

Call for reforms in public varsity acts

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday sought reforms in public university acts, appointment of teachers and student politics.

They also suggested formation of a powerful search committee to select vice-chancellors, pro-vice-chancellors and treasurers.

A panel of teachers should be made as per specific regulations of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for their appointment in the universities.

The roundtable titled 'Autonomy of Universities' was organised by the National Observers Council (NOC) at the National Press Club in the city.

Chairman of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Prof Muzaffer Ahmad chaired the roundtable where former education adviser to a caretaker government Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui was the chief guest.

Prof Faruk-Uzzaman of the history department of Rajshahi University presented the keynote paper.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam, former UGC Chairman Prof M Asaduzzaman, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Prof Mofakkar Islam of the history

department of Dhaka University, social worker Abdul Aziz Sarkar, journalist MA Aziz and Executive Director of the NOC Rehana Salam took part in the discussion.

Prof Muzaffer said the university teachers should be made themselves accountable to their students as they are performing noble duty and students should also know how to articulate their academic pursuit.

"Time has come to think whether a dean would be made through election or selection," he said, adding, "Teachers could also be appointed through experts' opinion."

He suggested separation of the student dormitories from the administrations for creating a proper academic environment for the students.

Prof Zillur said in the Bangladesh perspective, the existing forms of the senates in the universities are neither required nor fruitful for the students and their education.

To make the academic activities transparent, he suggested not to appoint any student as a teacher in the same university.

Prof Nazrul said the UGC is now working for formulating a Public University Act to bring all the 29 public universities under the

umbrella of a single act.

"I hope we can complete the task within the term of the present caretaker government," said the UGC chairman.

Teachers of the universities should come forward with various reform proposals, he said, adding that if all stakeholders do not cooperate, only the UGC will not be able to bring any qualitative changes to public universities.

Prof Nazrul said the UGC is now implementing its 20-year strategic plan, which was formulated during the past government's tenure.

In this regard, the commission will hold discussions with various professionals in all six divisions soon, he added.

In his keynote paper, Prof Faruk-Uzzaman presented a set of recommendations that included cancellation of the '4b of Political Party Regulation 1976' to stop the turning of student organisations into frontline organisations of the political parties.

He said teachers could hold political belief individually, but they could not propagate their belief and involve themselves in any political entity.

Prof Faruk also suggested increasing the number of UGC members from five to eight to strengthening the commission.

Twelve rocket launchers recovered in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Twelve rocket launchers were recovered from Shamsnagar under Kamalganj upazila of the district yesterday.

According to Kamalganj police, the labourers found the rocket launchers when they were digging earth to build a toilet behind an under-construction market of the Local Government Engineering Department.

Police recovered the rocket launchers when the labourers informed them. According to police, each rocket launcher weighs 7kgs and is six inches in length.

MM Shahjahan, officer-in-charge of Kamalganj Police Station, said the rocket launchers might have been kept under the earth during the Liberation War in 1971.

Khatib's death condoled

BSS, Dhaka

Law and Information Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain, leaders of different political parties and socio-cultural organisations, in separate messages yesterday condoled the death of Maulana Obaidul Haq, Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

In the messages of condolence, they prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul of Khatib Obaidul Haq and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Mainul Hossain expressed deep shock at the death of eminent Islamic thinker Maulana Obaidul Haq.

He conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Jatiya Party Chairman and former President H M Ershad said Maulana Obaidul Haq was not only the Khatib of the national mosque, but also an Islamic thinker, a scholar and a man devoted to the service of Islam.

BNP Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain said the nation has lost a devoted Islamic thinker at his death.

The Khatib was respected by all as a courageous Islamic scholar of firm conviction, Delwar said and added he had played a prominent role in favour of truth by giving authentic interpretations of Islamic laws.

Pro-reformist BNP leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement condoled his death. He also prayed for peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid said Maulana Obaidul Haq was the teacher of the country's ulemas. He was like the guardian of the nation.

Bangladesh Muslim League President Alhaj ANM Yusuf, Executive President Advocate Nurul Haq Majumder and Secretary General M Nuruzzaman Munna, Sylhet Division Development Action Council President Advocate Abed Reza and General Secretary Nazmul Islam, Bangladesh Progressive Party Secretary General M Noman, and Jatiya Neta Bhasha Sainik Shamsul Haq Smriti Sangsad President Advocate MA Latif Majumder also condoled the death.

'Pay arrear salary, bonus to journo'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

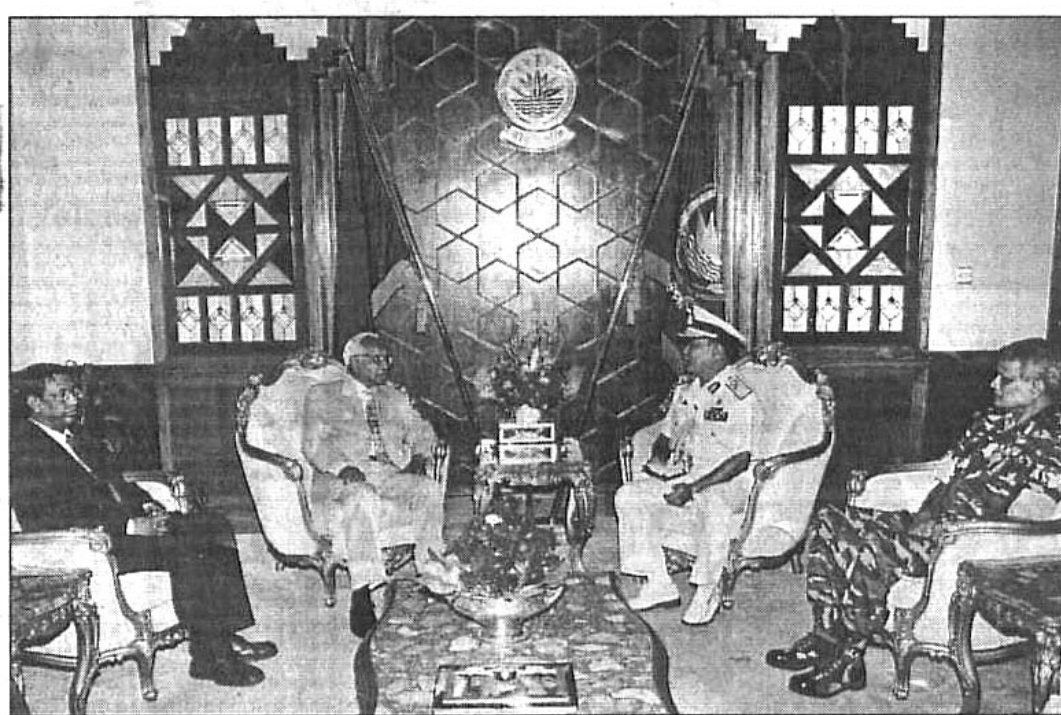
Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) have urged the owners of newspapers, news agencies and electronic media to pay the arrear salary and bonus to their employees before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

In a statement yesterday they said taking the chance of the state of emergency, a section of owners have been trying to create an unstable situation in the media by not giving salary and bonus to their employees.

The leaders urged the government to take necessary steps in this regard for newspaper industry. They also urged the owners of Bangladesh Observer, The Independent, Janakantha and Amar Desh to pay the arrear salary and bonus of their employees.

The leaders also condemned the attack on a journalist of Radio Today while performing his official duty at Kamalapur Railway Station and demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the incident.

The signatories to the statement included BFUJ President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiya, and DUJ President Alhaj Mahmud and General Secretary Omar Faruk.



Naval Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam makes a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

INT'L DAY FOR ERADICATION OF POVERTY OCT 17 'Political response needed to fight global poverty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world on October 17 with a call 'stand up and speak out against poverty.'

People's Forum on MDGs (PFM), an alliance of 200 private organisations and trade union centres, will hold simultaneous programmes on that day in 30 districts including Dhaka.

PFM in association with Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) and Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) will organise rally, concert for youth and children's assemblies at educational institutions to raise voice against anti-poor policies and actions of the government and international organisations.

Dhaka City Corporation will also hold a rally on the premises of Nagar Bhaban to be led by Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

These efforts will be part of global mobilisation that aspires to achieve the biggest ever mobilisation against poverty in more than 100 countries showing courage and demand for a more political response to the growing crisis of global poverty, said PFM Convener Rasheda K Chowdhury while addressing a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium yesterday.

Rasheda, also director of Campe, highlighted a set of demands to be placed to the government marking the day.

The demands include job security for the poor round the year, security for food, education, health

and shelter, fair wages for labourers, an end to discrimination against women and establish their rights, and protection of farmers and agricultures from the evil design of World Bank, IMF and WTO.

While elaborating the demands to global leaders on the day of poverty eradication, Irfan Muftu, GCAP campaign manager, said the world leaders should adopt progressive policies for land reform, taxation, poverty reduction, conflict prevention and effective peace-building strategies.

Shirin Akhter, president of Karmojibi Nari, and Don Van Luijn, Oxfam International campaign officer-South Asia Essential Services and GCAE also spoke on the occasion.

Discussion on 'Bangladesh and Singapore' on Nov 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A panel discussion on 'Bangladesh and Singapore: Developing a development mindset' will be held in Singapore on November 2.

Eminent personalities from the public and private sectors in both the countries will exchange their views in the forum to be held at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) in conjunction with the Institute of South Asian Studies at NUS will host the panel discussion.

The aim of the forum is to exchange insights from the development experiences of Bangladesh and Singapore.

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus will deliver the inaugural address while Prof Kishore Mahbubani, dean of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, will deliver the welcome address at the forum.

Dr Akbar Ali Khan and Syed

Manzur Elahi, former advisers to the caretaker government, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Farida Akhter, executive director of Ubining (Policy Research for Development Alternatives) will feature in the panel.

S Dhanabalan, chairman of Temasek Holdings, Tan Gee Paw, chairman of Public Utilities Board, Eileen Goh, council member of The Institute of Banking and Finance, and Associate Professor Shapan Adnan of South Asian Studies Programme, NUS, will also take part in the discussion.

The forum will look at some key issues, including leadership and politics, culture, values and corruption, public-private partnerships and social development and the role of aid and governance.

Persons interested to attend the forum can download the registration form from LKYSPP's website at www.spp.nus.edu.sg or ISAS's website at www.isas.nus.edu.sg to register.

Frozen account holders can draw money for Eid, Durga Puja

UNB, Dhaka

The government will consider giving permission to the holders of frozen bank accounts to draw money from their accounts to meet their expenses in the upcoming Eid and Durga Puja festivals.

"The holders of the frozen accounts will have to apply to us stating their needs. We will give permission after considering everything," National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Badir Rahman said yesterday.

The caretaker government has so far frozen more than one hundred bank accounts of political leaders and businessmen as part of the ongoing anti-corruption drive.

According to the NBR, the government is considering this step on humanitarian grounds ahead of the two big religious festivals.

Suranjit likely to return home Oct 10

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League presidium member Suranjit Sengupta is likely to return home on Wednesday from USA via London after three months' tour abroad, party sources said.

Known as reformist leader in Awami League, Suranjit left the country on July 5 to see his ailing son Soumen Sengupta who is studying in Canada.

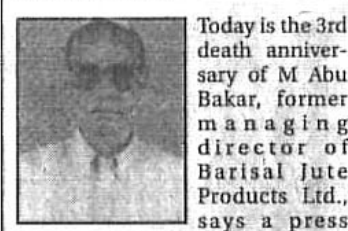
Comrade Farhad's death anniversary today

Today is the 20th death anniversary of Comrade Muhammad Farhad, former General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), says a press release.

On this occasion, a doa mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at his wife's residence (94/F, Azampur Colony) in the city.

His colleagues, political leaders, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the doa mahfil.

M Abu Bakar



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of M Abu Bakar, former managing director of Barisal Jute Products Ltd., says a press release.

Doa and milad mahfil will be held at his Uttara residence in the city after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the doa and milad mahfil.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Majeda Hamid, wife of former deputy secretary late Abdul Hamid and mother of Brig Gen Imrul Kayes, passed away due to cancer on October 6 at the age of 69, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She will be buried at Banani graveyard after arrival of her younger son from America.

Her quikhwani will be held on Wednesday after Asr prayers at her residence at Banani (Road-9, House-28/G/3C) in the city.



TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and on his right are Prof Nazrul Islam, Prof Faruk-Uzzaman and Rehana Salam.

CU Officers' Assoc president terminated

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) syndicate have terminated the president of the University Officers' Association and issued show cause notices on the deputy and assistant directors of the transport department on different charges.

The syndicate action was taken at its general meeting yesterday with CU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr M Alam in the chair.

Officers' Association President Mohammad Zakir Ahmed was terminated on charge of negligence in his duties and insubordination.

Deputy Director Mohammad Rabul Alam and Assistant Director Shahjan Rashid of the transport department were issued show cause notices for irregularities in repairing a car of the former vice-chancellor Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury.

Syndicate Member Prof Helal Uddin Nizami said following reports of two separate probe committees the syndicate found Zakir guilty.

"Rabul and Shahjan were issued show cause notices for their involvement in financial irregularities worth Tk 1 lakh in repairing the car at the directive of the then VC," he added.

Sreepur OC closed for filing false case

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Officer in charge (OC) of Sreepur Police Station in the district was closed to district police line yesterday for falsely implicating an innocent person in a robbery case.

OC Mohammad Humayun Kabir Sarkar has also been relieved of his duty.

Mohammad Alamgir Alam, superintendent of police (SP), took the action against Humayun. Alamgir said departmental case will also be filed against him.

Sources said several false robbery cases were filed with Sreepur Police Station in Gazipur and Valuka Police Station in Mymensingh against one Qamrul Islam of Kairadi village of Sreepur. The OCs of both the police stations filed the case against the said person in collaboration with a cheat who identified himself as major of the army.

On receiving allegation, Gazipur SP investigated the matter and took action against Humayun.

'Social agreement' between parties, people needed: JP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Party (Ershad) yesterday stressed the need for a 'social agreement' between the political parties and the people, which will help build a country free from corruption and poverty.

"In the last 35 years, the political parties who have run the country have failed to fulfil the dreams of the Liberation War martyrs and attain the people's economic emancipation. Now the changed scenario after 1/11 has brought an opportunity anew to fulfil those dreams, consolidate democracy and build a corruption-free country," JP Acting Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud said at an Iftar Party at the Trust Auditorium in the city.

The agreement should be on what the political parties would do to achieve economic emancipation, to ensure balanced distribution of resources and to increase employment opportunities; and the people's responsibilities in this regard, he said.

Anisul Islam also suggested that all political parties should work

together to resolve various national problems, as no single party can address all the problems.

Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed, Krishak Sramik Janata League chief Kader Siddiqui, Secretary General of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh Maj (retd) MA Mannan, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader ASM Abdur Rob and Bikalpa Dhara leader Mahi B Chowdhury attended the Iftar party. JP Chairman HM Ershad was also present.

Editors of different national dailies also attended the Iftar party.

Mild tremor jolts city

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Seismic Centre recorded a minor earthquake, measuring 2.9 on the Richter Scale, yesterday.

The tremor occurred at 08 hours 18 minutes 21 seconds and distance 204.9 kms from Agargaon, Dhaka Seismic Centre.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mymensingh and lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Kheupara.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:39pm today and rises at 5:53am 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	33.6	28.9	82	97
Chittagong	29.7	25.0	93	95
Rajshahi	33.8	27.3	80	80
Khulna	28.8	25.8	--	80
Barisal	26.0	24.0	100	100
Sylhet	35.2	27.8	74	73
Cox's Bazar	29.5	25.5	90	92



Commodore M I Hossain, Commodore Commanding Chittagong, sees off Sudan-bound Naval Contingent for UN Peacekeeping Mission at Chittagong International Airport yesterday.

AL to take part in polls after Hasina's release

FROM PAGE 16

AL president's Dhanmondi office in the capital, the AL acting general secretary demanded the lifting of countrywide ban on indoor politics and holding the next election at the earliest after lifting the state of emergency.

Ashraf assumed the position of acting general secretary as per the party's constitution when the party's general secretary Abdul Jalil and first joint general secretary Obaidul Quader were placed under detention by the government.

The third joint general secretary of the party, Mukul Bose, had been serving as the party's acting general secretary since July after Ashraf went abroad.

According to the constitution of AL, if the general secretary is absent, his functions and responsibilities shall be vested in the joint general secretary in order of their names.

Congratulating Chief Adviser

Fakhruddin Ahmed for his remarks that a non-elected government should not stay in power for long, Ashraf said the government should keep its pledge of holding the election as soon as possible.

The acting general secretary vowed to continue the party's legal battle for the release of Hasina and hoped that the legal and constitutional process will eventually ensure the release of the AL president.

Both Ashraf and Zillur Rahman, the acting president of AL, hailed from the same district of Kishoreganj and are known to be Hasina loyalists.

The countrymen have struggled and sacrificed immensely for democracy and for their democratic rights of franchise, Ashraf said adding that the people are now worried about the future of the country as their fundamental and basic rights remain suspended.

Ashraf said the current unusual situation could turn normal if the state of emergency is withdrawn. When the emergency is lifted, not only the politicians, but also the people from all professions would be able to resume their activities, he added.

The Central Working Committee of the party would decide on the future plans and activities of the party, said the acting general secretary.

The Swachhchasebak League and Krishak League yesterday handed over floral wreaths to Ashraf for his official resumption of duties as the acting general secretary of the party.

AL leaders Abdul Mannan, Abdul Mannan Khan, Dr Abdur Razzak, Mirza Abdul Jalil, Yafes Osman, BM Mojmamul Haque, Motaher Hossain Molla and Subhash Singh Roy, among others were present.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum organises a discussion on child rights. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will organise a discussion on the occasion of 20th death anniversary of Comrade Mohammad Farhad. Venue: CPB Head Office. Time: 3:00pm.

Expert meeting

Ten non-governmental organisations will jointly organise a daylong meeting of experts and practitioners titled 'Review of the interrelationship between macro-plan and micro realities'. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 9:00am.

Discussion

Sylhet Division Development Council will organise a discussion on role of Ramadan in building corruption free society. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.