

Build society based on principle, humanity

Says Justice Mustafa Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief justice Mustafa Kamal at a meeting yesterday called on all to come forward with a view to building the society on the bases of principle, discipline, conscience and humanity.

"The society will have to be survived. We cannot even imagine a beautiful society without having morality and human development. Principle and discipline will have to be maintained in order to keep the society sustained," he added.

Justice Mustafa Kamal was speaking as the chief guest at a

meeting on the occasion of the 1st annual award giving ceremony for excellence in investigative journalism organised by International Council for Advancement of Bangladesh (ICAB) at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday afternoon.

Munni Saha, reporter of ATN Bangla, was given the 'ICAB Award 2007' for her outstanding role in investigative journalism.

Presided over by ICAB Chairman Mohammed Saleh, the meeting was addressed by Founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, writer Selina Hossain and

ICAB Director Tipu Sultan.

Prof Abu Sayeed said though the owners of the media have one kind of freedom, it is a question whether there is any freedom of the press in the country.

"I was involved in the Bangladesh Television for a long time. I have seen that the journalists have to discharge their duties within various difficulties and limitations. In spite of that, they have been playing an important role in favour of the civil society. Members of the civil society have got powers and courage from the media," he added.



ATN Bangla reporter Munni Saha receives the 'ICAB Award 2007' from founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and writer Selina Hossain at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. Justice Mustafa Kamal, 2nd from right, and ICAB Director Tipu Sultan are also seen in the picture.

Australian HC provides training to poor women

Australia recently extended support to Access toward Livelihood and Welfare Organisation (ALWO) for its existing project on dress-making and hand embroidery training to destitute women, says a press release.

With the additional fund for the second phase of this project, ALWO will provide training to another 100 women of Natore district.

The trainees will also receive a certificate from ALWO, a sewing machine, and block designs for starting their own businesses upon successful completion of the training.

Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett recently handed over a cheque for Tk 6,57,500 to ALWO Executive Director Shamima Neela under the High Commission's Direct Aid Programme 2007-08 to this end.

Foskett praised this noble effort of ALWO and said he was confident that the project would help empower these Bangladeshi women by increasing their contribution to the welfare of their families and communities.

In a recent trip to the project area, Australian Deputy High Commissioner Kilmeny Beckering Vinckers met participants from the first phase of the project.

She said funding the project presented a perfect opportunity for the High Commission to highlight the plight of rural women in Bangladesh where employment opportunities are few, especially for women, and hoped that the project would prove to be worthwhile for not only the trainees, but for the community as a whole.

The deputy high commissioner also exchanged greetings with the participants and admired their handiworks while visiting the training centre.



Australian Deputy High Commissioner Kilmeny Beckering Vinckers recently met participants from the first phase of a project on dressmaking and hand embroidery training for destitute women.

British charity's home care services for elderly citizens

BSS, Dhaka

Sir William Beveridge Foundation, a British charity, has launched its programme in Bangladesh by providing home care services to the vulnerable elderly citizens in their own houses through skilled and trained nurses free of cost.

Disclosing this to BSS, Rahman Jilani, founder and executive director of the foundation said that changes in the world economic environment have been affecting Bangladesh.

As a result he said the middle, lower and fixed income people in bigger cities and towns are failing to provide adequate health and social care support to their elderly parents and grandparents even within the extended family network.

"We like to provide daily home care services to their own houses. We are not asking vulnerable senior citizens to come to the service -- rather trying to send the services to them," Jilani added.

Jilani said that initially the service is being provided in Malibagh, Motijheel, Shantinagar, Rajarbagh, Shahidbagh, Siddeswari, Shantibagh, Gulbagh, Khilgaon, Shahjahanpur and Goran areas in the capital. The ward commissioners send the names of the elderly citizens to the foundation office.

The nurses are then sent to those households and talk to the family members as well as the elderly citizen and assess their requirements. "We got a tremendous response from the people," Rahman Jilani said.

He said that gradually the services would be spread across the city in future.

William Henry Beveridge was born in Bangladesh. His father was a judge in the Indian Civil Service. His 1942 report heralded a new approach to the meaning of quality of life in Britain and it provided people with the means to improve their own lives.

"He is a great inspiration to me. I

had always wanted to work with people and as a social workers in East end of London for many years, I treated everyone as individuals," Jilani said.

The foundation is also supporting the Moulana Bhasani Nursing Institute at Uttara in the city where students undergoing training are given special course on English so that they could be employed abroad.

Jilani said that these nurses have been following British curriculum but in Bengali language. "Now we are supporting the institute to develop English speaking skills of the trainee nurses," he said. He said that following that these nurses could find jobs in the hospitals in Europe and America.

Sir William Beveridge Foundation is committed to a philosophy of 'Care', which focuses on the needs of families with elderly parents and relations. The essence of our motivation is the love of humanity and desire to give everyone a chance to live with dignity," Jilani said.

Ensure quality pry edn: Adviser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury said the present condition of the primary education is not so good and the present government is trying its best to improve the situation.

She said the country would not get good officers if we fail to ensure quality education.

Rasheda K Chowdhury said these while addressing as the chief guest at a certificate distribution ceremony of the Performance Improvement Project (PIP) under the MATT-2 programme at Binodpur Government Primary School under Singair upazila in Manikganj yesterday.

Rasheda called upon all to try their best for ensuring quality education for better future.

She also urged all to check child and maternity mortality and resist early marriage and dowry from the society.

PIP Team Leader and Additional Secretary of Primary and Mass Education Akhter Hossain, MATT-2 Team Leader John Waliace, Director General of Primary and Mass Education Directorate M Assaduzzaman, Manikganj Deputy Commissioner Ataur Rahman, Police Superintendent Sheikh Muhammad Maruf Hassan, Binodpur Government Primary School Head Master Gias Uddin also addressed at the function.

The speakers urged the concerned authorities to spread this programme in other schools to improve the quality of primary education.

China launches hotline to report misuse of quake funds

AFP, Beijing

China set up a hotline yesterday for the public to report any suspected misuse of money and materials used for relief work in the devastating Sichuan earthquake, state media reported.

The hotline will run 24 hours a day, Xinhua news agency said, quoting the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist party -- the body charged with fighting corruption among party cadres.

8 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Eight people were killed and 37 others injured in separate road accidents across the country in the last two days.

Our correspondent in Pabna reports: Four people were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Pabna highway at Ganghati at Atakula in the district yesterday.

The accident took place at about 5:30pm when a Pabna-bound passenger bus lost control

EDEN COLLEGE Foundation stone for dormitory laid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday laid the foundation stone of the 11-storied dormitory for the students of Eden Girls College.

The construction work of the 1000-seated dormitory to be completed by 2009 at an estimated cost of Tk 24 crore.

Momtazul Islam, education secretary, AKM Shajahan Patwari, chief engineer, Education Engineering department, Prof Yasmin Ahmed, principal of Eden Girls College were present at the foundation laying ceremony.

There are about 25,000 students in the college at present. Of them only 2,500 students get accommodation facilities at five hostels.

BIRD FLU S Korea eases quarantine restrictions

AFP, Seoul

South Korea has eased bird flu quarantine restrictions because a month has passed since the last confirmed case, officials said yesterday.

The agriculture ministry said restrictions on the movement of birds, people and vehicles were lifted in 15 of the 19 districts hit by avian flu. "No confirmed case has been reported since May 12. The government plans to ease restrictions in the remaining four places by the end of this month," a ministry spokesman told AFP.

If no new cases are reported in the coming months, he said, South Korea will declare itself free of the disease in August.

South Korea has culled more than eight million birds since April 1. This year's outbreak is the country's worst with damage estimated at 200 billion won (194 million dollars).

In the country's 2003-2004 outbreak 5.28 million birds were culled, while a 2006-2007 outbreak resulted in 2.8 million birds being destroyed.

and fell into a roadside ditch.

Three of the victims were identified as Shahjahan Ali, 40, Kazi Nazrul Islam Khokon, 45, and Fauzia Khatun, 35, while the identity of the children that died on its way to the hospital could not be known.

UNB adds: A man was killed and four others were injured when a jeep hit a roadside tree in Hatia on Jahazmara-Nalchira road yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Salahuddin, 30, the driver of the jeep.

The injured were admitted to a local clinic.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha adds: A cyclist was killed and three others were injured in a road accident at Kadamtali on Sundarganj-Gaibandha highway yesterday.

The accident occurred when a speeding bus from Sundarganj hit the cycle.

One Aminul Islam, 26, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding passenger bus while his fellow rider Nurun Nabi was injured.

Two other pedestrians were also injured as the bus hit them while trying to flee.

The injured were rushed to Gaibandha Modernised Hospital.

Our correspondent in Jhenidah adds: Two people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident at Baidanga in Jhenidah Sadar on Tuesday night.

The victims were identified as Nazir Hossain, 30, and Shamsul Huda, 28.

The accident occurred at about 8:30pm when a Chittagong-bound bus hit a human hauler (Nosimon).



A speedy trial tribunal in Chittagong sentenced JMB Chittagong regional commander Mohammad to life imprisonment in an explosive case yesterday.

Suicide attack against Nato kills 3 Afghans

AFP, Heart

A suicide attack targeting Italian Nato troops in western Afghanistan killed three civilians and wounded another ten on Wednesday, while four policemen died in a bomb blast, police said.

No Nato troops were harmed in the bombing in Farah province's Delaram district, provincial police chief Khalilullah Rahmani told AFP.

Rahmani said the attacker walked up to a Nato convoy and detonated explosives strapped to his body.

"Three civilians were killed and another ten civilians were wounded in the blast. There were no casualties to the friendly forces," Rahmani said.

A civilian vehicle was destroyed and set ablaze by the blast and several shops at the scene were badly damaged, provincial deputy police chief Juman Khan said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack but Taliban militants, ousted from power in late 2001 by a US-led invasion, have claimed almost all similar attacks in the past.

Farah province sees occasional attacks by the militants, although western Afghanistan has been relatively peaceful compared with troubled southern and eastern parts of the country.

Four Afghan border police were killed and three were wounded in eastern Khost province on Wednesday when their vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb, border police chief Shair Ahmad Kochai told AFP.

He said the troops were on their way to reinforce border posts along the porous border with Pakistan when the incident took place in Alishair district.

He blamed the attack on "enemies of Afghanistan," a term often used to refer to Taliban insurgents.

GANGES WATER SHARING HC order on writ petition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver today its order on a writ petition seeking necessary steps to ensure the availability of due share of Ganges water at Farakka point as per the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty between Bangladesh and India.

An HC bench of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Rezaul Haque concluded the hearing yesterday and fixed the date for its order on the petition.

Advocate Tajul Islam, counsel for the petitioners, yesterday submitted that Bangladesh has not been getting actual share of Ganges water as per the treaty.

"As per the provisions of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty 1996, it (treaty) could be reviewed in the light of the realities after every five years. Even Bangladesh has the scope to unilaterally place the proposal to India to review the agreement in order to get the actual share of Ganges water. But the government of Bangladesh did not place any such proposal in the last 12 years," he added.

Tajul Islam also said India has been unilaterally withdrawing Ganges water through Farakka Barrage, violating the provisions of the treaty.

Due to severe shortage of water, some areas of Bangladesh, including the Sundarbans, are gradually becoming desert, he added.

Deputy Attorney General Idris Khan opposed the writ petition arguing that the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty is an international agreement and it cannot be challenged in the court.

Two Supreme Court lawyers MK Muraduzzaman and Faruk Hossain filed the petition as public interest litigation (PIL) on June 8.

Migration body chooses US diplomat as new chief

AFP, Geneva

The International Organisation of Migration said yesterday it elected US diplomat William Lacy Swing as its new director general, replacing fellow US incumbent Brunson McKinley.

Swing, 74, was the official US candidate for the position, and was elected by a two-thirds majority of the IOM's council, the organisation said in a statement.

McKinley had sought to retain his post despite already serving two five-year terms, and Canada and Italy also fielded candidates.

Swing, a career diplomat with the US State Department for many decades, will bring "a breadth of international experience, a proven ability to manage complex multilateral operations and to collaborate productively with foreign governments, United Nations agencies and other inter-governmental institutions," the IOM said.

2-day debate contest begins in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day inter-school debate and cultural competition began at the Rajshahi Government Laboratory High School auditorium yesterday.

Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) organised the debate competition for the first time in Rajshahi to help flourish latent talents of the debaters at secondary level.

Eminent litterateur Prof Hasan Azizul Haque inaugurated the competition as the chief guest.

Principal of Rajshahi Government Laboratory High School Mustak Habib, Programme Manager of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) Sayed-ul-Alam Kazal, Vice President of BDF central Debashish Ranjan Sarker and Mahfuz Mishu also spoke.

A workshop on 'Debate and skill development' was also held.

Around 200 students from 16 schools in Rajshahi district are participating in the debate competition.

Prof Shamsul Alam Bir Pratik, Language Movement veteran Golam Arif Tipu and noted media personality Abdun Nur Tushar will be present at the closing ceremony of the contest today.

TRAWLER CAPSIZE

Death toll rises to 6

UNB, Rajbari

The death toll from Monday's trawler capsized in the river Padma rose to six with the recovery of four more bodies yesterday, police said.

Local police, aided by villagers, recovered the bodies from Char Kathuria area, about four kilometers away from the accident spot.

Three of the victims were identified as Dulal Fakir, 25, Afroza Begum, 32, and Morjina Begum, 40. They were inhabitants of Laxmikol and Bhabadia villages under Sadar upazila.

Earlier, two bodies were recovered while some still remain missing.

The trawler, which was carrying some 100 people, capsized on Monday evening after a violent storm hit it.

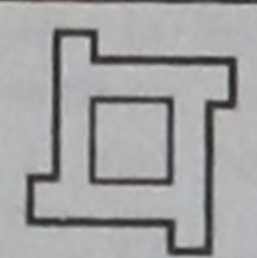
The accident occurred when the ferry was returning to Lalgola from Charmukuri area. Most of the passengers, mostly peanut collectors, swam ashore after the accident.

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