

Remain united to help protect democracy

PM urges journalists

Unb, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the flow of democracy would have to be kept uninterrupted as freedom of press depends on democratic dispensation.

"All must remain conscious and united so that democracy is not harmed by any means. There is no alternative to democracy to ensure development of people of all walks of life," she said while talking to leading media men come from across the country.

She reiterated her government's stance to ensure freedom of the media and journalism and urged the media men to do objective, responsible and sensible journalism.

Hasina made the remarks when a delegation of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) led by its President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Altaf Mahmud called on her at the Prime Minister's Office at noon.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, Press Secretary to Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad and Deputy Press Secretary Mahbulul Hoque Shakil were present.

The BFUJ president informed the premier of various problems of journalists of the country's national and regional dailies, particularly of the daily Ittefaq, The Bangladesh Observer and the Janakantha.

He sought urgent initiatives of the prime minister to save the journalists from the crises they are facing.

Iqbal requested Hasina to formulate a national policy for flourishing the newspaper industry.

He demanded the prime minister reinforce the Printing and Publications Act 1974, which was enacted during the government of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to restore dignity of the journalists.

BFUJ Treasurer Azmal Hossain Farazei, member

Shamim Siddiqui, DUJ General Secretary Omar Faruq, Chittagong Union of Journalists Mostaq Ahmed, Rajshahi Union of Journalists Hasan Millat, Cox's Bazar Union of Journalists President Abu Taher and Mymensingh Union of Journalists President Sultan Uddin Khan also spoke at the meeting.

The BFUJ leaders informed the premier that though the government has declared the 7th Wage Board Award, some 90 percent media houses, including the country's some top newspapers and news agencies, are yet to implement the wage board.

They demanded a fair investigation into the killings of journalists during the last BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government and punishment to the killers.

Hasina was also requested to take steps to resolve the accommodation problems of the journalists across the country.

She gave a patient hearing

to the journalists and assured them of taking every possible measure for their welfare.

Regarding accommodation crisis, Hasina informed the media men that the government has a plan to launch housing projects at the district level which will be much effective in solving the crisis.

The housing projects can be useful if these are provided to the commoners through hire-purchase basis, she told them.

Hasina said at present the country's newspapers are enjoying full freedom which was not present in the past.

"But unfortunately, some media houses are publishing untrue and baseless news reports using the freedom of media," she told the delegation.

"I request those media houses to refrain from doing yellow journalism. We all have to be honest and industrious to build up a modern and prosperous Bangladesh," the PM said.

She said over 100 journalists were killed and about 1,000 journalists had to be disabled for oppression during the last alliance government.

Hasina recognised that the journalists have to discharge their duties amid high risks and expressed her government's commitment to ensuring their professional development.

The BFUJ leaders highly praised the PM for her "skillfulness" on dispute and crisis management, saying that the way she tackled the last February's Pikhana carnage is an example even for the world leadership.



Winners of Anannya Top Ten 2008 awards pose for a photograph with Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and former adviser to a caretaker government Rokia Afzal Rahman at the award handover ceremony at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

HR Commission team meets president

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of the National Human Rights Commission led by its chairman Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury called on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

The team told the president that the Commission has so far disposed of 20 complaints, out of 46, since its inception last December.

Justice Amirul informed the President that despite its limited resources, it takes cases on their own initiative from the published newspaper reports. He also apprised the president that the 'National Human Rights Commission Ordinance-2007' is expected to be passed in the next Jatiya Sangsad session into an act because it is presently under active consideration of the relevant parliamentary standing committee.

He said, "The Commission is playing a vital role in upholding the country's image through participating in different human rights-related meetings, seminars and conferences both at home and abroad." Zillur said: "The Commission can play an important role in guaranteeing welfare of poor and distressed people, who become victims of human rights violation." He assured them of his cooperation in performing their activities properly.

Justice Amirul was accompanied by two other members-- Munira Khan and Niru Kumar Chakma.

Ten receive Anannya Top Ten awards

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ten women received the 'Anannya Top Ten 2008' awards yesterday for their outstanding contributions to different potential sectors in society.

The women from 10 distinct fields, including music, media, business, science, liberation war, publication, archaeology, instruments, photography and mountaineering, received the awards.

The Anannya, a fortnightly magazine for women, organised the award distribution ceremony at the National Museum auditorium in the city with former adviser to a caretaker government Rokia Afzal Rahman in the chair.

Lalon maestro Farida Parveen received the award for her special contribution to music. She won the prestigious 'Fukuoku Prize' of Japan last year for her contribution to raising the standing of Lalon songs and promoting them internationally.

Media personality Samia Zaman, who played a vital role in bringing a radical change in television journalism and is, at a time, a producer as well as filmmaker, also received the award.

Afroza Baree, the first female entrepreneur in shipyard business in Bangladesh, and Dr Zakia Begum, the first female official in Bangladesh Nuclear Energy Commission who has been working as director of the commission's

planning and development department, bagged the awards.

Freedom fighter Sandha Ranee Sangma, a Garo woman, who joined the liberation war in nursing and in battlefield, and Shaheena Rahman, owner of the academic press and publishers' library, were also honoured with the awards.

Dr Shahnaz Husne Zahan received the award for her contribution to archaeology sector, while Dr Nusrat Mamtaj Rupshee, Munira Morshed Munni and Nishat Majumder won the awards for their contribution to instrumental music, photography and mountaineering respectively.

Rupsee is the first Bangladeshi who achieved PhD in performing arts, while mountaineer Nishat is the first Bangladeshi woman who climbed 21,830-foot high Mera Peak of the Himalayan mountain range in 2007.

Handing crests over to the awardees, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said, "Women of our country are still behind their male counterparts at different sectors. But I am sure that Bangladeshi women can play a significant role at all sectors if they find proper scopes."

The award recipients have set the examples for young generation, he added.

Noted novelist Anwara Syed Haque spoke at the programme.

Brother kills sister in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A female garments worker was killed by her younger brother in Bakalia area in the port city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mobaraka Khatun alias Salma, 30, a garment worker and daughter of Chan Mia of Bashkhali upazila.

Police quoting witnesses said Nezam, 20, stabbed his elder sister Salma mercilessly following an altercation at their house at Farid Colony at Chan Mia Munshi Lane at DC Road under Bakalia Police Station at around 8.30am, leaving her dead on the spot.

Police arrested Nezam and recovered the body.

During primary interrogation Nezam confessed the murder and said he did the crime as he failed to disengage his sister from unsocial activities.

Maintain congenial atmosphere

JNU VC urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University (JNU) Vice-chancellor Prof Mesbahuddin yesterday urged all concerned including students to help maintain congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

He made the call while addressing an orientation ceremony organised by the social science faculty.

The JNU VC also urged the authorities concerned to complete every semester in due time.

Meanwhile, indigenous students held a view exchange meeting with the VC on various issues including stipend, accommodation and their increased quota.

SCF executive members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) elected five members of its new executive committee on the May 3 election at the Liberation War Museum in the city, says a press release.

The members include Maj Gen (ret'd) M Shah Jahan, Akku Chowdhury, Syed Sadruzzaman Helal, Shahjahan Mridha Benu and Farzana Shahnaz Mazid.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a meeting with a delegation of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) at her office in the city yesterday.

Procure paddy in large amount

Krishak Samity urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Krishak Samity yesterday called on the government to procure paddy in a large amount in order to protect the farmer's interest, says a press release.

In a joint statement, Samity president Anisur Rahman Malik and general secretary Aminul Islam Golap said the government has not been procuring paddy in a large amount even after fixing the procurement price. As a result, farmers have been incurring huge losses.

As the farmers are not getting fair price of their produce, they would lose interest in cultivation of paddy, the leaders said.

They also said that the number of godowns at union level is inadequate, which is one of the reasons behind the slow procurement drive.

So, they called on the government to take alternative measures such as introduction of rationing of food for low-income people and an increase in the number of VGD and VGF cards, for the sake of food security.

60pc of UP standing committees do not function properly

Says study report on local governance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 60 percent of union parishad (UP) standing committees are not functioning properly, says a study report on local governance.

The main reasons for non-functioning of the standing committees are apathy of UP chairmen, ignorance of members and lack of resources and proper monitoring system, said the report titled 'Exploring the challenges and potentials of UP standing committees'.

The study was conducted jointly by National Institute of Local Government (NILG) and Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO) Bangladesh with a view to exploring the role of standing committees in the decision making process at the union parishads.

The report, launched at

NILG auditorium in the city yesterday, also revealed that the UP chairmen dominate while taking decisions and do not think that the committees are very important in this regard.

There is no representation of indigenous people in the standing committees and no voice of co-opted members in these committees, it said, adding that each UP has a total of 13 standing committees.

"There is a gap between local people and UP chairmen and members. It is necessary to reduce the gap to increase public participation and make the standing committees functional," said the director general of MIE wing and joint secretary of the local government division.

The area of authority should be more specified for proper functioning of the

local government, he said, adding that it is also important that the UP chairmen should not be allowed to do anything in their respective areas without the decision of the standing committees.

Speaking as chief guest Prof Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman of public administration department at Dhaka University stressed the need for formulating a decentralisation policy in the light of the Constitution to make the local government more functional.

He said the dual versions in the Constitution about the definition of the local government should also be specified.

With Kabir M Ashraf Alam ndc, director general (Additional Secretary) of NILG, in the chair, the programme was also addressed by VSO Bangladesh Country Director Shahana Hayat.



Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder addresses a roundtable at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are ASM Shahjahan, Syed Abul Maksud and Prof Tofail Ahmed. (Story on Page 16)

সবার জন্য বসতি

RUPAYAN TOWN

ফ্ল্যাটের চাবি Ready...
শহরের চাবিটাও Ready...

বাংলাদেশের সর্বপ্রথম এবং একমাত্র রেডি স্যাটেলাইট টাউন

মাত্র ৪.১৪ লক্ষ টাকা ডাউন পেমেণ্ট দিয়ে চাবি নিয়ে উঠে পড়ুন নিজের ফ্ল্যাটে

বাকিটুকু ২০ বছরের কিস্তিতে

ঢাকার মতিঝিল থেকে মাত্র ১০ মিনিটের দূরত্বে,
ঢাকা-নারায়ণগঞ্জ লিংক রোড সংলগ্ন ভূইগড়ে রেডি

৭৮৪টি ফ্ল্যাট এবং ৩০০টি দোকান নিয়ে

আপনার অপেক্ষায় প্রস্তুত রূপায়ণ টাউন।

আপনার অপেক্ষায়

RUPAYAN TOWN

a planned satellite city

- একটি সম্পূর্ণ শহর
- একটি নিরাপদ আবাসন
- ৭৮৪টি রেডি ফ্ল্যাট
- আধুনিক শপিং সেন্টার
- ৩০০টি রেডি দোকান
- হনিক্সিত পানির সরবরাহ
- ইনসেক্টিক সাব-স্টেশন
- নিজস্ব সেন্ট্রাল জেনারেটর
- ২৪ ঘণ্টা হেল্প লাইন
- বাচ্চাদের ক্লাব ও খেলার মাঠ
- মসজিদ
- কমিউনিটি সেন্টার

কল করুন:

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ভাড়ার টাকার নিজের ফ্ল্যাট

রূপায়ণ টাউন-এর প্রত্যেকটি ফ্ল্যাট এসেদের জন্য আপনার সর্বস্বত্বপূর্ণ মালিকানাধীন হবে।

- পানির উচ্চ চাপের সিস্টেম
- পূর্ণাঙ্গি ব্যাকট সিস্টেম
- এন সি ডি বি এস
- জাই বি এন সি
- ডিভিডেন্ড সিস্টেম এবং ইনসেক্টিক সিস্টেম
- সেন্ট্রাল গ্র্যাক হার্ডনিং সিস্টেম এবং সেন্ট্রাল গ্র্যাক হার্ডনিং সিস্টেম
- বেস লিফট এবং ইনসেক্টিক সিস্টেম
- ন্যান্ডাল হার্ডনিং সিস্টেম এবং ইনসেক্টিক সিস্টেম

স্বত্বস্বত্বপূর্ণ অফিস

২১৩ বি.বি.এডিএস (২য় ভলিউম)

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ইউনিটস অফিস

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কমিউনিটি প্রকল্প (২য় ভলিউম)

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সুইচিং অফিস

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