

No power plants could operate for corruption

Says B Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the government is nurturing terrorists and militants instead of curbing them.

Speaking at the first founding anniversary of Palli Chikitsak and Paramedics Dhara in the city, he said those who are involved in militancy must be brought to justice.

He castigated the BNP-led syndicate for unleashing anarchy in the market.

"Common people cannot feed their children properly owing to their limitless greed," he added.

The BDB president said due to corruption of the ruling alliance, no power plants could operate in the country. "They want money even from foreign investors," he lamented.

Criticising bagging of enormous

money by the prime minister's family, B Chowdhury told the audience "You have heard of monarchical system where a prince can have the throne, but our people are not block headed, they want an honest, credible and sincere prime minister (PM). PM's son cannot be a PM."

He slated the four-party alliance for its reluctance to activate parliament.

He said instead of giving nod to opposition's demand for electoral reforms, the government has appointed a chief election commissioner who is not wanted even by a single man."

About Jamaat's role in parliament he said the party brags that they want to establish the rule of Allah, but have they ever tabled any draft law in parliament that could be categorised as Allah's rule?"

He also criticised the government for politicisation of administration and police and urged Palli

Chikitsaks and paramedics to let the villagers know about various irregularities of the government.

The BDB chief also apprised the audience of the initiation of rural doctors society in 1978 and promised to set up a training centre for their intensive training at Uttara and establishment of training centres for doctors and nurses at union level if elected.

Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, secretary general of BDB, criticised the withdrawal of cases against HM Ershad, the overthrown military ruler.

"The alliance government which is riding roughshod over the fate of the people wants to remain in power only," he said.

Firoze M Hasan, joint secretary general of BDB, in his brief speech ventilated the vision of the party in health sector.

National Prof Nurul Islam hospitalised

Cu CORRESPONDENT

National Professor and founder of University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) Prof Dr Nurul Islam was sent to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Dhaka from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) by a private helicopter yesterday.

He felt headache at his USTC office at around 9:00am and went to the adjacent bungalow where his daughter Dr Nina Islam treated him, sources said.

Dr Islam, one of the country's most renowned and respected physicians, was immediately shifted to CMCH Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) and later to Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Dr Islam's grandson Prof Hasan said he was responding well and nothing was found serious.

"We think he had suffered a cardiac arrest," he said.

Prof Islam had suffered cardiac arrests twice in the past, Hasan added.

USTC Pro Vice Chancellor Abdullah Al Ahsan said his (Dr Islam) condition was not critical and they were shifting him for better treatment in Dhaka.

Dr Manjur Morshed of CMCH said they also assumed a cardiac problem but it could be confirmed after diagnosis.



Communist Party of Bangladesh stages a demonstration at Purana Paltan in the city yesterday demanding investigation into the sensational August 21 grenade blast case and punishment of its perpetrators and masterminds.

Identify loopholes in laws to curb crime against humanity

Speakers tell regional discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers from home and abroad on the second day of a two-day regional discussion yesterday stressed the need for identifying loopholes in constitutions and laws of their respective countries to curb crime against humanity.

They also made an action plan to form a unity among South Asian states on security concepts, ensuring security to human rights activists and organising a human rights fair at South Asian level highlighting significance of peace and justice.

Human rights organisations Odhikar and South Asia Network against Torture and Impunity (SANTI) in collaboration with Academy for Educational Development (AED) organised the discussion on 'Security and Law: South Asian Perspective' at Spectra Convention Centre in the city.

On the second day, a discussion was held on 'South Asian Challenges: Role of Human Rights Defenders'. Odhikar Adviser Farhad Mazhar presented a keynote paper on the topic while Prof Buddhadeb Chaudhuri, coordinator, SANTI moderated the programme.

He urged the human rights defenders to raise their voices

against communalism and racism.

Zahiruddin Swapan, MP, Altafur Rahman of FORUM-ASIA, Dr Shahid Zia of Pakistan, Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University,

Shabnam Hashmi of India, Subodh Pyakurel of Nepal and Mohamed Reffaideen Mohamed Malik of Sri Lanka addressed the function.

JS body discusses bill on cable TVs

BSS, Dhaka

The 19th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Information Ministry was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban here yesterday with committee president Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury in the chair.

The meeting discussed the bill on 'Conducting the operation of cable televisions and its related issues'. After placing the bill at parliament it was sent to the committee for scruputisation, said an official hand-out.

The meeting observed that people are enriching our culture through the satellite channels as the sky is free, but at the same time these channels may ruin the youths of the country by viewing indecent movies and programmes.

People want decent entertain-

ment programmes through televisions, the meeting observed and added that the indecent programmes through some foreign TV channels have increased alarmingly. These are creating adverse affects in society, especially at the minds of the youths.

The proposed bill after being enacted could help check damage of country's cultural values, cultural aggression and move to disseminate information against the interest of the country. Besides, it would help protect religious values, the meeting observed.

Committee members Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, Md Shahiduzzaman (Beltu), Alhaj Engineer Manjurul Ahsan Munshi, Md Mosharraf Hossain, Alhaj Md Sohrab Uddin and Md Hafiz Ibrahim attended the meeting.



Awami League (AL) President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina exchanges views with the grassroots leaders of Moulavibazar and Sunamganj districts at her Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

Make flawless voter list under neutral EC

Speakers tell Citizens Movement meet

Speakers at a coordination meeting here yesterday demanded preparation of flawless voter lists under a neutral Election Commission for electing a credible government in the country, says a press release.

"The activities of the present election commission have already created an impression that a free and fair elections could not be possible under it," they said.

They were speaking at the concluding meeting of a three-day programme organised by the Sammilito Nagorik Andolon (Combined Citizens Movement, CCM) at Col. Taher Auditorium in the city.

Workers and leaders of the component organisations of the CCM of 30 thanas of Dhaka Metropolis attended the meeting.

The concluding day's meeting was presided over by CCM leader and journalist-columnist Shahriar Kabir. Among others, CCM leaders Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, ASM Shamsul Arefin, Shirin Akhter, Golam Quddus, Qazi Mukul, Abdus Samad Pintu, Fakir Sheikh Ziauddin Ahmed, Kamal Pashya Chowdhury and Humayun Kabir addressed the meeting.

The speakers said due to misrules and misdeeds of the alliance government, democracy and good governance had totally been shattered in the country. Under such a situation, the nation has no option but to elect a credible government through fair and neutral elections.

The speakers reiterated their call for resignation of the present election commissioners including the chief election commissioner before August 31, the dateline fixed earlier by the CCM.

They called upon people of all sections of the society including freedom fighters, professionals, workers and all democratic and progressive forces to be united against the BNP-Jamaat led government that had already undermined the ideals and spirit of the great War of Liberation.

The CCM decided to hold its grand divisional conventions at Chittagong on August 27, Rajshahi on August 30 and Dhaka on September 10.

4 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and six army men injured in separate road accidents in Barisal, Gaibandha, Jhenidah and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Barisal says: A cyclist was killed and six army men, including a lieutenant, were injured after a pick-up of Bangladesh armed forces fell into a roadside ditch at about 12:30pm yesterday.

Witnesses said Syed Mizanur Rahman Kamrul, 40, an employee of Oponin Chemical Industries, was hit by an army pick-up at Goripar area in the Barisal city while he was going to his workplace from home riding a bicycle.

The driver of the vehicle lost control over the steering when he tried to save the cyclist and fell into the roadside ditch after hitting a tree.

Seriously injured six army men -- Ramzan, Rezaul, Redawan, Mahmud, Jahangir and Waliur -- and Kamrul were rushed to the Sher-e Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH).

Kamrul succumbed to his injuries at about 1:15pm in the hospital.

Local people and relatives snatched Kamrul's body from the hospital without postmortem, said Abul Kalam, ward master in duty at SBMCH.

The injured were sent to Jessore CMH by army helicopter at about 3:00pm in critical condition.

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha adds: One person was killed and five others sustained injuries in a road accidents at Dhaperhat on Bogra-Rangpur highway yesterday.

Aspeedy truck hit pedestrians on Bogra-Rangpur highway at Dhaperhat, leaving one Khalil Mia, 45, dead and five others injured.

The injured were rushed to Sadullahpur Health Complex.

The truck, however, managed to flee immediately after the accident.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah reports: One person was killed when a minibus hit a microbus from behind at Kaliganj main bus stand in Jhenidah.

The dead was identified as Ripon, 20, helper of the microbus and son of Izzat Ali of Ghorshal village, Kaliganj upazila, Jhenidah.

The mini-bus hit the microbus when Ripon and his friend Mukul were standing behind the micro. Ripon died on the spot and Mukul, 17, was injured seriously.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: One old woman aged about 70 was run over by a speedy tempo while she was crossing the Dhaka-Akhaura road at Mandail village under Akhaura upazila of the district yesterday.

The woman succumbed to her injuries on the way to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

First ever health debate contest begins Aug 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan 'Spreading the message of health through reasoning', the first ever health debate competition begins on August 23 with a view to making the students aware of the revolutionary changes in health science.

Institute of Education and Research (IER) of University of Dhaka (DU), People's Health Movement (PHM) Bangladesh, Action Aid Bangladesh and Creative Media Limited will jointly organise the four-day debate competition at IER.

The debate competition will also inspire the young generation to achieve 'health for all', one of the important objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The information came at a press conference yesterday at IER seminar room chaired by IER Director Prof Salma Akhter.

"Education makes people conscious of their rights. IER is organising the programme to address health rights," said Prof Salma.

Addressing as the chief guest, DU pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AFM Yousuf Haider said, "Debate competition is more useful than seminars as it reflects both the negative and positive aspects of a motion."

Prof Yousuf called for establishing a 'society of reasoning' and to keep debate 'above politics'.

The programme will take place on August 23, 24 and 28, 29.

A total of 30 debate clubs from 16 halls of DU, IER, 10 private universities and three private colleges will participate in the competition.

The topics of the parliamentary debate competition include 'Ineffectiveness of government health service is promoting private health service', 'Market economy is the barrier to ensure health service' and others.

3 killed in boat collision in Netrokona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

Three people were killed, 30 others injured in a head-on engine boat collision at Bamarchar in Kongsa river under Mohonganj upazila in the district at about 4:00pm yesterday.

The dead are identified as Abdul Jabbar, 65, of village Bamarchar, Titu Mia, 30, of village Singda and Gian Paul, 45, of village Gaglajur under Mohonganj upazila.

The seriously injured Aisha Akter, 45, Haradon, 35, and Lias Mia, 20, were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Others injured were admitted to Mohonganj upazila Health Complex.

Police and witnesses said the head-on collision occurred between a Mohonganj bound sand loaded engine boat and a Gaglajur bound passenger engine boat at Bamarchar and the passenger boat sank in the river leaving three people dead.

On information, local people rushed to spot and recovered the three bodies from the river.

EVE TEASING RU BCL leader stabbed by JCD cadres

RU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres stabbed a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Rajshahi University (RU) unit yesterday for teasing a girl.

The BCL leader, identified as Arifuzzaman Roney, legal affairs secretary of RU BCL unit, was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition.

Sources said, Roney teased one of the female friends of JCD activist Real while they were roaming on the campus.

Being infuriated, Real locked horns with Roney. At a stage of the altercation, JCD supporters Shovon, Rana, Mamun and Jewel launched an attack on Roney and stabbed him indiscriminately.

General students rescued Roney and rushed him to the university medical centre. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to RMCH.

Protesting the attack, BCL yesterday tried to ransack university administration building but police interrupted.

They have enforced a student strike on the campus today.

At a rally in front of the central library, BCL leaders threatened to launch an indefinite strike on the campus if the JCD activists are not punished.



Information Minister M Shamsul Islam speaks at a seminar titled 'Cable television Bangladesh perspective: Solutions to problems and potentials' at PIB auditorium in the city yesterday. Cable Operators of Bangladesh organised the seminar.

Robbery at Tejgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of robbers looted valuables, including cash and gold ornaments from a residence at Tejgaon in the city yesterday.

Police said a total of 11 robbers managed to enter the room of the son of the owner at about 2:45am, cutting the grill of the collapsible gate.

The robbers forced the family members to open the doors of other rooms holding him at gunpoint.

They tied the hands and legs of family members and took away Tk one lakh and 25 thousand, 6 tolas of gold ornaments, 5 mobile sets and 6 wrist watches, police said.

Shafiul new Red Crescent secy general

M. Shafiul Alam, former additional secretary and chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), has joined the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society as secretary general recently, says a press release.



Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Country's highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangpur and lowest 24.8 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:27pm today and rises at 5:36am 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	33.0	26.4	76	90
Chittagong	32.0	26.0	77	86
Rajshahi	35.5	26.0	80	75
Khulna	32.5	25.5	84	85
Barisal	32.5	26.5	84	77
Sylhet	34.8	26.5	77	73
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.5	76	85

Minor girl pays with life for witnessing extra-marital affair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-year-old girl had to pay with her life for witnessing an extra-marital affair of a housewife in her neighbourhood.

Police recently unveiled the mysterious death of Sharmin, who went missing on August 11 and whose body was later found floating in a waterbody on August 13.

Investigating Officer (IO) Asaduzzaman of Pallabi Police Station told The Daily Star on Saturday that Sharmin was choked to death by Arzu Begum and her lover Mohammad Sumon.

Sharmin, daughter of a day labourer Abul Kalam, went out of her house in the morning and peeped into Arzu's room.

Finding them naked, Sharmin shouted in fear which caused her death, the IO said adding Sumon pressed her mouth to stop yelling but choked her to death.

As she fell on the ground, the two tied her with Arzu's scarf and threw the body into the nearby waterbody.

After two days when the body floated, police found the scarf and enquired about its owner. The locals fingered at Arzu.

Police arrested three persons in this connection and the two admitted their crime on Thursday.

They also gave a confessional statement before a court.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family and well-wishers of Anika Haroon, a 16-year-old girl, have appealed for help in her battle against osteosarcoma, a malignant bone cancer.

Surgeons at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai will make a desperate attempt on August 30 to eliminate the fast-spreading cancerous cells in the leg and lungs of Anika, a victim of misdiagnosis and wrong treatment.

A Class X student at Buet School, Anika was mistakenly diagnosed with juvenile arthritis by the doctors and put through painful sessions of physiotherapy for two months which not only aggravated her physical condition but also risked her recovery to a great extent.

But treatment at the Indian hospital has turned out to be too expensive and exhaustive for her parents, who have appealed to the affluent section of the society to help save the life of their daughter.

Contributions can be deposited to any branch of Brac Bank at account no 150 9800 74582 maintained by Md Ayub Haroon, the father of Anika.

Death anniversary



Khan, says a press release.

Saiful passed away on this day in 1999 due to a cardiac arrest.

All have been requested to pray for the eternal peace and salvation of his departed soul.

Sharif Md Nurul Hossain



Today is the 9th death anniversary of Sharif Md Nurul Hossain, former additional district magistrate of Brahmanbaria, says a press release.

His wife and the only daughter asked all their relatives, friends and admirers to pray for the peace and salvation of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Dr A K Bakhtiar Hossein will be held at his Mohammadpur residence in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani to pray for salvation of his departed soul.