

Execute verdict in Bangabandhu murder case

Speakers urge govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded immediate execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case.

They expressed hope that the newly formed government would materialise the dream of executing the murderers.

The programme was organised by Banga Mata Parishad at the National Press Club in the city to observe the 37th homecoming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The speakers urged the government to telecast the complete video on the historic day to make the new generation aware of the country's history.

Presiding over the programme, Prof Razia Motin Chowdhury called on all to enshrine Bangabandhu in the hearts of all.

Presidium panel member of the Parishad Prof AAMS Arefin Siddiqi called on the government to materialise the verdict of the jail killing case along with that of Bangabandhu murder case.

Prof Durga Das Bhattacharjee emphasised the need to give Ramna Racecourse Maidan to its previous shape and demanded steps to establish a Bangabandhu memorial.

Health Affairs Secretary of Awami League Dr Mostofa Jalal Mohiuddin was present as the chief guest at the discussion where Prof Kazi Faruq Ahmed, Hasan Jamil Sattar and Prof Sultana Shafi also took part.

Workshop on quality edn held

METRO DESK

Speakers at a workshop on quality education emphasised the need for applying innovative methods in teaching so that students become ready for challenges of the 21st century.

The speakers made the call at a daylong workshop titled 'Continuous improvement in quality education' at Jamuna Resort on Thursday, says a press release.

Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) organised the workshop for the teachers of the NUB, Northern College and Northern International Medical College to upgrade their teaching skills.

NUB Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Shamsul Haque and Prime Asia University Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr ANM Meshquat Uddin spoke were the resource persons at the workshop.

A 10-point guideline on how to become a good teacher was also supplied to the teachers at the workshop.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday on the occasion of the homecoming day of Bangabandhu.

BANGABANDHU'S HOMECOMING DAY Materialise Bangabandhu's dream of Sonar Bangla: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation yesterday celebrated the historic homecoming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

To mark the occasion, President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages highlighting the significance of the day.

The prime minister placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Road No 32 of Dhanmondi in the morning first as the head of government and then as the party chief and stood in solemn silence for a while as a mark of respect for the father of the nation.

Her cabinet colleagues, advisers, lawmakers and party leaders also accompanied her.

In her message, Hasina said the people of the country dream of a democratic and modern Bangladesh.

She called on the people to materialise her father's dream of 'Sonar Bangla'.

Hasina said December 29 parliamentary election, in which the Awami League (AL) won a landslide victory, is a reflection of that dream.

In his message, the president said the country's independence hero returned to the country on this day after the victory in the liberation war.

"After an armed struggle and untold suffer-

ings, the people got back their great leader in the midst of them," he added.

On this day in 1972, Mujib made a triumphal return to newly independent Bangladesh after confinement in a jail in Pakistan during the liberation war that ended with the emergence of Bangladesh on December 16, 1971.

The Pakistan army arrested Mujib on the night of March 25, 1971 just after his declaration of the independence of Bangladesh.

The AL and its associate bodies held numerous programmes including a main discussion programme at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre to celebrate the day.

Different socio-cultural organisations also celebrated the day after seven years through various programmes.

These included Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Awami Tarun League, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolon, Jatiya Gonotantik League, Garments Sramik Kendra, Sonar Bangla Jubo Parishad and Bangabandhu Lalitkala Academy.

Party members also visited Tungpara in Gopalganj to place wreaths at the graves of Mujib and his immediate family members who were assassinated in a military coup in August 1975.

Stranded Pakistanis greet Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) yesterday greeted Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of the office of prime minister and Awami League's landslide victory in the December 29 Jatiya Sangsad election.

The committee hoped that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will take initiative to solve the long-standing problem of stranded Pakistanis living at different camps in 13 districts of the country, said a press release of SPGRC.

The committee also prayed to almighty Allah to enable Awami League to complete its five-year tenure peacefully and serve the nation successfully.

Altaf, Sharif win Prothom Alo best book awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poet Altaf Hossain and ornithologist Sharif Khan were honoured with 'Prothom Alo Barsha Sera Boi-1414' (best book of the year) award for their books 'Pakhi Bole' and 'Bangladesher Pakhi' respectively.

Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam, chairman of the jury panel, gave away the awards to the winners at a ceremony at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. The award carries Tk 50,000, a certificate and a crest.

The Prothom Alo, a leading Bangladesh daily, has been giving the awards to the writers of best books in two categories -- creative and intellectually inspiring books -- every year for the last five years.

Receiving the award, Altaf Hossain said he got the inspiration for writing poems in his boyhood and that poet Jibonanda Das is his idol. "Poems can heal our pains," he added.

Sharif Khan said he has watched different types of birds, including many rare birds, in his village.

But now villages are losing their rural environment because of development, he said and called for steps to keep intact at least few villages, which will represent the real picture of rural areas.

Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, also spoke at the award giving ceremony.

Members of the jury board included Prof Md Rafiq, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, Prof Khandokar Ashraf Hossain and writer Begum Akhter Kamal.



Recipients of 'Prothom Alo Barsha Sera Boi-1414' (best book of the year) award pose for photograph with the jury board members at a ceremony at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

SAHR demands end to Israeli attacks on Gaza

METRO DESK

Members of South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) yesterday called for an end to Israel's aggression on the civilian population in Gaza.

In a press release, they also urged the international community to press for an immediate suspension of Israeli attacks.

With Israel continuing to push deeper into Gaza Strip, death toll continues to rise, SAHR said and mourns the loss of life due to aerial bombardment and heavy fighting.

UN officials say at least 25 percent of the Palestinian casualties have been civilians and a serious humanitarian crisis has developed. The people of Gaza are terrorised. They are traumatised and they are under siege.

A million people across the Strip are without electricity, because of the inability to get fuel, and the main power plant has been shut down since Sunday. At least a quarter of a

million people, probably more, are without running water. Food distribution centres run by the United Nations Relief and Work Agency have managed to keep going, however, and most of their health clinics have also opened.

The UN has warned of the effects of growing shortages of basic foodstuffs and fresh water because of damage to the infrastructure.

The Israeli operations are a clear violation of international humanitarian law and must be stopped by the UN and the international community, said SAHR.

Demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, SAHR called upon the Israeli government to end the appalling treatment of the Palestinian people and harassment of Gaza residents.

It also called upon the UN to take effective measures to stop Israeli aggression on unarmed civilians in Gaza and bombing of schools, which has led to the killing of children and innocent citizens.

ATTACK ON BNP MEN Ministers patronise party criminals

Says Delwar

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday alleged that criminals belonging to the ruling party are attacking his party leaders and workers under the patronisation of responsible ministers.

"On one hand, criminals of the ruling party are carrying out attacks on BNP leaders and workers. On the other hand, the responsible ministers are patronising them," he said in a statement.

"As a result, people fear that the country will be turned into a

haven of miscreants," he added.

The BNP secretary general expressed concern and condemned what he called continued AL terrorist attacks that started after the December 29 elections.

"Despite condemnation and protest from different quarters, Awami League didn't stop their criminal activities. Rather, the criminal activities are spreading day by day," he said.

Detailing some attacks on BNP leaders and workers and their property, Delwar said: "These incidents are symptoms of establishing rule of terrorism in the country."

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