

Implement RTI law properly for good governance

Speakers tell view exchange meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Speakers at a view exchange meeting in Rajshahi yesterday said a culture of seeking information should be developed in society, especially for the grassroots-level people, for effective implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) law.

RTI law would not leave any benefit unless it is properly implemented through creating awareness among mass people about their right of access to information, they added.

Once RTI is properly implemented, the speakers said, it would take the country a step forward to ensure good governance as well as administrative transparency and accountability.

They stressed the need for a strong role of the media in educating common people on appropriate methods of exercising their right.

Campaign for Right to Information (CFRTI) and local vernacular daily the Mukto Chetona jointly organised the meeting on 'RTI law and role of media' in association with Asian Foundation at a city restaurant.

Fazle Hossain Badsha MP attended the meeting as the chief guest, while Liakat Ali Liku, chairman of the editorial board of the daily, was in the chair.

The lawmaker in his speech said the government is committed to implementing the RTI law, however challenging the task may be. He sought cooperation from all

circles related to RTI.

"RTI is quite new to us when we are still fighting for the basic rights of ethnic groups... implementing a law is far more difficult than enacting it. Yet, if all concerned work together, we can well share the power with common people through implementing RTI."

CFRTI General Secretary Muhammad Lutful Haque presented a written paper on right to information and RTI laws while Staff Correspondent of The Daily Star Anwar Ali spoke on the role of media men in implementing RTI law.

CFRTI President Khondoker Iqbal Hossain and Mir Mostaque Ahmed of Asia Foundation were present at the programme as the special

guests.

Editor of the Mukto Chetona M. Sadrul Islam, News Editor Golam Sarwar, former president of Rajshahi Union of Journalists (RUJ) Mustafizur Rahman Khan Alam, RUJ General Secretary and Rajshahi bureau chief of the Shamakal Shibli Noman, Metropolitan Press Club Vice President Kazi Glas, General Secretary Anisuzzaman, BSS bureau chief Dr Aynal Haque and journalist Mahtab Uddin also spoke.

The speakers thanked the government for turning the RTI ordinance into a law, saying that lack of political will, culture of secrecy and lack of knowledge about RTI among general public are the main obstacles to implementing the law.



Awami League leaders place wreaths at the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara yesterday on the occasion of his 34th death anniversary.

Nat'l Mourning Day programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties, socio-cultural, professional and student organisations have taken up elaborated programmes to mourn the August 15 killings through observing the National Mourning Day today.

On this fateful day in 1975, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members were assassinated by a splinter of some disgruntled army officers in conjunction with some fiercely ambitious political elements.

The national and party flags will be kept at half mast and black flags be hoisted on top of Bangabandhu Bhaban and all party offices at around 6:30am.

Members and supporters of Dhaka Mohanagar Awami League (AL), its affiliated organisations and all city units will place wreaths at the portrait of the father of the nation at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 7:00am.

AL will also offer fateha, special munajat and a milad mahfil at the Banani Graveyard in memory of all martyrs of August 15 at 7:30am. Programmes to feed the destitute and prayer sessions will be held in all religious institutions to

mark the day.

Bangladesh Mahila Awami League organises a doa mahfil on the Bangabandhu Bhaban premise at 6:00pm.

Awami Juba League will publish special supplements in the national dailies highlighting the significance of the day and will visit Tungipara to offer prayers and lay wreaths at Bangabandhu's grave.

Awami Swachchhasebak League will also place wreaths at his portrait at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi. It will also organise a blood donation camp in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban.

To mark the day, Central Kochi Kanchar Mela will organise a discussion titled 'In Memory of Bangabandhu and Shishu Russell' at its auditorium at 5:30pm.

Bangla Academy will place wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait at 6:00am.

Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association will hold a discussion on 'Dream of Bangabandhu, rule of law and current situation' at Shaheed Shafiqur Rahman Auditorium at 4:30pm.

Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee will hold a special prayer session at Dhakeswari Temple at 5:00pm.

Bangladesh National Museum will hold an art competition for children on the museum premise at 11:30am on the occasion.

Bangladesh Film Development Corporation will hold a discussion in front of Jahir Raihan Colour Lab at 11:00am.

Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) will also hold a discussion at the party office at 5:00pm.

Communist Party of Bangladesh will hold a discussion demanding steps to execute the verdict on Bangabandhu murder case at 5:00pm at its central office at Purana Paltan.

Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Gono Forum, Youth Gono Forum, Bangladesh Institute of Glass and Ceramics, Bangladesh Buddhist Monastery, The Institution of Engineers (Bangladesh), Bangladesh Krishak Samik Awami League (BAKSAL), Sonar Bangla Juba Parishad, Muktiyoddhar Santan, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Sri Sri Ramsita Mandir, Muktiyoddha Communism Democratic Party, Proshika and Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi have also chalked out special programmes to observe the day.

Indefinite transport strike begins in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

Transport owners and workers enforced an indefinite transport strike in the district yesterday demanding removal of unauthorised ticket counters.

The District Highway Transport Union and the Bus Owners' Association called the strike at a meeting at Nabinagar bus terminal at 11:00am yesterday.

The transport leaders alleged that the bus owners from the nearby districts, including Dhaka, set up ticket counters here without their permission. In this situation, local transport are incurring loss, they said.

No vehicles, except a few BRTC buses, were seen plying throughout the district roads after enforcement of the strike.

Local transport leader Shaukat Hossain said they went on strike as the authorities concerned failed to take necessary steps to resolve the problem.

Police Super Anisur Rahman said they are trying to solve the crisis by holding talks with the association leaders.

Zonta Int'l meet held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zonta International, a global organisation of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women, held its first meeting of Area 02, District 25 at the Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city yesterday.

The theme of the meeting was 'Resolve to Revitalise'.

Speakers at the meeting highlighted the organisation's vision of a world where women's rights are recognised as human rights, and every woman receives the opportunity to achieve her full potential.

"We envision a world where every woman is literate with access to legal aid, healthcare and economic resources on an equal basis with men," they said, adding, "A world where no woman would live amid fear or violence."

Presided over by Area 02 Director Fahmida Karim, the meeting was also attended by Dilruba Ahmed, international director and member of International Public Relation Committee of Zonta International, Chitra Ragulan, president of Madras Club, and Munira Rahman, executive director of the Acid Survivor's Foundation.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Fazlul Haque, an eminent litterateur and journalist, passed away at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on Thursday at the age of 63, says a press release.

Born on March 26 in 1946 in Pabna, Haque was the president of Rajshahi Sahitya Parishad. He also served as the principal of Rajshahi Sardah College until 1976.

Then he joined the Dainik Barta as its editorial assistant and later he served as the editor of the daily until 2000.

He left two daughters, a son and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, local media houses and organisations expressed deep shock at his death.

His namaz-e-janaza was held yesterday and he will be buried today.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon forms a human chain at Shabbagh in the city yesterday, demanding cancellation of the proposed Indian Tipaimukh dam project.

AL activist electrocuted in Natore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

An Awami League worker was killed and another injured with an electric shock while hanging the National Mourning Day banner with an electric pole in Natore town yesterday.

Kalu, 35, son of Batu Mia of Kandivita, died on the spot when he touched a live electric wire while hanging a banner near Chhayabani Cinema Hall intersection in the town.

Another AL worker Sadhan was critically injured. He was admitted to Natore sadar hospital.

Local Awami League leaders confirmed that they were their workers and went to hang the banner following their directives.

Refugee

FROM PAGE 16
Just after the incident, police arrested Sa Hla Mong with the help of locals.

Police later sent Swe's body to Bandarban Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

The victim's relatives said Swe Mong was a guerrilla fighter of National United Party of Arakan (NUPA), a revolutionary group fighting against the military dictatorship in Myanmar. After the NUPA divided over some issues in 2005, he became a think tank member supporting the independence of Arakan state.

Swe Mong used to live in a rented thatched house in Maddhyampara with his wife and daughter, added his relatives.

The motive behind the killing is yet to be unearthed. However, locals doubted that his detachment from the party might be one of the reasons.

UNHCR Representative Khaing Mrat Kyaw and some other officials reached Bandarban to receive the body yesterday.

The UNHCR representative told The Daily Star that they would not take the incident lightly.

He expressed surprise on how an UNHCR refugee could be killed in public. He said they would make comment on the incident after receiving the autopsy and police report.

IEB NAT'L CONVENTION IN JAN Engineers urged to work for digital Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the engineers to play a more dynamic role in materialising the vision of making the nation a digital one.

The press conference was organised by the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong chapter to inform about the 51st national convention of IEB scheduled to be held in the port city in January next.

The three-day national convention is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the middle of January while Opposition Leader and BNP Chairperson Khleda Zia is likely to be present at the closing ceremony.

Chairman of IEB Chittagong chapter Md Delwar Hossain Mazumder presided over the press conference where IEB Secretary Sadek Mohammad

Chowdhury read out a written statement narrating different activities of the organisation in Chittagong region.

Delwar laid emphasis on improving the quality of engineers to meet the challenges of a competitive world.

He said IEB Chittagong chapter is working for the betterment of the engineers apart from working on arsenic and earthquake problems and arranging regular training courses to make quality electricians and masons.

He informed that IEB Chittagong chapter has long been running the AMIE (Associate Membership of Institution of Engineers) course for making BSC engineers.

IEB Chittagong chapter Vice Chairmen Mohammad Harun and AMM Mahbubul Islam, and Convener of Publicity and Public Relation Committee Md Shahdat Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

Cop's wife commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wife of a police sub-inspector (SI) committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan with a scarf at her Mohammadpur residence in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Tanija Islam, 25, wife of SI Mahbubul Alam Bhuiyan of Motijheel Police Station.

Mohammadpur police said the victim and her husband were living at a quarter in the residential complex of Mohammadpur Police Station for last two years.

Mahbub found Tanija hanging from the fan in the drawing room around 2:00am and informed police of the incident, they added.

Mohammadpur police recovered the body from the residence in the morning and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Moonmoon Islam, the victim's sister, said a family feud was going on between Tanija and her husband for long.

Tanija and Mahbub got married in 2001 and they have a daughter and a son.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy falls are also likely to occur at places over the country.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:32pm today and rises at 6:34am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the lowest of 23.8 degree at Sandwip.

The 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
Dhaka	33.4	28.0
Chittagong	30.6	25.8
Rajshahi	32.0	26.0
Khulna	34.0	27.8
Barisal	31.8	26.5
Sylhet	30.7	25.9
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.8



Business directory launched

METRO DESK

The publication ceremony of the second edition of Prantik Business Directory 2009 was held at a city hotel recently, says a press release.

Md Akramuzzaman, chairman of the editorial board of the directory, other members of the editorial board and journalists were present among the guests in the event. The directory would act as a bridge between consumers, service providers and manufacturers, said Chief Executive of the directory Md Mahadi Hasan.



Dhanmondi Welfare Association forms a human chain at Road No. 12 of Dhanmondi in the city yesterday demanding demolition of illegal structures and steps to ease traffic jam in the area.

Asian University

FROM PAGE 16

At around 9:30am students boycotted their scheduled examinations and came out in their hundreds. The examinees along with other students marched in a procession on the campus and challenged the authorities whether they had any legal authority to run the campus.

The angry students were not satisfied with the answer the AUB authorities gave and put a barricade on the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway at around 10am.

The students staged a sit-in there for one and a half hours and as they refused to leave the road, police charged them with batons.

The protesters also hurled brickbats at police in retaliation. The chase and counter-chase that followed in the Talaimari areas left at least 35 students injured.

At around 1:00pm AUB authorities cancelled the scheduled examinations and closed the varsity for an indefinite period.

The agitating students then

went to the city centre at Shaheb Bazar and formed a human chain there protesting the police action on them.

They demanded the government take action against AUB authorities for the illegal operation of the university for which students are being cheated.

"We have closed the university for an indefinite period and cancelled all examinations and classes", said Manjur-e-Elahi, deputy registrar and in-charge of AUB's Rajshahi campus.

14 die in Feni bus plunge

FROM PAGE 1

30, son of Md Galib of Rangpur, Shahidul Islam Chowdhury, 40, son of Shafiqullah of Chhagalnaiya, Shawkat Hossain, 34, son of Abdul Karim of Comilla, Alauddin, 25, son of Abu Bakkar Siddique of Senbagh, Noakhali, and Nasir Hossain, 30, son of Mojibul Haque of Begumganj, Noakhali.

The rest of the deceased are yet to be identified.

The injured 11 passengers were admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital.

The wounded are Russell, 28, Md Alam, 40, Amjad Hossain, 21, Mamun Hossain, 13, Nurul Islam, 45, Mahmuda, 32, Mohammad Ali, 29, Md Alam Maula, 50, Md Delwar Hossain, 24, Abul Hossain, 24, and another person who could not be

identified.

Resident Medical Officer of Feni Sadar Hospital Sarowar Jahan said the conditions of the people undergoing treatment are improving gradually.

Police and locals recovered the bodies and rescued the injured trapped inside the sunken bus.

Police recovered the wrecked bus and kept it at Mohipal Police checkpoint in Feni.

COMILLA CRASH

In Comilla four members of a family were killed and seven others injured as a bus collided with a microbus at Nankara in Choudhagram upazila Friday, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Abul Hashem, 70, his wife Asia Begum, 60, son Abdul Jalil, 35, and daughter-

in-law Jahanara Begum, 40, wife of another son Abdul Barik.

Police said the bus heading for Comilla from Feni smashed the microbus, carrying six people of Hashem's family around 1:45pm, leaving three dead on the spot. Jahanara died on the way to hospital.

Two other members of the family, the microbus driver, his helper and three bus passengers were also injured in the accident.

The injured were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital and Choudhagram Health Complex.

The family was going to their village home in Choudhagram after the treatment of cancer patient Hashem at a clinic in the district town.