

PUBLICATION CEREMONY OF 'SHEIKH MUJIB: TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY' 'Bangabandhu was personally religious, politically secular'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a charismatic leader whose uncompromising leadership and political foresightedness led to the independence of Bangladesh...

He was personally religious but politically secular, they said, adding that his unending love for the Bangladeshis contributed to the framing of a constitution that speaks of democracy, social justice and secularism.

The publication ceremony of the book titled 'Sheikh Mujib: Triumph and Tragedy' was held at the Cirdap auditorium in the city. SA Karim, the first foreign secretary of Bangladesh, compiled the book after nine years of research and investigation.

The University Press Limited published the 424-page book comprising 58 chapters divided in five thematic sections.

'Sheikh Mujib had deep understanding of the politics of the Indian subcontinent. So, he would know very well that there would be no solution to the conflict between the West and East Pakistan unless the East wing became independent. That is why he motivated the people of Bengal to achieve independence,' said Prof Harun-ur-Rashid of Dhaka University.

The politics of Sheikh Mujib was

for the oppressed, which is still reflected in the programmes of his party Awami League, he added.

Bangabandhu was a democratic leader, Prof Rashid said, adding that he did not want to be a separatist leader. And this is very clear from the trend of his movements such as six-point demand movement in '66, mass upsurge in '69 and national election in '70, he added. 'Finally, he made the call for war, as all else failed.'

He said Sheikh Mujib did not believe that the people of Bengal could assassinate him. 'Even at a Commonwealth conference in

Bangla Vision starts test transmission tomorrow

Bangla Vision, a satellite television channel of Shyamal Bangla Media Limited, is going to kick off its experimental broadcasting tomorrow at 6:00pm, says a press release.

It aims to express the truth and provide healthy entertainment for cultural advancement. Keeping up the spirit of the month of victory, the private channel starts its journey with a vow to ensure freedom of mass media and people's right to know.

Dowry leads to violations of women's rights Reveals survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dowry, which is still prevalent in the country, is a major factor behind violations of women's rights, according to a survey by South Asia Partnership-Bangladesh (Sap).

The survey was conducted among 3,182 people including government officials and representatives of local organisations in the coastal areas.

It revealed that physical torture, deprivation from inheritance, polygamy of husbands, illogical divorce, child marriage, rape, sexual harassment, forced marriage, abduction or trafficking are some forms of women's rights violation prevailing in the country.

Speakers expressed concern over the condition of women in the coastal belt (Noakhali, Patuakhali, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong) at a dialogue on 'Women's Rights Situation in the Coastal Belt: Problems and Prospects' held at the National Press Club in the city on Thursday. Sap Bangladesh and Coastal Network jointly organised the dialogue.

Local government representatives of coastal districts, local leaders, grassroots level women from coastal districts, lawyers, academicians, researchers and members of the parliament participated in the event.

Lack of social protection mechanism at the grassroots levels and the adverse effects of family courts are responsible in some cases, said the speakers.

They urged the lawmakers to amend the family court laws.

Women members of Union Parishad (UP) from different coastal areas complained that they were not given chances to work for the welfare of local people.

'People still do not have confidence in the ability of women that they can work for the development of the country, which is the main obstacle to women empowerment,' said a woman UP member from Barisal.

The programme moderator, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, urged the local government to work to eliminate corruption in marriage registration since this is one of the underlying reasons of oppression against women.

Advocate Fazle Ali Khan, president of Coastal Network, delivered the welcome speech and Advocate Alka Nanda Das, vice president of Coastal Network, presented the survey report.

Md Mozahar Hossain MP, chairperson of the standing committee on women and children affairs, addressed the programme as the chief guest.

Advocate Bilkis Akhter Jahan MP, Jahan Ara Begum, UP member of Sitakunda and members of Coastal Network participated in the panel discussion.

Death anniversary

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Dr Safia Hasna Jahan Ali, Professor of Economics at University of Dhaka, a sports organiser and social worker.

On this occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the residence of her husband Dr Shaikh Maqsood Ali at 135, Eastern Road, Lane-5, New DOHS, Mohakhali in the city after Magrib prayers today.

OIS launches 'A' level under Cambridge Exam

The Oxford International School (OIS) has launched 'A' level programme under Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in English, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, economics, accounting, business studies, computing and law, says a press release.

The launching ceremony was held at the newly built Dr Qudrat-Khuda Auditorium of the school in the city recently.

Addressing the ceremony, Mark Parkinson, head of the school, said throughout the world CIE 'A' levels are considered to be 'gold standard'.

Principal Ramona Anand and Prof AFM Khodadat Khan, consultant for Training and Academic Development, also spoke on the occasion. The school has invested significant resources for the 'A' Level initiative, bringing together a team of high profile academics and teaching staff. The school has already set up modern science laboratory facilities according to the Cambridge specifications. In addition, there are computer labs with high speed internet connectivity, resource room for the teachers and students and library service.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding conservation of natural environment at the tourist spots all over the country.

Eco-friendly tourism policy demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists at a rally in the city yesterday demanded an eco-friendly tourism policy and its proper implementation for a flourishing tourism industry as well as for preservation of environmental balance and biodiversity in the tourist sites of the country.

They depicted a wretched condition of the country's spectacular tourist sites -- Jaflong, Foy's Lake, Cox's Bazar sea beach and St Martin's Island at the rally organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) in front of the National Museum.

Bapa Joint Secretary Zakir Hossain said the country's most popular tourist spot Cox's Bazar sea beach is now under threat as a section of profit mongering businessmen is trying to construct a jetty there, which will be detrimental to the place's eco-system.

Dr Abdul Hye Majumder said the biodiversity and eco-system of the world's only coral island is facing threat for unplanned, uncontrolled and ever increasing volume of tourists rush at St Martin's Island.

Dr Nuruddin said the natural beauty and environmental balance of Jaflong is at the verge of extinction due to 'stone eaters' who are deforesting the region indiscriminately to collect stone for business purpose.

Mahir Bishwas said now the schools often remain closed due to air and sound pollution caused by the dust of stones and giant stone-grinding machines. The Khasis are alien in their own land, he added.

Bapa General Secretary Mohidul Hoque Khan presided over the meeting while representatives of 20 non-governmental organisations joined the meeting and formed a human chain.

Unknown disease claims four children in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Four children of two families died and 20 others were attacked with an unknown disease at a village in Baulal upazila of the district within 12 hours until yesterday morning, creating panic in the area.

The dead were identified as Razu, 13, son of Motalib, and Moni, 10, Sajib, 8, and Arif, 7, daughter and sons of Amir Hossain of village Paschim Mandarpara under Kachhipara union.

Razu died at 10 pm on Thursday night and the other three between 8:am- and 10:am yesterday. All were students of Kachhipara primary school.

Family sources said vomiting and loose motion with severe stomach pain are symptoms of the disease and condition of the patients worsen within hours.

Of the 20 attacked with the disease, four are in a critical condition. They are Humzun, 14, Mustafa, 50, Wasim, 5 and Anjan, 15.

Locals alleged that the victims did not get any medical aid from the local community clinic.

Nurrunabi, upazila nirbahi officer and Dr Shah Alam, upazila health officer of Baulal, visited the area and confirmed the deaths and cases of attacks. Shah Alam could not say if these were cases of diarrhoea or cholera.

Health and administration officials also visited the spot, and a special medical team has been sent there.

3 outlaws arrested

UNB, Meherpur

Two cadres of Purba Banglar Communist Party (ML-Janajuddha) were arrested along with four bombs at Sadar upazila on Thursday night.

The arrestees are Miarul Islam, 22, son of Mosharrif Hossain of Kola village, and Abdul Hamid, 45, son of late Mozammel Haq of Natun Darbeshpur village.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Miarul from Kola village. Later, according to his statement, police recovered four powerful live bombs from the kitchen of his house.

In another raid, police arrested Hamid at Baradi bazar the same night. Police said the arrestees are the cadres of Purba Banglar Communist Party (ML-Janajuddha).

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: Dumuria police arrested Shudhir Mallick Oza, 45, one of the top-listed terrorists of southwestern region, from his house at Baratia village of Khulna on Thursday night.

Police said the terrorist is wanted in three murder cases and some other criminal cases. He fled the country two years ago in the face of operation clean heart. He came back to Dumuria from India on Wednesday, police said.

The arrested terrorist was an armed cadre of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP).

PM conspires against independence

Says Jalil

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is killing people by giving indulgence to bombers and keeping the anti-liberation forces by her side.

'She is conspiring against the independence and sovereignty of the country but trying to bring sedition charge against the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament', he added.

He made the allegation while he was speaking as the chief guest at a protest rally organised by Awami Swachhshabak League at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

Khaleda, who is almost on the verge of stepping down, wants to cling to power by issuing threat but the people would not tolerate it, he said, adding that the alliance government would be forced to resign through the united movement.

Awami Swachhshabak League organised the rally protesting the threat by the Prime Minister at the grand rally of BNP on December 21 to implicate the opposition leader in a sedition charge.

AFM Bahauddin, president of the organisation, chaired the rally. Obaidul Kader, Abdul Mannan, Sultan Mohammad Mansur, Pankaj Debanath, Bachchu Miah, SA Mannan Kachi, Nirmol Ranjan Guha, Matriur Rahman Moti and Golam Sarwar Mamun also spoke at the rally.

Later, a protest procession paraded the main thoroughfares of the capital.

Japanese dental team arrives today

A 17-member delegation from Hokkaido University Graduate School of Dental Medicine, Japan, headed by Prof Shuichi Takinami arrives in the city today as part of Unesco international exchange programme, says a press release.

The visit is aimed at promoting mutual understanding and friendship among Japanese and Bangladeshi dental students and surgeons and sharing experiences.

During their stay, the delegates will visit the Department of dentistry, Birdem Hospital, Dhaka Dental College, Sapporo Dental College and the faculty of dentistry of BSMU. They will also conduct a dental camp in Comilla and collect data for collaborative research.

They will also present papers at the second scientific seminar of the Bangladesh Association of Dental Education and Research (BADER) to be held at the BIAM auditorium on December 29.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas will attend the seminar as the chief guest while Japanese Ambassador Matsuhiro Horiguchi will be present as guest of honour.

Dr Mahfujul Haq Khan, assistant professor, Department of Dentistry, Birdem Hospital, and secretary general of BADER, Prof Khurshiduzzaman and Prof Moshuiddin Ahmed of Dhaka Dental College will coordinate all the programmes during their stay in Bangladesh.



Garments workers covering their faces with black clothes stage a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting the outcome of the WTO ministerial conference. Bangladesh Jatiya Garments Sramik Karmachari League organised the protest.

2 girls rescued in Khulna: One held

UNB, Khulna

Police arrested an alleged human trafficker and rescued two female garment workers from Dhaka while they were being sold to a brothel here on Thursday night.

The girls are residents of Kathalbagan area in the capital. Police said Mostafa, 28, brought the two girls from the capital and tried to sell them to Phultala brothel at about 8:00pm.

The local people at Phultala Bazar rescued the girls from Mostafa when the girls started a hue and cry.

They told the local people that their neighbour Mostafa brought them here from the capital promising their marriage at a village in Pirojpur.

Later, Mostafa along with the victims was handed over to local police.

Mostafa, hailing from Rajapur thana in Pirojpur, admitted his involvement in human trafficking.

He was sent to the jail after police filed a case against him under the Women Trafficking Act.

The girls have been sent to the capital under police escort.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Light rain or drizzle likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle may occur at many places over Chittagong division and one or two places over Barisal and Dhaka divisions in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Met Office said in a forecast, adding that light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning.

It said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged at Chittagong division and fall by 1-2 degree Celsius elsewhere over the country.

Highest temperature 28.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 13.0 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:39am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Prof AFM Khodadat Khan speaks at the launching ceremony of the Oxford International School's 'A' level programme under Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) on the school premises recently. (Right) Mark Parkinson, head of the school, and other teachers pose for photograph at the launching ceremony.



Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Sramik Federation takes out a procession at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding Tk 2500 as minimum wages for them.