

NU should be dismantled to improve college edn

Speakers tell AL seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National University (NU) should be dismantled as a first step to improve the standard of college education in the country, said Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, at a seminar yesterday.

He said all colleges must be brought under different universities while the NU, which is full of corruption, can exist only as an affiliation body.

Prof Arefin also criticised the unified education system which he said will further degrade the standard of education in the country.

The seminar on 'Problems of college education and what should be done' was organised by Education and Human Resource Development Affairs Sub-committee of the main opposition Awami League (AL) at the National Press Club in the city.

Inaugurating the seminar AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said the

suggestions, which will come out from the seminar, will be used as guidelines for future education system in the country if the AL is voted to power again.

Principal Kazi Faruque Ahmed, president of Bangladesh College Teachers Association, presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

In his paper, he listed scores of problems of college education that included absence of talented teachers due to low salary, politicisation of the governing body, and lack of coordination among the boards, universities and the ministry.

He also suggested some proposals to resolve the problems that included academic linkage between the lowest and the highest tiers of education, formation of separate grants commission and directorate for colleges, appointment of ombudsmen to curb corruption and non-government college teachers through Public Service Commission, granting auton-

omy to colleges and incorporation of true history of liberation in text books.

Prof Abdul Khaleque, former vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University, said bribery is rampant in appointing teachers in colleges ignoring merit.

To get rid of the worsening situation there is no alternative to ousting the alliance government through united mass movement.

Former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, who is the chairman of the Education and Human Resource Development Affairs Sub-committee, presided over the seminar.

He said as education is the only tool of curbing criminal activities, removing poverty and accelerating development, highest importance has to be given for the improvement of college and university education.

Prof Abdul Mannan MP, Dr Abdur Razzak MP and Nurul Islam Nahid also spoke on the occasion.

Sufia Kamal championed women all her life

Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poet Sufia Kamal was one of the distinguished persons in the subcontinent who fought against all kinds of repression and discrimination against women, speakers said at a memorial meeting yesterday.

They also said Sufia Kamal spent her entire life in making the society aware of violence against women. She was a pioneer in establishing rights of Bengali women, they added.

Samajik Pratirodh Andolan organised the meeting to mark the 6th death anniversary of Sufia Kamal at the National Press Club in the city.

Termining her as the icon of courage they also said she had worked as the conscience of the nation against superstitions and fanaticism from the language movement to liberation war.

Advocate Sultana Kamal, daughter of Sufia Kamal and director of Ain-o-Salish Kendra, said my mother loved to listen to music and poetry recitation and be in another's achievement.

"If we are inspired with the ideal of Sufia Kamal, we can make a change in the society", she added.

Ayesha Khanam, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said, "The fundamentalists are destroying the spirit of the liberation war by repressing women and to get rid of the crisis we have to launch a movement according to her (Kamal) ideal".

Shirin Akhter, president of Karmojibi Nari, said now we need a person like Sufia Kamal, who never hesitated to speak the truth.

She urged all to fight against the all kinds of repression, discrimination, and fundamentalism with the ideal of Sufia Kamal.

Poetry recitation and a cultural programme were also held after the meeting.

Assault on Janakantha reporter condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalist (DUJ) in a joint statement yesterday condemned State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir as he has physically assaulted Tapan Biswas, staff correspondent of daily Janakantha while he was doing his professional duty.

In the statement, they said, "The journalists have been facing abusive languages by various persons of the government for a long time but this time we are surprised at the state minister's action. The minister has to apologise to the journalist community for his misdeed."

Meanwhile, a protest rally will be held in front of the National Press Club in the city today at 11:00am.

Photo exhibition on climate change Dec 17- 31

During the NorthSouthEastWest photo exhibition on Climate Change to be held on December 17-31 at the National Museum Gallery in the city, British Council, British High Commission and DFID in collaboration with Map Photo Agency will jointly organise a photo competition titled "My World, My Future" looking through the eyes of young Bangladeshi photographers, says a press release.

Those interested can send the entries directly or by post to the Culture and Science Unit of British Council at 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka-1000 or at Map Photo Agency at 159 East Tejgiri Bazar, fifth floor, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 on or before November 27, 2005.

An exhibition of 50 selected images will be held on the British Council premises in the city in January.



Prof Anisuzzaman speaks at a citizens' rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday protesting the killing of judges in Jhalakathi.

Liquor smuggling Charges framed against sergeant, driver in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Charges were framed against a police sergeant and a taxi cab driver yesterday for smuggling liquor and beer from the Chittagong port jetty about two months ago.

AKM Anwar Hossain framed the charges at the court of metropolitan sessions judge against police sergeant M Saifuddin and cab driver Belal.

Court sources said the security guards of jetty no-1 on September 8 this year challenged Saifuddin and Belal at the gate while they were trying to evade security checking. After searching the cab, they found 24 cans of beer and four bottles whisky in it.

They immediately held the sergeant and cab driver as they failed to produce any valid documents against the goods, sources said.

Gate sergeant Mahbubur Rahman filed a case on that day against the two with the Bandar Police Station while investigation officer and sub inspector of Bandar PS Enayet Ullah submitted the charge sheet on September 23.

Oust govt to rid country of extremism

Nagarik Samaj urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Nagarik Samaj, an alliance of civil society, yesterday at a citizens' rally urged people to be united to oust the government, which is patronising religious fundamentalism and extremism.

They demanded trial of the killings of two judges in Jhalakathi, journalist Goutom Das at Faridpur and protested countrywide serial bomb attacks on August 17. They also protested beating up of a journalist of the daily Janakantha at the Secretariat yesterday.

President of Shammilita Nagarik Shamaj Air Vice Marshal A K Khandker presided over the rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city while Justice K M Sobhan, President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) AAMS Arefin Siddiqui, Prof Anisuzzaman, Member of Parliament and Vice President of Shammilita Shangskritik Jote Asaduzzaman Noor spoke.

Referring to the bomb attack on August 17, Dr Anisuzzaman pointed out that the upsurge of the extremist group did not take place in a day.

"The government did not stand firm against the Islamic zealots. For this reason the spirit of liberation war and constitutional rights of people are now threatened. A united movement to resist the fundamentalist force is a must," he added.

It is time to take the challenge of the fanatic groups and to resist them in a democratic way through a united movement, said Justice K M Sobhan.

Prof Arefin Siddiqui said though the extremist force is ruling the country and engaged in corruption; most of the countrymen are still ethical and democratic.

The speakers also urged all to make the grand rally on November 22 a success under the banner of 14 party alliances in order to oust the government.



Journalists stage a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting harassment of Tapan Biswas, staff reporter of the daily Janakantha, allegedly by State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir at his secretariat office.

Six killed, 50 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and 50 injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh, Comilla, Rajshahi and Rajbari districts yesterday.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent says, three people were killed in a road accident at Shambhuganj-China intersection at Sadar upazila in Mymensingh yesterday.

The accident occurred at about 1:50pm when a Mymensingh-bound bus Halaughat hit a rickshaw from behind at the intersection leaving three people, including the rickshawpuller and two rickshaw passengers dead on the spot, police said.

The victims were identified as rickshawpuller Shawkat Ali, 50, Lal Mia, 27, and Abul Bashir, 20.

The bodies were sent to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Local people seized the bus but

the driver managed to escape.

Two passengers were killed and 20 injured when a bus dashed a roadside tree at Manikchar in Sadar upazila in Comilla yesterday, reports UNB.

Police said the accident took place on Comilla-Feni Road when tyre of a Comilla-bound bus from Feni deflated and hit a tree at about 1:30pm.

Jan-e-Alam, 18, of Feni died on the spot while Rezaul Hasan Chhoton, 40, of Sadar upazila on the way to hospital.

The injured were admitted to different hospitals. Meanwhile, a coach knocked a bus off Rajshahi-Dhaka highway into a roadside ditch at Kapsia in Rajshahi in the morning, killing a woman on the spot and injuring 15 others.

Police and hospital sources said the Rajshahi-bound bus, coming from Bagha upazila, crashed into a ditch after the coach bound for Dhaka rammed it at about 6:45am.

"After the collision, the coach sped away," says a spot account of the accident. Local people and police rushed in and rescued the victims and salvaged the bus.

Identity of the deceased, aged about 25, was not immediately known. The body was brought to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue.

The injured, some of them in critical condition, were admitted to the RMCH.

As season's first dense fog blurred visibility in the morning, two buses collided near Aladipur bridge on Rajbari-Faridpur road, leaving 15 people wounded.

Police and injured people said a Faridpur-bound bus from Rajbari collided with another bus from opposite direction at about 7:00am.

The accident occurred as "nothing was visible due to dense mist at the time", said one witness account of the mishap.

Critically injured Humayun, 40, Liakat, 38, Shajahan, 45, Samir Mandal, 45, and Mirza Saifuddin, 60, were admitted to Rajbari Sadar Hospital.

Last date for depositing moallem fee

BSS, Dhaka

The last date for depositing moallem (guide) fee of Hajj agencies with the selected banks has been extended to November 24 from November 20 for facilitating the non-ballottee Hajj pilgrims.

The moallem fee will not be taken after November 24.

Weather Today Rise in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka. Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Slight rise in night temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Office said. Highest temperature 31.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 13.1 degree Celsius at Jessore. The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:18am 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 28.4 17.5 79 71 Chittagong 30.2 17.5 75 52 Rajshahi 26.6 14.5 100 91 Khulna 28.5 15.2 83 77 Barisal 29.0 15.5 80 91 Sylhet 30.0 18.0 71 66 Cox's Bazar 31.2 20.8 54 68

Dhaka Today Rally Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum organises a rally protesting killing of judges and journalists, anarchy, hartals and boycott of courts. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 3:30pm. Integration meeting Supreme Court Bar Association organises an integration meeting protesting murder of judges and demanding arrest of the criminals involved. Venue: Shaheed Minar. Time: 4:00pm. Discussions on Bhasani Jatiya Party organises a discussion on Mawlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm. Nazrul Institute will hold a discussion on 'National poet and Mawlana Bhasani'. Venue: Institute seminar room, Dhanmondi. Time: 3:30pm.

Blair may adjust reforms to avert revolt

REUTERS, London

Prime Minister Tony Blair may modify flagship education reforms but their central thrust is right, a senior minister said yesterday as the government fights to avert a parliamentary revolt that could damage Blair's standing.

Blair suffered his first major defeat as prime minister earlier this month over anti-terrorism plans when nearly 50 lawmakers in his Labour Party -- about one in seven -- refused to support him.

The shock vote raised questions about Blair's grip on his party after Labour's majority shrank in a May election.

Defeat in the education vote in the first half of 2006 would seriously dent his authority and could increase calls for him to step down after he said he would not seek a fourth term in a general election to be held by 2010.

Amid reports that at least one senior minister voiced opposition to the plans at a meeting last week, Geoff Hoon, a cabinet minister and close political ally of Blair, acknowledged the government may alter them to avert defeat.

Landless to get khas char lands

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday decided to distribute "khas char lands" among the landless people for raising social afforestation as part of its poverty-eradication programme.

The 24th meeting of the executive committee of National Agro-

based Khas Land took the decision, an official handout said.

State Minister for Land Ukil Abdus Sattar presided over the meeting. Deputy Minister Advocate Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, Moazzem Hossain Alal MP, secretary of the ministry Mohammad Abdur Alim Khan and high officials were present.

Resignation of PSC chairman demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Fair BCS Movement (FBCSM) demanded a fresh preliminary test and resignation of 'corrupt' and 'unfit' PSC chairman and its members for their utter failure to prevent questions paper leakout.

They threatened to launch a tough movement if Public Service Commission (PSC) does not cancel 27th preliminary examination right away as questions papers leaked out

before the examination starts.

They alleged that through the question leak the ruling party-men are being rehabilitated and consequently the meritorious candidates are being deprived.

They also sought support of all and urged people to build up strong movement against leak out of question papers and corruption of PSC in the educational institutions across the country.

ETV chairman gets bail in 3 criminal cases

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for four months to Ekushey Television (ETV) Chairman Abdus Salam in three criminal cases filed by his divorced wife and the government.

After hearing separate bail petitions, a division bench of the HC comprising Justice MA Rashid and Justice ATM Fazle Kabir also issued a rule upon the government to show cause within four weeks as to why Abdus Salam should not be granted regular bail in these cases.

Abdus Salam, also the managing director of ETV, appeared in person before the court for bail.

On October 7 and 19, Farzana Shilpi and Sub-Inspector Nasimul Islam filed three criminal cases against Abdus Salam with Kafur Police Station and Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

The HC on October 25 and 27 ordered the government not to arrest and harass Abdus Salam till November 20 in the cases and directed him to surrender before the court on November 20.

Advocate TH Khan and Dr Kamal Hossain assisted by Barrister Tanjibul Alam, Barrister Sarah Hossain and Advocate Rezina Chowdhury moved for the petitioner before the court while Deputy Attorney General ABM Waliur Rahman opposed the bail.

Interview postponed

UNB, Dhaka

Interviews for appointing Professors (ENT) in Different Medical Colleges, Hospitals, Dental Colleges and post-graduate Medical Studies Institutions have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

The interviews were scheduled to be held on November 23.

Fresh dates and schedules for the same will be announced through newspapers, says a PID handout.

Alakesh Chy passes away

BDNEWS, Ctg

Alakesh Chowdhury, a former general manager (administration) of Bakhraabad Gas Systems Ltd (BGS), passed away due to cardiac arrest at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in Dhaka on Saturday evening at the age of 61.

He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter to mourn his death.

Former Convener of the Titas Gas Swadhin Bangla Sangram Committee during the War of Liberation, late Chowdhury also worked in the now defunct daily Banglar Mukh and weekly Bidhisha.

He had also contributed to a good number of national dailies with his penname Alak Chowdhury.

A condolence meeting was held with priest Suddhananda Mohathero in the chair.

He was cremated at Rajarbagh crematory.

Rizia Haque



Rizia Haque, wife of late Md Zahurul Haque, former director general of Ansar and VDP, passed away at Apollo Hospital

in the city yesterday at the age of 79, says a press release.

She was laid to rest at Banani graveyard.

Abu Jafar Sowdagar

CU CORRESPONDENT

Prominent businessman Abu Jafar Sowdagar passed away at Chittagong Medical College

Hospital yesterday morning at the age of 60.

He left behind wife, four sons and a daughter.

After a namaz-e-janaza at Laldighi Maidan in the afternoon, he was laid to rest at Chaitanya Goli graveyard in the port city.

Abdur Rouf Chowdhury

BSS, Dhaka

Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, former member of BCS (audit and accounts), passed away due to heart attack on Friday on his way to New York.

He joined Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service in 1966 and retired from his job in 1996. BCS Audit and Accounts Association expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.



GPA-5 achievers in the HSC examinations this year pose for photograph with the guests at a reception at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh auditorium in the city yesterday. Law Minister Moudud Ahmed was present as chief guest at the event organised by Abdul Halim Patwary Foundation and UCC Group.