

## Make TV-radio autonomy functional

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Giving Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Bangladesh Betar autonomy will not yield any positive results if this autonomy cannot be made functional, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They observed that the present caretaker government had the scope to reform BTV and radio with appropriate policy to meet the long-standing demand of people.

The roundtable was organised jointly by the Prothom Alo and Dhaka University Mass Communications and Journalism Department Alumni Association at the office of the Prothom Alo in the city.

The speakers demanded formation of an independent and permanent broadcasting commission, financial freedom of the two organisations, presentation of news and views considering public interest, regular examination of

BTV and radio programmes and submission of annual report to parliament to make the autonomy functional.

The present government could bring reforms in BTV and radio as it does not need to go from door to door in bringing reforms in these institutions," said Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association.

"We feel lucky as the Right to Information (RTI) Act has been passed finally. I think we need both RTI and autonomy. Once the government accepts RTI, eventually there will be no control over BTV and radio," said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno.

"In a democratic modern society, there should not be any control over BTV and radio," she added.

"Whoever runs the country, democratic or autocratic government, there is no provision for the roundtable.

ensuring the accountability of these institutions. They even do not have any interaction with other departments," said Mamunur Rashid, a cultural personality.

"Freedom and facilities must be ensured if we want to make autonomy functional. We want such autonomy as will reflect people's will," said eminent actor Aly Zaker.

Robaet Ferdous, associate professor of mass communications and journalism department, presented a paper.

Chair of mass communications and journalism department Sheikh Abdus Salam and Deputy Editor Abdul Quayum moderated the programme while Joint Secretaries of the information ministry Kamal U Ahmed and Abu Tahir, Prof Shakhawat Ali Khan, Zafrafn Zabin Chowdhury, senior communications officer of the Unicef, and Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman were present at the roundtable.

Presenting the keynote paper, Prof Hannan Begum said equality, non-discrimination and responsibility of the state parties are the basis of the convention. But the government has reservations about article 2 and article 16.1(c) of the convention, she added.

Prof Mahmuda Islam said the reservations about the two articles have remained in place for about three decades, but no political parties came forward to announce withdrawal of the reservations.

Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal said CEDAW can be fully implemented if it gets support from the mass people.

Economist Prof Abul Barakat and Prof Sadeka Halim also spoke at the seminar presided over by Vice President of the association Ashrafuddin Chowdhury.

### Call to fully implement CEDAW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called on the government to fully implement the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to ensure women's rights.

They said the lack of understanding of and commitment to the CEDAW on the part of policymakers is the main obstacle to fully implementing it.

CEDAW has universalised the human rights of women, said rights activist Salma Khan at the seminar titled, 'CEDAW-Bangladesh context' organised by Bangladesh Economic Association at its office in the city.

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### Ban Chhatra Mukti activities on DU campus

Demands Chhatra Moitri  
DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri (BCM), a left-leaning student organisation, demanded immediate ban on the activities of Chhatra Mukti, student front of outlawed Hizb ut-Tahrir, on the Dhaka University (DU) campus.

Terming Hizb ut-Tahrir a fundamentalist Muslim group, BCM leaders also demanded punitive steps against the teachers who are involved in the organisation.

The leaders placed the demands at a press conference at Madhu's Canteen yesterday.

Taking shelter from the previous BNP-Jamaat-backed four party alliance regime, the Islamic militant organisation became active in the country, they added.

The leaders alleged that the main coordinator of the wing Mahiuddin Ahmed, an IBA teacher at DU, was directly involved in recruiting students to Chhatra Mukti.

BCM DU unit President Tanvir Rustom said, "Mahiuddin was recruiting students by offering them money and other financial facilities."

Identifying DU campus as a progressive one, they further said Chhatra Mukti should be declared unwanted on the campus.

They alleged that despite repeated demands of imposing ban on Chhatra Mukti by different left-leaning student wings, DU authorities are yet to take any effective steps.

BCM leaders said students would resist the activities of the organisation if the DU administration does not take any immediate steps soon to declare it unwanted on the campus.

They also threatened that the authorities would claim responsible for any kind of untoward incident on the campus in this connection.

To press home their demands, BCM will launch an awareness campaign against the activities of the organisation today and tomorrow.

They will stage a demonstration and submit a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz on September 23.

In reply to complaints of BNP, Jamaat and IJ, the EC said political parties would be given adequate time to amend their constitutions to fulfil the conditions for registration, meeting sources said.

EC Secretariat officials said the commission is working towards an easier registration procedure. It is planning to add a fresh provision to the RPO so the parties can do with provisional amendments to their constitutions.

As per the proposed provision, those changes will have to be ratified at national councils within six months since formation of the ninth parliament.

Four others faculty members who have joined in the department recently are -- Mahiuddin Faruque, former design director of BTV, Akhtaruzzaman, a film journalist, Pankaj Palit and Zahidur Rahim Anjan.

## Focus on indigenous people's rights

Speakers urge media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said the media should focus on the rights of indigenous people rather than only portraying their livelihoods and cultural activities.

Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, stressed better understanding of the ethnic issues and play a proactive role in bridging the gap between the media and ethnic communities for the betterment of the hill people, they said.

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) organised the roundtable on "Bridging gap between media and ethnic communities" in Rangamati with the support from the Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh under the project "Bridging Media and Ethnicity", said a press release.

Speaking as the chief guest, UNO of Rangamati Sadar Prakash Kanti Chowdhury said journalists would have to approach to the proper persons at the government and non-governmental levels to collect the right information and then provide them to the nation.

"It is the journalists who will identify the proper persons in order to collect the right information. Reporters of specific geographical areas need special facilities for their physical movement," he said and called on MRDI to take necessary initiatives in this regard.

Journalist Qurratul-Ain

presented the keynote paper at the roundtable moderated by Shahana Huda, manager (Media & Communication) of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

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## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowsers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said in a forecast. It said that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 35.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessor and lowest 24.5 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:56pm today and rises at 5:48am tomorrow.

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	32.3	25.3	90	84
Chittagong	32.0	26.0	75	88
Rajshahi	35.3	25.8	87	72
Khulna	34.0	26.3	75	77
Barisal	33.5	26.8	76	80
Sylhet	35.3	26.6	80	78
Cox's Bazar	32.5	26.4	78	96

For others faculty members who have joined in the department recently are -- Mahiuddin Faruque, former design director of BTV, Akhtaruzzaman, a film journalist, Pankaj Palit and Zahidur Rahim Anjan.

UNB

View exchange meeting

UNNAYAN SHAMUNNAY organises a view exchange meeting on current economic trends. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

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