

Build socio-political system prioritising people's needs

Says Prof Muzaffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday stressed the need to create a socio-political system that would prioritise the people's needs.

"It would be a system that would take people in, not push them out," he said at the concluding session of a conference titled 'International Convention on human Security Approach to Counter Extremism in South Asia: Relevance of Japanese Culture'.

Prof Muzaffer also said, "The Tipaimukh dam issue is an example of how actors outside the state are depriving us of human rights in our own country."

Describing the issue as an effect of intra-state relations, he said: "What is luxury for one country may be a life-and-death question for another."

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in association with the Japan Foundation organised the two-day conference at the BISS auditorium in the city.

"Security should be seen with a holistic approach -- as a multidimensional concept that is difficult to put into any specific matrix," said Prof Muzaffer, who is also a member of the BISS Board of Governors.

"We need to develop a concept of a just society and build on that concept. Because only a just society and a just state can ensure human security," he said.

At the conference, noted scholars and delegates from Japan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh explored the concept of human security from Japan's viewpoint and how it is relevant in the context of South Asia.

The discussants also tried to identify the factors responsible for the declining social and human security and strengthening of extremism in the region, and to propose guidelines for formulation of strategies that could influence action at national and regional levels.

They termed the human element the biggest resources for Asia, and called on the states to utilise it to promote human

safety and counter extremism in the region.

Emphasising a human security approach to meeting the challenges of extremism, they concluded that political leadership has a vital role to play in this regard and cooperation between the states is a must to fight extremism in South Asia, which the governments in the region have not done so far.

BISS Chairman Maj Gen Muhammad Firdaus Mian chaired the third working session while BISS Director General Maj Gen Sheikh Md Monirul Islam chaired the concluding session.

Prof Dr Bishnu Hari Nepal, former ambassador of Nepal to Japan, Dr Shaheen Akhter, research fellow of Regional Studies at Islamabad, Osamu Miyata, associate professor at the University of Shizuoka, Japan, Katsuhisa Furukawa, fellow of Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (RISTEX), Japan, and Dr Shaheen Afroze, research director of BISS, presented papers at the conference.



Accused BDR jawans are being taken to a special court in Rangamati yesterday on the second day of mutiny trial. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA.COM



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over the first meeting of the patrons of National Disabled Development Foundation at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

DEFAMATION CASE

Decision on Moeen's petition Jan 10

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed January 10 next year to decide whether the petition for dismissal of the plaint filed by former army chief General Moeen U Ahmed in a defamation case would be rejected.

Judge SM Saiful Islam of the Third Joint District Judge's Court fixed the date after holding hearing on the both sides.

On July 12 this year, former state minister for power Iqbal Hasan Mahmood Tuku filed the Tk 100 crore defamation case against General Moeen with the same court.

On September 8, the former army chief filed the petition before the same court seeking dismissal of the suit.

During the hearing, Moeen's counsels told the court that the plaintiff had filed the suit against their client just to harass him. The case is not maintainable at this stage as it was filed two years after the incident took place. Moreover, the plaintiff had no legal basis for filing of the suit against their client, counsels said.

On the contrary, plaintiff's lawyers told the court that former army chief as a servant of the republic had no jurisdiction to comment on any matters against any persons. The comments that the defendant made against their client had hurt him and it had tarnished his image in the society. So, the suit filed by their client should be maintained, lawyers added.

Tuku filed the defamation suit, accusing the former general of making derogatory remarks that damaged his (Tuku's) reputation.

On March 27, 2007 General Moeen at a tea party in honour of the freedom fighters at National Parade Square said corrupt politicians had siphoned off at least Tk 20,000 crore from the energy sector during the four-party rule, reads the complaint.

US to work with Rab to curb terrorism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Navy Rear Admiral RDML Sean Pybus, commanding general, US Special Operations Command, Pacific, has assured Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) of working together on counterintelligence and curbing terrorism.

The assurance came at a meeting between a six-member US delegation led by Sean Pybus and a team of the Rab high-ups led by Rab Director General Hassan Mahmood Khandker at the headquarters of the elite force in the city on Monday, says a press release.

Rab official sources said the members of the US delegation also visited the Rab office and expressed their satisfaction at the Rab activities.

They also called on the home minister and Inspector General of Police (IGP).

Meanwhile, 20 Rab members on Monday completed a weeklong training programme on 'Major Crime Investigation' jointly organised by Rab and British High Commission in Dhaka.

Call to stop violence against women

Int'l Day for Elimination of Violence against Women observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan 'We can stop violence against women', the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women was observed in the country yesterday as elsewhere across the globe.

Marking the day, different rights organisations held elaborate programmes to raise awareness and thus create a culture of showing zero tolerance towards violence against women.

"It is true that stopping violence against women is not an easy task because it is deep rooted in our society where women even don't dare to disclose the fact even if she is tortured. But it is time to break the silence and come forward to stop violence against women," said Sultana Kamal, former adviser to a caretaker government and chairperson of We Can Alliance.

While launching a Mobile Van Campaign at the Central Shaheed Minar to disseminate awareness messages at different districts, she also said that to stop violence against women everybody needs to fight from his or her own position.

Lawmakers Tarana Halim, Sarah Begum Kabari and Rowshan Jahan, Giti Ara Safia, Nasimun Ara Huq of Nari Sangbadik Kendra and Rokeya Rafique of Karmojibi Nari also expressed their solidarity with the campaign.

The lawmakers said that the government came to power with the commitment to 'change' and it can begin with changing the attitude towards women.

Steps Towards Development organised a programme at the city's Rabindra Sarobar with a call for fighting repression on women.

Expressing solidarity with the programme, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam said it is a shame to therest if a woman is tortured.

It is the responsibility of everyone to resist

repression on women in the society, she said, adding that until women receive recognition for their contribution to the family and the society, such repression will go unabated.

Speaking at the programme, Home Minister Sahara Khatun said a concerted effort of men and women can eliminate repression on women from the society.

The minister said although there are some strong laws against torture on women, these cannot be executed properly always due to many reasons.

Girl Child Advocacy Forum formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club to mark the day.

They demanded the government withdraw reservations from some articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW), implement the National Women Development Policy and enact the Domestic Violence (prevention and protection) Act 2009.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad held a meeting with the Inspector General of Police.

Parishad leaders stressed the need to strengthen community policing system to resist violence against women.

The local EU Presidency and the Delegation of the European Commission in a statement expressed their solidarity and support with the continued efforts to combat gender-based violence in Bangladesh.

Odhikar held a discussion at the National Press Club with a call to work together to combat violence against women.

A study of Odhikar showed that from January 1, 2009 to October 30, 2009 a total of 55 women fell victims to acid violence, 209 women and girls (under 16) were raped, including 4 by law enforcers, and 277 were victims of dowry.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Shaker Sadeque, son of late Sheikh Jafar Sadeque of Tungipara, Gopalganj and brother-in-law of Mohammed Jalal Yunus, director of Bangladesh Cricket Board and chairman of Media and Communications Committee of the board, passed away due to a cardiac arrest in the city on Tuesday at the age of 39.

He left behind his mother, three brothers and sister and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His Quikhwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at his residence at Uttara in the city.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 38th death anniversary of Yusuf Ali Chowdhury (Mohan Mia), a renowned

politician in the sub-continent.

On the occasion, Yusuf Ali Chowdhury Smriti Committee will hold a milad mahfil and discussion at Moez Manzil in Faridpur after Asr prayers.

Besides, different organisations will also organise Qurankhwani and milad mahfil.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

AKM Khalilur Rahman

METRO DESK

The first death anniversary of Advocate A K M Khalilur Rahman, former vice-president of Dhaka Bar Association, will be observed on November 28, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Dhaka and his village home.

Zillur Rahman, host and director of Tritiyo Matra, a talk show on Channel i, is his son.

Syed Jakia Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Syeda Jakia Khatun, wife of former additional

DPI and academician late Khorsheed Alam and mother of noted politician Shirajul Alam Khan, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at Khalek Masque at Kalabagan in the city and her village home at Begumganj in Noakhali after Asr prayers.

Fazilater Nesa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Fazilater Nesa, wife of late Dr KM Mahiuddin,

a social worker, and mother of Md Mahbubuddin, managing director of Dr KM Mahiuddin Hospital, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at her residence at Gouripur Bazar in Comilla after Maghrib prayers.

8 killed, 34 injured in road crashes

METRO DESK

At least eight people were killed and 34 others injured in separate road accidents in Natore, Kushtia, Madaripur, Narayanganj and Bagerhat yesterday.

A correspondent from Natore adds: At least four people were killed and 30 others injured in separate road accidents in Natore yesterday.

The dead were identified as Sariful Islam, 25, son of Akkas Ali of Sidhuly village under Gurudaspur upazila,

Seminar on advertising at AIUB

METRO DESK

To promote advertising as a career choice, the Department of Social Science, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) organised a seminar on 'Prospects of advertising as an academic programme on career development' at its auditorium recently.

Dean of FASS Dr Charles, Faculty Coordinator of Advertising Niaz Majumdar and Head of Social Science Department Buddha Dev Biswas addressed the seminar where noted media personality Aly Zaker was a guest speaker, says a press release.

Aly Zaker is the very first figure to literally lead the way in the field of advertising in Bangladesh.

The seminar welcomed both the students and their parents to make sure that both sides could understand the importance of advertising as a career and its function in the society.

For the students, Aly Zaker presented a brief discussion on the practical usage of advertising in society and the importance of advertising study in Bangladesh.

He advised the students to brake free, to experience newer areas and medium of communication.

At the very end of the seminar, an interactive session was held where students were allowed to ask questions.

Alauddin, 56, of Dhanaidoho village under Baraigram upazila, Sadek Bhuiyan, 45, of Haybatpur village under Sadar upazila and Belal Hossain, 23, son of Mostofa of Aronkhola village under Iswardi upazila in Pabna.

Police and witnesses said a speeding truck ran over Sariful Islam on Natore-Dhaka highway near Naya Bazar while he was crossing the road.

Belal was killed when a truck and tractor collided head-on near Dhaidoho Bazar.

Alauddin was killed as a speeding bus crushed him under its wheels at Godhra Bazar under Baraigram and Sadek was killed near Laxmipur Bazar while an engine-driven trolley and a truck collided head-on.

Meanwhile, at least 30 people were injured in a road accident when a Singra-bound passenger fell into a roadside at Ningoin village under Singra upazila.

UNB from Kushtia adds: Cattle trader Badshah Mia, 45, was killed and two others were injured as a truck hit a cow-

laden human hauler near the district police lines at about 2:30am.

Two of the injured -- Liton and Asad -- were rushed to Kushtia hospital in critical condition.

In Madaripur, a speedy truck rammed into a motorcycle at Khagdi village in Sadar upazila at about 10:00am, leaving its rider injured.

Injured motorcyclist Selim Sarder, 32, a salesman of ACI Company of hailed from Shariyapur, was rushed to Faridpur Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

In Bagerhat, a middle-aged man was killed and two others were injured as a salt-laden truck overturned on Khulna-Mawa highway near Boalia bus stand in Mollahat upazila.

The victim was identified as Gani Sarder, 40, of Khajra village in Ashashuni upazila of Satkhira.

In Narayanganj, a woman was killed on the spot as he was run over by a vehicle on Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Madanpur bus stand in Bandar police station.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 7:22am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.0 degrees Celsius at Jessore and Srirongal.

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	28.2	17.7	56	52
Chittagong	27.2	17.4	87	70
Rajshahi	28.5	13.5	69	72
Khulna	28.0	15.7	75	76
Barisal	28.5	15.8	80	90
Sylhet	29.1	17.1	80	72
Cox's Bazar	29.7	17.4	72	64