

'Bangabandhu makes constitution unique'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made the country's constitution a unique one in the world by giving a new definition of secularism, said Shahrar Kabir, a noted journalist, in Rajshahi yesterday.

"For him secularism did not mean abandonment of religion, but a separation of religion from state and politics," said Kabir, president of Ektattur Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, a forum for secular Bangladesh and trial of war criminals.

He said Bangabandhu was a religious man and he believed in people's freedom of religion. Bangabandhu gave new definition of secularism to end Pakistani tradition of abusing religion for political gain, said Kabir.

He said in the name of protecting Islam, Pakistani rulers and Jamaat-e-Islami men killed people, raped women and committed genocides during their 23-year regime and the liberation war.

Kabir was addressing as chief guest at a discussion meeting organised on the occasion of the National Mourning Day at the Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium of Rajshahi University (RU).

RU Vice Chancellor Prof M Abdus Sobhan chaired the discussion.

Kabir also addressed a public meeting organised by the district unit of Bangabandhu Parishad at Alupatty in the city in the afternoon.

He said the killers of Bangabandhu and their masters in later days tainted the constitution by turning it into a communal one.

He demanded reinstatement of the original constitution of 1972 and early beginning of the trial of war criminals.

He also demanded immediate execution of the verdict against the killers of Bangabandhu and his family members.

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman, lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha and leaders of different Awami League units placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu and the grave of national leader AHM Quamaruzzaman on this occasion.

Besides, Rajshahi City Corporation, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, district administration, different universities, colleges and schools, Sainik League, Bangabandhu Engineers' Parishad, Bangabandhu Krishibid Parishad, Rajshahi Union of Journalists, Rajshahi Press Club, RU unit of BCL, Progressive Teachers' Society, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, RU Officers Association and other organisations held discussions, milad mahfils and special prayers.

Fish trader stabbed to death in Savar

UNB, Savar

A young trader was stabbed to death by an unknown assailant in Sreepur area in Savar early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Abul Kalam Azad, 30, a fish trader of Baipail wholesale fish market.

Police and locals said Azad stayed at the rented house of his second wife at Hamid Colony on Friday night.

A youth came to the house in the early morning and called Azad out of the house. When Azad came out, the youth stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot.

On receiving information, the police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

3 killed in bus-truck collision

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

At least three people were killed and seven others injured in a collision between a passenger bus and a truck on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Daudkandi yesterday.

The dead were identified as bus driver Chadan Chakraborty, 38, helper Md Jalal, 25, and passenger Kamal, 20, of Indranagar village in Chittagong.

According to the highway police, the Chittagong-bound bus of 'Shaymoli Paribahan' collided head-on with the Dhaka-bound sand-laden truck at Haripur at about 5:30am.

The injured were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the bodies were sent to Comilla Medical College Hospital morgue.

Four held with Phensidyl

BSS, Rajshahi

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four suspected criminals along with 550 bottles of Phensidyl and huge smuggled goods from different areas in two northern districts during the last 24 hours till yesterday afternoon, says a Rab press release.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab conducted a raid in a passenger bus at Khalishpur under Govindaganj upazila in Gaibandha and seized huge smuggled goods, including 355 Kg of cumin and 2,350 meters of clothes valued at around Tk 30.90 lakh and arrested four persons in these connections.



PHOTO: STAR

Holidaymakers from different parts of the country throng the Cox's Bazar sea beach with a three-day government holiday, including Janmastami and National Mourning Day. Beach authorities fly red flags to warn the revellers of possible danger beyond. A small number of lifeguard members can hardly protect huge tourists from the tidal wave. The photo was taken from Guptakhal in the beach area yesterday.

Bangladesh missions abroad observe Nat'l Mourning Day

Bss, New Delhi

Speakers at a discussion here, on the occasion of the National Mourning day, yesterday recalled the supreme sacrifice made by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the cause of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh mission here organised the programme at the Multipurpose Hall at the chancery building where distinguished personalities drawn from various strata of life spoke on the life and works of Bangabandhu, with High Commissioner Tariq Ahmad Karim in the chair.

A large number of students and members of Bangladeshi community in the Indian capital were present.

Maj Gen (ret'd) Jacob, 1971-war veteran, former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Prof Muchkund Dubey, Shashi Bhushan, a former Member of Parliament, Dr Nitish Sengupta, a former MP, Arjun Sengupta, a retired officer, who served in the Indian High Commission in Dhaka in the early seventies and Ved Marwah, who had accompanied Bangabandhu, following his release from Pakistan's captivity, from London to Dhaka, spoke on the occasion.

General Jacob described Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib as a "great leader of a great nation." He said that Bangabandhu had directed his people to fight against the occupation army, if required.

"As the Pakistani forces unleashed attacks on unarmed people of East Pakistan on March 25, the people remembered the directives of their great leader and waged a war against them," he added.

He said with the death of Sheikh Mujib, "we lost a great leader and a great friend."

Dubey said that Mujib was a great world leader, who had tremendous love for his people. He quoted Bangabandhu as saying, "I love my people and they also love me."

Recalling a public meeting that was addressed by Bangabandhu in the early seventies, the former diplomat-turned teacher said, I had never seen such a huge public meeting in my life."

Ved Marwah recalled his journey with Bangabandhu from Heathrow Airport to Dhaka via New Delhi and said when Sheikh Mujib came to know I knew some Bangla, he asked me to seat next to him and spoke about his vision on newborn Bangladesh he was yet to see.

Ved said that the charismatic leader had a very sharp memory and during a visit to London after becoming the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, he (Mujib) invited me and my wife for a tea at the Claridge Hotel, where we spent 45 minutes with him.

Arjun Sengupta, who served in the Indian High Commission shortly after the Independence of Bangladesh, recalled that whenever Bangabandhu saw him used to "call me by my name." "I was surprised how can he remember my name."

Sengupta, also worked at the office of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for four years, said that Sheikh Mujib had tremendous love for his people and he laid down his life for the country. He regretted that all "our great leaders were brought down by the barrels of guns."

Bangladesh High Commissioner Tariq Ahmad Karim in his speech paid rich tributes to the memory of Bangabandhu and said, "Without his appearance there would have been no Bangladesh." He said that what Mahatma Gandhi was for India, Nelson Mandela for the South African people, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was for Bangladesh. He said the brutal killing of Bangabandhu was a "shameful black spot in our history."

Karim said that subsequent political killings or attempt of killing could be averted if the killers of Bangabandhu were tried and punished. Rather they were given lucrative

postings abroad, he added. A government handout adds: Bangladesh High Commission in Pakistan observed the National Mourning Day on its premises yesterday.

On the occasion, discussion and milad mahfil were held. A documentary titled 'Chiranjib Bangabandhu' was also screened.

Bangladesh High Commissioner Yasmin Morshed, high commission officials and expatriate Bangladeshis attended the programmes.



PHOTO: LIONS CLUB OF DHAKA GREEN RAJDHANI

The installation ceremony of Lions Club of Dhaka Green Rajdhani, Ideal Green, Gazipur Ideal & Leo Clubs of Dhaka University was held at All Community Club Auditorium in the city last week. A reception to Lion leaders was also held on the occasion.

Jubo League activist electrocuted

UNB, Comilla

A Jubo League activist was electrocuted while setting up a loud speaker on the rooftop of the Satbaria High School building for the National Mourning Day programme at Satbaria village in Langkoti yesterday.

The victim was identified as Parvez, 23, son of Shafiqur Rahman.

Local people said Parvez came into contact with a live electric wire while setting up the loud speaker at about 10:00am. He died on the spot.



PHOTO: BTI

Building Technology & Ideas Ltd. conducted a cleaning programme at Mirpur section-2 in the city recently as part of its regular activities. Later, BTI staffs took out a procession in the area with a call to keep the city clean.

A business house is looking for a **writer** to work on a researched document.

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