

Time to rebuild nation by eliminating corruption

Say eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The time has come for the young generation to rebuild the nation by removing all sorts of corrupt and illegal practices, eminent citizens said at a programme yesterday.

The function titled 'Deshar Jonno' (for the country) was organised by advertising firm 'de coordinator' at Sultana Kamal Sports Complex at Dhanmondi in the city where around 8000 students vowed to work to this end, says a press release.

"Corruption is the main reason behind social erosion. We hope that the youths will not engage in corruption. We must resist corruption together," said M Hafizuddin Khan of Transparency

International Bangladesh (TIB).

Deputy Editor of the daily Prothom Alo and novelist Anisul Hoque said, "This country is our mother saved by the freedom fighters in 1971. Now is the time for the youths to work for the wellbeing of our motherland."

Calling upon the youths to establish a culture of going by law, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said respect for law and unity among youths is very important for building the nation.

Ain O Salih Kendra Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal said repression on women and throwing acid on them are the most coward-like acts and it is the youths who can promise not to resort to any such works.

The students in the huge gathering harmonised with her, saying "No" to these violent actions.

Organisers said this is the first time they have organised such a programme to create social awareness among the youths and they will continue to do so in future.

Singers Mahmuduzzaman Babu, Milon Mahmud, Tapash, Topu and Dipta performed at the function.

The gathering stood up for a minute to pay respect to the motherland.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, newly elected lawmaker Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Tapash, novelist Selina Hossain, Janata Bank Director Dr Fahmida Khatun, dramatist Mostafa Sarwar Farouqi, advertise-

ment maker Amitav Reza, journalists Saiduzzaman Rawshan and Ferdous Faisal, Scholars Bangladesh Chief Executive ME Chowdhury Shamim, film director Giasuddin Selim, Daffodil Group Chairman Sabur Khan, REHAB President Tanveerul Hoque Probal, Mutual Trust Bank Ltd Managing Director Kazi Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman, Asset Development Managing Director FR Khan, Otobi Ltd Managing Director Animesh Kundu, Panjeree Publications Director Kamrul Hasan Shayok, Emirates Airlines Country Manager Hanif Zakaria, Hotel Sonargaon Director Quazi Rakibuddin Ahmed and HSBC Bangladesh CSR Manager M Sami Hafiz were also present.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia along with other lawmakers offers prayers at the inaugural session of the ninth parliament at the Jatiya Sangsad in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

CLASH OVER PLAYGROUND

Jail authorities deny ransacking madrasa rooms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Dhaka Central Jail yesterday denied Aliya Madrasa's accusation of ransacking rooms of its dormitories by jail guards.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Prisons Major Shamsul Haider Siddique, however, admitted that some guards equipped with sticks took part in Saturday's clash with the students following a dispute over the playground at Lalbagh.

When asked at a press conference, the DIG prison said they do not know who damaged the rooms.

He led a three-member committee led by Jail Super Tauhidul Islam was formed yesterday to investigate the incident.

The authorities have reached a consensus that both the guards and the students will play together in the field, he added.

Major Haider said the jail authorities did not know that the playground belonged to the Central Jail since the time of British rule in the subcontinent.

After examining relevant documents recently, they became sure that the field belongs to them, he added.

But the field was shown mistakenly in the field record of Mahanagar survey as the property of the madrasa, he said, adding that the jail authorities had filed a case with the survey department in this regard.

After a hearing, the Judge of the survey department delivered the verdict in favour of the jail authorities, he said.

But the Principal of Aliya Madrasa Muhammad Islam Ghani told The Daily Star that the authorities concerned gave the madrasa permission to use the playground in 1959 and since then their students have been using it.

Ghani said he did not receive any document from the jail authorities regarding their claims.

At least 46 people including 21 guards, 20 students and 5 locals were injured in Saturday's clash.

The madrasa authorities also alleged that the guards ransacked six rooms at one of its dormitories near the playground and took away a computer and eight mobile phone sets.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Taibun Nesa Begum, mother of Md Majbar Rahman, executive director of Srijan Brikker Chhoa, a voluntary organisation, passed away at her residence at Gabtoli in the city on Saturday at the age of 90, says a press release.

She left behind her son, two daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Qulhwan of Taibun Nesa will be held at Jamidar Bari at Purana Gabtoli after Zohr prayers on Wednesday.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of deputy police super and founder of Bangladesh Reserve Police Force (RRF) Khulna Md Golam Kibria, says a press release.

Late Kibria started his career in the Bengal Police Service during the British regime in 1938 and retired in 1972. He was awarded medals by the government for his outstanding services to the nation.

As an astute police officer, he was actively involved in reforming police department immediately after the country's independence. He died at the age of 91.

His son Prof M Golam Shahi Alam is a senior teacher of the faculty of Veterinary Science at Bangladesh Agricultural University.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend a doa mahfil to be held at his residence in Jessore and pray for peace and salvation of the departed soul.

Extend support to cut maternal deaths

Health minister urges WHO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday urged the World Health Organisation (WHO) to extend its support to the developing countries to reduce maternal and reproductive health-related deaths.

They have also sought necessary help from WHO and other development partners to implement e-health programme to make a digital Bangladesh by 2021, he added.

Ruhul said they have taken an initiative to restart community clinics throughout the country, the initiative was taken in the earlier regime of AL, and sought assistance from the

organisation for its effective implementation.

The minister said this at a press briefing at the conference room of the ministry after attending at the 124th session of its executive board in Geneva.

He further said that they have already got the clearance of appointing over 6000 health assistants and they will be trained after their appointments.

Ruhul said they have also sought assistance of WHO to set up drug testing laboratory to increase the strength of export-essential drugs.

"If we are able to set up a drug testing laboratory, it will be possible to export a huge number of essential drugs to other countries," he added.

Replying to a question, the minister said a health policy will be formulated after discussing with all stakeholders.

Apart from the WHO session, he also held a meeting with its South-east Asian director and bilateral talks with the health ministers of China, India, Brazil, Indonesia and Mali.

The director appreciated the Vision 2021 programme of the Bangladesh government and gave assurance of providing their all-out supports to implement different targets, he mentioned.

The WHO session of the executive board began on January 19 which will continue until January 29.

Biharis kept waiting for passport

FROM PAGE 16

passport officers say, without holding a permanent address, one will not be eligible for getting a passport.

Mostakim, a resident of Mohammadpur Geneva camp said, "The last September, I had paid Tk 2000 against a passport but I could not manage it even after showing my national ID card."

Meanwhile, concealing original identity, many Biharis had got passports before obtaining Bangladeshi citizenship. But they are also facing the same problem while trying to renew the passport.

Md Abbas, a resident of Wapda Bihari colony in Mirpur-10 said, "I obtained my passport in 1995 and visited India once. Recently, I have surrendered it before the

passport office to renew it. But when I asked for it, they told me that it can't renew the passport without my permanent address."

As per the HO directive, Biharis were enrolled as voter and got national ID card in last August and exercised their rights to vote first time in December 29 preliminary polls.

Md Hasan, general secretary of the Association of the Young Generation of the Urdu-speaking community termed the situation of not issuing passport to them as a clear form of discrimination.

Sadakat Khan, president of Stranded Pakistanis Youth Rehabilitation Movement has urged the government for making formal announcement whether the Biharis will be eligible for getting

Bangladeshi passport or not.

There are around 250,000 to 300,000 Urdu-speaking Biharis in Bangladesh. Of them, around 160,000 are languishing in 166 camps across the country, says a survey of UNHCR.

Around 4.26 lakh Biharis left Bangladesh during and after the Liberation War in 1971 while around 4 lakh opted to stay on. Following an agreement in 1974, Pakistan took back over 1 lakh, says a publication of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit of Dhaka University.

Later, Pakistan government stopped accepting applications from those willing to return and terminated the repatriation process.

Hazardous purified water given

FROM PAGE 16

HM Foysool bought the bottle of Neofloxin and Napa Syrup from the pharmacy after a doctor at the Shishu Hospital prescribed those for his son.

"After I opened the pack of Neofloxin, I found a bottle containing granules and a smaller bottle labelled purified water. There were instructions on the pack to mix the granules with the water. When I was about to open the bottle of water, I noticed some sort of 'dirt' floating in it," he said, adding that he did not open the bottle and brought it straightaway to The Daily Star office.

When the representatives of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd came to know about it, they visited The Daily Star office and sought permission to check the bottle at their factory to see whether it was a counterfeit product and whether the particle is harmful.

On January 18, the quality assurance experts of the pharmaceuticals company thoroughly examined the bottle and retention samples in presence of the customer and the reporter of The Daily Star.

"The particle in the bottle is not harmful," said Mohammad Tahir Siddiqui, executive director (Quality) of the pharmaceuticals company, adding that Methyl

Paraben Sodium and Propyl Paraben Sodium were used as preservatives that later turned into a slightly thick visible element.

"Cool temperature or humidity or wrong handling might have caused a micro leakage making the preservatives turn into the thick element," he added.

Ciprofloxacin is a synthetic antibiotic used for the treating a variety of indications, including lower respiratory tract infections (such as pneumonia and acute bronchitis), urinary tract infections, several sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), skin and soft tissue infections, septicemia, legionellosis and anthrax.

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3 investigations find 3 reasons

FROM PAGE 1

enquiry committee submitted its report saying that organised criminal gang was behind the sensational break-in at Rail Bhaban on January 18.

Committee chief Joint Director General (engineering) of Bangladesh Railway Habib Ahmed handed the 143-page report over to Belayet Hossain, director general of Bangladesh Railway.

It said no official files or important documents were lost in the incident that left 56 rooms of the well-guarded Rail Bhaban ransacked.

The report mentioned that criminals committed the crime for the purpose of theft, Belayet Hossain told The Daily Star. He said the probe report held four security guards responsible for negligence in their duties and outsiders took advantage and carried out the

burglary. On Thursday, the communications ministry probe committee led by Joint Secretary Nasrin Akter submitted its report saying it was not an incident of mere theft.

The report said criminals broke into the office rooms to take away something that was "valuable but illegal".

Talking to The Daily Star, Nasrin Akter said, "It is sure that the criminals did not ransack 56 rooms just for Tk 92,000, four mobile phones and a laptop."

The DB of police recently arrested Enamul Huq Khokan with Tk 5,000, a stolen cellphone, a microbus and lock-breaking equipment in his possession.

Meanwhile, the CID arrested the seven railway security guards who were suspended after the break-in at Rail Bhaban.

After the arrests, officials of CID and DB told The Daily Star there was no link between the two sets of arrests.

The three-member committee, led by Assistant Transport Officer (ATO) Omar Faruk, after investigating the break in at Divisional Transport Officer's office in the DRM building of Pahartali in Chittagong submitted its report to the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Friday.

It blamed failure and negligence of two security guards who were on duty on January 18 and recommended them to be punished.

The report observed that since a case was filed with Khulshi Police Station in this connection, the main reason behind the theft could be unearthed through the police investigation.



President Iajuddin Ahmed delivers his speech at the inaugural session of the 9th parliament at the Jatiya Sangsad in the city yesterday.

Implement AL manifesto on CHT

Speakers ask MPs from hill dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CHT Adivasi Society accorded a reception to State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder, lawmakers Jatindra Lal Tripura and Bir Bahadur and Member of National Human Rights Commission Dr Niru Kumar Chakma at Shakkymuni Buddhist Temple in Mirpur on Saturday.

Chief of Chakma Circle Raja Devashish Roy chaired the programme addressed by Additional IGP NBK Tripura, Pragnyanonda Mahathero, Abhilash Tripura, Kirti Nishan Chakma, Prasenjit Chakma and Lunglung Khumi.

The speakers urged the state minister and lawmakers to play proactive role in implementing the Awami League's manifesto on the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the indigenous people.

They also said the indigenous people will extend full cooperation to the government in making any initiative for the welfare of indigenous people and protection of their rights.

The programme ended with a colourful cultural programme.

Valuables worth Tk 8 lakh looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of armed robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 8 lakh from the house of a retired police officer in the city's Mirpur area early yesterday.

Police said at around 4:00am a gang of 7-8 robbers broke into the residence of Shamsuddin Ahmed at Dakkhin Pirerbagh at Mirpur.

The robbers tied Shamsuddin and his wife with ropes and keeping them at gunpoint, looted gold ornaments of 20 tolas, Tk 3 lakh in cash and prize bonds and other valuables, police said.

Mymensingh road crash kills 5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least five people including a woman were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident at Narayanpur on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway under Trishal upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Amirul Morol, 26, son of Zaker Mondol of village Kaliganj and Kabirul Islam, 28, son of Samad Gazi in Shamnagar upazila in Satkhira, Lebena, 30, daughter of Abdul Motaleb, Jahangir, 17, son of Rafiqul Hossain and Abdul Khaleque, 55, son of Abdul Rahman—all hailed from Trishal.

Police said the accident occurred when a Mymensingh-bound passenger bus from Bhaluka

ploughed into a crowd who were engaged in collecting vegetables from a crashed Dhaka-bound truck laden with sand and vegetables.

Hearing the news of the truck accident that killed four people on the spot at around 7:00am, the locals rushed to the scene to collect vegetables and met the accident, police added.

Of the injured, 13 were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Of them, Abdul Khaleque succumbed to his injuries.

The injured are: Siraj, 30, Salah Uddin, 21, Akbar Ali, Roni, 19, Abdul Haque, 55, Al-Mamun, 20, Salam, 25, Helel, 20, Humayan, 15, Mustafa, 20, Jayadul, 30, Yusuf Hossain and Abdul Latif, 35.

A case was filed with Trishal Police Station.

Three muggers arrested for killing their accomplice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police arrested three muggers from Jatrabari area in the city yesterday on charges of killing one of their accomplices.

The arrestees were identified as Kalam alias Sujon, 14, Abdul Mannan, 20, and Mizanur Rahman Suman, 19.

The victim, Kabir Hossain, 14, was found slaughtered at Konapara on Friday night.

The police also recovered the knife used in the killing.

Quoting Sujon, the police said the three slaughtered Kabir after he came to the spot in the afternoon to play with them.

The killing was an act of vengeance by Sujon as some friends of Kabir in Shahjahanpur took away Sujon's money when he (Sujon) along with Kabir went to them to buy a firearm several days ago, the police added.

TIB invites reports on corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has invited reports on corruption from journalists of both print and electronic media for its Investigative Journalism Award 2008, says a press release.

This year the award will be given in three categories -- reports published in dailies and magazines under national newspapers, reports published in regional dailies and magazines under regional newspapers and reports telecast by BTv and other private TV channels under television.

In the national newspaper category, the reports published from any newspaper and magazine from Dhaka city will be considered. The winners will be awarded Tk 60,000, crests and certificates.

Reports published in the print media or telecast in electronic media from January 1 to December 31, 2008 are eligible for inclusion in the competition.

The reports will have to be sent to the Advocacy Department, Transparency International Bangladesh, Progress Tower, House-1 (6th floor), Road-23, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 by March 31.

The main copy of the report will have to be submitted. In case of failure, attested photocopy will also serve the purpose.

TV reports will have to be submitted with full scripts after converting them into CD. The report will contain a photograph of the participant, contact address and telephone number and 'Investigative Reporting Award 2009' should be written on the envelope. The reports could be sent through the e-mail address: 'advocacy@tib-bangladesh.org'.

One participant cannot submit more than one report except series reports. Investigative feature report may also be included.

TIB has been offering the award every year since 1999 to increase professionalism in investigative journalism on corruption.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 13.0 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:41pm today and rises at 6:41am 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	25.9	15.6	98	77
Chittagong	25.5	16.4	99	88
Rajshahi	20.7	14.2	100	92
Khulna	28.2	15.5	99	80
Barisal	27.7	13.8	98	80
Sylhet	21.8	15.7	100	94
Cox's Bazar	28.0	16.4	85	81

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop
Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) in association with WaterAid Bangladesh organises a workshop on improving the standard of water and sanitation services in the slum areas. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Launching ceremony
The launching ceremony of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Bangladesh Network will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9:30am.

Workshop
Total Solar Eclipse Observation National Committee organises a workshop. Venue: Russian Science and Culture Centre. Time: 9:00am.