

Involve youths in policymaking to make country corruption-free

Speakers tell discussion

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday underscored the need for participation of youth in policymaking with a view to making Bangladesh a developed and corruption-free country.

"In every democratic movement since the great Language Movement, the youth put their best efforts to ensure establishment of democratic government, but no government or political party has given any priority to the demands of the youth," they said.

They said this while speaking at a discussion on 'Tomorrow's Leadership' organised by the country's leading career website -- aimainlife.com -- at the National Press Club.

With chief executive officer of



Dr. Reza Kibria speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Syed Marghub Murshed, Dr. Monilal Aich and Naimul Islam Khan.

aimainlife.com M. Shob Chowdhury in the chair, the discussion was moderated by former secretary Syed Marghub Murshed. Editor of the daily Amader Samay Naimul Islam Khan, Dr.

Reza Kibria, politicians, young professionals, bureaucrats and representatives from NGOs spoke on the occasion.

The speakers said the government should immediately start a 'Youngster Hunting Programme' to find out youths with leadership quality and strong will power who can contribute to the policymaking process.

They said the country had witnessed misuse of state power by a section of politicians and bureaucrats over decades. Now time has come to change the scenario by empowering capable youths, they added.

The past governments had taken a number of steps to bring changes in the leadership by incorporating the youths in the development process, but no qualitative changes took place.

Foreign language courses to be introduced at TTCs

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal yesterday said foreign language courses side by side general technical education would be introduced in the Technical Training Centers (TTCs).

These courses will be mainly on English, Korean, Arabic and Japanese to develop the language skill of the workers, he said at a meeting at the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Presided over by Anwarul, the meeting also reviewed the progress of activities of various development projects, an official handout said.

Anwarul said the language courses would be introduced initially in suitable districts under six divisions. Necessary guidelines have already been given to the newly built TTC in Rangpur in this regard, he added.

A committee headed by the secretary to the chief adviser has been formed to submit a report.

The adviser also said measures would be taken to sell rice and wheat to the workers of tea gardens and garment factories at fair prices through the tea garden owners and the BGMEA.

"Steps will also be taken to allocate a required amount of money to resolve the existing problems in the TTCs in Jhenidah and Keraniganj and to ensure proper use of the wage earners' funds for the welfare of workers," the handout said.

Documentary film show on adolescents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day documentary film show and discussion titled 'Voices of Adolescents' organised by Step Towards Development will begin at Public Library in the city today, says a press release.

Sultana Kamal, former adviser to the caretaker government, will attend the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest while Swedish Ambassador Brit F Hegstram and Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokaya Sultana will be present as special guests.

Every day two documentary films will be screened from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.



Covering their faces with black cloths, activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League stage a demonstration on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding release of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

Parasitology Society confce Feb 7

BSS, Mymensingh

Bangladesh Society for Parasitology (BSP) will hold its 9th Biennial Conference on February 7 at 10:30am at the Physiology Gallery of the Faculty of Veterinary Science of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU).

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Musharraf Hossain Mian will be the chief guest while Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science Professor Dr Md Akhtar Hossain will be the special guest at the inaugural session.

BSP President Prof Dr Hefazuddin Shaikh will chair the opening session while Chairman of the Organising Committee Prof Dr Mirza Abul Hashim will deliver the address of welcome. Secretary of Organising Committee Prof Dr Md Mokbul Hossain will give the vote of thanks.



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Bomb attack on Prof Arefin Siddique's house protested

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, officials and students of mass communication and journalism department of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday protested the bomb attack on the residence of Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of DU Teachers' Association (DUTA).

They brought out a silent procession on the campus and held a brief rally in front of the Arts Building.

Prof Harun-or-Rashid, dean of social sciences faculty, Chairman Prof Shaikh Abdus Salam, Prof Akter Sultana, Associate Professors Mazfuz Rahman and Shamim Reza, Lecturer Shamim Mahmud and a good number of students of mass communication and journalism department joined the procession.

Addressing the rally Prof Salam said a number of teachers are becoming victims of frequent attacks by culprits, but they are never identified.

He said culprits behind the attacks should be brought to book for the sake of security of the teachers and students.

Prof Salam urged the government to take initiative to find out the culprits and try them.

The DU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League, formed a human chain on the campus protesting the attack and demanding investigation into it.

A crude bomb went off at the residence of Prof Siddique at the Central Road after unidentified men hurled two such bombs into his residence compound on Saturday evening.

Road accidents kill five

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in Brahmanbaria, Jhenidah and Gaibandha yesterday.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: A schoolteacher was killed in a road accident at Sadar Upazila in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Sadat Hossain, 60, former assistant headmaster of Brahmanbaria Annada Government High School.

Quoting eyewitness police said the accident occurred when he was crossing the Brahmanbaria-Sylhet highway at Shuhilpur village, a speedy bus knocked him down and crushed him on the road.

The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah reports: Three people were killed in separate road accidents in Jhenidah yesterday.

Two people were killed in a road accident at Chutlia Squire in Jhenidah.

Quoting locals police said the accident occurred when a poultry carrying truck bound for Kalora in Sathkira rammed a roadside tree leaving the two dead in the spot. At least 500 poultry were also killed on the spot.

The deceased were the driver and helper of the truck. Their name could not be known immediately.

In another accident, a motorcycle passenger was killed in a road mishap at Shaikupa.

The victim was identified as Shishir, 22, son of Bimal of Chariarbill village under Shaikupa upazila.

Police said the accident occurred when a Kushtia-bound truck hit him while he was returning home from Kushtia on a motorbike leaving him dead on the spot.

The body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our correspondent from Gaibandha adds: A woman was killed and three others were injured in a road accident on Sadullapur-Madernganj Road in Gaibandha yesterday.

The dead was identified as Razia Sultana Lucky, 30, wife of Kabir Hossain.

The accident occurred when a rickshaw van carrying passengers fell into a roadside ditch due to a dash of a tractor trolley coming from opposite direction leaving Lucky dead on the spot and three others injured.



Teachers, students and employees of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism take out a silent procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the bomb attack on the residence of Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

AL demands

FROM PAGE 16

minister Shah AMS Kibria. Kibria, a veteran parliamentarian, who was once a bureaucrat and a diplomat, was killed on January 27, 2005 in a grenade attack in Habiganj.

Tofail demanded the government allow the UN to investigate the Kibria killing and the grenade attack case.

"Among other things, issues including how a free, fair and credible election could be held without the influence of black money and muscle power and how the caretaker government could hand over power to an elected government peacefully can be discussed at the dialogue," Tofail said.

The nation is going through a critical time and time is running out, he said adding that there is no alternative to holding the dialogue.

At the discussion, Awami League leaders said the killing of Kibria was part of a long-term plot of the BNP-Jamaat coalition to annihilate the entire Awami League leadership.

Chaired by Awami League Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, the meet demanded that the real killers and patrons are brought to book immediately and awarded stern punishment.

Awami League Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu said it was clear that the anti-liberation forces were behind all the killings including the intellectuals on December 14, 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975, four national leaders in jail on November 3, 1975, and the August 21 massacre in 2004.

On the bomb attack on for-

mer Dhaka University Teachers Association president Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique's home, Amu demanded the attackers be arrested and punished.

He also demanded release of detained party chief Sheikh Hasina, Abdul Jalil, Sheikh Selim, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Obaidul Quader, ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, and other detained senior leaders.

Abdur Razzak said the BNP-Jamaat coalition resorted to political killings and grenade attacks in its last tenure in a bid to eliminate Awami League and win the stalled January 22, 2007 election. He demanded bringing the war criminals to justice.

Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta urged the government to seek fresh charge sheets against the real killers and patrons of cases including the grenade attack and Kibria killing case.

Awami League leader Motia Chowdhury said those who have been nabbed in connection with different killing cases and the grenade attack case were related to Jamaat-e-Islami.

Acting General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam said people are questioning why the government does not take proper initiatives to bring the killers of Kibria and the people involved in the grenade attack on AL rally to justice when it can finish trying the teachers and students of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities within a short time.

Awami League leaders Mukul Bose, Abdul Mannan, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Col (ret'd) Faruk Khan, Dr Abdur Razzak and Kibria's son Reza Kibria also spoke in the discussion.

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