

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Train more lawyers on mediation technique for greater success

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for training of more lawyers on the technique of mediation in order to achieve greater success of alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

Lauding the success of ADR, Law Commission Chairman Justice Mustafa Kamal advocated such non-formal settlement of legal and judicial disputes as a means of disposing of cases quickly and inexpensively.

"ADR is not a panacea for all evils but an alternative route to a more speedy and less expensive mode of settlement of disputes. It is a voluntary and cooperative way out of the impasse," he said as the

chief guest.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organised the roundtable on 'Review of the Family Courts Ordinance 1985' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Justice Mustafa Kamal said some family pilot courts disposed of 83 percent of cases, the highest rate, while some others disposed of 35 percent of cases, the lowest rate, in the first two years after they were set up in 2000.

Justice Md Anwarul Haque said the family courts in Chittagong realised around Tk 5 crore and settled 4275 cases between 2000 and 2006, while such courts in Dhaka realised about Tk 6 crore in 1237 cases.

Referring to the disposal of non-

family litigations since July 2003, Justice Mustafa Kamal said 7974 such litigations were disposed of through mediation as of June 30, 2005.

Giving accounts of realising a good amount of money through Loan Courts by mediation in Money Loan Recovery Cases, he said, "The realisation is 10 times higher than the realisation by execution cases over the last 10 years."

He expressed his satisfaction over extension of mediation to appeal cases by further amendment to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but regretted the state of training in the art and technique of mediation.

"The area of operation has to be extended; more and more lawyers

have to be brought into the training net; judges should be disengaged altogether from mediation work as early as possible and a training institute for mediators should be established," he said.

The Law Commission Chairman thinks that no one should be appointed a mediator unless he/she has a certificate from the institute. "Retired judges who are respected by both the Bar and Bench should come forward to give leadership," he noted.

A well-thought-out action plan is necessary to make ADR a success, he said, adding that it is not desirable that an avalanche of mediation should descend upon the courts all at a time, rather the courts should refer first relatively simple cases to the mediators.

Speaking as the special guest, former chief justice KM Hasan said more and more litigants are now seeking justice after the introduction of ADR.

"We trained many judges and lawyers, but many more are to be trained up," he said.

Justice Anwarul Haque observed that mediation is the best practice in family affairs worldwide. "The rate of success in mediation is almost 100 percent," he said, emphasising more training for the judges and lawyers.

BLAST Deputy Director Soma Islam in her presentation suggested establishment of Family Courts in the three hill districts, addition of a provision for amendment to plaintiff and initiatives by the Union Parishads to form arbitration councils.

BLAST Executive Director Taslimur Rahman and its Board of Trustee Dr Shamsul Bari also spoke at the roundtable chaired by Justice Naimuddin Ahmed.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organised a roundtable on 'Review of the Family Courts Ordinance 1985' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. Sitting from right are Justice KM Hasan, Justice Mustafa Kamal, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed and Dr Shamsul Bari.

Respond to report on factory inspectorate

ILO asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Labour Organisation (ILO) yesterday asked Bangladesh government to respond to a criticism report on the inadequacy of manpower in the Factory Inspectorate.

The report -- written by Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) and the UK-based Centre for Corporate Accountability -- was submitted to the ILO in August last year by a coalition of trade unions, said a press release of OSHE.

The coalition members are Jatiya Sramik League, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, Jatiya Sramik Federation, Bangladesh, Jatiya Sramik Jote, Bangladesh Labour Federation

and Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation.

The report looked at the extent to which the Factory Inspectorate that enforces health and safety and other labour law in factories across the country complied with the requirements set out in the ILO's Labour Inspection Convention.

The report said that the number of inspectors responsible for either health or safety in the factories and docks was only 20, which was in fact a decrease of one compared to the number of inspectors employed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A mobile court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Atiqul Haque recovered banned polythene bags worth Tk 30 lakh from six rooms of the first floor of 'Khan Building' at Khulna Barho Bazar last evening.

Besides, 175 kilograms of date expired Indian powder milk were also recovered from the place.

The polythene bags were handed over to Khulna Sadar Police Station. Two separate cases were filed with Khulna PS naming three traders Goutam Saha, Mostafa and Berek as accused for storing banned polythene bags for sale.



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.2 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.26pm today and rises at 5:26am 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	33.3	22.1	64	58
Chittagong	33.6	21.5	74	76
Rajshahi	34.6	21.3	64	53
Khulna	34.5	23.0	74	78
Barisal	33.5	23.6	—	77
Sylhet	32.8	20.2	62	61
Cox's Bazar	31.1	21.7	93	72

Sunken lighter vessel MV Nazim salvaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sunken lighter vessel MV Nazim Uddin was completely salvaged yesterday making the port channel risk-free for vessel movement.

With the salvation of the vessel, the nighttime navigation is likely to resume by tonight, sources said.

The lighter vessel MV Nazimuddin along with 750 MT of cement clinkers sank near the Kamaphuly estuary after colliding with another lighter vessel MV Titu 5 on April 14.

The sinking of the vessel forced Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to suspend nighttime navigation and enforce a 'single way traffic' on the channel.

Earlier, the salvaging firms Taj Mohammad and Company and Marine Service Limited cut the sunken vessel into two portions and removed one of them on Thursday morning.

The remaining half of the vessel along with cement clinkers was salvaged during the high tide in the afternoon.

CPA engaged the private salvaging firms on a 'no cure, no pay' basis for the salvation of the vessel within a scheduled time of one month.

Dhanmondi road renamed after Justice Rahman

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has renamed Road No. 15 (New), 28 (Old) of Dhanmondi as 'Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury Sarak' in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the Language Movement of 1952, says a press release.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka unveiled the plaque at a ceremony on Thursday.

Apart from the family members of late Justice, language veteran Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam, language veteran M Shamsul Haque, former foreign secretary Tabarak Hossain, President of Youth Force, UK Akhtar Hossain Sanu and officials of DCC were present at the ceremony.

JNU exam date changed

The examinations of Master's first part-2005 and Master's final part-2004 of Jagannath University (JNU) scheduled for May 2 will now be held on May 3, says a press release.

However, the timing of the exams will remain unchanged.

The university changed the date due to unavoidable reasons, the press release added.



PHOTO: PID

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over a meeting of the Council of Advisers at his office in the city yesterday.

7 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and 12 others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Rajshahi, Khulna, Khagrachhari and Patuakhali yesterday and on Friday.

A correspondent from Comilla says: At least two people were killed and three others injured in a road accident at Burichang upazila yesterday.

They were identified as Md Hanif, 28, son of Badsha Mia of Kongshanagar under Burichang upazila, and Khodeza Begum, 30, wife of Md Moslehuddin of Elahabad under Debidwer upazila.

According to police, the accident occurred when a Comilla-bound taxicab collided head on with a tractor at about 10:15am. The bodies were sent to Comilla Medical College morgue for autopsy.

The injured were rushed to Thana Health Complex. A case was filed with Burichang Police Station in this regard.

Our staff correspondent from Rajshahi adds: Two people were killed as a speedy truck ran over them at Godagari on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway yesterday.

They were identified as Motiur Rahman, 50, and Kalam Hossain, 40, of Bidirpur who

died on the spot.

The accident occurred when the victims were carrying woods in a shallow-engine- driven goods-hauler in the morning.

The Rajshahi-bound truck hit the goods-hauler from behind and later ran over the victims.

The hauler-driver Minarul was also injured. The killer truck managed to flee the scene.

A case was filed in this regard. UNB from Khulna reports: A

sexagenarian woman was killed and her two grandsons were injured as a bus rammed into a tempo at Alamtola on Khulna-Koira road yesterday.

The dead was identified as Laxmi Rani, 65.

Police said a Koira-bound bus from Pikegaccha ploughed through a tempo coming from opposite direction at noon, leaving tempo passenger Laxmi dead on the spot and her grandsons injured.

The injured -- Pinaki, 28, and Kazal, 18, -- were rushed to Pikegaccha Upazila Health Complex.

Our correspondent from Khagrachhari reports: A six-year-old boy was killed in a road accident in the district on Friday.

He was identified as Mohammad Belal Hossen, son of Abdur Rashid of Jamtali area

under Dighinala upazila.

Police and family sources said a speedy transport knocked him down while he was playing beside the Jamtali Road in the afternoon.

After hearing his groaning locals rushed him to Khagrachhari Modern Sadar Hospital for treatment.

He died there at dead of night.

The on-duty doctor Tozammel Haq Zoarder said the boy was suffering from head and chest injuries.

Police could not identify the transport.

Our Correspondent from Patuakhali says: One person was killed and seven others were injured in a road accident on Friday on Patuakhali-Baufal road.

The dead was identified as Razzak, 45, of Rajakhali village under Dumki upazila in the district.

The incident occurred at about 7:30 pm when a Patuakhali-bound motor van from Boga ferry ghat hit Razzak from behind at Rajakhali area when he was crossing the road and the van fell into a roadside ditch.

The injured were rushed to Dumki Upazila Health Complex and Patuakhali General Hospital. They are Shafiq, 25, Rani Begum, 20, Siddiq, 18, and Abdullah Al-Mamun, 20, Shahin, 21, Rahim and Moyeen, 25. All hailed from different villages under Dumki upazila.



PHOTO: STAR

Malaysian High Commissioner in Dhaka Dato Abdul Malek bin Abdul Aziz speaks at the launching of New Academy Programmes of Perdana College of Malaysia at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Prof Aslam new VC of People's University



President and Chancellor of Universities Iajuddin Ahmed has appointed Prof Aslam Bhuiyan as the vice chancellor

of People's University of Bangladesh (PUB), says a press release.

Prof Aslam obtained BA (Hons) and MA in Sociology from Dhaka University. He did his MS in Rural Sociology from USSR in 1976 and Ph D from Bombay University in 1987. He joined Chittagong University in 1977. He served in various positions at the university.

Earlier he served as pro-vice chancellor and vice chancellor (designate) of PUB. He was a veteran freedom fighter.

He hails from Munshiganj-Bikrampur district. He is second son of late Alhaj Harnur-or-Rashid Bhuiyan.

DHAKA TODAY

View exchange

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a view exchange on 'Restoration of Women Development Policy 1997'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Workshop

Bangla Academy will hold a workshop on 'Bangla Academy Administration'. Venue: Academy seminar room. Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Intermech Ltd and Manjari Ltd will hold a seminar on 'Key issues in CNG station machinery'. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Muktijoddha Gonoparishad will hold a discussion on 'Expectations of the liberation war and the present Bangladesh'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Centre for Injury Prevention and

Research, Bangladesh and Accident Research Centre (ARC) of Buet will hold a seminar on 'First United Nations Global Road Safety Week'. Venue: ARC conference room. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Chattagram Samity-Dhaka will hold a discussion to mark the catastrophic cyclone on this day in 1991. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

Talk

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will hold a talk on 'Strategic plan for development of Dhaka city transport system' by Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice chancellor of Brac University. Venue: Seminar room of the Society. Time: 4:30pm.

Seminar

Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST) will hold a seminar on 'Mangrove forest in prevention of natural disaster'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Nation commemorates victims of 1991 cyclone today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The nation today commemorates the victims of the catastrophic cyclone that lashed the country's coastal belt stretching from Bhola to Cox's Bazar on the dreadful night of April 29 in 1991, killing about 1.4 lakh people.

Property worth around Tk 12,500 crore were also damaged in the cyclone, one of the worst disasters in living memory.

Various organisations have taken up programmes to mark the day.

April 29 Smriti Parishad Bangladesh will hold a memorial meeting and Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (Coast), an NGO, will hold a seminar in the capital.

In the last 40 years, 39 cyclonic storms lashed the coastal areas, leaving eight lakh people dead. But the vulnerable areas still lack proper and adequate infrastructures needed to cope with natural calamities such as cyclone and tidal surge.

A master plan for such infrastructures involving Tk 2,000 crore was prepared in 1986, but it was shelved later. Met office sources said 12,050 square kilometres areas in 52 coastal upazilas are vulnerable to natural calamities.

Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (Coast) sources said that about 80 lakh people live in vulnerable areas. At present, there are more than 1,400 cyclone shelters, most of which have become unfit for use as they were built long ago.

According to official data, the cyclone on April 29, 1991 killed at least 1,38,866 people in 95 upazilas in 18 districts. It also destroyed standing crops on 98,113 acres totally and on 6,22,384 acres partially. Some 7,88,081 houses were damaged and 10.3 lakh cattle perished in the cyclone.

DU holiday on May 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All classes and offices of Dhaka University (DU) will remain closed on May 2 on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

Only classes will remain suspended today on the occasion of Fataha-e-Yazdaham.

All course and traditional system examinations scheduled for May 2 have also been postponed. Fresh dates of these examinations will be announced later.

However, schedule of other exams will remain unchanged, said a DU press release.

Obituary



Putul Rani Nandi, mother of singer Shubir Nandi, passed away at Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 87, says a press

release.

She left behind her five sons and three daughters to mourn her death.

Her body has been kept at the Birdem Hospital mortuary.

Her body will be taken to her village home at Shatgaon at Srimangol in Moulvibazar after her son Dr Shubir Nandi arrives from Vietnam today for funeral.

Chief adviser of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad Major General (Retd) CR Dutta in a statement expressed deep shock at her death.

Al-haji Mohammad Karim Khan



Al-haji Mohammad Karim Khan passed away due to old age complications at his house in the city at 10:00pm on Friday at the

age of 106 years, says a press release.

He has left behind two sons, two daughters and a host of admirers.

After a namaz-e-janaza in the locality, he was laid to rest in his family graveyard.

His kulkhwani will be held after Zohr prayers at house no K 145 Jaoz Sahara in Badda.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the kulkhwani.

Chehlum

Chehlum of KM Obaidur Rahman, an organiser of the War of Liberation and BNP standing committee member, will be held at his residence at Banani in the city today, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at House No#59, Road No#1, Block-I, Chairman Bari, Banani in the city after Asr prayers today. A day-long Qurankhwani will also be arranged.

KM Obaidur Rahman Smriti Sangsad will organise milad.

Friends, political colleagues and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.