

CHEERS ALL AROUND



Students who came out successful in the SSC examinations with flying colours celebrate at their schools yesterday. 1) Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, 2) Manipur High School, 3) Motijheel Model High School, 4) Rajuk Uttara Model School and College, 5) Uttara High School, 6) Government Collegiate High School in Chittagong and 7) Dr Khastagir Government Girls' High School in Chittagong.

PHOTO: STAR

UN INT'L DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE OBSERVED
'Ratify optional protocol to convention'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different human rights organisations observed the 11th UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture yesterday.

Members of the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victim (BRCVT) formed a human chain in front of the High Court in the city.

They demanded the government for withdrawal of the reservation to the Article 14 of the UN Convention Against Torture that gives relief to the person responsible for repression to someone and deprives the victim from receiving treatment and compensation from the state.

They also urged the government to ratify the optional protocol to the convention, which deals with monitoring situations in detention centres and prisons.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) and International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) jointly organised a discussion at the national headquarters of BHRC to mark the day.

Terming corruption as a social cancer, the speakers said the common people are facing trouble every moment in business, social and service life due to corruption.

Even the prices of essential commodities are getting high, development activities are being hindered and people are getting handicapped due to corruption, they said, adding that torture is still continuing in police custody and jail which should be stopped immediately.

The speakers, however, said the destructive activities like hartal,

barricade and anarchy have been curbed in the country. While wholesale arrest of the corruptionists has earned applause from home and abroad, their wealth should be deposited to the state coffers.

Presided over by acting President of BHRC Mosharraf Hussain Chowdhury, the meeting was addressed by IHRC and BHRC

Secretary General Dr Saiful I Dildar, BHRC National Committee Executive Member Rokeya Nurun Nessa and BHRC Dhaka District General Secretary AKM Abdul Halim.

The day was also observed in divisional, district, upazila and pourashava offices of BHRC.

The Economic and Social Council of United Nations at its convention on December 12, 1997

declared this day to be observed as the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture in all member states of the UN throughout the world.

The government of Bangladesh ratified the convention with reservation of the Article 14 that tells on providing compensation to the victim of torture on October 5, 1998.

A MEETING OF THE MINDS

SATISFIES THE SENSES...

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'MUKTIJUDDHE ADIVASI' LAUNCHED
Give recognition to indigenous FFs

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters from the indigenous community should have recognition from the state and enjoy equal facilities as the Bangalee freedom fighters, speakers at a book publication ceremony said yesterday.

The people should also recognise the contribution of the indigenous people to the War of Liberation, they said and called for an immediate end to the oppression of indigenous people.

Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandaker launched the book titled 'Muktijuddhe Adivasi' (Indigenous people in the War of Liberation) at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

Oitijhya Prakashoni published the research-based book written by Ayub Hossain and Charu Haque. AK Khandaker said the entire nation took part in the liberation

war in 1971 and that the contribution of indigenous people was equal to that of Bangalees. So, they should be given equal rights, he added.

Referring to several incidents of land grabbing, he said no-one has the right to grab the lands of the indigenous people.

Their contribution to the liberation war must be recognised by the state, said the war veteran.

Sanjib Drong, a writer and researcher, said the indigenous people joined the liberation war to realise their dream of a secular country, but their dream has now been shattered.

"They did not want anything from the state and the state also did not give them any reward," he said.

Poet Belal Ahmed said, "We fought for the country under the banner of 'secularism' but the secularism was hijacked from our constitution after 1975. Since then we have been turning away from the main spirit of the liberation war."

Chief Executive of Oitijhya Prakashoni Arifur Rahman Nayeem and Engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah were also present at the ceremony.

ULAB signs MoU with Brand Forum

University of Liberal Arts (ULAB) has signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF) on the university campus in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Under this MoU, the university has now become the Knowledge Partner of BBF. Dr Kazi Anis Ahmed, director, Academic Affairs, ULAB, and Prof Ferhat Anwar, Editorial Board Member, BBF, signed the MoU.

Dr Anis said ULAB through this MoU will get the opportunity to create new knowledge generation.

Prof Ferhat Anwar said Bangladesh Brand Forum is formed with the vision of aiding the corporate sector to create remarkable world class brands.

ULAB VC Prof Rafiqul Islam and senior faculty members were also present on the occasion.

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