



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia addresses the senior police officials at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday on the occasion of the Police Week-2006.

Govt's successive failure causes people's miseries

BDB chief tells party activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Successive failure of BNP-led coalition government in all sectors is mainly responsible for present day miseries of the country, said Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday.

"People have become victim of poverty, price hike, terrorism, bomb culture and corruption due to misuse of Khaleda-Nizami alliance government," said the former president while addressing the party activists of Bagerhat at its Baridhara office in the city.

He urged people to get ready for giving a befitting reply in the next general election for the misdeeds of the government.

"The alliance government must be defeated in the election despite its efforts to prepare fake voter lists," he added.

Beg Mahtab Uddin, convenor of Bagerhat District Unit BDB, presided over the meeting where party Secretary General Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury MP, Vice-president Prof Dr Mozaffar Ahmed, and Office Secretary Major (Retd) Sheikh Nadir Ahmed were present.

Eskayef launches drug for prevention of bird flu

Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd., a leading pharmaceutical company, has launched the drug oseltamivir for the first time in the country for the prevention and treatment of bird flu, says a press release.

The brand name of the drug is SK-flu and it is provided in the form of 75mg capsule. The recommended oral dose of SK-flu is 75mg twice daily for five days for treatment and 75mg once daily for 10 days for prevention of bird flu.

Though currently there is no evidence of bird flu virus in Bangladesh, the birds can be easily affected by the virus through migratory birds. If the virus starts spreading inside this densely populated country, with inadequate medical infrastructure and lack of proper preparedness, a large number of virus-infected deaths may occur, the press release warned.

Considering the emerging threat of bird flu worldwide and the scarcity of its treatment, Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd has taken the initiative to produce SK-flu as a safeguard for the people. The drug will be dispensed on doctor's prescription only.

Bomb hurled at Khulna police outpost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Unknown criminals hurled a bomb at a police outpost under Khan Jahan Ali Police Station around midnight Wednesday in the Khulna city.

The fourteen policemen staying at the Shironi police outpost at that time escaped injury. Police sources said the bomb struck the sunshade of a ground-floor window.

The sentry on duty at the gate was alleged to have dozed off when the bomber took the advantage of darkness during a power cut. Bewildered policemen fired some shots in the air and cordoning the area off but failed to arrest anyone.

It may be mentioned that three hours before this incident a bomb was hurled at an Awami League (AL) leader in front of the AL party office at Phulbari Ghat in the city under the same police station.

Bring reforms to edn system to resist imperialism, fanaticism

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for bringing reforms to the education system in order to resist imperialism and religious fanaticism and to strengthen the democratic movement in the country.

The political parties and the civil society should make concerted efforts to modernise the madrasa education and revise the university curriculum, they said.

The Gonosanghota Andolon organised the discussion on 'Bomb, state and democratic movement' at the Shaheed Tajul Auditorium at the Moni Singha-Farhad Trust Bhawan in the city.

Madrasas have mushroomed in the county after 1971 with the patronisation of the successive governments, so it can never be said that the madrasa students are working against the state, but the alarming fact is that the pro-Islamic political parties are using them for their own interest, said Prof Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University.

He said the possibility of the Islamist political parties coming to power has increased in recent time, but Islamic rule will never be established in the country as such parties do not practise true Islam.

"If these Islamic parties come to power, they will jeopardise the

democratic movement," he added.

Prof Salimullah Khan of Stamford University said the demand for abolition of madrasa education is reactionary. Rather, secular education should be incorporated into madrasas, he noted.

"The madrasa students are considered to be people of a different class. This attitude should be changed and their rights be established in society," he stressed.

Writer Firoz Ahmed and cultural activist Faruk Wasif also spoke at the discussion presided over by Gonosanghota Andolon leader Zonae Saki.

2 Killed in Ctg port accidents

Container handling suspended for 5 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Container handling at the Chittagong Port had been suspended for five hours after the death of a worker in an accident inside the Multi-Purpose Berth (MPB) Yard early yesterday.

A truck assistant was also killed yesterday noon in another accident at the Yard No. 6.

Sources said Saifuzzaman Bakul, 35, son of Shams Uddin of Alaipur, Natore, and a tally clerk of a clearing & forwarding (C&F) agent, was crushed under the wheel of a straddle carrier at

around 1.30am at the MPB Yard.

Protesting the incident, port workers staged a demonstration, suspending activities from 2.00am to 7.00am. However, they resumed their activities after the CPA officials assured them of looking into the matter.

Another straddle carrier hit Sumon, a truck assistant, from behind at around 1.00pm yesterday, leaving him dead on the spot.

Police recovered both the bodies and sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for autopsy.



Members of five families began a fast-unto-death at Muktangon in the city yesterday demanding punishment to the officer-in-charge of Chakaria Police Station in Chittagong for his alleged involvement in grabbing their land and harassing them.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Shacheton Jubo Forum Bangladesh will hold a discussion titled 'Construction of Tipaimukh Dam by India: Future of Bangladesh' with Jatiya Sangsad Whip Fazlul Haque Aspia as chief guest. Venue: Grand Azad Hotel, Purana Pallan. Time: 3.30pm.

AGM

The annual general meeting of Public Health Association will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: BCPS Auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 10.00am.

Rally

5 Left Party organises a rally in protest against price hike of essentials and fertiliser crisis. Venue: Muktangon, Ramna. Time: 4.00pm.

Children's discussion

Save the Youth Forum will hold a discussion to mark the International day to resist repression on children. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 3.45pm.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of children's art competition organised by Bangladesh National Museum will be held. Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium. Sahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

Documentary show

Save Environment Movement will screen a documentary film on Borokatra and Chhotokatra. Venue: Islamiya High School, Sowarighat. Time: 10.30am.

HC grants ad-interim bail to CPB chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court (HC) division yesterday granted ad-interim bail to CPB president and its 15 leaders and activists in a case filed by Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad).

The bench comprising Justice Md Abdur Rashid and Justice ATM Fazle Kabir issued the order when Manzurul Ahsan Khan, president of Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB) and 15 others appeared before the HC seeking ad-interim bail.

Barrister Shafiq Ahmed conducted the case on behalf of the accused while Deputy Attorney General Advocate Waliur Rahman Khan stood for the state.

Rezaul Islam Bhuiyan, office secretary of JP, filed an attempted murder case against CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan, its acting General Secretary Shah Alam and 16 others on January 1.

At a rally at Ashkona Bazaar in Uttara yesterday, the CPB leaders demanded immediate arrest of JP leaders and activists as they threatened to demolish the CPB office.

They also demanded arrest and trial of JP President HM Ershad and other party members as they attacked the CPB rally on January 1.

The speakers also urged all to strengthen the movement against the misuse of the four-party alliances.

Another CPB unit also held a protest rally at Nurjahan Road crossing in Mohammadpur.

Meanwhile, the CPB president and the acting general secretary in a joint statement condemned the police firing on the subscribers of Palli Biddyut Samity in Chapainawabganj on Wednesday that left three people dead and thousands others injured.

They demanded immediate arrest and trial of the police officers involved in the killings and compensation for the treatment of the injured.

Accused tries to commit suicide in court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An accused in a rape case yesterday made an attempt to commit suicide by stabbing himself in a court dock as a Dhaka court rejected his bail petition for the five consecutive dates.

Mohammad Alam, 23, son of Chand Miah under Bakshiganj in Jamalpur district, arrested on charge of raping a 14-year-old girl, made the attempt when the court asked his lawyers that the order of granting or rejection on the bail petition would be passed later.

Earlier, Judge Monwara Begum of the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression had rejected Alam's bail prayer five times.

Moving the bail petition, Advocate Kazi M Sajwar Hossain yesterday mentioned that his client was falsely implicated in the case. Moreover, his client is already married to the victim with her consent.

On the other hand, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Arfan Uddin Khan opposed it saying that the accused kidnapped the victim and raped her.

After hearing both the sides, the court asked the defence lawyers that she would pass order on completion of all cases fixed yesterday for hearing.

Soon after the court order, Alam attempted to commit suicide by stabbing in his throat repeatedly.

The court directed the on-duty policemen to send him to a medical treatment when the SPP drew its attention.

According to the prosecution, Alam along with his two accomplices Mofiz and Masum kidnapped the victim from her residence at Azimpur in the city at about 2:00pm on April 30 last year. Later, the gang took her to a residence at Sheikh Shaheb Bazar where Alam raped her for two days.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Taha Bin Bashir Rony, a brilliant student who died while swimming in the sea off the coast of Sydney, Australia, says a press release.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held at the Baitul Fazal Masjid at Nurjahan Road, Mohammadpur, after Asr prayers.

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

Azizul Haque Chowdhury



The sixth death anniversary of Azizul Haque Chowdhury will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence at House # 60, Road # 4/A, Old DOHS, after Asr prayers.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

'Enact consumer rights protection act soon'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should enact the consumer rights protection act immediately to enable the consumers to take legal measures against the producers of sub-standard commodities and adulterated food, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They also stressed the need for institutional structure to effectively enforce the law after its enactment.

The Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organised the discussion on 'The obstacles to the Consumers' Rights Protection Act (draft)-2004 and our responsibility' at the National Press Club.

The cabinet approved, in principle, the draft act on August 9, 2004 and sent it to the law ministry for scrutiny. The law ministry then raised the number of sections to 83

from 31 and sent it to the commerce ministry, said CAB General Secretary Qazi Farque.

Journalist Borhan Ahmed, president of CAB, presided over the discussion moderated by advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan, executive director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA).

Awami League lawmaker Faruk Khan said if the AL is voted to power in the next general election, he would try his best to enact the law at the very beginning of the new parliament.

Prof Abu Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank, said only enactment of the law is not enough. An institutional structure is also needed to enforce the law.

In a written statement, CAB General Secretary Qazi Farque said consumers are frequently deprived of their rights. They are forced to

buy products at high prices and also sub-standard commodities. They also receive low-quality service from different service providers.

But due to the absence of a relevant law, they could not take legal measures against the producers of adulterated food, he added.

Maj Gen (Retd.) Moinul Hossain Chowdhury, Prof SM Al-Hussani, former chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission, Dewan Sultan Ahmed, vice-president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, M Abdul Momen, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Wali-ur-Rahman, director of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs, and Tushar Rehman, executive director of Karmakutir Foundation, also spoke.



Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a rally of 14-party opposition combine at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

BDR-BSF MEET BEGINS IN SYLHET Smuggling of explosives dominates talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The three-day meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Border Security Force (BSF) of India began in Sylhet yesterday.

BDR Deputy Director General Brigadier General Golam Rabbani and Inspector General of Shillong BSF Srivastava led their respective sides at the meeting.

Different trans-border problems including smuggling of explosives from Indian states into Bangladesh, killing of Bangladesh nationals by the Indian border guards and armed civilians and harbouring of miscreants dominated the first day meeting.

The Indian officials in the first session agreed to take effective measures to stop smuggling of high-powered explosives and firearms into Bangladesh as the BDR raised the issue with highest importance and sought necessary assistance from the BSF, said an official.

The BDR also raised the issue of killing Bangladeshis civilians by the Indian BSF and armed people while asking for immediate stopping of such incidents.

The other agendas included smuggling of different contraband items including drugs and liquors, restoration of demolished or stolen border pillars, survey of the disputed lands and construction of barbed wire fences.

In Sylhet region, most of the disputed borderlands had long been under Indian occupation.

During the discussions, the BSF officials showed positive attitude in resolving the disputes, said a BDR

official.

The BSF also alleged intrusion into India by BDR members and civilians, unprovoked fire by BDR and mobilisation of troops along the border, fishing in the border river Kushiya by Bangladeshis during odd hours and stressed for the construction of border fence within 150 yards.

The concluding session of the meeting will be held in Sylhet on Saturday.

Attack on Jubo League leader in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A gang of criminals cut off the tendons of hands and legs of Bagerhat Jubo League leader Zahurul Islam alias Kana Litu on Wednesday night.

Earlier in the evening, the gang abducted him at gunpoint from a shrimp enclosure at Bemarta union under Bagerhat Sadar police station. He is now undergoing treatment at the Khulna Medical College Hospital.

According to police and witnesses, local people rescued the Jubo League leader in a critical condition from a road in Bagerhat town and rushed him to the hospital.

Police claimed that Litu is a terrorist. Litu is the convenor of Bemarta union Jubo League.

Prof Miah's appointment to ACC valid

Declares HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) division bench yesterday rejected the writ petition which challenged the appointment of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Commissioner M Maniruzzaman Miah.

Advocate Saidur Rahman Khan filed the writ petition challenging the validity of Manir's appointment on December 13 last year. Advocate MK Rahman moved for the petition while Barrister Rafique-ul Huq moved for Manir.

The petition said government illegally appointed Manir even though the selection committee did not recommend him as commissioner.

The bench earlier issued a 'rule nisi' to the cabinet secretary, joint secretary, chairman of the selection committee, secretary to the president, principal secretary to the prime minister and Manir asking them why his appointment should not be declared illegal.



Bangladeshi awarded OBE

Dr Nazia Khanum, an expatriate Bangladeshi, has been appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Queen Elizabeth recently for her services to community relations and to equal opportunities in Luton, says a press release.

The recommendation was submitted on behalf of a number of members of Bangladeshi community in Luton. They believe Dr Khanum should be given recognition for her distinctive contribution to the quality of life in the UK, and in particular for promoting community cohesion.

Through her work, she is helping the UK to develop as a model for the rest of the world of a successful and dynamic multi-faith, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society.

Dr Nazia Khanum has been deeply involved in community capacity building in the UK for over 20 years. Since 1983, she has promoted the development and empowerment of diverse communities in London, Bedfordshire and Luton.

She is the founder-chairperson of Luton Multicultural Women's Coalition (LMWC) and Purbachal (The Eastern Sky).

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins in the morning. Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged night temperature.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 28.9 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest of 8.8 degrees at Srirampal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:26pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

The 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	25.5	13.9	69	53
Chittagong	28.9	14.7	59	57
Rajshahi	24.8	12.2	89	59
Khulna	25.5	13.0	87	66
Barisal	26.0	12.0	93	88
Sylhet	27.8	13.2	70	61
Cox's Bazar	27.4	16.5	65	66