

'Implement nat'l women dev policy to establish rights'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) General Secretary Dr Maleka Banu yesterday urged the government to implement the National Women Development Policy-2008 for establishing rights of women in the society.

She was addressing a discussion styled 'Samotar Jonno Chai Soman Sujog' organised by Rajshahi

University (RU) unit of BMP at the seminar room of Sayed Ismail Hossain Siraji building on the campus.

BMP Vice President Dr Makhduma Nargis Ratna was present at the programme as the special guest with RU unit President Prof Shahana Hossain in the chair.

Dr Maleka Banu said traditional social values of the country did not

accept women's rights and freedom, adding that the influential male-dominated society used women in different ways at will.

The government must implement the national women development policy to protect women's rights, she added.

Economist Prof Sanat Kumar Saha said democracy cannot be established without ensuring women's rights in the country.

BMP RU unit Secretary Dr Mahbuba Kaniz Keya also spoke at the discussion.

The speakers at the discussion also called on the progressive forces to be united for the implementation of the women's development policy.

Eminent litterateur Prof Hasan Azizul Haque, former vice chancellor of RU Prof Saidur Rahman Khan and Prof Abdul Khalek also spoke.



Cultural activists take a vow to carry on their campaign for the trial of war criminals at the concluding ceremony of the month-long countrywide campaign at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday, organised by the Bangladesh Abritti Samonnoy Parishad.

Energy ministry plans to place draft coal policy before cabinet again

UNB, Dhaka

The Ministry of Energy plans to place again the draft coal policy before the Cabinet Division by the end of September, clarifying all the queries that have cropped up over the mining modalities concerning the country's important natural wealth.

According to official sources, the Energy Division is now preparing responses to the queries asked by the advisers in the recent meeting of the Council of Advisers in Chittagong.

The Council of Advisers sent back the draft national coal policy to the Energy Division for more review and vetting.

Sources said most of the

advisers put up questions about the rehabilitation and land reclamation provisions laid down in the draft policy, which proposed not to give back the acquired lands to its original owners after completion of coal mining.

They also registered difference of opinion on royalty-fixation provision, which the draft policy made flexible for a government's high-powered committee.

Another provision of the draft policy regarding the share offloading of the coalmine-developing companies drew questions from the advisers.

They felt that the Securities and Exchange Commission

should be the appropriate authority in dealing with the matter while draft policy provides a specific procedure.

The Energy Division is preparing the answers and suggestions accommodating the views of the advisers.

"We're trying to respond to all the queries asked by the meeting of the Council of Advisers," Energy Secretary Mohammad Mohsin told UNB.

The immediate-past BNP-led alliance government had started the process of preparing coal policy, in view of substantial deposits of the mineral fuel in the country's northern region, the discoveries that unfolded a second boon after natural gas.

Student missing after falling into ditch at Madhabkunda

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A student of a private university in Dhaka remained missing after he fell into a ditch at Madhabkunda waterfall in Baralekha yesterday noon.

Baralekha police and witnesses said Al Fateh Md Shahi, 24, a 4th year student of Law department at Stamford University, along with his five classmates came here to visit the waterfall.

But all the six students fell into the ditch while taking a bath. Later, five students managed to come out of it, but Md Shahi still remains missing.

Fire brigade personnel from Moulvibazar rushed to the spot and started searching for the victim, but he was not rescued till filing of this report at 8:15pm.

Zahid and Rehnema, two classmates of the victim, said Shahi is the son of Abdul Motin of Laxmanpur village under Dajonbhuiyan upazila in Feni. Abdullah Harun Pasha, station officer of Moulvibazar Fire Brigade, said due to heavy current in the ditch, divers could not reach the deep water of the ditch to rescue the victim.

Baralekha Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Bijoy Krishna Debnath said the forest department was assigned to construct a wall around the ditch, but has not yet been constructed.

40 injured in clash between villagers in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 40 people were injured in a daylong clash between the villagers of Belpukur and Zamira village under Puthia upazila in Rajshahi yesterday.

Some 13 of the injured people were hospitalised during the sporadic clashes.

Police and Rab were deployed there to bring the situation under control.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted at around 11:30am centring on an arbitration.

The arbitration meeting was arranged to solve a dispute between two brothers of Belpukur village. A villager of neighboring Zamira village came to testify at the arbitration. Then villagers of Belpukur chopped him.

Hearing the news the villagers of Zamira swooped on the villagers of Belpukur and ransacked around 30 houses leaving at least 30 people including children and women injured.

In the afternoon, villagers of Zamira again attacked the Belpukur villagers and looted belongings of the villagers.

Police have to open fire to bring the situation under control. More police were deployed there as the situation remain tense.

Police arrested two persons -- Abul Hashem and Zamal Uddin from the scene.

Barisal Board increases SSC exam fees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Education Board authorities have increased fees for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations.

Controller of examinations of the board Muhammad Shah Alamgir told The Daily Star yesterday that the decision was taken as per the directives from the education ministry.

The probable date for the next SSC examination is February 15, 2009.

The new rate of fee for each subject is Tk 55. Earlier, it was Tk 45.

Besides, fees for transcription increased from Tk 30 to Tk 35 and center fees from Tk 160 to Tk 200 for the centres in city and from Tk 200 to Tk 250 for the centres outside the city.



Children are engrossed in painting at a drawing competition at the Institute of Fine Art at Dhaka University yesterday. Bangabandhu Parishad organised the event to mark the National Mourning Day.

EC team visits Barisal to probe allegations of vote rigging

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A team of Election Commission (EC) has visited Barisal to investigate the delay in declaring results of Barisal City Corporation election and alleged vote rigging.

Manirul Islam, returning officer of BCC election, told The Daily Star that Nurul Islam, joint secretary, and Shahjahan Mia, deputy secretary of EC, came to Barisal on Wednesday without any prior notice and left Barisal on Thursday night.

He said that the EC team interrogated officials and staffs of Barisal EC office concerned about the delay in declaring result and went through some election-related documents. However, he refused to give details.

AL candidate Shawkat Hossain Hiron won the mayoral race defeating Progressive Democratic Party's Sharifuddin Ahmed Santu, getting 46,795 votes while Santu bagged 46,208 votes.

4 killed in Benapole road accident

UNB, Benapole

Four people were killed in separate road accidents yesterday.

In the first accident, two betel leaf traders were killed and another trader was injured in a collision between two trucks at Prembagh on Jessore-Benapole road yesterday.

The police said the betel leaf-laden truck collided head-on with another jute-laden lorry in the morning, killing trader Nasir Sheikh, 44, on the spot.

Injured Shahjahan, 40, and Abdur Rashid, 37, were admitted to Jessore General Hospital where Shahjahan died.

The three traders were going to Rupdia Bazar in Jessore from Avoynagar with betel leaf when the tragedy struck them down.

In another accident, a bicycle rider was crushed to death under the wheels of a bus at Kagozpur in the morning.

Witnesses said Jabbar Ali, 40, of Lawtara village in Sharsha upazila, was injured seriously when the speeding bus knocked down his

bicycle and crushed him. He, later, succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital.

In another accident, a truck ran over Laily Begum, 50, wife of late Ramjan Ali, when she was crossing the road in front of export terminal of the land port.

One run over by train

Our Correspondent in Pabna adds: At least one person was killed and 20 others injured as a train hit the people at Boral Railway Station under Bhanga upazila in the district on Thursday night.

The accident took place in the rail station area at around 7:30pm while they were returning home after watching a football match at Boral field.

Sources said when the people were returning home after watching the match, Dinajpur-bound Ekota Express hits them in the area, leaving at least 20 people injured.

Of the injured, Sultan Hossain, 42, of Monda village succumbed to his injuries on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on that night.



From left) Prof Sardar Fazlul Karim, NAP President Mozaffar Ahmed, labour leader Jasimuddin Mandal, language movement veteran Abdul Matin and Tagore singer Kalim Sharafi were accorded a reception at the Institute of Diploma Engineers auditorium in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Jubo Union hosted the reception in recognition of their outstanding contribution to historic movements, including the War of Liberation, on the occasion of its 32nd founding anniversary.

1,300 Yaba tablets seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-1) and Detective Branch (DB) of Police seized 1,300 pieces of Yaba tablets and arrested three people in the city yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Abdul Gafur and Amir Hossain.

Rab-1 sources said they arrested Gafur from Gulistan area with 1,000 pieces of Yaba tablets and Tk 1.3 lakh and Nazrul from Azampur area at Uttara with 50 pieces of tablets.

DB police sources said they arrested Amir from the city's Rampura area and recovered 250 pieces of Yaba tablets.

Lycrist Gobinda Haldar critically ill

Staff Correspondent

Noted lyricist Gobinda Haldar, who wrote a number of songs during the liberation war to inspire the freedom fighters, has now been critically ill and bedridden at his home in Kolkata, says a press release.

Some of his famous songs are 'Mora Ekti Phulke Bachabo Bole Juddho Kori', 'Purba Digante Surja Utheche', and 'Ek Sagor Rokter Binimoye Banglar Swadhinata Anle Jara'.

Friends, admirers and well-wishers of the lyricist will organise a programme at Dhaka Regency Hotel at Airport Road in the city at 7:00pm tomorrow to raise funds for his treatment.

232 DU teachers demand release of Khaleda, Tarique

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 232 Dhaka University (DU) teachers belonging to BNP-Jamaat backed 'white panel' yesterday expressed deep concern over the news of illness of detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman.

A joint statement, signed by white panel Convener Prof Sadru Amin and Joint Conveners Prof Mohammad Aminur Rahman Majumder and Prof Sirajul Islam, expressed the hope that Khaleda and Tarique would be released immediately and necessary steps would be taken for their proper treatment.

"We have learnt from media that the condition of Tarique is very critical. We are urging the government to take necessary steps for better treatment of his illness on humanitarian ground," the statement read.

"It is our firm belief that the caretaker government would prove its neutrality by taking proper steps in this regard," it added.

SKAL Int'l Bangladesh executives

METRO DESK

ATMA Qudus, director of The Travel House, and Zakir Khan have been elected president and general secretary of SKAL International Bangladesh for 2008-09 at a meeting recently, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Director of Jamuna Resorts Limited Rafiqul Islam and General Manager of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Trevor Macdonald -- vice-presidents; Editor of The Travel World Shahabuddin Ahmed -- director (development and communication); and President of Guest House and Hotel Owners' Association Sadique Ahsan -- treasurer.

Former director of Bangladesh Biman Raisuuddin Ahmed conducted the election as the election commissioner. SKAL International, a club of tourism professionals, has branches in 80 countries with 25,000 members.

Bracnet Chairman Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury is the founder-president of the club.

The meeting decided that the club will form chapters in Chittagong by 2008 and in Cox's Bazar by 2009.

Death anniversary

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Today is the 10th death anniversary of RM Saiful Alam Mukul, editor of the daily Runner.

On the occasion, Jessore Press Club and Journalists' Union of Jessore will organise discussions, milad mahfils and place wreaths at the grave of Mukul.

Journalist Mukul was killed in a bomb attack when he was going to his office in 1998.

Mujibar Rahman Talukder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Mujibar Rahman Talukder, a former law-maker and former president of Patuakhali district of Awami League, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence in Patuakhali. Food will also be distributed among the destitute.

Mujibar was elected member of the provincial assembly in the historic election in 1970. He was also elected member of the parliament in 1991 and 1996.

Golam Kabir Bhuiyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Golam Kabir Bhuiyan, one of the organisers of the Liberation War and father of Krishak League Organising Secretary MA Karim.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Nasirnagar in Brahmanbaria.

Maksud Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Maksud Alam, former executive director of Swanirbar Bangladesh, says a press release.

On the occasion, his family members requested all to pray for his departed soul.

Lankan army chief leaves Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

Sri Lankan Army Chief Lt General GSC Fonseka left Dhaka yesterday after a four-day visit.

He was accompanied by his wife Anoma Indumathi Fonseka and a seven-member military delegation.

Quarter Master General Lt General Md Jahangir Alam Choudhury, on behalf of the Bangladesh Army chief, saw Gen Fonseka off at Zia International Airport, said an ISPR release.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner V Karishna Moorthy was also present.

During his visit to Bangladesh, Gen Fonseka placed wreaths at the Shikha Anirban at Dhaka Cantonment. He also called on President Iajuddin Ahmed and the three service chiefs.

Fonseka, a graduate of the Defence Services Command and Staff College in Bangladesh, also attended the induction ceremony at 'Mirpur Hall of Fame' of the college.

8 robbers held in Noakhali

UNB, Noakhali

Police on Thursday arrested eight members of an inter-district dacoit gang from Charhajari and Charparbati villages under Companiganj upazila on different charges.

Acting on a tip-off, they arrested gang member M Jahangir Alam, 32, from the upazila headquarters on that night.

On the basis of his confessional statement, a team led by Officer-in-Charge M Zakir Hossain and sub-inspector (SIs) Ansarul Karim and Shafiq later arrested five dacoits, including Huq Shaheb, 32, Anwar Hossain alias Khokan, 30, M Rahmat Ullah, 29, and Jamaluddin, 30, from the two villages.

They also arrested two notorious robbers, including gang leader Shuja, 40, during another raid late at night.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over all the six divisions in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said that day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Mongla and the lowest of 23.6 degrees at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:18pm today and rises at 5:40am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 30.7 | 23.6 | 92 | 90 |
| Chittagong | 29.0 | 25.0 | 98 | 97 |
| Rajshahi | 32.6 | 25.6 | 99 | 80 |
| Khulna | 30.0 | 25.5 | 88 | 98 |
| Barisal | 32.0 | 25.6 | 80 | 96 |
| Sylhet | 27.0 | 24.5 | 97 | 97 |
| Cox's Bazar | 30.0 | 25.5 | 96 | 91 |