

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS
Form people's commission
to probe incidents

Civil society members urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Civil society members at a view exchange meeting yesterday urged the caretaker government to form a people's commission to probe into all extrajudicial killings to help establish human rights in the country.

The National Press Club in the city. Speakers at the meeting condemned the extrajudicial killings and urged the caretaker government to immediately stop crossfire, encounter and gunfight. Engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah said every citizen has rights to go to court, but law enforcers especially the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police kill people before producing them before the court.



Abdus Salam speaks at a view exchange meeting on extrajudicial killings at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Tipu Biswas and on his left are Saiful Haque, Junayed Saki and Babul Biswas.

'Unite to resist conspiracy of communal forces'

DU CORRESPONDENT

It is the right time to form a united movement to resist the conspiracy of the communal forces and fundamentalists against the country and progressive forces, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They also called on the progressive forces and people who believe in the ideology of the liberation war to fight the communal quarters and anti-liberation war forces to establish a knowledge-based democratic society.

Students of Prof Humayun Azad organised the discussion on 'Did we want to see this Bangladesh?' at RC Majumder Arts auditorium of Dhaka University.

Prof Rafiqul Khan, a teacher of Bangla department of DU, presided over the discussion that was also addressed by Prof Anu Muhammad, Prof MM Akash, Associate Professor Robayet Ferdous, Dr Soumitra Shekhar, Prof Azad's wife Latifa Kahinur Azad and his student Kudrate Khuda.

The discussion was organised to mark the 4th death anniversary of Prof Azad.

Prof Azad, one of the luminaries of Bangladesh's literati, died on August 12, 2004 in an apartment in Germany, five months after he suffered an attack by the fundamentalists. Assailants critically stabbed prominent writer Humayun Azad in front of Bangla Academy on DU campus on February 27, 2004.

The speakers said that in spite of repeated threats by the fundamentalists, Prof Azad continued writing against them.

Prof Azad's students at the discussion demanded that more of his writings be included in the curriculum at university level, the road connecting TSC and Doyel Chattar intersection be named after him, his picture be displayed at the Bangla department of DU and Prof Humayun Azad Chair be set up at the department.

Shaheed Matiul Islam-Mirza Kader memorial sculpture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sculpture in memory of Shaheed Matiul Islam and Mirza Kader was inaugurated in the National Press Club area yesterday, says a press release.

Shaheed Matiul Islam and Mirza Kader was killed by the policemen on January 1 in 1973 when they were marching towards the US embassy with a procession from the Dhaka University protesting the US invasion of Vietnam.

The sculpture was inaugurated by former DUCSU vice president and the then president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Mujahidul Islam Selim.

KCC ELECTION EXPENSES
Only 17 out of 259 candidates submit returns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Only 17 out of total 259 candidates who contested for the posts of KCC mayor and councillors have so far submitted returns of election expenses to the returning officer.

The deadline for submitting the returns expires on September 11. Those who have submitted returns include mayoral candidate Advocate Enayet Ali, 11 candidates for the posts of general councillors and five for reserved seats.

Advocate Enayet Ali has shown Tk 4 lakh 18 thousand and 400 spent for contesting the post of mayor.

Khulna City Corporation Mayor-elect Talukder Abdul Khaleque will submit his return on Sunday, said his chief election agent Mizanur Rahman who is also general secretary of the city Awami League.

Returning Officer Md Mohsin Ali said any candidate violating the rules on election expenses is liable to get maximum punishment of seven years rigorous imprisonment.

The returns for election expenses must include documentary evidences of the sources of money, said Mohsin who is also deputy election commissioner.

A candidate is to submit returns of election expenses within 30 days of the gazette notification, he added.

Pak national held with foreign currency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials yesterday seized foreign currency worth Tk 38.5 lakh from a Pakistani national at Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the city yesterday.

The Pakistani national, Siddique Rahman, 45, was carrying Indian Rupees 24.98 lakh in his bag. He was scheduled to fly to Nepal.

The customs officials searched his bag only to find the money when he was crossing the green channel at around 11:00pm.

Later, he was handed over to the Airport police. In a separate drive, the customs officials seized contraband drugs worth about Tk 50 lakh at the Airfreight Storage.

The officials said the drugs were being taken out of the airfreight storage as garments items.

Release of corrupt suspects protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) yesterday formed a human chain in the city and elsewhere in the country amid police barriers to protest the release of corrupt politicians and war criminals.

JSD leaders and activists observed the programme yesterday, a day after Tarique Rahman, a leading accused in corruption cases, was released on bail.

Police barred JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu, General Secretary Syed Jafar Sajjad and other leaders who tried to form the human chain in front of the party office at Gulistan.

The JSD president said it is unfortunate that corrupt politicians, war criminals and militants are being released from jail as part of a 'backdoor' deal between the government and the corrupt politicians.

He called on the government to try war criminals and corrupt politicians before holding of the general elections.



Students of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College who took part in a literacy campaign and those who were made literate during the campaign pose for photo with the guests at the certificate giving ceremony at the college auditorium in the city yesterday. Brac University Institute of Educational Development initiated the campaign to mark the International Literacy Day 2008.

Develop forecasting tech for agri planning, management

Experts say at int'l seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Disaster management experts at an international seminar yesterday underscored the need for developing monthly and seasonal flood forecasting technologies for agricultural planning and management, as climatic changes are likely to affect agriculture badly.

They also suggested validating and disseminating the already developed know-how of forecasting flood ten days ahead and emphasised on special attention on the flash flood areas.

At present, Bangladesh can forecast flood for 72 hours, but the new technology that has been piloted in Rajpur Lalmonirhat, Uria of Gaibandha, Kajuria of Sirajganj, Bekra Atgram of Tangail and Gazirtek of Faridpur districts could be applied countrywide from next year.

The recommendations came after a two-day seminar on 'Long lead flood forecast technology' for disaster management organised by water resources ministry in association with USAID and CARE Bangladesh at a city hotel.

Flood management experts from the US, Japan, Nepal, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand and Bangladesh are parting in the seminar to share the findings of the technology for collaboration.

Speaking at the concluding seminar, Additional Secretary to Water Resources Ministry Badrul Alam Tarafdar said, "If we can increase the lead-time of flood forecasting and apply it countrywide, we can significantly reduce the losses of life and properties caused by floods."

Bangladesh Water Development Board Director General Mozaddad Faruque said Bangladesh is a lower riparian country of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna basins and so it has no control over flooding.

"Therefore, what we need is real data on rainfall to forecast flood much ahead of time," he added.

The seminar also recommended capacity building of the local experts working in disaster management institutions and development of communication tools to disseminate disaster information at national, district, upazila, union and local community levels for immediate response from people.

23 students hurt in Gaibandha clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least 23 students of Gaibandha Agriculture Training Institute received injuries in a fierce clash between two rival groups over a trifling matter in the early hours of yesterday.

Police and eyewitnesses said furious students of two groups locked into the clash over taking sehra and ransacked the furniture and window panes of the residential hostel indiscriminately.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They also arrested seven rowdy students. The arrestees were identified as Ranju, Shakhawat, Yousuf, Tarik Uddin, Anupam, Ferdous and Mizanur.

Meanwhile, nine critically injured students were admitted to Gaibandha Sadar hospital.

Sources said the students went to the kitchen for taking sehra, but the quantity of curry was not enough for them. The trifling matter instigated them to raise a hue and cry. At one stage, the two groups exchanged heated words and locked in a bitter wrangle.

Principal of the institute suspended classes yesterday and filed a case with Gaibandha Police Station in this connection.

A tense situation is still prevailing on the campus.



Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) stages a demonstration in front of the JSD office in the city yesterday demanding an end to political relationship with the war criminals and corrupt suspects.

RCC takes up Tk 5 crore waste management project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) has undertaken a Tk 5 crore household waste management project financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), officials said.

Household waste would be properly collected everyday under the RCC-designed project. At present, residents dump their wastes onto roads and drains due to lack of sufficient dustbins.

For proper collection of garbage, at least 20 new dustbins would be set up in different areas, including Terokhadia, Shaheb Bazar, Laxmipur, Mohishbathan, Kajla, Binodpur and Padma Housing area.

Moniruzzaman's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Individuals and various organisations yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman, a noted lyricist and former chairman of Bengali department of Dhaka University.

Prof Moniruzzaman, an eminent educationist, passed away at a city hospital on Wednesday at the age of 69.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the central mosque of Dhaka University yesterday. Later, his body was taken to his village home in Jessore for burial.

Before the janaza, his body was kept on the Bangla Academy premises for people to pay their last respects to him.

UNB adds: President Iajuddin Ahmed expressed deep shock at the death of Dr Moniruzzaman.

In a condolence message yesterday, the president said the people would always remember his outstanding contribution to the education sector and cultural arena with due respect.

In another condolence message, DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz said, "The outstanding contribution of Prof Moniruzzaman as an eminent teacher, researcher, skilled administrator, renowned lyricist and as an educationist will always be remembered."

Bangla Academy, Nazrul Institute, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Jatiya Ganatantrik League and Dakshin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity also expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Moniruzzaman.

Two DAGs appointed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two deputy attorney generals (DAGs) have been appointed for moving cases on behalf of the state at the Supreme Court.

The president appointed ASM Abdul Mubin and JBM Hasan as deputy attorneys general on September 3, said an official handout.

According to sources, Abdul Mubin has been promoted to DAG from assistant attorney general (AAG) while JBM Hasan was a lawyer of the Supreme Court.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwarul Kamal Badal, founding finance secretary of Padatik Naba Sangsad and brother-in-law of the caretaker government Anwarul Iqbal, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his Houston residence in the United States on Tuesday at the age of 51, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, a daughter, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Badal, a theatre activist, was also founder member of Bangladesh Law Association.

Death anniversary of Kanai Lal Shil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 31st death anniversary of Kanai Lal Shil, a music maestro and eminent dotara player, says a press release.

On the occasion, various cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes.

Kanai Shil Shilpi Goshti will hold a discussion at 124/1 New Kakrail Road, Shantinagar, in the city at 5:00pm. A cultural programme will also be held at his son's residence at Madhubagh.

Similar programmes will be held at Karail village in Nagarkanda in Faridpur.

Chowdhury Muslima Allahma Today is the 12th death anniversary of Chowdhury Muslima Allahma, former chairman of Mustafa Allahma Gold Cup Foundation, says a press release.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.1 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.5 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazar and Sitakunda.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:12pm today and rises at 5:42am tomorrow.

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

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Celsius, Max, Min, Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)

DHAKA TODAY

Condolence meeting

Sammilita Sanskritik Jote organises a condolence meeting to pay tribute to noted playwright Zia Hyder. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 7:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Consumer Rights Protection Group will jointly organise a discussion titled 'Safe life and consumers' rights'. Venue: Bapa Solar Room, 9/12 Block D, Lalmaia. Time: 10:00am.

Reception

Bangladesh Debate Federation will accord a reception to eminent debaters and clubs. Venue: BILIA auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Award giving ceremony

The award giving ceremony of Ananya Eid Fashion Contest 2008 will be held. Venue: Hotel Abakash. Time: 4:00pm.