

Raise voice against corruption to establish good governance

Says Prof Muzaffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of all walks of life should raise their voice against corruption in order to establish good governance and strengthen democracy, which are imperative to ensure development and boost economy.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said this at a roundtable yesterday.

He said that although corruption has not declined, people have become more aware of their role in fighting this menace.

He also stressed the need to establish a society based on justice and equality in order to unite the divided society and ensure fair wages for labourers and workers.

"We often see lavish spending on Iftar parties while a large number of people remain unfed in the country. Over 40 percent of the city dwellers live in slums, and they were sometimes evicted inhumanly. On the other hand, rich people remain safe in their apartments. This kind of inequality should be eliminated," he said.

Krishak Samik Party organised the roundtable at the National Press Club, under the chairmanship of MA Latif Majumder.

Prof Muzaffer called for ensuring the right to information in order to increase the transparency and accountability of the government.

An accountable and transparent government is needed to empower the countrymen and establish good governance and democracy, he added.

"We enjoy democracy only on the day of elections in our country.

We have to come out of such 'one day democracy' culture. All levels of the administration must have elected representatives, so that general people can participate in the government activities for their betterment," he said.

He also said unemployment continues to rise and many people are at risk of losing their means of livelihood because of corruption and the influence of black money.

The rate of production will have to be increased in order to reduce the burden of foreign debt, he added.



Awami League leaders offer prayers at a doa and milad mahfil for early recovery of AL President Sheikh Hasina from illness at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday. The AL organised the milad on the occasion of her 61st birth anniversary.

WORLD HEART DAY OBSERVED

Heart attack kills 1.75cr a yr globally

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a seminar yesterday said around 1.75 crore people die of heart attack across the world every year, which are commonly known as the non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Very few people in the country know that heart disease mainly stems from our living style and it is often hereditary. At the same time, we are not aware of the risk factors of the diseases that lead to increase the number of heart patients, they added.

The experts said this at the seminar organised by National Heart Foundation Hospital at its office in the city to mark the World Heart Day.

With the slogan 'Know your risk', the day was marked through holding rallies, seminars and discussions as NCDs are on the rise in the country. Different healthcare centres organised elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The experts at the seminar underscored the need for giving up

smoking for a better life as it doubles the chance of people's getting affected with heart diseases.

The experts suggested that every person should boost his/her physical activities, check blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol regularly, reduce body weight or obesity and take more vegetables and fruits rather than taking fast foods.

"More than 30 minutes' moderate activity every day is important for cardiovascular fitness, though the capital city lacks open spaces for playing or walking," said Dr M Mostafa Zaman of World Health Organisation while presenting a slide show, adding that open spaces for physical activity should have in the urban planning.

Health Secretary AMM Nasir Uddin said due to our lifestyle and consumption of adulterated food, NCDs have been increasing in the country which should be addressed.

He also raised the health policy issue and said a health policy prepared only on the draft has been

and dialogue would be held to review it.

"The government doesn't want to make health service as commodity and it wishes to reach health service to the poor and rural people and there is no indication of the donor agencies in preparing the policy," he added.

Special Assistant to Chief Advisor Brig Gen (ret) MA Malek was present on the occasion as the chief guest while Justice Chowdhury ATM Masud was in the chair.

National Prof Brig (ret) Abdul Malik, secretary general of National Heart Foundation, its Vice President Prof RK Khandaker and Dewan Zakir Hussain, secretary to social welfare ministry, also spoke.

Labaid Cardiac Hospital also held a rally. Some 200 doctors, nurses and employees of the hospital took part in the rally.

Later, the experts at a discussion at the hospital discussed about heart diseases, its risk factors, modern treatment and cautionary measures.



National Heart Foundation, World Heart Federation and World Health Organisation jointly take out a procession in the city yesterday marking the World Heart Day.

Farmers' countrywide rally for agricultural inputs on Oct 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Krishak Samity, a platform of farmers, will form human chains across the country on October 13 demanding smooth supply of agricultural inputs to the farmers.

The programmes were announced at a press conference at Mukti Bhaban at Paltan in the city yesterday.

The peasant leaders said if the farmers do not get the agricultural inputs in time, the country cannot

achieve food security.

They said that the farmers didn't get the seeds timely and some seed companies have provided the farmers with low quality seeds and that's why paddy in Dinajpur area turned reddish.

The leaders alleged that the government never takes steps in due time. They should have taken proper steps to distribute fertiliser, seed and pesticide after the flood, but they didn't, added the peasant leaders.

General Secretary of the organisation, Marshed Ali said, "We want

the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADCO) to distribute fertilisers and seeds among the farmers rather than any company."

He said, "The security of farmlands should also be ensured, as we are losing about one lakh hectares of land per year."

Executive President of the organisation Advocate SMA Sabur, Organising Secretary Sazzad Zahir Chandan, Bimalendu Halder and Nur Nabi Selim were present at the press conference.

Shoe factory owner murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Policemen yesterday recovered the body of a slain owner of a shoe factory who was stabbed to death by some unknown criminals at Sutrapur in the city on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Haque Miah, 40.

Sutrapur Police said the victim's relatives did not find him since Saturday night and suspected that he could be in the factory.

On information, they went to the factory at Norendra Bashak Lane and recovered the body from the factory where heels of the shoes are made.

Police send the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College Morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said they have found stab injuries in many parts of his body.

Business partner of the victim Taleb Ali said he left the factory on Saturday evening after paying the wages to the workers when Abdul Haque was inside the factory. But he could not give any clue to the incident.

A case was filed with Sutrapur Police Station in this connection.

Police said they are yet to ascertain the motive behind the murder.

Bomb attack on vegetables vendor in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A vegetable vendor was injured as snatchers hurled home-made bombs at him in the city's Jatrabari area yesterday morning.

The injured was identified as Tajul Islam, 40, a vegetables seller at Jatrabari.

The victim was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with burn injuries in his both hands.

Tajul told reporters that two muggers near Jatrabari Bazar tried to snatch money from him at knife point, but he tried to escape from the place.

The muggers then hurled two cocktails at him. But one of the simple bombs burst on his hand and the other fell on the floor.

Police could not arrest anybody in this connection.

World Teachers' Day on Oct 5

BSS, Dhaka

World Teachers' Day will be observed across the country on October 5 as elsewhere in the world marking the adoption of the UNESCO and ILO recommendations for protection of teachers' rights and dignity all over the world.

The recommendations were adopted in a conference of the world leaders in Paris on October 5, 1966.

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) will organise a discussion at 3:00pm at the National Press Club, says a press release.

NFTE will observe the day with the theme 'Movements of teachers in Bangladesh: Principal Quamruzzaman a pioneer' in recognition to his contribution towards development of education, teachers, employees as well as quality of education in the country.

Orientation of child sight fellowship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The orientation programme for Child Sight Journalist Fellowship was held on Saturday.

Child Sight Foundation organised the orientation programme at its office at Mohakhali in the city on Saturday.

Founder of the Child Sight Foundation Dr MA Muhiit presided over the programme while Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, executive editor of the daily Sangbad, attended as special guest.

Muhiit said 12 thousand children out of 40 thousand children with sight disability are suffering from cataract, which is curable. He urged the fellow journalists to work to create awareness on the disease.

Twenty journalists were given fellowship for six months.



A Rover Scout holds a sign at Kamalapur Railway Station in the city yesterday to help passengers find out their train compartments easily as a large number of people rush to the railway station to go to their village homes to celebrate Eid with their near and dear ones. The Scout initiated this service for the passengers of special trains meant for the home-bound people.

RE-DEMARCATON OF CONSTITUENCIES

HC likely to hear pending writ petition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) is likely to hear today the pending writ petition challenging the legality of the Election Commission's (EC) gazette notification, finalising the re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies.

A vacation bench of the HC comprising Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Md Rezaul Haque on September 22 fixed September 29 for hearing the petition.

Dr Shahdeen Malik, counsel for EC, yesterday told The Daily Star that they are well prepared for taking part in the hearing of the writ petition today.

He also informed that the EC has appointed senior counsel and former Attorney General, Mahmudul Islam for moving the case on behalf

of the EC.

Barrister Nasiruddin Ahmed Asim, a counsel for the writ petitioner, yesterday said he would file an application with the HC seeking time for hearing the petition, since some senior counsels for the petitioner are not available in the city and others are busy with their tasks.

Sources said senior counsels -- advocates TH Khan and Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia -- have been assigned for fighting the legal battle on behalf of the petitioner.

An HC bench of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mashuque Hossain Ahmed on August 7 stayed for three months a gazette notification of the EC finalising the re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies and also issued a rule on the government and the EC to

explain why the July 10 gazette notification should not be declared unconstitutional and illegal.

The HC issued the rule following a writ petition by former BNP state minister Abdul Mannan challenging the July 10 gazette that brought changes to 84 of the 133 constituencies the commission had provisionally re-demarcated on April 29.

The petitioner stated in the petition that Article 122 of the constitution and the Electoral Roll (Amendment) Ordinance 2007 require that the authorities redraw the constituencies before the voter list is prepared so that people could decide in advance in which constituency they would get registered as voters.

"The EC has re-demarcated the constituencies after over 99 percent of the voter list was complete, violating the constitution," he added.

Permanent release of Hasina demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Sports organisers, players and sports personalities in a joint statement yesterday demanded permanent release of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

In the statement they said Hasina has been suffering from eye, ear and other complications. For her better treatment and free life she should be given permanent release.

Among the signatories to the statement are Golam Sarwar Tipu, Mohammad Mizanur Rahman Manu, Harun ur Rashid, Gazi Golam Dastgir Biruttam, Mohammed Asif Hossain Khan, Sabrina Sultana, Badal Ray, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Naimur Rahman Durjay, Akram Khan, Sheikh Me Akbar and Prof. Ashraf Hossain Lipu.

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