

BBC-BANGLADESH SANGLAP

Allow ACC to act independently

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The government should allow the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to act independently, speakers at the BBC-Bangladesh Sanglap programme yesterday.

The ACC should also act without fear or favour to protect the country's economy and prevent social discrimination, they said.

Rajshahi Mayor and Awami League leader AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Organising Secretary of BNP Mizanur Rahman Minu,

Rajshahi University teacher Moloy Bhoomik and Roksana Ferdousi, senior project officer of Barendra Unnayan Forum, were the panellists in the Sanglap held at Rajshahi Medical College auditorium in the city.

Replying to a question why the ACC became inactive during the rule of a political government, Moloy Bhoomik said, "Making ACC inactive is part of our political culture where only a few are free from corruption. Solving the problem is not possible without raising a massive awareness about corruption."

Mizanur Rahman Minu

said ACC has lost its credibility for its controversial role after the 1/11 political change.

He underscored the need to ensure smooth functioning of the ACC.

Mayor Liton said the present government has no intention to make ACC inactive.

He also observed many past activities of ACC should be investigated properly.

Replying to another question why many lawmakers are not interested to join parliament session, Minu said more businessmen and bureaucrats were elected than politicians in the last general election. "Parliament does not attract businessmen."

Liton said that not joining parliament session is tantamount to cheating the electorate.

The speakers observed that the prime minister and the opposition leader should work together for the development of the country.

They also called for steps to promote agro-based industries in Rajshahi region for the economic development.

Mithila Farzana of BBC Bangla Service moderated the programme.

The programme will be aired on BBC at 9:00pm today and on Channel i at 8:00pm tomorrow.

'Protect rights of Rohingya people'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Neeti Gobeshona Kendro, a policy research, advocacy and training organisation, yesterday urged the international community, including United Nations, to come forward to protect the Rohingya people in Myanmar, says a press release.

In a statement, it said the military government of the country oppressed the

Rohingya people in many ways and compelled them to leave their country which is the extreme violation of the human rights.

Recently, Myanmar government deployed troops along the border with Bangladesh causing immense sufferings to them. The troops occupying houses, crop fields and water bodies of Rohingya people, the statement read.



(From right) Renowned artist Qayyum Chowdhury, noted journalist ABM Musa and veteran photojournalist Rashid Talukder look at photographs at an installation art exhibition that began at the Shilpakala Academy gallery in the city yesterday. The Prothom Alo organised the exhibition to mark its 10th founding anniversary.

Installation art show features historical events

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An installation art exhibition featuring important events in the country's history from 1998 to 2009 began at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

The Prothom Alo organised the exhibition titled 'Timeline' as part of its 10th founding anniversary celebrations.

Artist Ashok Karmakar of Prothom Alo created the installation art with photographs and Shishir Bhattacharya's cartoons published in the Bangla daily in the last ten years.

The show will continue until October 24.

Inaugurating the exhibition, veteran journalist ABM Musa said a photograph or a cartoon is more powerful than words.

He also said the Prothom Alo, which started its journey 10 years ago, is still radiating rays, making many enlightened, but some others are getting burnt. This is the success of the Prothom Alo.

Renowned artist Qayyum Chowdhury said photographs and cartoons make a newspaper more attractive and enjoyable to the readers.

He gave away a citation to veteran photojournalist Rashid Talukder at the programme.

Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman, Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman, women's rights activist Maleka Begum, Prof Muntasir Mamun and columnist Abul Maksud also attended the inaugural ceremony.

The installation art exhibition features a total of 119 photographs and 112 cartoons. Besides, cameras used in different times for taking photographs were also displayed.

Fake Indian rupees seized: One held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-4) yesterday recovered fake Indian Rs 35 lakh at Kalapani in Pallabi and arrested one person in this connection.

The arrestee was identified as Akram Hossain, 20, a resident of the area.

Deputy Director (DD) Lieutenant Commander Arafat Islam of Rab-4 told The Daily Star that Rab detectives seized a bag from Akram containing notes of 500 and 1000 fake rupees as he was trying to flee the spot sensing the presence of Rab personnel.

Akram told Rab that he was asked to hand over the rupees to someone at a place for he would get an amount.

Rab officials said they suspect Akram is a member of a gang of a network involved in producing fake currency notes for smuggling these to India.

They said they will be able to arrest other members of the gang after interrogating Akram, declining to talk further in this regard.

'Raise awareness to fight AIDS'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop urged the young generation to work together with the experts to raise awareness among the people to prevent AIDS as the number of AIDS-affected people are increasing day by day in the country.

The workshop titled 'Confronting AIDS Challenges of the 21st Century' was organised jointly by British Council Resource Centre, Standard Chartered Bank and Trust for Social Development at the British Council auditorium in the city yesterday.

Presenting the keynote paper, Ahmed Farooque, executive director of Chestha (an NGO), said around seven percent of the Interveners Drug Users (IDUs) in the city are apparently affected by AIDS and the use of dirty needles while taking drugs is the main cause of spreading AIDS among that community.

Terming AIDS a 'Development Challenge' he viewed that AIDS is the barrier to all kinds of development activities in a country.

Dr Sharmina Rahman, deputy programme manager of HIV/AIDS sector of Save the Children USA, laid emphasis on developing a Life Skills Education among the young generation to employ them for creating mass awareness across the country especially in rural

areas.

She underscored the need for building psychosocial competency among the young generation to encourage them for playing a vital role in addressing the AIDS challenges.

Addressing the workshop Dr Hashrat Ara Begum, medical adviser of Asia Marie Stopes Clinic Society, said the aim of the workshop is to promote understanding of

AIDS and create awareness about preventing its spread in the society.

Lutfur R Chowdhury, chief executive of Trust for Social Development, Dr Munir Ahmed of UN AIDS, Bitopi Das Chowdhury, head of Corporate Affairs of Standard Chartered Bank, and a number of youths from different universities and colleges were present at the workshop.

Trial for torturing CCC mayor demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a condolence meeting here yesterday demanded trial of "injustice and mental torture" inflicted on Chittagong Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury and his family during the last caretaker government regime.

They were speaking at the condolence meeting marking the first death anniversary of Faujia Sultana Tumpa, daughter of Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, at Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong.

Tumpa died of fatal Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (a form of blood cancer) at Piyathai Hospital in Bangkok on October 17, 2008, 21 days after she was put on the life-support ventilation.

Tumpa Memorial Council organised the meeting where noted columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury was present as the chief guest with eminent scientist Prof Emeritus Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam in the chair.

Mohiuddin Chowdhury, his wife Hasina Mohiuddin, son Barrister Chowdhury Mohibul Hasan Noufel, Amanul Haq Badsha, former first secretary to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, CU VC Prof Abu Yusuf Alam, Prof Mohit Ul Alam, NAP leader Abdul Momin Bhuiyan, Chittagong City Awami League General Secretary Kazi Enamul Haq Danu, lawmaker Chemon Ara Tayab and Dr AQM Sirajul Islam also spoke.

The CCC mayor said he would take an initiative to set up a cancer research institute in Chittagong in the memory of her daughter.

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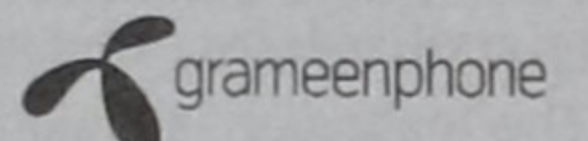
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