



PHOTO: STAR
Noted singer Kalim Sharafi, 2nd from right, puts an Uttariya around the neck of Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui on the occasion of his 80th birthday at a ceremony at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday while Prof Kabir Chowdhury, left, and Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, right, greet him.

Call to improve governance on priority basis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for improving governance on priority basis as its weakness has increased insecurity for vulnerable and marginal people. They said a nation needs preparedness to meet man-made and natural calamities including political turmoil and other socio-economic problems.

The workshop titled 'Bangladesh Human Security Assessment' was organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at Rajshahi Parjatan Motel.

It was attended by professionals, indigenous leaders, lawyers, journalists, NGO activists, government officials and other stakeholders from different northern districts.

BISS Director General Maj Gen Jiban Kanai Das presided over the

workshop which was attended by Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Muhammad Shafiqul Alam as chief guest.

Asim Uddin Khan, former Rajshahi University teacher, presented the keynote paper.

Bangladesh Law Commission Member Dr Enamul Haque, BISS Research Director M Humayun Kabir, indigenous leaders Everast Hembrom, Shandya Malo, Victor

Lakra, journalists Bulbul Chowdhury, Govinda Lal Das, Talebun Nabi, Mustafizur Rahman Khan, teacher Abdul Kuddus, and lawyers Shafiquzzaman and Shahjar Ali spoke on the occasion.

The speakers attributed the present political practice, education system, poor law and order, river erosion, lowering water table, depletion of trees, drug addiction and food adulteration to human insecurity in

northern region.

They said the indigenous and marginal people are still to be brought under the security net, although the United Nations had declared a second decade for the development of the group.

They also stressed the need for a separate industrial policy based on agriculture for the development as well as the security of the people of the region.

Dream of democratic Bangladesh still remains elusive: Dr Akbar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Regulatory Reforms Commission Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan yesterday said the dream of establishing a democratic Bangladesh imbued with the spirit of Liberation War still remains elusive.

"The Language Movement of 1952 taught us to live in our own way with heads high. What we need to do is to establish a democratic Bangladesh imbued with the spirit of Liberation War. But we have failed to do so," said Akbar, also former adviser to the caretaker government, while speaking

at a discussion at the Central Public Library on the occasion of International Mother Language Day.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury inaugurated the discussion organised by Dhaka Press Club with its president Mirza Nurannabi in the chair.

Akbar said he would not term the Language Movement successful as the number of illiterate people in the country is still very high.

"As long as there is a single illiterate person in the country, I won't say the Language Movement has reached its desired goal," he said.

"Ekushey February reminds us every year that we have a long way to go," Akbar said.

Hoping that the young generation will lead the journey to advancement, he urged the journalists to imbue people with the spirit of Ekushey February and Liberation War for materialising the dream of establishing Golden Bangladesh.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury called upon civil society members to help the indigenous people in achieving proper status of their languages.

The discussion was followed by a reception for language veterans and freedom fighters.

'Ensure security of RU female students at halls'

RU CORRESPONDENT

A group of students of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday demanded immediate measures to ensure security of female students at their dormitories.

They also urged the authorities not to harass female students in the name of investigation into the recent theft at Tapasi Rabeya Hall.

The students under the banner of 'General Students' met Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Mammunul Keramat at his office and placed their demand. Arafat Kabir Somu led the student team.

On Tuesday, a thief sneaked into Tapasi Rabeya Hall and stole three mobile phones and a gold chain of resident students. The

thief also injured a female student during the incident.

During the meeting with the pro-VC, the students also demanded removal of hall super, staffs and night guard for their negligence, payment of compensation to the students concerned, beefed-up security at the halls and installation of alarm systems at the halls for female students.

In the wake of the theft, the university authorities formed a five-member committee headed by Prof Golam Kabir, which is carrying out an investigation into it.

The students told reporters that the pro-VC assured them of meeting their demands.

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