

Preserve nat'l resources thru' objective journalism

Speakers urge journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged journalists and media workers to be objective in presenting news related to the preservation of national resources.

The roundtable titled 'Mass media in preserving national resources' was organised by Progressive Journalists' Forum at the VIP lounge of the National Press Club in the city.

"It is the duty of all people including the journalists to protect our national resources from the clutches of the foreign grabbers," said Forum Convener Kamal Lohani while presiding over the discussion.

Presenting the keynote paper, Anwarul Islam Babu, Dinajpur correspondent of the daily Sangbad, urged his colleagues not to present such information that may mislead the public.

"Let us try to know the views of local people about open-pit mining at Fulbari and conduct a survey on other existing resources like water, land and environment to compare them with the potential profit from open-pit mining," he added.

Babu said the journalists should not be motivated by the influential multinational companies who are trying to exploit our national resources for their own interest by using media as an instrument.

In his inaugural address, journalist Badiur Rahman urged media workers to provide people with accurate information about the national resources like gas and coal and their utility for the develop-



Journalist Kamal Lohani speaks at a discussion at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Engineer Shahidullah and Justice Golam Rabbani.

ment of the country.

Prof Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University called upon the government to conduct an anti-corruption drive against those who are responsible for signing anti-state agreements.

"Investigative reports should be presented by the journalists to reveal the truth behind these agreements," he added.

He also urged the journalists to take part in the movement for preserving and protecting national resources.

Engr Md Shahidullah, New Nation Editor Mostafa Kamal Majumdar, journalist Qazi Abdul Hannan, Justice Golam Rabbani,

Prof Shamsul Alam and Central Khelaghar President Dr Lenin also took part in the discussion.

Five bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Five bombs were recovered from Pabahati village under sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, police recovered the live bombs from the pond of one Rawshan Ali at 2:00pm.

Officer-in-Charge Sayed Iqbal Ali of Sadar Police Station said the miscreants might have put the bombs there to create panic.

KIBRIA MURDER Dependents of accused appeal to CA, army chief

UNB, Habiganj

Dependents of eight accused in the murder of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday appealed to the government for action against the investigation officer (IO) for filing motivated charge sheet.

The written appeal was made to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed at a press conference at Habiganj Press Club yesterday. Ruhul Qaiyum, son of main accused and local BNP leader AKM Abdul Qaiyum, read out the appeal in presence of the dependents of seven other accused who are in prison for the last three years without trial.

Kibria was killed in a grenade attack at Baider Bazar on 27 January 2005. Police submitted charge sheet against 10 people in the Kibria murder case.

Ruhul blamed ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman of CID for extracting confessional statements of the accused during remand through inhuman physical and mental torture. The then deputy commissioner Emdadul Haq had assisted the police officer in the immoral act of protecting the real murderers, he said.

He said with the passage of time and the present government coming to power, further investigation in some significant cases revealed a different picture. "Involvement of Harkatul Jihad was revealed in the murder of SAMS Kibria."

The dependents of accused AKM Abdul Haiyum, Joynal Abedin Jalal, Zamir Ali, Joynal Abedin alias Momin Ali, Tajul Islam, Shahed Ali, Selim Ahmed and Ayat Ali now in prison were present at the press conference. Two other accused Mohibur Rahman and Kazal Mia remained fugitive.



Major General (Retd) K M Shafiqullah addresses a roundtable at the Taher auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Habibur Rahman and Hasanul Haque Inu and on his right are Mainuddin Khan Badal and Haider Akbar Khan Rono.

2 sluice gates to be built at Chaktai, Mohesh junction

BSS, Chittagong

LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser Md Anwarul Iqbal yesterday said the government will allocate necessary funds soon for the construction of two sluice gates at the junction of Chaktai and Mohesh canals in the port city at a cost of Tk four crore.

He said this while visiting Mohesh canal in Saltgola area to see the progress of its re-excavation and renovation work.

The adviser directed the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) authorities to intensify the ongoing drive to reclaim the canals by evict-

ing illegal occupants and complete the re-excavation before the next rainy season with a view to removing waterlogging problem.

He also assured the CCC of full cooperation from the ministry, and said the government will allocate Tk 4 crore for the schemes as soon as possible as per the proposal of CCC.

Anwarul Iqbal said waterlogging has become a serious problem for the city dwellers. "So the canal digging and renovation work must be completed before the next rainy season and the encroachers also be evicted from both the sides of the canals," he said.

He instructed the CCC officials to take tougher legal action against the illegal occupants. He also advised them to seek help from the joint forces, if necessary, to make the drive a success.

Acting CCC Mayor M Manjur Alam apprised the adviser of the progress of the ongoing canal re-excavation and renovation projects and other efforts to resolve waterlogging problems.

Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Ashraf Shamim and several ward commissioners and high officials of CCC were also present.

Trains collide in Jhenidah, rail link disrupted

UNB, Jhenidah

Two trains collided head-on at Kotchandpur railway station early yesterday, disrupting train communications on the route for three hours.

However, there was no report of any casualties.

Railway sources said an Ishwardi-bound passenger train 'Nakshikantha', from Khulna and a freight train heading towards Khulna from Darshana collided at about 4:30am.

Kotchandpur station master Anisur Rahman said the engine and two buffers of a train were damaged in the accident. But no one was injured, he added.

Meanwhile, the railway authorities formed an inquiry committee to investigate the incident.

Indian cloths worth Tk 1.5 cr seized in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

BDR jawans seized a huge quantity of Indian cloths worth about Tk 1.5 crore from a covered van at Padua bazar in Sadar Dakkhin upazila early Friday.

Acting on secret information, the BDR members chased a Dhaka-bound covered van at about 1:00am. At one stage, the van driver and the smugglers fled away, leaving behind the van at Padua bazar.

Later, the BDR members recovered 57 bales of Indian cloths, including saree and three-piece sets, from the van.



Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Manjurul Ahsan Khan speaks at a press conference at the CPB office in the city yesterday.

Road crashes kill 2

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed and 26 others injured in separate road accidents in Brahmanbaria, Jhenidah and Gazipur yesterday.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria says: One person was killed and three others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Islampur village under Sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Imrul Islam, 17, a student of Brahmanbaria Polytechnic Institute and son of Abdul Alim Master of Kalikatcha village under Sarail upazila.

Witnesses, hospital and police sources said the accident occurred when a Sylhet-bound truck hit a Madhabur-bound bus from Brahmanbaria from behind at Islampur Stand, leaving four injured.

Imrul succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital. Three others were rushed to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

The body was sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah adds: One person was killed in a road accident in Jhenidah yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Insar Ali, 32, son of Rostom Ali of Karatipara village under Jhenidah Sadar upazila.

Witnesses and police said Insar was run over by a truck in front of Shamima clinic in the town while he was pulling a van. He was rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The body has been sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A correspondent from Kaliakoir adds: Twenty-three people were injured in a road accident in front of Mouchak UP office at Shafipur Bazar in Gazipur yesterday.

Witnesses and police said the accident occurred at 8:30am when a speeding covered van and a minibus collided as the van was crossing Shafipur Bazar.

Of the injured, minibus driver Firoj, 40, covered van driver Shahabuddin, 48, and passengers Arif, 25, Mahmud, 30, Kalpana, 32, Saiful, 35, Razu, 20, Shaju, 18, Sunon, 28, Mahbub, 32, Shamsul Alam, 45, Mokhlesur, 36, Belal, 40, and Shafiq, 38, were rushed to Shafipur General Hospital.

Seriously injured Saiful Islam Babul was referred to Uttara Women's Medical College Hospital.



Kamal Hossain speaks at a seminar titled 'Kutubdia Island - Bangladesh economic perspective' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Kutubdia Samity, Chittagong organised the seminar.

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