

Failure to bring perpetrators to justice leads to more violence

Academics tell international workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesia and failure to bring the perpetrators of killings and repression to justice produce a feeling of resentment leading to more violence in the society, said academics and human rights activists at an international workshop yesterday.

The states in general document the history of such carnages from their own point of view for political purposes, while the individuals forget the memories as a vehicle to

healing, they said.

The 3-day workshop on 'Memory and Amnesia in the South: How Societies Process Traumatic Memories of Violence and Conflict' began at the Brac Centre Inn in the city on Friday.

Experts from South Africa, Latin and Central America, the Philippines, the Netherlands, India, Pakistan, Cameroon and Bangladesh are attending the workshop.

Department of International

Relations of Dhaka University (DU) and The South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development (SEPHIS) have jointly organised the workshop funded by The Netherlands Government.

DU Prof Sonia Nishat Amin presented a paper on 'Retrieving a body from the killing fields of 1971: the case of martyred intellectual Selina Parveen', while its student Ilira Dewan shared from her research on the refugee women of

Chittagong Hill Tracts during their stay in India.

Yves Alexandre Chouala of Yaounde University, Cameroon shared traumatic memories of post-Apartheid South Africa and post-genocide Rwanda, while Manolo E Vela Castaneda of Mexico on Guatemala, the memory of the perpetrators.

Meg Samuelson of Stellenbosch University, South Africa gave a presentation on memory, mourning and melancholia in post-colonial fiction from Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe and Mario Rufer of Mexico on the trauma in the history of South Africa and Argentina.

Taking part in the discussion, Dr Hameeda Hossain of Alia O Shalish Kendra said in many occasions, the official memories of genocide of a nation are dictated by some determinants and used for different political or social purposes.

History of some individuals are recorded in delays while it is never documented in case of some others, the human rights activist said, adding: "Silence is honoured in many cases for political fear or family values."

Briefing on the issues, DU Prof Meghna Guhathakurta said when people cannot express the memory of genocide or repression in a

legitimate way, it is expressed negatively.

Referring to the story of a Palestinian woman, she said failure in expressing her traumatic memory of the continuous violence in West Bank, she used to beat herself on regular basis.

"This is true not only in case of individuals, but also of state," the DU professor said, adding that the liberation war itself was an expression of the Bangladeshi, but failure to bring the perpetrators of the genocide generated a insensitivity to justice among the people of this country.

"Now it seems that the freedom of the country gained in 1971 is shrinking," Prof Meghna added.

Another DU Prof Amena Mohsin said the distinctions and divides between state and non-state, personal and public are not only being interrogated but also reinterpreted and redefined for genuine reasons.

To understand violence and its impact on societies and people it is important to probe into the similarities and dissimilarities between conflicts and violence, examine their structural and psychological causes and seek lessons from them.



PHOTO: STAR
Local people captured a barn owl, a rare species, in Foy's Lake area yesterday. Many species of birds in the country are on the verge of extinction due to environmental disaster and indiscriminate poaching.

Resignation of CEC, 2 ECs demanded

General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at a meeting in the city demanded immediate resignation of two newly appointed election commissioners and the chief election commissioner (CEC) since no free and fair election is possible with them as the guardians of the election commission, says a press release.

The government is taking measures to make other political parties' participation in the election impossible, said Mujahidul Islam Selim while speaking at the presidium members' meeting of Dhaka Committee.

He suggested appointing new CEC and election commissioners in consultation with major political parties.

Selim lent support to the hartal called by Awami League demanding the resignation of the election commissioners.

He called upon all to make the nationwide demonstration programme on January 26 as success to press home 53-point demand for total reform of the election commission.

Mahbube Alam presided over the meeting while Dilip Bapary and Abdul Khaleque spoke.

DU ADMISSION TEST
147 applications under Kha unit cancelled

UNB, Dhaka

The Dhaka University authorities cancelled application forms of 147 candidates as they did not fulfil the criteria set for admission test under 2005-2006 session.

Their GPA (SSC+HSC/Equivalent Exam) was below 6 or their HSC/equivalent examination was not in the Humanities group.

Meanwhile, letters have been sent to the applicants whose application forms have been cancelled, the list of which are available on the website <http://www.univdhaka.edu>

Buet short course on 'Coastal Zone Management'

BSS, Dhaka

A four-day short course on 'Coastal Zone Management' under the framework of Buet-DUT cooperation in the field of Water Resources Engineering Phase-III began at Buet here yesterday.

Directorate of Continuing Education (DCE) organised the course.

Prof Dr M Fazlul Bari, Head of the Department of Water Resources Engineering, Buet, was the chief guest at the inaugural function while Prof Dr M Imtiaz Hossain, director, DCE, presided over the function.

The function was addressed by Prof Dr M Mirzajahan, Project Director, Buet-DUT Linkage Project and Prof Dr Mohammad Ali Bhuiyan.

A total of 22 persons from different organisations are taking part in the course.



PHOTO: STAR
Prof Amena Mohsin speaks at an international workshop at the Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday.

কৃতজ্ঞতা একাশ

পিএমপি একাপ অফ কোম্পানীজ এর মাননীয় চেয়ারম্যান এবং কাওরান বাজারের জাহাজীর টাওয়ারের মালিক, বিশিষ্ট ব্যবসায়ী জনাব জাহাজীর কবির চৌধুরী গত ২৮/১/২০০৫ ইং তারিখ থেকে ০২/১২/২০০৫ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত গুরুতর অসুস্থ হয়ে দ্ব্যাব এইড কার্ডিয়াক হস্পিটালে চিকিৎসাধীন ছিলেন এবং ০২/১২/২০০৫ ইং তারিখ থেকে ০৫/০১/২০০৬ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত ব্যাকক বামুন্দুন্দুন হস্পিটালে চিকিৎসাধীন থেকে আগমনাদের দোয়ায়া পরম করণগাময় আল্লাহর আশে রহমতে কিছুটা সুস্থ হয়ে দেশে ফিরে এসেছেন। জনাব জাহাজীর কবির চৌধুরী দেশে এবং ব্যাককে চিকিৎসাধীন থাকা কালীন সময়ে যতো আক্রান্ত - খজন, বক্স-বাস্টৰ, উগ্রাহী উনাকে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে দেখতে যিয়েছেন, বিভিন্ন মাধ্যমে খোজ-খবর নিয়েছেন এবং শীঘ্র মোগ মুক্তির জন্য দোয়া করেছেন তাদের সবার প্রতি আমরা আস্তরিকভাবে কৃতজ্ঞ।

পক্ষে -
অন্যায় জাহাজীর কবির চৌধুরীর পরিবারবর্গ

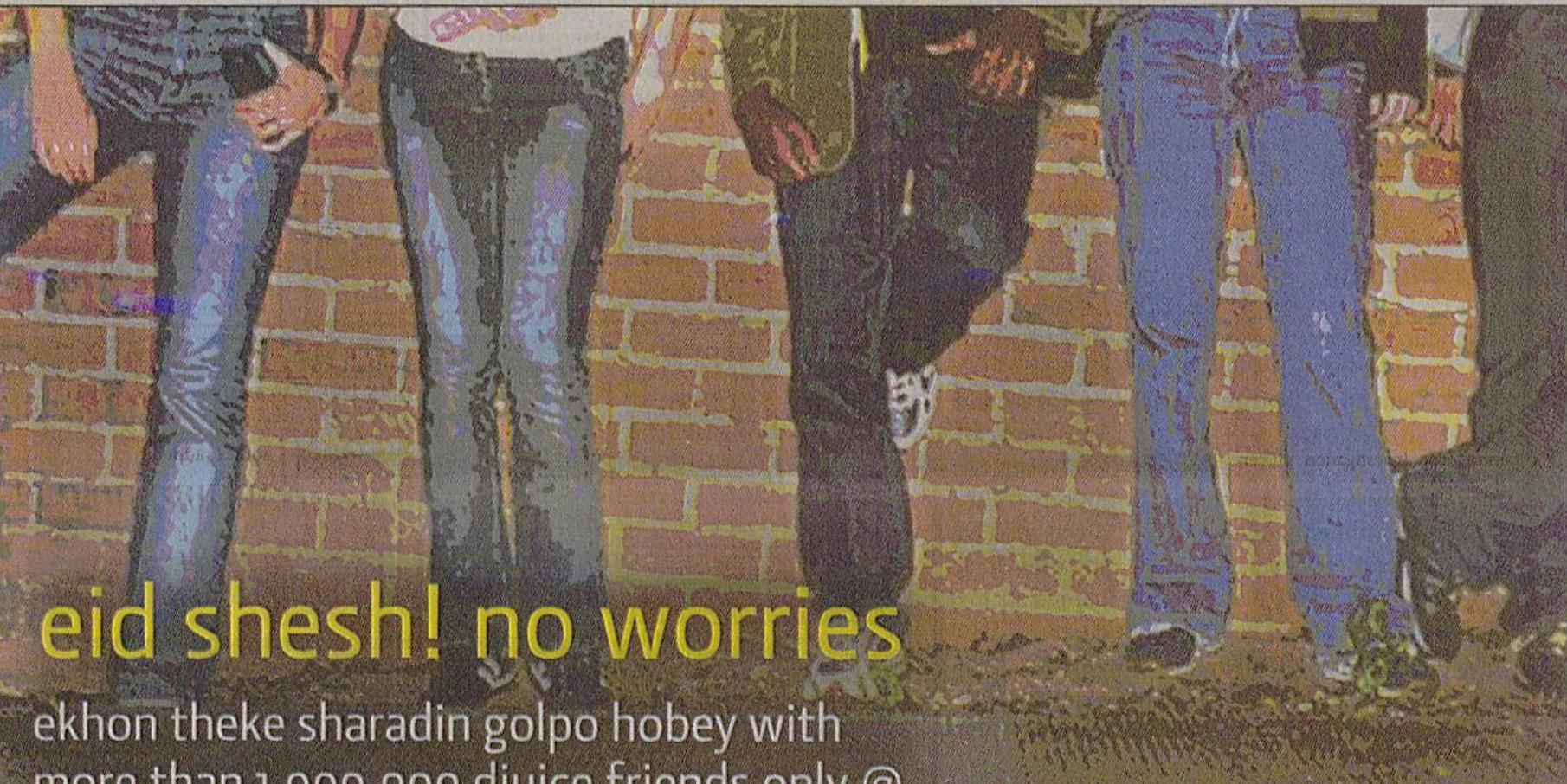
অফিসের সকল কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী

3rd Death Anniversary

A Milad and Doa Mahfil will be held on Tuesday, 24.01.2006 soon after Asr prayers on occasion of 3rd Death Anniversary of late Aiman Haque at House # 15, Road # 59, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212. All relatives, friends and well-wishers are

requested to attend the Milad Mahfil and pray to the Almighty Allah for eternal peace of his departed soul.

On behalf of Family Members
Father : Bazlul Haque (Dipu)



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