

Newsmen should unite to face professional hazards

Says Mark Tully

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the hour of crisis, journalists must try to discover the reasons behind the challenges and put in efforts to dissolve it sensibly and accurately, said eminent journalist Mark Tully yesterday.

He also called on the newsmen to gather under the same umbrella to face professional hazards resulting from commercialisation and politicisation of the media.

The veteran journalist was speaking at a seminar styled 'Journalism in the hour of crisis' organised by the Liberation War Museum on its premises in the city.

Referring to some media houses being barred by political leaders from covering news at the Hava Bhaban, Sudha Sadan or Awami League office, he said journalists should be united when they face such obstacles and stop giving coverage to them. The parties would surely then start 'begging' for exposure, he added.

Mark Tully, who covered the War of Liberation in 1971 as a BBC journalist, also shared his experience gathered during that time.

Speaking at the seminar, Ataus Samad, advisory editor of the daily Amar Desh, called for a bold approach from journalists.

"Try to ask rigorous questions to dig out the fact. The electronic media people must also remember that the camera cannot tell everything."

He also called on journalists working in the print media to provide more details in their stories.

Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), said journalists must be more efficient to carry out their duties properly.

"News sometimes gets a different and misleading shape because of the politicisation and commercialisation. Efficiency and greater responsibility on the part of journalists can help avert such

crises," he said.

Journalist Nadim Qadir called on newsmen to come out of the grip of partisan attitude. "First of all we should try to forget the perceived ideas while writing news on sensitive political issues."

Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director and chief editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, underscored the need to make the state-run media autonomous.

Both the major political parties say before the election that the state-run media will be made autonomous, but after assuming the office, they start using it as a tool to serve their purposes, he said.

Dr Sarwar Ali, trustee and member secretary of the Liberation War Museum, moderated the programme attended by reporters from both the print and electronic media.

Expat woman robbed after doping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals drugged an expatriate woman returning from Oman and made off with her cash and valuables at Motijheel yesterday.

Mafia Begum, 41, from Majidpur in Comilla, was found unconscious inside a passenger bus at around 4:00pm near a bus stop at Motijheel.

Other passengers of the bus noticed the unconscious lady and informed the police, who later admitted her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said police sources.

Police found a passport with the victim's belongings and confirmed her identity.

The police suspect that criminals in the bus might have used sedative drug to make Mafia Begum unconscious before getting off the bus with her valuables.

The victim's family members said they were not aware of Mafia's return from Oman.

Mafia went to Oman as a domestic help on September 26 and arrived in Dhaka yesterday on her way home.

TURYA MURDER

Three on 10-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed three people, arrested on charges of killing young jewellery trader Turya Ghosh Roni, on a ten-day remand for interrogation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shafique Anwar passed the order after Detective Branch (DB) of police produced the three -- Turya's girl friend Shamsunnahar Shewli, 29, Al Mamun alias Mamun, 26, and Abu Syed, 30 -- before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court in the afternoon.

The court ordered to send Shahid Hossain Liton to the Dhaka Central Jail as the IO did not seek remand for him.

In his forwarding report about the ten days' remand, DB Inspector Nazrul Islam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said the arrestees are directly involved in kidnapping and killing the victim for realising a large amount of money as ransom from the victim's family. So, they need to be remanded to find out the vital clues and whereabouts of their accomplices, Nazrul added.

The mutilated body of Turya, son of a leading jewellery trader in the city, was recovered from beneath the earth at Rampura on Monday, after 43 days of his abduction.

Following the incident, victim's father Jagannath Ghosh filed an abduction case with Uttara Police Station accusing Shewli and four others on November 7.

Police arrested Qayyum, Tajul Islam, Hiralal Ghosh, Khawza Azim and Farhad Alam but they were released on bail on different dates.

SEDITION CASE

Tania Amir gets anticipatory bail

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted ad interim anticipatory bail for six months to Barrister Tania Amir in a seditious case in connection with the November 30 vandalism on the Supreme Court premises.

The court granted her bail when she had surrendered before it immediately after returning home from abroad.

Passing the order, a division bench comprising Justice M Abdul Wahab Miran and Justice M Raisuddin issued a rule upon the government to explain why the petitioner should not be granted a regular bail.

Her father SCBA President Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, Bar Council Vice-Chairman Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and five other lawyers had secured ad interim anticipatory bail in the same case on December 10.

The case filed with the Shahbagh Police Station by SC court keeper M Rafiqul Islam is now pending before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, Mahmudul Islam and Barrister Azmal Hossain QC appeared for Tania Amir.

Ittefaq Workers' Union executives

Fazley Imam and Alamgir Hossain Khan have been elected president and general secretary of the executive committee of Workers' Union of the daily Ittefaq for the term 2006-2008, says a press release.

Other office bearers are Senior Vice-President Asad Ullah, Vice-President S. M. Selim, Additional Secretaries Babul Akter and Abu Kawsar, Organising Secretary Nazir Ahmed, Public Secretary Abdul Wahab, Cultural Secretary Shahjahan and Treasurer Abdus Salam Akon.

58 incidents of political violence from Nov 14-30

Reveals Odhikar report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 58 incidents of political violence took place mostly in Dhaka and Chittagong divisions from November 14 to 30 where Awami League (AL)-led 14-party alliance and BNP-led 4-party alliance clashed with each other killing two people and injuring 250 others, said a report yesterday.

Other passengers of the bus noticed the unconscious lady and informed the police, who later admitted her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said police sources.

Police found a passport with the victim's belongings and confirmed her identity.

The police suspect that criminals in the bus might have used sedative drug to make Mafia Begum unconscious before getting off the bus with her valuables.

The victim's family members said they were not aware of Mafia's return from Oman.

Mafia went to Oman as a domestic help on September 26 and arrived in Dhaka yesterday on her way home.

Most of the incidents of violence took place on November 14 when

the 14-party alliance enforced their blockade programme, he said.

When asked about the goal of the project, Saidur Rahman, programme coordinator of EVER said their goal is to track the incidents of violence ahead of the general election in order to reduce them and create public opinion.

The report has been sent to the Election Commission, local and civil administration and different political parties, he added.

Lisa Kammerer, research coordinator of IFES, Angela Peltzer, programme coordinator of IFES, and Nasir Uddin Elan, office-in-charge of Odhikar also spoke.

Book on Mughal architectures launched

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) launched 'Mughal Monuments of Bangladesh', a book containing brief descriptions and photographs of Mughal architectures in Bangladesh, at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday to mark its 10th founding anniversary.

The 160-page book holds 54 multi coloured pictures of Mughal monuments, including mosques and palaces, established during the Mughal reign in Bangla from 1576 to 1856.

Babu Ahmed took the photographs of the monuments while his wife Nazly Chowdhury wrote the texts. Prof Enamul Haque, chairman of International Centre for Study of Bengal Art, edited the book.

The book costs Tk 2500 and will be available at major city bookshops including Words 'n Pages and Etcetera soon.

The authors and the editor of the book, HSBC Bangladesh Chief Executive Officer Steve Banner, Head of Marketing and Public Relations of HSBC Mustafizur Khan were present at the launching ceremony.

Steve Banner thanked the authors for their dedication and hard work in putting the book together.

He said all the proceeds from the sale of the book will be spent for charities and developmental works in Bangladesh.

Obituary



Rabeya Khatun Chowdhury, wife of Ragib Ali, chairman of board of governors of North South University Foundation, passed away at the Bungalow of Malinichora Tea-Estate in Sylhet yesterday, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, one son and one daughter to mourn her death.

Rabeya, co-founder of Leading University & Ragib-Rabeya Medical College & Hospital and Ragib-Rabeya Degree College, was buried at the family graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Kamalbazar in Sylhet.

Death anniversary



Today is the 35th death anniversary of Rafiqul Haider Chowdhury, a martyred intellectual, says a press release.

On this day in 1971, Razakars, local collaborators of the Pakistani army, picked him up from his Shahidbagh residence and took him away blindfolded. He was later killed.

A milad mahfil will be held at Aminul Mosque in the city after Asr prayers to mark the day.

3 martyred brothers

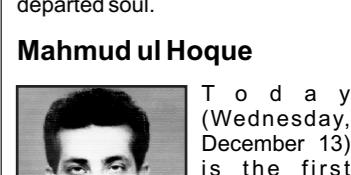
Today is the 35th death anniversary of three martyred brothers -- Selim Reza, Nasir Uddin Ahmed and Azmal Hossain, says a press release.

They were picked up by the Pakistani army and their local collaborators on this day in 1971.

Quirkhwan and milad mahfil will be held at Pubali Station Jame Mosque in Tongi, Gazipur, after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Mahmud ul Hoque



Today is the first death anniversary of Mahmud ul Hoque, an eminent journalist and freedom fighter, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his village at Jangalbadal, Shingla, Jessore after Asr prayers.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of former additional secretary Md Solaiman Khan will be held at his residence at 79/C, Asad Avenue today, says a press release.

Solaiman passed away due to cancer at a city hospital on Thursday night at the age of 56.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

Admirers and relatives are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Eminent journalist Mark Tully, 3rd from right, speaks at a seminar at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. On his right are Dr Sarwar Ali, Ataus Samad and Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury while on his left are Nadim Qadir and Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul.

Ctg high-rise bldg fined for pilfering water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A mobile court here yesterday fined a hotel, a community centres and a high-rise building for pilfering and wasting water and arrested four people in this connection.

The court fined Tk 1.5 lakh to the owners of the establishments for stealing huge quantity of water through illegal pumps from WASAline and bypassing the meters everyday.

Sources said the court unearthed the illegal connection at Royal Hotel and Restaurant, Shah Amanat Community Centre and a multi-storey building, in a drive at its city's Halishahar area.

The court also held manager and caretaker of the establishments in this connection.

The court disconnected the water supply line and also seized the pumps and some sanitary materials, they added.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Md Munir Chowdhury, also acting as Chittagong WASA magistrate as his additional duty, led the drive.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 29.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and lowest 13.6 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:13pm today and rises at 6:32am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in Celsius	
Max	Min	Morning Evening	
Dhaka	28.3	18.8	88 62
Chittagong	28.6	16.5	80 72
Rajshahi	26.3	17.2	96 91
Khulna	29.6	19.0	94 73
Barisal	29.6	17.0	95 87
Sylhet	23.0	16.0	84 80
Cox's Bazar	29.0	15.5	74 --

Passing the order, a division bench comprising Justice M Abdul Wahab Miran and Justice M Raisuddin issued a rule upon the government to explain why the petitioner should not be granted a regular bail.

Her father SCBA President Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, Bar Council Vice-Chairman Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and five other lawyers had secured ad interim anticipatory bail in the same case on December 10.

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Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, Mahmudul Islam and Barrister Azmal Hossain QC appeared for Tania Amir.



Golam Mainuddin, deputy managing director, British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB), hands over the champion trophy to Institute of Business Administration, the winner of 'Battle of Minds' 2006 -- a business case solving competition -- at Brac Inn centre in the city recently. The BATB organised the competition and The Daily Star was the media partner.