

Ensure security of judicial magistrates at dist level

Chief justice urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin yesterday said the government should enhance the salary of subordinate court judges and ensure logistic supports to make the dispensation of justice effective.

"If these are not ensured, separation of the judiciary from the executive control would bring no welfare for the nation," he observed at the 57th annual conference of Bangladesh Judicial Service Association at the Osmani Memorial Hall.

The chief justice also urged the government to ensure security of

the judicial magistrates working at the district level.

He said, "If we could ensure better facilities with adequate logistic supports, the judges would be able to discharge their responsibilities accordingly protecting the rights and overall welfare of the people."

Responding to skepticism by critics about the separation of the judiciary, chief justice said the criticism against judicial magistrates' efficiency and capability proved wrong.

He said the people who are already getting justice at the grassroots level would further enjoy the

benefits of the separation in next few months when more magistrates would be appointed.

About the demand for extending the retirement age of subordinate court judges, he supported the demand, saying that the judicial service should not be compared with officials of other wings of the executive.

However, chief justice asked the judges to discharge their responsibilities maintaining cent percent integrity and impartiality to restore the confidence of the people in the judiciary.

Chaired by AKM Ishtiaque Hossain, president of the

Association and Dhaka District and Sessions judge, the function was addressed, among others by Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain, acting Law Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal and Supreme Court Registrar Ikhtedat Ahmed.

Earlier, a 31-member nominated committee of the association with AKM Ishtiaque Hossain as president and Faruq Ahmed as secretary general was declared for the next term.

The election to the association could not be held, as the government did not permit them to hold the annual poll on the plea of the state of emergency.

Redwan shown arrested under EPR, sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former state minister for Liberation War Affairs Redwan Ahmed to jail after Shahbagh police produced him before the court showing him arrested under section 16(2) of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ehsanul Haque passed the order when Sub-Inspector Akhter Morshed of Shahbagh Police Station, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced Redwan before the court.

In his forwarding report, Morshed mentioned that Redwan was arrested in front of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) gate while he was delivering a speech after his release on bail.

Moreover, a group of his party members was chanting slogans in favour of the party in violation of EPR. So, he needs to be put in jail until the completion of the investigation, the IO said.

On the other hand, defence lawyers submitted two petitions urging first class division for him in jail and his proper treatment.

After the hearing, the court gave an order to send Redwan to jail and asked the jail authorities to give him division in jail and ensure his proper treatment.

Shahbagh police arrested Redwan soon after his release from the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on Friday evening.

Redwan was first arrested at his Baridhara residence in the city on June 26 under Section 16(2) of the EPR. He was later shifted from Dhaka Central Jail to the Prison Cell of the BSMMU due to heart ailments.

Redwan was also accused in several other cases and granted bails in these cases.



Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khandaker speaks at a press conference at Billa auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is Prof Kabir Chowdhury. Sector Commanders' Forum organised the press conference. (Story on Page 1)

Birth anniversary of Novera Deepita tomorrow

The birth anniversary of Novera Deepita, a reporter of The Daily Star, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

Novera, a gold medal winning student of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University, has left marks of her brilliance in each examination in her student life.

She passed away on July 27 in 2006 leaving behind three brothers and sister, mother, father and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers.

Novera was born on December 31 in 1974. To observe her birth anniversary, family members and Novera Deepita Memorial Trust have taken up several programmes, including offering prayers at her grave, milad mahfil at an orphanage and a doa mahfil.



Dr Akbar Ali Khan speaks at a roundtable at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Mohsin Ali and Dr Quazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad.

Hold zila, UZ, parliamentary polls simultaneously

Says Dr Akbar Ali Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elections to zila and upazila parishads should be held simultaneously with the parliamentary elections, Chairman of Regulatory Reforms Committee Dr Akbar Ali Khan said yesterday.

"Questions would be raised and various problems would appear in the political process if zila and upazila parishad elections are held before the parliamentary elections," he added.

Dr Akbar, a former adviser to the caretaker government, made this observation at a roundtable titled 'Review of the recommendations of the committee to strengthen local government and responsibilities' at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Governance Coalition and 27 other organisations jointly organised the roundtable.

Opposing the Election Commission's (EC) proposal that political leaders holding party posts will have to resign before contesting the elections to any local government body, Dr Akbar said it is not possible for the members of local government bodies to sever ties with politics.

The local government is the first tier of democracy, he said, adding that it is not possible to build a stable democracy without strengthening the local government.

He also said the government should give the people a clear idea of how the election to the local government bodies will be held.

"Strengthening the local government is an ongoing process and we all have to carry it on," he added.

Dr Quazi Kholiqzaman

Ahmad, president of Bangladesh Economic Association, said devolution of power to the local government, adequate funds for it and participation of all in the local government system are a must to strengthen the local government institutions.

He also said a part of the national budget should be allocated for the local government.

Abdus Sukur, national project coordinator of Governance Coalition, presented a keynote paper at the roundtable moderated by Mohsin Ali, coordinator of the Governance Coalition.

Prof Dr Akter Hossain, Prof Dr Jarina Rahman Khan, Kartik Chandra Mandal, coordinator, governance, Manusher Jonno Foundation, and Numan Ahmed Khan also spoke.

British minister optimistic about election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

British Transport Minister J Fitzpatrick has said they are optimistic about the next national election in Bangladesh, since the authorities have taken up some measures towards a democratic process.

He said this while talking to newsmen at a hotel in Sylhet yesterday.

Fitzpatrick said there had been a longstanding relations between the UK and Bangladesh. The members of the Bangladeshi community in the UK had been playing a unique role there. Many of those are well-placed in different sectors. They are making significant contribution to boost the UK economy for ages. The bilateral relations will be further strengthened in the future, he added.

The UK has extended support to the present administration, he said. Later, he also addressed a reception ceremony at the city's Madan Mohan College.



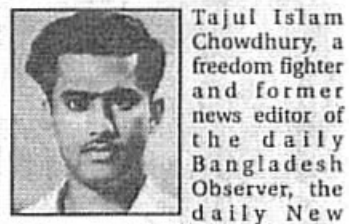
Kashem Jamal new president of N'ganj Club

Kashem Jamal, vice-president of BKMEA, has been elected president of Narayanganj Club on Friday, says a press release.

He bagged 598 votes while his rival Anwar Hossain Anugot 300 votes.

Khaza Ahsanullah was elected senior vice-president and Akbar Hossain Tatu vice-president. Other elected members of the executive committee are Delwar Hossain, Wasiddin, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Rashiduzzaman, Kamruzzaman Khokon, Iqbal Habib, SM Salauddin and Tamizuddin Rizvi.

Obituary



Tajul Islam Chowdhury, a freedom fighter and former news editor of the daily Bangladesh Observer, the daily New Nation, the daily Morning Sun and the daily Khalid Times (Abu Dhabi), passed away due to prolonged illness at Dallas in USA on Friday night, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, a son, two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death. He was buried at Dallas.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam
BSS, Dhaka

Sheikh Shahidul Islam, a journalist of The Bangladesh Observer, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Apollo Hospitals in the city on Friday night at the age of 60.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Sheikh Shahidul, chief editing assistant of the English daily, was an active worker of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).

DUJ President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Omar Faruque have expressed deep shock at his death.

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop

Multi Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs organises a workshop on use of DNA technology in justice system. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Convocation

The 3rd convocation of Brac University will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:30am.

Talk

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies organises a talk on 'Trends in Asian terrorism'. Venue: Hotel Lake Castle. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Gaurab Muktiyudha Sangathan organises a discussion on role of the media in Liberation War. Venue: Public Library Auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

Conference

Department Mechanical Engineering of BUET organises a three-day 7th international conference on mechanical engineering. Venue: Council Bhaban, BUET. Time: 9:00am.



Participants in a citizens' memorial meeting observe one minute's silence in memory of Language Movement veteran and poet Mahbub ul Alam Chowdhury at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

Religious leaders can play role of change makers

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The religious leaders can play the role of change makers and with the institutional support they can also work for preventing women repression in the society, speakers at a workshop said yesterday.

At the workshop titled 'Role of religious leaders in preventing repression on women', the speakers also said it is pitiable that a group of people always try to use religion as a tool to oppress women.

Even wrong explanation of religious maxims encourages unjust activities. So it is very much important to teach people what is right and what is wrong according to the religion by giving accurate explanation of religious maxims, said Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geetara Safiya Choudhury while speaking at the special guest.

Women and children affairs ministry organised the workshop at city's Biam auditorium under its 'Multi sectoral programme to resist women repression' to boost the advocacy campaign. Around 600 religious leaders across the country took part at the workshop.

Speaking as the chief guest, Health Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) ASM Matur Rahman said the religious maxims related to women should be explained accurately and should be publicised distinctly in the mosques, temples, pagodas and churches to prevent repression on women through motivation.

The religious leaders could disseminate the messages before Juma prayers in the mosques and different social gatherings regularly, the speakers said, adding that women rights will be protected only when the initiatives of religious and local institutions and individuals will work together.

They also recommended that the ministry should take some result-oriented activities and at the same time it should expand feedback and monitoring system. Counselling and advocacy campaign should be strengthened to resist violence against women and if Marriage Consultation Centres can be established to provide counselling to the couple, repression on women will decline certainly, they added.

The government has been providing training to the Imams since 1979 to engage them in resisting women repression.

At the same time, under the multi sectoral programme on resisting women repression six One-Stop Crisis Centres (OCCs) in the divisional cities, a national forensic DNA profiling laboratory

and five divisional DNA screening laboratories have been established in the country.

Some 4419 women and children have received service from the OCCs since November 2007, the ministry officials said.

Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Rokeya Sultana, Secretary to reli-

gious affairs ministry Muhammad Ataur Rahman, Secretary General of Bangladesh Jatiya Imam Samity Kazi Abu Hurayra, Chairman of Masjid Council for Community Advancement Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Project Director Dr Abul Hossain, Prof Paresh Chandra Mondol and Dr Tapan D Rozario of Dhaka University also spoke.



Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khandaker speaks at a press conference at Billa auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is Prof Kabir Chowdhury. Sector Commanders' Forum organised the press conference. (Story on Page 1)



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office release said.

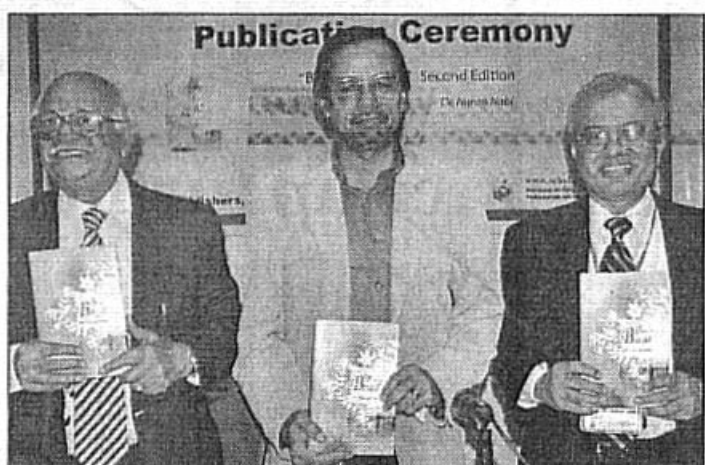
Mild cold wave is likely to sweep over Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia, it said, adding that night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 28.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 08.6 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:22pm today and rises at 6:41am 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	24.5	14.2	90	71
Chittagong	25.5	15.0	88	82
Rajshahi	23.9	08.6	99	78
Khulna	24.5	12.7	89	82
Barisal	25.0	12.3	98	79
Sylhet	27.2	15.0	87	73
Cox's Bazar	28.8	16.4	75	74



(From left) Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam and Dr Nuran Nabi hold copies of a book titled 'Born in Bengal' at its publication ceremony at Hotel Sheraton in the city on the concluding day of the First Non-Resident Bangladeshi Conference 2007 yesterday.

BORN IN BENGAL LAUNCHED 'Write experiences of liberation war'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book publication ceremony yesterday urged the people concerned to write their firsthand accounts of the War of Liberation not only to tell the truth to the people but also to unmask those distorting the country's history.

They made the call during the launch of the second edition of 'Born in Bengal', a book of memoirs by Bangladeshi expatriate Dr Nuran Nabi of events leading up to the liberation war, at Hotel Sheraton in the city on the concluding day of the First Non-Resident Bangladeshi Conference 2007.

"This book is a collage of events during the War of Liberation. This is not history, rather a first-person

account of my generation," said the author, whom the Far Eastern Economic Review referred to as 'the brain' of Tangail freedom fighters' forces for his contribution to the liberation war.

Published by Scholars Publishers, Dhaka, the 175-page book contains some rare photographs of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Moulana Bhashani and of events leading up to the liberation war.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui was present as the chief guest while Farida Majid, a faculty of City University of New York, former ambassador Anwar ul Alam Shaheed and Prof Khairul Bashar of Dhaka University also spoke at the programme moderated by Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam.

'Train local professionals to extract natural resources'

DU CORRESPONDENT

The government should take initiatives to train local professionals to extract natural resources in order to reduce dependency on foreign experts, former chief justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman said yesterday.

He also said that the country often falls victim to massive natural disasters, but no steps have been taken so far to protect the life and property from such catastrophes.

Justice Rahman was speaking at a national symposium on 'Engineering and Technological

Education at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)' as the chief guest.

BUET organised the symposium as part of the celebrations marking 60 years of engineering education in Bangladesh.

Buet Vice-Chancellor Prof AMM Saifullah chaired the event. VC of the University of Asia Pacific Abdul Matin Patwari and Convener of the organising committee Prof Md Mazaharul Hoque were also present.

Presenting a keynote paper, former BUET VC Prof Iqbal Mahmud

said engineering education was recognised as a separate academic discipline about 200 years ago and since then engineers have been trying to shift their focus from a natural world to a man-made world.

He said intellectual challenge for the undergraduate should be substantially equivalent to international standard.

"To face the challenge of 21st century, we have to provide education that helps develop innovative ideas. Humanities, arts and social sciences are now a must for creative engineers," he added.