

OCTOBER VIOLENCE

Case against Jamaat remains stalled, while case against 14-party under probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The case filed by Workers' Party of Bangladesh against Jamaat-e-Islami in connection with the violence of October 28, 2006 remains stalled following an order of the High Court, while the case against the leaders and workers of 14-party alliance is under investigation.

Prior to the takeover of power by the caretaker government on October 28, five people were killed in a fierce clash between the activists of AL-led 14-party coalition and Jamaat-e-Islami in Paltan area.

Following the killings, Jamaat quickly started propaganda to mislead people and foreign diplomats by printing and pasting different cooked-up pictures in the city and sending video footages to foreign missions and Bangladeshis living abroad to achieve political gain.

A day later Workers' Party and Jamaat filed separate cases in connection with the same incident with Paltan Police Station.

On April 11, police submitted charge sheets in both the cases accusing 46 leaders and workers of 14-party alliance including Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina and 10 Jamaat leaders and activists including Jamaat Chief Matru Rahman Nizami of committing murder and other serious offences during the street demonstrations.

In the case filed by Jamaat immediately after the incident, the name of Hasina was not mentioned. However, police added her name later.

A court in Dhaka on April 22 issued arrest warrants against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Mohammad Nasim and another AL

activist Kiron alias Abdul Malek after accepting the charge sheet of Paltan killing case.

The same court also accepted the charge sheet submitted against Jamaat-e-Islami Chief Matru Rahman Nizami and nine others for killing a Workers' Party activist.

The next day a Dhaka court suspended the operation of the arrest warrants against Hasina and two others and ordered for further investigation of the case following a petition.

Meanwhile, the case against Jamaat leaders and workers was shifted to Metropolitan Sessions Judge's court for trial.

Later, Jamaat leaders and workers filed a criminal revision petition with the High Court seeking trial of

both the cases concurrently as the cases were filed at the same time.

Following the petition, the HC issued an order saying that the trial of the case will remain stayed until the further investigation report of the other case is submitted.

On October 28, Dhaka turned into a fierce battlefield with thousands of 14-party workers clashing with Jamaat supporters at Paltan leaving five people killed.

The dead were Awami League activist Monir Hossain, Russell Ahmed Khan, Khilgaon thana Joint Secretary of Jubo Moitri and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists Mohammad Mujahid, Saifullah Mohammad Masum and Jasim Uddin.

Three more held with Yaba tablets in old Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

The law enforcers arrested three more people, including a girl, along with Yaba tablets in Old Dhaka last night.

The arrestees are Ahsan Kabir, 30, Monir, 28, and Nasima Hossain Deeba, 25.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of DB police raided a flat of Anwar Tower at A/10 Kotwali and arrested them with 60 sex-stimulating Yaba tablets.

DB sources said Deeba confessed that she was one of the girlfriends of detained Amin Huda, nephew of business tycoon Aziz Mohammad Bhai.

The drive against the drug peddlers was going on until the filing of this report at 9:30pm.

With the three, 20 people have so far been arrested in the anti-drug drive in the capital.

Kobadak floods five Satkhira villages again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Fresh flood inundated five villages in Pratapnagar union under Assasuni upazila as the reconstructed embankment of Kobadak river at Nakna breached again Friday night within a month.

The villages were flooded earlier when following the embankment collapsed at Nakna on September 28 due to heavy pressure of water.

Local people, joined by army personnel with assistance from the local administration reconstructed the collapsed embankment on October 4.

The fresh flood submerged Aman crops on about 1500 acres of land and washed away shrimps from 156 farms, officials said.

The affected villages are Nakna, Shirsha, Kurikahunia, Sonatankati and Gahalkati.

Satkhira Water Development Board (WDB) executive engineer Mujibar Rahman told this correspondent that Tk 7 lakh was sanctioned for reconstruction of the embankment and the work is going on.

BNP union bid

FROM PAGE 1

Expelled party secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and his associates are now trying to find various ways to return to the party, Delwar claimed yesterday.

"They will not be able to get back through byways. If they really want to return, they must follow the BNP constitution," he told reporters.

On the other hand, Bhuiyan has clarified his stance on the appointment of Delwar as BNP secretary general by Khaleda on September 2 following his expulsion.

In reply to a question, Bhuiyan said he has been expelled in an undemocratic way and that is why he does not accept the expulsion.

Some senior leaders who are working with Bhuiyan for party reforms said it is not possible to strengthen the party keeping Delwar in his present post.

"They have expressed frustration over the latest situation concerning party unity and are now searching for options to overcome this," said one leader.

"It is difficult to predict how much time it will take to bridge the gap. Only time will say," a BNP standing committee member said yesterday on condition of anonymity.

Asked why they failed to sit for unity talks on Friday, the committee member who is a former minister, said the luncheon meeting could not be held as many of those concerned did not want to attend it. Leaders working for party unity will speak openly about the outcome in time, he added.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, another standing committee member said they have moved for party unity much before the scheduled time for electoral reforms talks with the Election Commission (EC) so that a united BNP can join the talks. "But the situation is getting complicated, and possibility of removing the discord soon is slim unless any miracle happens," he said.

The BNP is scheduled to sit with the EC for electoral reforms talks on November 22. The EC as per its decision will send invitation to the BNP secretary general at least 15 days before the timetable, asking him to send a party delegation for the talks.

But the EC is yet to announce whether Bhuiyan or Delwar will get the invitation.

In reply to a question, a senior BNP leader, who has been working for unity and reforms in the party, said he believes Delwar will not get the EC's invitation. "Many things can happen in next one week," he added.



The Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum yesterday honoured three personalities and conferred life membership on three others at a programme marking its 15th founding anniversary in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Dr Ashraf Siddiqi, ASM Abdul Halim, Saiful Bari, Nirmalendu Goon and Ahmad Ali Rupai. Standing from left are M Hamid, SM Mohsin, Shamim Ara Nipa, Mahmud Sazzad, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya and Rashedul Hasan Shelly.

MYMENSINGH CULTURAL FORUM CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Call to uphold, enrich culture and heritage

Three personalities honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum yesterday honoured economists Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya and Anu Muhammad and The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam for their outstanding contribution to society and culture.

At a daylong programme celebrating its 15th founding anniversary, the Forum also conferred life membership on dance artiste Shamim Ara Nipa, actor SM Mohsin and the famed 'Rupai' character in 'Nakshi Kathar Math' Ahmad Ali Rupai.

The organisers presented crests to the six personalities at Shawkat Osman Auditorium of the Central Public Library in the city.

Noted litterateur and researcher Dr Ashraf Siddiqi inaugurated the celebrations, with Forum Chairman ASM Abdul Halim in the chair.

Mentioning the negative impact of foreign satellite culture on the young generation, Chief Adviser to

ATN Bangla Saiful Bari, who was present as the chief guest, said it is high time to take the country's culture forward.

The media, especially the television channels, should take cautious steps in this regard to protect the future generations from the influence of alien culture, he said.

Expressing his gratitude for the award, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, who was recently appointed permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN in Geneva, said, "This award makes me feel that I now have a bigger social duty."

Speaking on the occasion, Mahfuz Anam stressed the need for upholding and enriching the culture and heritage of the country.

Lauding the activities of Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum, he also stressed the need to honour people for their contribution to society and culture. "Their successes boost our confidence and encourage us to move forward."

The Forum leaders demanded that four dormitories of Kabi Nazrul University at Trishal be named after Shilapacharya Zainul Abedin, renowned litterateur, journalist and statesman of the sub-continent Abul Mansur Ahmad, Chandrabati and Hasan Hafizur Rahman, and the Science Bhawan be named after Osman Gani in recognition of their outstanding contribution.

Group Theatre Federation President M Hamid, Principal Hamida Ali, poet Nirmalendu Goon, Prof Golam Rahman and Prof Khondoker Ashraf Hossain of Dhaka University, artiste Mohammad Ali Siddiqi and Forum general secretary Rashedul Hasan Shelly also spoke.

Earlier, a painting competition for children and a go-together of senior and junior artists were held.

At the concluding session, Bahubachan Theatre staged a drama titled 'Prem Bara Kobiraj', the translated version of 'Love is the best doctor' by Moliere.

Naser wins Nehemiah Award



Naser Ahmed, director, External Affairs, Chevron Bangladesh, has been awarded '2007 Nehemiah Award' by the International Board of Director (IBOD) of Habitat for Humanity International, Asia Pacific region, says a press release.

The award was conferred on him for his volunteer services and support for Habitat initiatives in the country. Ahmed will receive a plaque of appreciation and US\$ 10,000.

Habitat for Humanity (HFH), an international non-government organisation, works for low-income families who would not otherwise be able to afford housing.

Chevron has been supporting Habitat for Humanity International-Bangladesh for the last six years through volunteer services and financial contributions. Chevron employees have directly participated in building houses alongside Habitat volunteers in different projects during this period.

Death anniversary



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Serajul Huq, an eminent lawyer and Awami League leader, says a press release. He was one of the organisers of the Liberation War.

Huq, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, was a member of the constituent assembly (1972) and the first parliament of Bangladesh and the Constitution Drafting Committee.

He was a member of the presidium of Awami League (1987-1991). A former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Advocate Huq was the chief prosecutor for war crimes tribunal and the chief prosecutor of Bangabandhu murder case and the jail killing case.

The family of the deceased has requested relatives, admirers and the colleagues to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Abul Bashir



Today is the second death anniversary of Abul Bashir, a noted journalist, says a press release. On the occasion, Quurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Godighar Jame Mosque at Rayerbazar in Dhaka after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Meherun Nahar



Today is the first death anniversary of Meherun Nahar, wife of Md Mahbubur Rahman, a staff of Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quurankhwani and distribution of food have been arranged at Munsurbagh Miftahul Ulum Madrasa and Orphanage at Ashulia.



Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda addresses the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward commissioners at Nagar Bhavan in the city yesterday. On his left is Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

DNA tests to help curb violence against women

Speakers tell Sylhet workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a workshop here yesterday said violence against women is a social vice, which can be controlled by creating awareness and punishing the culprits.

DNA test laboratories set up in all the public medical college hospitals in the country can play a great role in trial and punishment of the culprits, they said at the workshop on Multi Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women.

Rokeya Sultana, Secretary, ministry of women affairs, was the chief guest at the workshop attended by over 200 physicians, lawyers, NGO activists, government officials and journalists.

Senior advisor of the project Dr. Karen Ellen Spannow, Project Director Dr. Abul Hossain, Prof Sharif Akhtaruzzaman of the University and Dr. Syed Mahmud Hasan of the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College also spoke at the inaugural session chaired by Sylhet Deputy commissioner Harun Ur Rashid Khan.

Osmani Medical College Principal Prof Rezau Karim and its director Brig Gen Sha-E-Alam also attended the programme.

Dowry, illiteracy, early marriage and dependence of women on their husbands are the main reasons behind violence against women, Sultana said.

More than 60 per cent of women have their first child before they are 18, she said.

It is not possible to improve the situation without changing the mentality of people, she added.

DNA testing facility is a unique addition to our existing facilities to curb crimes against women and disposal of cases, she said.

The workshop was told that a central cell is working in the minis-

try to combat violence against women (VAW). It receives allegations of such violence and takes follow up remedial and legal measures through proper authorities. An inter-ministerial also monitors activities VAW cell.

The Multi Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women of the ministry is being jointly implemented by the government with assistance from Denmark.

DNA testing laboratory was set up at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital last year.

Among seven DNA tests during July-September this year at public medical college hospitals at divisional headquarters, four were done in Sylhet, they said.

The fee for DNA analysis is Tk 5,000 per sample. However, the test is free at one stop crisis centers (OCCs) at public medical college hospitals, the speakers said.

The number of complainants to OCCs increased by 62 per cent following media campaign, they said.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Highest temperature 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 17.3 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:23pm today and rises at 6:03am 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	30.7	20.5	62	62
Chittagong	30.2	21.5	73	64
Rajshahi	31.0	21.1	80	88
Khulna	32.0	21.5	78	88
Barisal	31.7	18.7	75	91
Sylhet	31.3	17.3	51	67
Cox's Bazar	32.5	22.4	71	67