

Stay aloof from criminal activities

Home minister urges BCL men

DU CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday called on Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders and activists not to get involved in criminal activities, including tender manipulation.

"You people (BCL men) are a part of the ruling party. If you get involved in criminal activities, responsibilities of these crimes are put on the shoulder of the government," she said.

The minister said this at a discussion organised by Dhaka University (DU) unit BCL at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) auditorium on the campus marking the Victory Day.

She warned of taking stern action against those who will be involved in criminal activities, including manipulation of tenders.

"Nobody will be spared of. Note even if they are members of the ruling party," the minister added.

She sought assistance from the party men as well as the countrymen to uproot criminal activities, including militancy, extortion and tender manipulation.

"If the countrymen help us, it is possible to stop militancy, extortion and other criminal activities in the country for ever," the minister added.

She hoped that BCL leaders and workers would play a vital role in stopping distortion of history by members of BNP and its student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

She called on the BCL leaders and activists to spread the true history of the liberation war among the young generation.

About BCL leaders' claim of policemen's silent role during BCL-Shibir clash at Azizul Haque College in Bogra on December 20, Sahara said she would take action if the allegation is proved.

Awami League (AL) Organising Secretary Ahmed Hossain said BCL is the vanguard of AL.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Pro-VC Prof Harun-or-Rashid, top BCL leaders, including Mahmud Hasan Ripon, Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Rotan, Sohel Rana Tipu and Sajjad Sakib Badsha, also spoke.

Tafazzul takes oath as CJ today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Chief Justice Md Tafazzul Islam will be sworn into office this morning, as outgoing Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin retired from the service yesterday afternoon.

President Zillur Rahman will administer the oath at Bangabhaban, Supreme Court Registrar Md Shawkat Hossain said yesterday.

On December 15, the president appointed Justice Md Tafazzul Islam, a senior justice of the Supreme Court (SC), as the Chief Justice.

The registrar added that outgoing Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin made a farewell call on the president at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Justice Ruhul Amin did his routine works on the last working day yesterday, said Shawkat.

DEFAMATION CASE

HC asks govt not to disturb Amar Desh editor, 2 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government not to disturb the Amar Desh Editor Mahmudur Rahman and two others till January 3 in connection with a defamation case filed in Magura.

A vacation bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam fixed January 3 for hearing on the bail petitions filed by three accused at the regular bench of the court.

Earlier in the morning, the same bench sent the bail petitions to the chief justice for a decision, saying that as a judge of the vacation court he would not hear the petitions for anticipatory bail.

Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin returned the petitions to the same bench asking it to hear and pass order on the matter.

Mahmudur Rahman, the Amar Desh Publisher Hashmat Ali and reporter M Abdullah filed the petitions yesterday morning seeking anticipatory bail in the defamation case filed against them.

Magura district Svecchhasebak League Convener Advocate Ashraf Hossain Liton on Monday filed the case with a district court against them for publishing a news item on December 17 titled 'Allegation of taking 5 million dollars against prime minister's Energy Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and son Sajeeb Wazed Joy'.

In the case statement, the complainant said the report has tarnished image of the government, and prime minister's son Joy, and also hurt the people with conscience of the country.

Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq appeared for the petitioners, while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opposed the bail prayers.

Int'l Year of Natural Fibres to be observed tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan 'discover natural fibres' International Year of Natural Fibres will be observed tomorrow in the country as else where in the world, says a press release.

Ministry of Jute and Textile took elaborate programmes to observe the year along with creating awareness among people regarding natural fiber.

President Zillur Rahman will inaugurate the programmes at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city tomorrow. The programmes include discussion and exhibition of jute products.

Victory Day discussion Saturday

METRO DESK

The Greater Faridpur Service Holders Welfare Association will hold a discussion at the BCIC auditorium in the city at 4:30pm on Saturday to celebrate the Victory Day, says a press release.

Commerce Minister Col (Retd) M Faruque Khan will be the chief guest while Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain and Shipping Minister Md Shahjahan Khan will attend the function as special guests.

Chief Information Commissioner M Azizur Rahman and Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, chairman, Bangladesh Krishi Bank will also take part in the discussion.

The function will be followed by a colourful cultural programme.



A traffic policeman makes his effort to streamline rickshaws on a one-way route in Malibagh area with a view to easing traffic congestion in the city yesterday, the first day of the new system launched by Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Introduce lane system on major roads

JS body tells DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body at a meeting yesterday stressed the need for increasing fitness of police members and suggested introducing age-based training for them in addition to physical, mental, motivational and armed training.

The parliamentary standing committee on home ministry also expressed satisfaction over "bringing the horrific traffic congestion to order" and asked the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) authorities to introduce 'lane system' on other major roads for movement of different

modes of vehicles.

The meeting also recommended rearranging the manpower strength in different units and sub-units of police on the basis of requirement.

"Keeping of fitness is an imperative for police members, but the same training or exercise for police members of all ages are not fruitful. The committee, therefore, asked the authorities concerned to introduce age-based exercise for them from now," Maj Gen (retd) Abdus Salam, chairman of the committee.

He said this while talking to reporters after the three-hour

meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Meanwhile, DMP recently introduced lane system on major roads for movement of different modes of vehicles in a bid to reduce traffic jam in the city.

Replying to a question, the standing committee chairman said almost all the recommendations of the committee on home ministry taken so far have been implemented.

In its last 12 meetings this year, the committee has made some 30-35 recommendations. Of them, 11 decisions remained under various stages of implementation, he mentioned.

Call to include safety edn course in school curricula

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for incorporating safety education course in the academic curricula at primary and secondary levels for growing ethical and moral values among children.

They said this at the roundtable styled 'Role of cultural personalities and mass media in incorporating the safety education course in textbooks' organised by Breaking the Silence, an NGO working for children, in cooperation with Save the Children, Sweden-Denmark, at the National Press Club in the city.

Presenting a keynote paper, Rokana Sultana, senior programme coordinator of the NGO, said the aim of the course is to make the children capable to protect themselves from different anti-social activities, including eve teasing, sexual exploitation, trafficking, drug addiction, child marriage and AIDS, through informing them of the adverse effects of such activities.

"The safety education course should be incorporated in the textbooks, because the

children learn the basic knowledge from their textbooks," she added.

Rokana placed a set of recommendations, including an active role played by cultural personalities and mass media in incorporating the course in the textbooks.

Other recommendations include publication of a news item related to child exploitation and its follow-up news, involvement of children in different cultural activities and awareness of exploitation-free atmosphere for the children.

Speaking as the special guest, Shamsul Alam Bakul, deputy country representative of Save the Children, Sweden-Denmark, underscored the importance of creating awareness for checking child exploitation.

Actor Abdun Nur Tushar said, "Child exploitation is a social problem. First, we should create responsible person in society for eradicating social problems."

Baby Moudud, special affairs editor of Bdnews24.com, AKM Mustak Ali, executive director of INCIDIN Bangladesh and Prof Shahin Islam of the Dhaka University also spoke.

MUKTIJODDHA COMPLEX

JS body asks ministry to investigate irregularities

BSS, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on liberation war affairs ministry yesterday discussed the violation of the contract's terms and conditions of the Gulistan Complex of Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust.

With Committee Chairman Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam in the chair, the committee also discussed mismanagement in shop allocation in the complex.

It also discussed matters related to installation of outdated machinery in Chittagong Kalurghat Juice Complex and steps to identify the persons responsible.

The committee asked the ministry to investigate the matter and report back as early as possible.

Committee members AB Tajul Islam, state minister of the ministry, Shawkat Momen Shahjahan, AKMA Awal, Waresat Hossain Belal, Joyanal Abedin and Rubi Rahman attended the meeting.

Secretary Feroz Kibria and other senior officials were also present.

In a separate meeting, the parliamentary standing committee on the food and disaster management ministry discussed measures to contain the prices of essentials.

The committee also discussed matters related to post-harvest rice procurement and involvement of district and upazila representatives in such procurement committees.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque, M Atiur Rahman Atiq, Narayan Chandra Chanda, Afzal Hossain, Akram Hossain Chowdhury, M Zafar Ali, M Mozhar Ali Pradhan and Saleha Mosharraf attended the meeting with Committee Chairman M Sayedul Haque in the chair.



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni calls on Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam during her visit to the African island nation yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PRIMARY TERMINAL EXAM RESULTS

Barisal division scores high, Sylhet low

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Barisal division did the best in the primary education terminal examination with pass rate of 92.94 percent, while Sylhet division with 78.25 percent took bottom position.

Dhaka division stood at fifth among the six divisions in the country with a percentage of 88.98.

The results of primary education terminal examination published yesterday shows that Khulna division was second best in terms of pass rate with 91.32 percent, Chittagong was third with 89.27 percent and Rajshahi was fourth with 89.02 percent.

The statistics of results show that boys did well than girls in the exams though the girls have participated more in the examination than boys.

At total of 18,23,465 students appeared in the exams

of which 8,30,879 were boys and 9,92,585 girls.

In Barisal 93.9 percent boys have passed while pass rate of girls is 92.1, in Khulna boys' pass rate is 92.6 while girls is 90.2, in Chittagong boys' pass rate is 91.0 and girls' pass rate 87.9, in Rajshahi boys' pass rate is 90.7 and girls' pass rate 87.6, in Dhaka boys pass rate is 90.5 and 87.7 was the girls' pass rate and in Sylhet boys pass rate was 80.3 while girls' pass rate was 76.6.

The rate of students' absence in the examination was highest in Chittagong with 9.08 percent and lowest in Khulna with 4.84 percent. In Barisal 8.46 percent registered students did not appear in the examination, in Dhaka the number is 8.29, in Rajshahi 7.49 and in Sylhet 8.60 percent registered students did not appear in the examination.

The results showed that a total of 37,225 schools across the country obtained cent percent pass rate, while not a single student could pass from 1,937 schools.

Government primary schools did the best in terms of achieving cent percent pass rate with 16,912 schools achieved the feat. A total of 7555 Non-government Registered Primary Schools, 4,231 other schools, 220 Model Government Primary Schools and 7081 Brac-run schools also saw cent percent pass rate.

Not a single student could pass from a total of 159 government primary schools, while a total of 1,036 Ananda Schools, 290 Non-government Registered Primary Schools, 291 other schools, 120 Community Schools, 33 Brac-run schools showed such poor performance.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Mild cold wave sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Jessore, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Srimongal may spread over the regions of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra, Satkhira, Tangail and Mymensingh.

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 during the period.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:17pm today and rises at 7:38am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 27.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 8.4 degrees Celsius at Chuadanga.

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	26.2	15.2	59	58
Chittagong	25.8	14.0	69	62
Rajshahi	24.6	09.8	81	78
Khulna	24.8	12.0	73	72
Barisal	26.4	11.0	76	84
Sylhet	27.4	13.9	72	70
Cox's Bazar	27.5	17.5	66	67

Miscreant shot in gunfight with police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One miscreant sustained bullet injuries in a gunfight between police and armed cadres at Kariel slum in Gulshan area in the city yesterday.

The injured, identified as Md Masud, 20, was rushed to Dhaka Medical Hospital with bullet injuries.

Officer-in-Charge of Gulshan Police Station Kamaluddin told The Daily Star that some four to five criminals entered the Kariel slum by a microbus around 6:30pm.

On information, a team of plainclothes police challenged the microbus, but the criminals tried to flee the spot firing from the microbus targeting the police.

The police also exchanged fire.

After the gunfight, police arrested injured Masud and Shah Alam with two foreign-made pistols and eight rounds of bullets.

Other criminals managed to flee away. Police seized the microbus.



Jatiya Mahila Sangstha of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs accorded a reception to women freedom fighters at its auditorium in the city yesterday. From left are Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Prof Mamtaz Begum, Matia Chowdhury, Meher Afroze Chumki and Rokeya Sultana.

WAR OF LIBERATION

'Women's contribution yet to get due recognition'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women played a very important role during the liberation war, but they never received the recognition they deserve, said speakers at a reception yesterday.

During the liberation war, women provided the freedom fighters with food and shelter, nursed the injured and also took part in guerrilla warfare heroically while many became victims of rape and many other forms of atrocities, they also said at the reception at the Jatiya Mahila Sangstha auditorium in the city.

They demanded women get due recognition for their role during the liberation war and immediate trial of the war criminals.

Jatiya Mahila Sangstha of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs accorded the reception to women freedom fighters, including Deputy Leader of the Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Dr Makhdam Nargis Ratna, Zinnatunnisa Talukdar, Prof Jannatul Ferdous, Rafia Akter Doly, Farida Akter Saki and Bharati Nandi Sarkar.

Ivy Rahman, women's affairs secretary of Awami League who was killed in the August 21 grenade attack, and SM Monowara Begum Monu were also given posthumous award for their valiant role during the liberation war.

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in her speech urged all women freedom fighters to work

together to bring the war criminals to book.

Matia Chowdhury said the true history of the liberation war had been distorted, but the present government will reveal the truth.

Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, state minister for women and children affairs, said the government is working for women's empowerment and women freedom fighters are the greatest symbols of women's empowerment.

Lawmaker Meher Afroze Chumki, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on women and children affairs ministry, Rokeya Sultana, secretary to the ministry, and Prof Mamtaz Begum, chairman of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, also spoke.

DHAKA TODAY

Dialogue

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organises a dialogue on 'Boro production: Action plan and challenges to achieve target'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Lecture

Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha organises Begum Rokeya Commemorative Lecture 2009. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organises a seminar on 'Bangladesh war of liberation: Aspirations, achievements and an outlook for the future'. Venue: BISS, Ramna. Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organises a workshop on 'Gender, social capital, local government and climate change adaptation in Bangladesh'. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 1:00pm.

Photography exhibition

Bangladesh Photojournalists Association organises Moltree Nepal Photography Association. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.