



Bangabir Osmani Smriti Parishad organises a discussion on the occasion of the 89th birth anniversary of Commander-in-Chief of Army during the War of Liberation General MAG Osmani at Osmani auditorium in the city yesterday. From left are Maj Gen (Retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, Power and Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury, Syeda Masuda Khwaza and Maj Gen (Retd) M Azizur Rahman.

Meeting of CPD Board of Trustees held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Board of Trustees of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) held its 28th meeting in the city yesterday and reviewed the activities of the think-tank in the preceding six months.

The Board also endorsed the CPD's new research programme, including pro-poor macro-economic policy, trade liberalisation and employment, jute and textile sector study, impact of floods in 2007 and end-agenda of the WTO Doha Round.

The CPD will undertake a dissemination programme of its Vision 2021 document, which was prepared by the Nagarik Committee 2006. In this connection, it will hold meetings with various cross-sections of society, including the political parties and the younger generation.

The Board expressed satisfaction at the performance of the CPD and encouraged it to continue the good work.

The Board also approved the CPD's research, dialogue & publication plan for the rest of the year 2007.

Chaired by CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, the meeting was attended by Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed, Prof Anisuzzaman of Dhaka University, former Planning Commission member Nurul Haq, Chairman of Renata Ltd SH Kabir, Managing Director of Kedarpur Tea Company Laila Rahman Kabir, Chairman of Bank Asia M Syeduzzaman, Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya.

Prof Mustafizur Rahman, research director, and Anisatul Fatema Yousuf, additional director & head, Dialogue and Communication Division, CPD, attended the meeting on invitation.

Nation to have 300 honest MPs in next polls: Tapan

UNB, Dhaka

Power and Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury yesterday expressed the hope that the nation would have 300 honest and corruption-free representatives in the next election.

He was speaking at a discussion titled 'Corruption-free Bangladesh and Bangabir Osmani' organised to celebrate the 89th birth anniversary of General MAG Osmani in the city.

The adviser said the nation has to be freed from the politics polluted by widespread corruption over the years.

Honest politicians are needed to emulate the ideals of those who

were in the forefront of the war of independence and had made the supreme sacrifice, he added.

Paying glowing tributes to the late commander-in-chief of Independence war, Tapan said Gen Osmani was patriot, dauntless and man of integrity.

Under his leadership, the freedom fighters won the war, he added.

Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, Major General (Retd) M Azizur Rahman, Major General (Retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim and Syeda Masuda Khwaza also spoke on the occasion.

Concern over filing of cases against numerous unnamed people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Odhikar, a human rights organisation, has expressed deep concern over the recent incident of filing cases against numerous unnamed people and the attack on journalists.

In a press release yesterday, it also urged the government to release the university teachers and to ensure the freedom of the press.

On the basis of the reports published in different dailies in the month of August, Odhikar said that 35 journalists were manhandled by the law enforcers during the period.

"The freedom of the press must be respected, especially at this time when the country is facing many challenges," Odhikar said.

By filing cases against 87,000 people, mostly unnamed, the authorities are creating opportunity

ties for members of the law enforcement agencies to harass and threaten the public, it said.

The organisation also gave a statistics of human rights violations during the month of August.

Eight people were reportedly killed by law enforcement agencies during the period, it said.

Odhikar noted that of the eight people, four were killed during gunfights involving law enforcement agencies, one was killed in 'crossfire', one was tortured to death and two people were reportedly killed by the police during protests.

Also, 38 women and girls reportedly fell victim to rape during the period, it added. Five of them were killed after rape and five others fell victim to acid attack.

Bring war criminals to book

Freedom fighters urge CG, army chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muktijoddha Gono Parishad, a platform of freedom fighters, yesterday urged the caretaker government and the army chief to bring the war criminals to book immediately.

At a discussion and get-together at the National Press Club, the Parishad leaders also called on the freedom fighters to unite to raise their voice.

Demanding capital punishment to the traitors and collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War, the speakers urged the government to start the process for the trial of war criminals.

Speaking as the chief guest, Lt Col (retd) Qazi Nuruzzaman Bir Uttam stressed the need to form a national alliance with the leadership of freedom fighters in order to protect the sovereignty of the country.

"We will have to mobilise public

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessor and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:16pm today and rises at 5:41am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity		percentage
		in celsius	Max	Min
Dhaka	33.6	27.8	71	62
Chittagong	32.5	26.4	80	79
Rajshahi	34.3	27.3	81	73
Khulna	34.5	27.2	88	--
Barisal	32.8	27.0	92	82
Sylhet	33.7	26.7	--	75
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.0	71	77

Ex-air chief Bashar's death anniversary observed

Bangladesh Air Force observed the 31st death anniversary of former Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman attended the milad at the BAF Central Mosque and later visited the grave of AVM Bashar at Kurmitola and offered fetea there. Officers and members of all ranks of the Bangladesh Air Force also attended the milad.

Bashar died on September 1 in 1976 in a plane accident.

A milad mahfil was held at the central mosques at all BAF Bases after Asr prayers.

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Formulate integrated energy policy

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called on the government to formulate an integrated energy policy considering all aspects, instead of formulating a separate coal policy.

The caretaker government should also review all energy-related deals with multinational companies and identify those who signed the deals in their own interest.

They also criticised the law

ministry for its explanation that the Phulbari contract signed between the four-party alliance government and the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, electricity and Port following the mass movement against open-pit mining in August last year has no legal basis.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the seminar on 'Presentation of the outline of people and environment-friendly integrated energy strategy paper' at the auditorium of Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

The speakers also emphasised the need to facilitate mining-related education in the country so that the country can produce mining experts and exploit mineral resources on its own.

Presenting a keynote paper at the seminar, Zahir Hossain of Bapa suggested using mineral resources to meet the domestic energy needs, instead of exporting them.

The paper also called for convening a national conference to gather suggestions from local experts for formulating an energy policy.

Zahir Hossain also urged the government to take effective measures to prevent corruption during the signing of any deals with multinational companies.

Prof Anu Muhammad said that if the government fails to formulate an appropriate energy policy, the multinational companies would take advantage of it to devour mineral resources.

Prof Nurul Islam said the government should take steps to ensure sustainable use of mineral resources.

"Our domestic growth would not increase to the expected level unless the commercial energy usage increases by 8 to 10 times. So, the government should focus on proper usage of energy resources, instead of exporting them," he said.

Prof Abu Ahmed, Prof Dr Shamsul Alam and Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah also spoke at the seminar presided over by Prof M Feroze Ahmed.



Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah speaks at a seminar at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday. On his right is Prof M Feroze Ahmed.

President, CA greet Vietnamese counterparts

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Advisor Fakhrudin Ahmed have felicitated their respective counterparts of Vietnam on the occasion of the National Day of the country today.

In a message Iajuddin said Bangladesh and Vietnam enjoy warm and cordial relations, which have grown in depth and dimension over the years.

Fakhrudin expressed his firm conviction that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Vietnam would continue to grow in large magnitude for the benefits of the people of the two countries.

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