to the election commission secretary requested to take appropriate measures to prepare voter lists of the enclave dwellers.

Deputy commissioner Azizar Rahman Mollah said letters are being exchanged for taking necessary measures in this regard.

A reliable source said the Indian side is not responding triggering confusion among the enclave dwellers about their inclusion in the voters' list.

Key issues of concern to women figure in Bangkok confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing Women and Development Conference in Bangkok on its second day yesterday deliberated on the key issues that concern the lives of women across the globe.

The day kicked off with a plenary titled 'What is the change around us'. The session set in a talk show format commenced with a video show on different perspectives from the activists and researchers assembled from around the world.

Anita Nayar, an activist pursuing a doctoral research on the impact of commercialisation of indigenous medicine in India, moderated the talk show, according to a message received from Bangkok.

The programme covered some major issues of concern to women such as fundamentalism, environment, global corporate power and geo-politics. It set the stage for an expert group of panellists who presented their views on the changing and complex context in which they are seeking human rights and social justice for women, and also what they must do to address those.

The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) has arranged the four-day international event attended by over 1,600 participants, including some 35 from Bangladesh representing different NGOs. The AWID has nearly 6,000

individual and 250 institutional members in over 100 countries.

Yanar Mohammad, founder of the Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI), said, "We are crushed between the US-sponsored war and terrorism and political Islam." She said the new Iraqi constitution does not contain any reference to equality between men and women and has deprived women of their freedom.

Mohammad said Iraqis want a secular and egalitarian system of government and hold dear the vision of a free and just society. She appealed to all for solidarity and international support for their movement against what she said were US tyranny and Islamic fundamentalism. They also need the support of the media and a satellite television channel to portray the real picture of what is happening in Iraq, she added.

Ramesh Singh of Action Aid International talked on the possible regional dominance of certain countries like China and India. However, he said, "We should celebrate the emergence of India and China as big powers, as this will bring millions of poor out of poverty." He appealed to the civil society to try and negotiate a configuration that would bring social justice and equity to people in the region.

The real voice of an activist came from Yasin Fall from Senegal, also an economist and a leading figure in the women's movement in Africa. "We

need to understand these institutional threats of accumulation of power and resources," she said.

She criticised the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) prescribed by the World Bank and which she alleged was not really based on participation or consultation but on the guidelines given by the bank. She said, "We don't need foreign or multilateral agencies to tell us what to do. We should be able to figure it out ourselves."

Fall called for more solidarity among the progressive forces in the civil society and also urged the women's movements to address the issue of class and racism within themselves. She cited an example of Brazil, where there is a strong popular movement, which, however, left the indigenous people out.

Virginia Vargas from Peru, who founded the Centre for Peruvian Women in 1978, called for redistribution of wealth rather than the current focus on poverty alleviation.

Nursyahbani Katjasungkana from Indonesia, a human rights lawyer, warned of an uprise of Islamic fundamentalism in Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world following a moderate Islamic ideology until recently.

The last election in the country, she said, saw an increased number of parliamentary seats going to Islamist parties who are now calling for Islamic laws to govern the country.

She cautioned that this would go against the freedom of women and narrated how women are organising there to resist such moves.

Dr Martha T Darling, an American professor of history and interdisciplinary studies, spoke on how technology is being used to oppress women to the extent that now at forms of life are being privatised. "We need to get over the fear of science and address these issues head on before it is too late," Darling stressed.

Against the backdrop of the ever-growing threat of environmental degradation and global warming and in the context of recent natural disasters, it was revealed in the session that 80 percent of the world's greenhouse gas is being produced by 120 multinational industries in the developing world.

The plenary was followed by parallel workshops on a range of different subjects, such as social justice, migrant workers, culture, networking and alliance building, mainstreaming of women, the right to be different and labour rights.

The conference is providing an opportunity for women from different countries, cultures, races and ethnicity to come together and discuss the progress achieved and the immense challenges that still remain for women to exercise real power and decision-making in public and private life.

'Ensure empowerment of women to stop repression'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring empowerment of women is a must to curb violence against women and to counter the threat of religious fundamentalism, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

They said the incidents of repression of women and children have increased during the rule of BNP-Jamaat alliance government due to state-sponsored violence and political vindictiveness.

The Awami League organised the roundtable on 'Women and children repression' at the National Press Club in the city.

The four-party alliance government has pushed the country to the brink of a disaster, said AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil.

"The AL is now working together with 14 opposition parties to establish a democratic government and all should be united to restore the spirit of the liberation war," he said.

AAMS Arefin Siddiqui, president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, said those who are now in power are involved in repression of women.



Awami League presidium member Zohra Tajuddin speaks at a roundtable on 'women and children repression' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Dr Hamida Hossain called for strict enforcement of laws to contain violence against women and children.

Social support is also needed for the victims, she added.

Presenting a keynote paper, Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said that nowadays women not only are

repressed but also fell victim to religious fundamentalism and terrorism.

She said they are also attacked while taking part in processions and that women of minority groups are being tortured due to state-sponsored violence and political vindictiveness.

The fatwa issue should be dealt

with internationally and the issue of divorce should be brought under the court, said Mahbubey Alam, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

He also called for raising awareness to ensure women's right to inheritance.

The speakers also urged all to unite against the fundamentalist forces in order to establish a democratic government.

AL presidium member Zohra Tajuddin presided over the roundtable.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Advocate Sahara Khatun, AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Kader, Farook Khan MP, Tanjib Ahmed Sohel Taj, Dr Makhduma Nargis, General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Ayesha Khanam, Executive Director of Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK) Sultana Kamal and President of Karmojibi Nari Shirin Akhter took part in the discussion.

Journo Bashar passes away

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Senior Reporter of the Independent Abul Bashar breathed his last at the Birdem Hospital yesterday after suffering from prolonged illness at the age of 46.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the National Press Club on Tuesday.

Later his body was taken to his village home at Senbagh in Noakhali for burial.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) President Altaf Mahmud, Jatya Press Club (JPC) General Secretary Showkat Mahmud and former general secretary Swapnan Saha and professional colleagues attended the janaza.

Bashar started his career in the Bangladesh Observer in 1983. He worked for now defunct The Daily News before joining the BSS, from where he was removed along with some other journalists showing no reason during the present government.

He is survived by his two wives, four daughters, a son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina condoled the death of Bashar and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

BFUJ, DUJ, DRU also condoled the death of Bashar.

Abu Hasan Nasha Bala

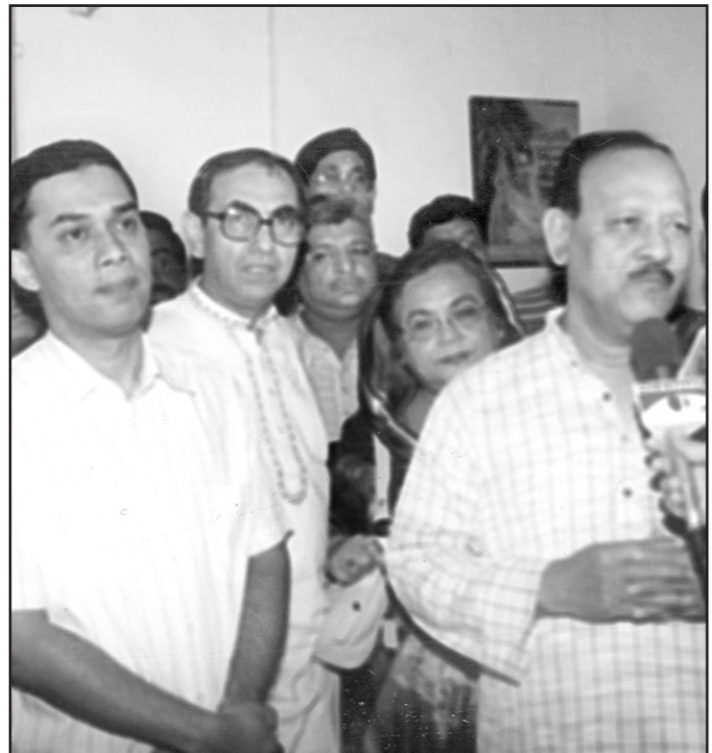
UNB, Dhaka

Abu Hasan Nasha Bala, freedom fighter and vice president of Shariatpur district Awami League, passed away at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday at the age of 60.

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

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep shock at the death of Abu Hasan Bala.

AL presidium member Abdur Razzak MP also condoled the death.



BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan briefs journalists on November 7 programmes of the party at his official residence in the city yesterday.



Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 32.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.8 degree Celsius at Dinajpur, Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:22pm today and rises at 6:04am 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	30.0	25.5	79	83
Chittagong	30.0	25.3	86	77
Rajshahi	29.6	23.0	96	00
Khulna	30.4	25.0	00	00
Barisal	28.4	22.6	97	93
Sylhet	31.8	24.2	64	80
Cox's Bazar	27.2	24.6	96	96

College principal abducted in Khagrachhari

UNB, Khagrachhari

Unidentified miscreants kidnapped the principal of Panchhari Degree College from his house here yesterday morning.

Police quoted family sources as saying that a gang of miscreants picked up Principal Samar Dutta Chakma, also an adviser to the local unit of the Awami League, at gunpoint at about 8:00am and took him to deep forest.

Local Awami League suspected that tribal miscreants were behind the abduction.

Phensidyl seized

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) recovered 1,500 bottles of phensidyl worth about Tk 4.5 lakh from Kafurl in the city yesterday. The RAB also arrested a person in this connection.

Death anniversary



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Iqbal Ansari Khan, a freedom fighter and eminent social worker, says a press release.

Iqbal Ansari, popularly known as Henry, was also a district governor of RI District 3280.

A language movement veteran, he was also vice-president of the students' union at Jagannath College and Dhaka College.

He made a mark in the cultural arena as well. He was instrumental in forming the first theatre group 'Drama Circle'.

He authored three books -- 'The Third Eye' and 'The Babri Mosque', and the third one is a book of jokes.

Dakshin Basabo. Time: 4.30pm.

**Seminar**  
Bangladesh Visually Impaired Peoples Society in association with Jubo Karmosangsthan Society organises a seminar with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Shishu Academy Auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

**Conference**  
The ward conference of Gono Forum and Jatya Oikya Mancha will be held with its President Dr Kamal Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Dhaka Bar Association Auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

**CPB rally**  
Communist Party of Bangladesh organises a rally in protest against the price hike of essentials. Venue: In front of Chandrima Super Market at New Market area. Time: 11:00am.

**Human chain**  
Bangladesh Technical College Teachers Association will form a human chain demanding implementation of its 12-point demand. Venue: Mukhtangon, Ramna. Time: 11:00am.

**Homeo discussion**  
Federal Homeopathic Medical College Students' Forum organises a discussion-cum-iftar party. Venue: College Auditorium, Farmgate. Time: 3:30pm.

**Rotary Dhaka**  
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Flat No E-2, House No 84, Park Road, Baridhara. Time: 4:30pm.

**Rotary North West**  
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Rangs Aronee, House No 14, Road No 15 (New), Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30pm.

**Rotary Karwan Bazar**  
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Karwan Bazar will be held. Venue: Head Office of Pragati Insurance Ltd, 20-21 Karwan Bazar. Time: 2:00pm.

**Islami discussion**  
Islami Biplobi Parishad organises a discussion-cum-iftar party. Venue: 4