

Alternative method can settle disputes quickly, cheaply

Says law adviser

BSS, Dhaka

Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain yesterday said the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system would help settle disputes quickly and cheaply through understanding between the groups.

He said the ADR process would help settle disputes through consensual method as no side would bear any grudge for not winning as this method is chosen voluntarily by the parties.

The adviser said this following a national consultation on alternative dispute resolution at a city hotel. The adviser addressed the consultation as the chief guest.

The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Bangladesh Legal Reform Project, funded by the Canadian government, jointly organised the consultation.

Chairman of the Law Commission and former chief justice of Bangladesh Justice Mustafa Kamal and Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Barbara Richardson addressed the function as special guests.

Additional Secretary of the Law Ministry SM Harun Osmani chaired the function. Project Director Ian Morrison spoke on the occasion and Dr Rana P Sattar made a presentation on findings from ADR report. Joint Secretary of

Law Ministry Nasreen Begum delivered the welcome address.

The law adviser said under the ADR method, there would be involvement of the court in finally resolving the disputes after both groups reach an understanding over the solution, and so the judges will make the verdict to give the solution a legal frame.

He, however, mentioned this is not a compulsory substitute for the normal dispute solution process by the court.

The adviser said everything should be done to ensure justice for all, both rich and poor, strong and weak, to help maintain peace and progress of the country.

He underlined the need for initiating more motivational works for the new method of dispute resolution and urged lawyers to come forward strongly in favour of the ADR process.

The adviser said judicial separation from November 1 would help the judiciary dispense justice uninterrupted by executive works and without interference of the executive organ of the government. Now, the judiciary takes the responsibility of doing justice to people exclusively as their full-time commitment.

"This is a major step along with others that must be taken to make the judicial system easy, speedy, just and less costly," he said.

Replying to a question, the

adviser told reporters that the government has to formulate some laws to adjust between the executive and judiciary and everything would be done with the approval of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court will examine the laws before it approves, he said. He also differed with the reports of some newspapers of making any consultation with the Chief Justice on these matters.

The adviser said the present government wants to separate judiciary through understanding among all concerned. It is a big task that was not possible in the last 36 years, he said and sought cooperation of all including the media.

Judicial separation is a constitutional obligation and the government is doing it, he said adding that the government should make necessary adjustment with the executive for making judicial separation successful and all should accept that.

Mentioning the distinction between the justice of court and that of the administration, the adviser said the executive magistrates operate mobile courts, traffic police charges fine for wrong car parking but judges do not do it as their jobs are separate.

Some measures taken to keep executive run properly would not hamper judicial separation, Mainul said adding the present caretaker government is working,

courageously and sincerely to separate judiciary and so it would not want hamper the process.

The objective of judicial separation is to make the administration stronger and more active, the law adviser said, adding that for this, there is an understanding between the judiciary and the executive.

The adviser stressed the need for establishment of a separate secretariat for the judiciary and said the judges would give verdicts and rulings and so there will be no scope of interference of the government.

Law Commission Chairman Justice Mustafa Kamal said alternative dispute resolution is not a substitute for formal adjudication of dispute by the courts rather it is an alternative to a more speedy and less expensive mode of settlement of dispute.

He said ADR is a court-sponsored alternative dispute resolution mechanism functioning within the formal judicial system and it is a modern phenomenon. It is not a compulsory method of settlement but a voluntary and willing way out of the impasse.

Bangladesh, like India and Pakistan, has been obliged by circumstances to give ADR the recognition it deserves, a place in the formal judicial system, by amending respective Codes of Civil Procedure, he added.



Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Col (retd) Oli Ahmed speaks at a discussion at Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city yesterday. LDP organised the discussion to mark its first founding anniversary.

History speaks up

FROM PAGE 1
we will be deprived of the real history."

The war criminals have dared to make the audacious claim thanks to years of indifference to the demand for action against them, many observed.

Jamaat's active role against the independence has been documented in different publications including those by Jamaat itself during the war in 1971.

Thousands of people still bear the scars of war crimes by Jamaat-e-Islami and their student front Islami Chhatra Shangha (now known as Islami Chhatra Shibir), and some other groups such as Muslim League and Nizam-e-Islami.

The incumbent Jamaat secretary general on Thursday told reporters, "In fact, anti-liberation forces never even existed."

At a rally in observance of 'Badr Day' on November 7, 1971, Mojaheed, who was president of East Pakistan Islami Chhatra Shangha, came up with a four-point programme that included 'wiping Hindustan off the face of the earth'.

He said, "Move forward with your head held high and with the Quran in heart to materialise the programme. If necessary we will march up to New Delhi and fly the flag of greater Pakistan."

Nizam's predecessor former Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Golam Azam was the brains behind Jamaat's anti-liberation efforts. Statements that Golam Azam had made in different publications show how instrumental he was in Jamaat's mission to thwart the independence movement and in helping the Pakistan army to commit massacres and other war crimes.

Golam Azam had held several meetings with the then Pakistani military ruler Yahia Khan, other policymakers including governors and politicians to streamline the campaign to resist the liberation forces.

A photograph of the meeting held to form 'Peace Committee', which helped the occupying forces in committing genocides, shows Golam Azam with Pakistani leaders and military personnel. Immediately after independence he fled to Pakistan and returned after the brutal killings of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family in 1975.

In 1981, people threw shoes at him when he went to attend a namaz-e-janaza at Baitul Mukarram.

A total of three million people were killed and at least a quarter million women were violated during the nine months of war. Despite public demand for punishment to the war criminals and collaborators, successive governments did nothing to that end.

Only the government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took some initiatives to try the war criminals. In January, 1972, Bangabandhu had formulated the Collaborators

The committee assigned by the information ministry on behalf of the Bangladesh government has compiled and published documentary evidence of the Liberation War in 15 parts.

Anisuzzaman said, "Al Badr and Al Shams (both the organisations collaborated with the occupation force) were formed following the initiative of Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Shangha. There is no room for doubt that they had killed many of our sons of soil including intellectuals."

Ironically, the 1971 publications of The Daily Sangram, a newspaper known as the mouthpiece of Jamaat-e-Islami, carry enough evidence to expose Jamaat's anti-liberation role.

Study of history reveals that 'Razakars' would organise drives against the freedom fighters, oppress their families and carry out arson while the 'Badr Bahini' would hunt down the people seeking freedom and kill them.

The 'Badr Bahini' also organised seminars and distributed pamphlets in futile attempts to make Bangalis "believe in ideals of

Pakistan and Islami philosophy of life from cultural and political viewpoint."

The September 8, 1971 issue of the Daily Sangram carried a news item headlined "Chhatra Shangha activists will protect each inch of Pakistan's land".

Matu Rahman Nizami, the incumbent Amir of Jamaat and the then president of Shangha, said that Islami Chhatra Shangha activists were pledged to protect every inch of Pakistan. They were even ready to attack the mainland Hindustan (India) to protect united Pakistan, the report read.

Another issue of the Sangram published on September 15 quoted Nizami, who was also the commander-in-chief of Al Badr then, as saying, "Every one of us should assume the role of a soldier of an Islamic country. With assistance of the poor and the oppressed, we must kill those who are engaged in war against Pakistan and Islam."

The same newspaper on the third page of its September 16 issue ran another item headlined "No force on earth will be able to destroy Pakistan." In the news report Nizami called on the people to face conspiracy of the so-called 'Banga Daradi' (Lover of Bengal).

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Act to try the collaborators and war criminals. The Act covers those individuals or organisations, who helped the Pakistani army in mass killings, conducted crimes against humanity, unleashed torture on men, women and children, destroyed property, or fought against the People's Republic of Bangladesh siding with the occupying forces. It also explained how 11 tribunals would be set up to punish them.

There is a view prevalent among a section of people that asking for trial of war criminals is irrelevant as the Awami League government had granted a general amnesty for all. This was said time and again that none pardoned Pakistani war criminals.

The Collaborators Act that was published in a gazette notification on November 30, 1973 however says none of the war criminals had been pardoned. The same was true for Golam Azam.

Section two of the Act said, "Those who were punished for or accused of rape, murder, attempt to murder or arson will not come under general amnesty under the section one."

Out of 37,900 sent to jail on charges of collaboration, some 26,000 were freed after announcement of the general amnesty.

Around 11,000 were still in the prison when the government of Justice Sayem and General Zia repealed the Collaboration Act on December 31, 1975. After the scrapping, those behind bars for war atrocities appealed and eventually got released.

In the early 90s, a mother of martyrs, Jahanara Imam, launched a movement for trial of war criminals. Though it won overwhelming public support none of the governments had bothered to take notice of it.

At that time, the People's Inquiry Commission was formed to investigate the activities of the war criminals and the collaborators.

Led by eminent poet Sufia Kamal, the commission comprised renowned academics, litterateurs and other professionals. On March 26, 1994, it unveiled accounts of the war crimes committed by 16 persons.

The war criminals are former acting amir of Jamaat Abbas Ali Khan, Matu Rahman Nizami, senior assistance secretary general of Jamaat Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim, Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, Maulana Abdul Mannan, Anwar Zahid, Abdul Kader Molla, ASM Solaiman, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Maulana Abdus Sobhan, Maulana AKM Yousuf, Mohammad Ayen Ud Din, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, ABM Khaleq Majumder and Dr Sayed Sajjad Hossain.

4 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in Gaibandha, Sathira and Sirajganj in the last two days.

Our Correspondent in Gaibandha adds: A man was killed and three pedestrians injured in a road accident at Fasitola on Bogra-Rangpur highway yesterday.

Police and witnesses said a speeding minibus knocked Nizamuddin, 40, of village Fasitola under Gobindaganj upazila, down while he was crossing the highway. The bus also injured three pedestrians while fleeing away.

Our Correspondent in Sathira reports: Two people were killed in separate road accidents at Debhata in the district on Thursday.

The victims were identified as Abul Hossain, 58, elder brother of Emadul Haque, a valiant freedom fighter, of village Kulia and Milon, 20, son of Shahjahan of village Parulia.

Quoting local people police said, a Sathira-bound pickup hit Abul Hossain while he was going to Kulia Bazar on a bicycle on Sathira-Kaliganj highway on Thursday evening, leaving Abul Hossain seriously injured.

He was rushed to Sakhipur hospital. Later, he succumbed to his injuries on way to Khulna Hospital the same night.

In another incident, a sand-laden truck hit Milon on Sathira-Kaliganj road while he was returning home from Parulia Bazar at about 10:00pm.

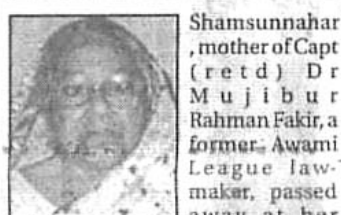
Seriously injured Milon was rushed to Sakhipur hospital and later shifted to Khulna hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at about 2:30am early Saturday.

Our Correspondent in Sirajganj adds: An elderly man was killed in a road accident on Hatikmural-Bongara highway at Horinchura in Sirajganj on Thursday.

The victim has been identified as Nowzes Ali, 65, of Tarash in the district. Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound speeding bus from Natore knocked him down while he was crossing the road.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh



Shamsunnahar, mother of Dr (retd) Mujibur Rahman, a former Awami League lawmaker, passed away at her residence in Madrasa Quarters area in the town yesterday at the age of 84.

Shamsunnahar, a social worker, left behind four sons, six daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Her Namaz-e-janaza will be held on the premises of Nasirabad Collegiate School after Zohr prayers today and she will be buried at Madrasa Quarters graveyard.

Mohammad Azim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

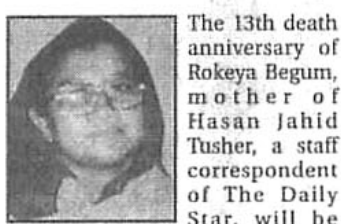


Mohammad Azim, a language movement veteran, passed away at Bardwan at the age of 73, says a press release.

Azim, popularly known as Kachi Bhai, was a commissioner of Rangpur Pourashava during 1963-69.

He was also a singer, lyricist and composer and made significant contribution to the cultural arena.

Death anniversary

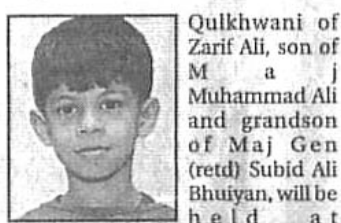


The 13th death anniversary of Rokeya Begum, mother of Hasan Jahid Tusher, a staff correspondent of The Daily Star, will be observed today, says a press release.

Rokeya, wife of Miah Md Abdur Razzaque, a retired government officer, passed away on this day in 1994. She left behind her husband, four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers.

Family members of the deceased have requested the relatives and admirers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Zarif Ali, son of Muhammad Ali and grandson of Maj Gen (retd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan, will be held at Mohakhali DOHS Jame Mosque after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Zarif died in a road accident on October 22. He was buried at his family graveyard at Juranpur in Daudkandi, Comilla.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani.



Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rescued Amit Hasan, middle, who was kidnapped on October 21. His parents break down when Rab handed over Amit to them at the office of Rab-3 in the city yesterday.

New anti-HIV drug 'promising'

AFP, PARIS

A prototype drug, tested on lab-dish samples of the AIDS virus, has shown great promise in attacking HIV from an unprecedented direction, French researchers reported yesterday.

The drug inhibits the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) at a key point -- when it uses the hijacked machinery of an infected immune cell to reassemble its genetic code.

This process, called splicing, joins together sections of viral code to form pre-messenger RNA, which is a precursor for messenger RNA (mRNA).

This molecule provides the blueprint for cranking out viral proteins and enzymes which are essential for replication.

Once these are created, baby viruses can be reproduced en masse within the cell, eventually breaking out and heading into the bloodstream, where they go on to infect other cells.

The scientist found that a test molecule, called IDC16, interferes with a human splicing protein called SF2/ASF that is used to do the pre-messenger RNA cut-and-paste.

As a result, the reproduction process was braked at the start.

In lab-dish tests, IDC16 blocked replication of different strains of HIV-1, including samples from patients who are resistant to the famous 'cocktail' -- combination therapy -- of anti-HIV drugs.

The paper appears in the US open-access journal Public Library of Science (PLOS) Pathogens.

In a press release, France's National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), which is backing the project, said IDC16 was "extremely promising."

The 'cocktail', first introduced in 1995, has been a lifeline for millions of people by attacking the protein gp120, which is on the surface of the virus, and enzymes that are used in other phases of the replication process.

The problem, though, is that HIV mutates, making these pro-

teins a shifting target for drug engineers.

The authors, led by Jamal Tazi of the Institute of Molecular Genetics in Montpellier, are confident that IDC16 throws up a way of sidestepping mutation.

"Instead of attacking the components brought along by the virus, we use the machinery that it uses in the cell," Tazi told AFP.

By aiming at splicing, other viruses could be targeted, Tazi added.

Discussion
Bangladesh-Kashmir Brotherhood Council organises a discussion on human rights violation in Kashmir. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

View exchange
Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance organises a view exchange meeting on the occasion of its 8th founding anniversary. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) will hold a discussion on various issues on WTO with newly appointed representative in Geneva Mission Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya. Venue: FBCCI building. Time: 11:00am.

Founding anniversary
Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum will celebrate its 15th founding anniversary. Venue: Shawkat Osman auditorium, Public Library. Time: 10:00am.

View exchange
Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC) organises a view exchange meeting to mark the World Rural Women Day. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion meeting
Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity will organise a discussion meeting on current situation on pharmaceuticals. Venue: Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity office. Time: 1:00pm.

Art exhibition
An art exhibition of six eminent artists of the country will be inaugurated. It will remain open till November 10. Venue: Gallery Chittrak, Dhanmondi. Time: 10:00am.

Publication ceremony
Adorn Publication organises a publication ceremony of essay collections of expatriate social thinker Dewan Shamsul Arefin. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central
The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka North West
The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 7:00pm.

Reunion
A reunion of leaders and activists of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will be held on the run-up to its 35th founding anniversary. Venue: Hotel Imperia convention centre. Time: 4:00pm.

Celebration
A celebration of Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering of BUET will be held to mark the 60th years of engineering education in Bangladesh. Venue: BUET. Time: 9:30am.

Reunion
Eid reunion of MBA 5th batch of IBA will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) conference room. Time: 3:00pm.

Kidnapped boy rescued in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) claimed to have rescued a teenager who was kidnapped in the city on October 21.

Amit Hasan Khan Raza, 13, son of Waliullah Khan of West Rampura, was kidnapped in the morning when he went outside his house.

Rab also arrested three kidnappers identified as Atikur Rahman Channu, Mohammad, Tuhin and Sabbir Ahmad on the same day.

The kidnappers demanded Tk 10 lakh in ransom over cell phone to free the boy.

The guardians informed the Rab about the incident with a list of suspects including Channu.

Rab arrested the three following the complaint.

Channu confessed to his involvement in the kidnapping and named the other two who were arrested later following his statement.

They informed that the boy was kept in Joydevpur under the custody of Shahin and Saikat.

As Rab initiated a drive in Gazipur, the kidnappers freed the boy leaving him in front of his house on Thursday night.

Police service delivery centre opens in Narsingdi

A Police Service Delivery Centre opened at the Narsingdi Sadar Model Police Station on Thursday with an emphasis on friendly community-police relations based on mutual understanding, trust and cooperation to prevent crime, says a press release.

At the same time, a 'Police Open Day' has been organised at the Model Police Station, which will be a regular event for the police station involving the local people. The aim of the Day is to facilitate interaction, foster partnership between people and police and to ensure community involvement in the process.

Narsingdi Sadar Model Police Station is one of the model police stations under the Police Reform Programme (PRP) of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Service Delivery Centre aims at providing better and community-friendly services to the people.

In cooperation with the Narsingdi District Police Administration, the PRP has organised the inaugural ceremony of the Service Delivery Centre and the Police Open Day.

NBK Tripura, NDC, additional inspector general (AIG) and national project director, Police Reform Programme, inaugurated the Service Delivery Centre.

Md Nazmul Haque, PPM, DIG, Dhaka Range, Larry Maramis, deputy country director, UNDP Bangladesh and Hubert Staberhofer, programme manager, Police Reform Programme, also spoke on the occasion. Narsingdi Police Super Md Shahabuddin Khan chaired the function.

In a recent survey conducted by the PRP, the overwhelming majority of the respondents (82-83%) under 11 model police stations have mentioned that people report to police mainly when the crime committed is a life-threatening one, and not in 'ordinary' crime cases.

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest of 17.7 degrees at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:23pm today and rises at 06:02am tomorrow.

The 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	31.5	19.5	58	64
Chittagong	30.5	20.5	76	64
Rajshahi	31.8	21.0	87	--
Khulna	31.6	21.2	83	85
Barisal	31.3	19.6	75	82
Sylhet	31.7	19.7	61	73
Cox's Bazar	32.1	22.2	63	73