

BIPAA calls for modernisation of trademark registry office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Intellectual Property Attorneys Association (BIPAA) has called for appointing more experienced staffs in trademark registry office (TRO) and renovate it with modern technologies for smooth functioning.

At a press conference in the city yesterday, they also urged the government to modernise copyright office (CO) with latest technologies for proper functioning.

BIPAA organised the press conference to mark the World Intellectual Property Day today.

In a written statement, Advocate Gazi Md Niamat Hossain, former general secretary of BIPAA, said the Patent and Design Act 1911 and Trademark Act 1940, which were reformed in 2003, are not up-to-date for the present time.

After the reforms one official is operating the two offices which clearly shows that these are not functioning properly, he added.

Niamat said the government has made reforms in land survey and land registration procedures and modernised all sub-registry offices, but so far no initiative has been taken to make reforms in the TRO since independence.

He said local and foreign companies submitted around 1,25,000 applications for trademark registration to TRO since independence. Of them, only 35 thousand applications have been approved.

Niamat said it is very regretting that after finishing all registration process these applicants are not getting registration certificates.

Advocate Zahurul Islam said there is no sufficient staffs in TRO and most of the staffs lack enough experience to handle the office smoothly.

Taniul laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Body of Taniul Islam, the BAF trainee pilot who was killed in a plane crash on Monday, was laid to rest at Bolakhal under Hajiganj sadar upazila in the district yesterday.

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at Bolakhal Degree College.

Around one thousand people including UNO Khurshid Iqbal Rizvi, Municipal Chairman Abdul Mannan Khan Bachchu, Group Captain Moshuazzaman, Training Institute's Chief Md Yusuf Ali and other officials of Air Force attended the janaza.

Prior to namaz-e-janaza, Taniul's body was brought to Hajiganj by a copter of Air Force at 11:30am.

Condolences pour in for Nasreen Huq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different non-governmental organisations, human rights organisations and political organisations yesterday expressed deep condolences at the tragic death of prominent social activist and Country Director of Action Aid Bangladesh Nasreen Pervin Huq.

General Secretary of BNP and LGRD and Cooperative minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement expressed his condolence and sought salvation of the departed soul.

President and General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Hena Das and Maleka Banu in a joint statement expressed condolence and sympathy to the bereaved family.

Executive Director of Bangladesh National Women Layers' Association Advocate Salma Ali in a statement expressed deep condolence on behalf of her organisation.

Proshika in a statement said with the demise of Nasreen Huq the country lost an active researcher in the field of development.

Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, Step Towards Development, Bangladesh Parliamentary Caucus on Education, Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Karmojibi Nari, Samata, Narigrantha Prabartana, Sammilito Nari Samaj, All Party Parliamentary Group, Odhikar, Nagorik Uddyog, Bangladesh Sromojibi Nari Moitry, Nagorik Songhoti, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Federation of NGO's in Bangladesh and Peoples' Empowerment Trust also expressed their condolences at the death of Nasreen Huq.

Nasreen Huq died on Monday following an accident at the parking lot of her residence in Dhanmondi in the city.

Call for reforms in police law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legal experts and human rights activists yesterday expressed deep concern over the repression during police detention and impunity of the criminals saying that this is creating tolerance to injustice.

Speaking at a seminar yesterday, they blamed politicisation of the police administration and the use of police for partisan purposes and called for necessary reforms in police laws and political systems that do not conform with the constitution of the country.

The seminar titled 'Repression: State versus Human Rights' was organised jointly by the Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors (CRTS), Bangladesh and Nagorik Uddyog at the Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the city.

"The most dangerous thing that the countrymen are afraid of today is appointment of political cadres in the law enforcement agencies," said Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan, general secretary of CRTS, in his keynote speech.

He noted that some 707 people were killed under the custody of different law enforcement agencies as of October 2005, but families of

none got justice.

"Thus the deaths in crossfire with Rab and police are being given legal basis," he said.

Dr Kamrul said apparently the law enforcers seem to be responsible for the killings, but the real culprits are the successive political governments who have been continuously torturing their oppositions in their confrontational politics keeping them behind the curtain.

ASM Shahjahan, former inspector general of police, said repression in the name of law is the worst form of tortures which is why police should be responsible to the state and not to the government.

"If police work for the state, the question of repression would not be raised," he said suggesting speedy political reforms and separation of judiciary.

Advocate Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), said people are becoming tolerant to injustices and corruption due to growing level of impunity in the society.

"Having no place for justice we have become the most helpless people in the world," she said, adding people even do not have the sense of

security and take laws in hand which is more dangerous.

Advocate ZI Khan Panna, chairman of Human Rights Legal Aid Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council, said civil and political rights of people are violated due to police fire.

The right to live is also violated, he said while criticising the deaths in the crossfire.

The last shelter of people is the courts which have also been politicised, said Mamunur Rashid, a cultural personality, suggesting a massive movement for a positive change in the judiciary.

Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddyog, demanded formation of an independent human rights commission, separation of judiciary and activation of an independent anti-corruption commission to curb corruption and establish justice in the society.

Nawazesh Ali Khan, a TV personality, also took part in the discussion presided over by CRTS Chairman Dr Abdus Sobhan.



Former IGP ASM Shahjahan speaks at a seminar on 'Repression: State versus Human Rights' in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Six killed in road crashes in Comilla

Bride, motorcyclists among victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Six people, including a newly married bride and three motorcyclists, were killed and 11 others were injured in two separate accidents in the last two days in Comilla.

Three motorcycle riders were killed and another injured in a road accident at Binglabari under Debidwar upazila on Comilla-Sylhet road yesterday noon.

Sources said, a Sylhet bound passenger bus collided head-on with a Debidwar bound motorcycle on Comilla-Sylhet road killing three on the spot and injuring one.

The victims were identified as Nur Alam, 30, son of Suro Mollah of

village Jhahanagar; Iman Uddin Titu, 26, son of Dr Rafiqul Islam, of village Jhahanagar and Abidur Rahman, 25, son of Jahangir of village Metangar under Muradnagar upazila in Comilla.

The seriously injured Ratan, 24, son of Sattar member of village Moklespur under Muradnagar is now undergoing treatment at Comilla Medical College Hospital.

Police seized the two vehicles.

A case was filed with Debidwar Police Station in this connection.

Meanwhile, three people including a bride were killed and ten others injured in another road accident at Nabogram under Choudhagram upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong

Highway on Monday afternoon.

A Mireswharai bound microbus was knocked by another Dhaka bound BRTC container killing three passengers of the microbus on the spot and injuring another 10.

The victims were identified as bride Joya Rani Paul, 18, wife of Liton Paul, her grandmother Anima Paul, 60, and Api Paul, 8, nephew of Liton Paul.

The seriously injured groom Liton Paul, 30, his sister-in-law Soma Paul, 22, Mukta Paul, 10, Shukla Paul, 12, Shamir Paul, 30, and micro driver Maju Saha were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital.



Nepalese citizens living in Bangladesh gather on a road at Gulshan in the city yesterday to celebrate restoration of parliament in Nepal.

PHOTO: STAR

Muggers stab NGO official to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed an NGO official to death in Mohammapur in the city yesterday while a youth was found dead at Badda in the city.

Md Hafizur Rahman, 34, an area manager of Resource Integration Centre (RIC), was coming to RIC Head Office at Lalmatia from Naogaon along with one of his colleagues Abdul Jalil. As he got off the rickshaw near the office at around 7:00am, a group of muggers, who were waiting in a private car nearby, stopped him.

They asked Hafizur to give them whatever valuables he has with him but as he did not readily comply with their demand they stabbed him on his abdomen and snatched Tk 7,000 and a cell phone from him.

Colleague Jalil rushed him to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

A case was filed with Mohammapur Police Station in this connection.

Meanwhile, police recovered a body of an unidentified youth yesterday from a paddy field at Berait at Badda. The body bears marks of injuries in the throat.

AL alleges harassment of workers by BNP cadres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday said thousands of party workers have been forced to leave the district's Dhonbari, Madhupur and Gopalpur areas fearing harassment by cadres of ruling BNP in connivance with police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

During the last four and a half years, police raided almost all the houses of AL activists and damaged their goods, and the situation has worsened since the AL rally at Pankata High School field in Dhanbari upazila on April 22, they said at a press conference at the AL central office in the capital.

BNP's youth front Jubo Dal called a rally at the same place to foil the prescheduled AL rally on April 22, they said.

"Understanding the conspiracy of Jubo Dal, thousands of people gathered in the Pankata High School field defying illegally imposed Section 144 and held the rally peacefully," AL leader Obaidul Kader said at the press conference.

After filing two cases, police and Rab raided almost all the houses of the AL activists on April 22 night when they reached home after the rally, he said, adding that many party supporters were arrested and the rest of them left the Dhonbari, Madhupur and Gopalpur areas to avoid harassment by law enforcers.

Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya demanded immediate withdrawal of the two 'false cases' and stopping the repression through conducting rallies in different areas of Tangail district.

BCL beat up 4 Shibir men at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of main opposition Awami League, beat up four activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday, as they launched a movement to cancel freedom fighters' quota in Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination.

The injured were Mohammad Shamim, fourth year student of Chemistry, Abdul Malek, fourth year student of Geography, Majedul Islam, third year student of Bangla Literature and Rifauqul Islam, second year student of Economics.

Shamim was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Witnesses said a group of students, known as activists of ICS, student wing of ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami, came to Modhu's canteen at around 3:45pm yesterday for their scheduled press conference on their demand.

As they approached Modhu, BCL men chased them and beat up Shibir men, witnesses added.

BCL men also gathered in front of the Central Library and rounded the campus in groups in search of Shibir men after foiling their bid to hold press conference.

Meanwhile, as Shibir men have been demonstrating on the campus against quota system for the last few days, Muktiuddho Prajanna, an organisation of freedom fighters' children, yesterday alleged that ICS has been conspiring to get the freedom fighters' quota in the BCS examinations.

Abdullah Al Mamun, president of the organisation, addressing a rally on campus, said the activists of ICS in the guise of general students are taking a bid to intensify a movement against the quota for freedom fighters' families in BCS examinations.



PHOTO: STAR

The Chittagong Port Authority bulldozed about 200 structures in New Mooring area in the port city yesterday.

Australia to provide scholarship for young docs

UNB, Dhaka

Australia will provide scholarships and training for young Bangladeshi doctors on plastic surgery as the country is having a high number of children born with cleft-lip and cleft-palate problems.

A six-member team of surgeons and nurses from Interplast Australia headed by surgeon David Hunter Smith, now in the capital, will train the Bangladeshi doctors at the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and conduct operations on some 50 critical patients.

"We will be working closely with local surgeons, sharing techniques and talking about the best ways to handle individual cases. We hope to treat at least 50 patients selected from those waiting at the hospital," surgeon Smith told a press conference at the Australian Club in the city yesterday.

He said a simple operation can change the lives of those born with cleft-lips and cleft-palates.

Surgeon Smith said there are 300 surgeons in Australia for about 20 million people while in Bangladesh there are only 10 plastic surgeons for 140 million people.

In reply to a question, he said Interplast Australia will offer scholar-

ships for young Bangladeshi doctors in collaboration with the governments of Australia and Bangladesh.

Under the scholarship programme, which is likely to be introduced in 12 to 18 months, doctors would be provided specialised training for three to six months at hospitals in Australia.

Besides, Interplast takes critical Bangladeshi patients to Australia for treatment. Last year, it took 13-year-old Joyanta from Chittagong who was badly mauled by a female bear. The horrific injuries to his face were treated for 12 months and he was brought to Dhaka on April 22 with one of the Interplast doctors who performed the multiple operations.

"But taking patients for treatment in Australia is very expensive as medical cost there is very high. It is logical to bring specialist surgeons in Bangladesh to treat more patients," he said.

In reply to a question, Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett said the Australian government would consider providing modern medical equipment to Bangladesh for treatment of complicated patients.

He said Bangladesh is the biggest recipient of Australian aid, with 32 million dollars a year, in South Asia. "Priorities here are many, but it is something we can consider," he

said.

Dr Samanta Lal Sen, director of the Burn Unit at DMCH, said some 1.5 lakh children are born every year with cleft-lip and -palates problems mainly due to malnourishment of mothers.

Civic education programme launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A civic education programme for high school and madrasa students was launched in Khulna yesterday to institutionalising democracy in the society.

The programme will enable the students to understand the constitution, national parliament and its activities, fundamental rights, human rights, civic duties, corruption and its impact and human trafficking, said the organisers.

Change Makers, a human rights organisation has organised the programme with the assistance of the American Centre.

Around 1600 students from 20 educational institutions have been participating in the programme titled 'Institutionalising democracy in Bangladesh: Civic education programme for high school and madrasa students.'

Whip Md Ashraf Hossain attended the inaugural function at Khulna Zila School as chief guest while Deputy Director of American Centre Dr Michelle Jones and Khulna Bar Association President Advocate Mujibur Rahman were present as special guests.

Change Makers President Advocate Tanvir ul Islam Siddiqui moderated the function.

Obituary



Mohammad Alauddin, assistant general manager of MIDAS, died in a road accident in Bogra on April 23, says a press release. He was 43.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

The board members and the employees of MIDAS and MIDAS Financing Limited expressed deep shock at his death.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said and predicted slight rise in day temperature.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 38.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and the lowest of 18.8 degrees at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:25pm today and rises at 5:27am 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 | 35.0 | 21.0 | 50 | 43 |
| Chittagong | 34.5 | 24.5 | 73 | 74 |
| Rajshahi | 34.1 | 21.2 | 73 | 49 |
| Khulna | 36.6 | 21.5 | 61 | 52 |
| Barisal | 36.2 | 22.6 | 68 | 57 |
| Sylhet | 34.0 | 20.4 | 62 | 40 |
| Cox's Bazar | 34.0 | 25.5 | 74 | 73 |

DHAKA TODAY

Stakeholders Meeting

Democracywatch organises "Stakeholders Meeting of Policymakers to Appraise for the Implementation of Saarc Convention on Trafficking". Venue: CWCS, New Eskaton. Time: 9:00am.

View exchange

Action Network to Combat Violence against Women organises a view exchange meeting on 'Role of the mass media to prevent domestic violence: Reflections of women reporters'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable

A roundtable on 'Necessity of rules to control noise pollution' will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Council

The inaugural ceremony of the eighth Central Council of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation will be held. Venue: DU battala. Time: 11:00am.