

Ensure journo's security

BFUJ urges govt  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the National Press Club, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday urged the government to ensure the security of the lives of the journalists.

They also expressed grave concern over attacks on journalists all over the country.

National Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud and General Secretary Kamal Uddin Sabuj, BFUJ President Ruhul Amin Gazi and Secretary General MA Aziz, DUJ President Abdus Shahid and General Secretary Mohammad Baker Hossain in a joint statement said ever since the Awami League (AL) government returned to power, freedom of press has been denied.

They said during this period three journalists were killed and 232 were injured.

Saying that filing of defamation cases to harass journalists is a threat to objective journalism and freethinking, they condemned filing of 26 cases against Editor of the daily Amar Desh Mahmudur Rahman, appointment of a person who has a history of repressing journalists to the National Press Council and the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry's order to arrest journalists without issuing summons.



Nirjaton Birodhi Chhatra Chhatribrindo stages a demonstration on Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting violence at the all educational institutions across the country.

DEATH OF ABUBAKAR  
Students demand fair probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Nirjaton Birodhi Chhatra Chhatribrindo, a platform for Dhaka University students campaigning against violence, yesterday placed a five-point demand, including a fair investigation into the death of Abubakar, a third year student of Islamic culture and history, and trial of the killers.

Other demands includes removal of the proctor and the provost of Sir AF Rahman Hall, formation of a new probe committee, ensuring security of the students and financial assistance for Abubakar's family.

At a press conference at Madhur Canteen on the DU campus, the student leaders also threatened to wage a tough movement, if the demands are not met within next three days.

Bangladesh Chhatra Federation President Ariful Islam and Bangladesh Chhatra Union President Manabendra Dev spoke at the press conference.

Earlier, the students held a protest rally at the foot of Aporejyo Bangla to press their demands.

Dr Akmal Hussain of international relations department, Parveen Hasan of the Islamic history and culture department and Robayet Ferdous of the mass communication and journalism department attended the rally.

Samrajyobad Birodhi Chhatra Okiya also arranged a cultural function in front of the Ducus Bahaban in protest of the killings at Dhaka and Rajshahi universities.

They also vowed to build resistance against violence perpetrated by Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists.

City road named after Ouderland

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has named Road No. 84 at Gulshan-2 in the city after WAS Ouderland Bir Pratik in recognition of his contribution to the War of Liberation.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka unveiled the name plaque of the road yesterday, says a press release.

Ouderland is the only foreigner to receive a gallantry award.

The Dutch Ambassador, Australian High Commissioner and leaders of the Sectors Commanders' Forum were present on the occasion.

Besides, the DCC mayor also unveiled the name plaque of Jahurul Islam Road, which stretches from Pallabi Shopping Centre to Section-7 intersection, added the release.

KG Mustafa hospitalised

METRO DESK

KG Mustafa, a language movement veteran, noted journalist and former ambassador, was admitted to LabAid Hospital in the city on Monday with bronchial asthma and other old-age complications, says a press release.

He was shifted to the CCU of the hospital yesterday as his condition deteriorated.



CELEBRATE

ROMANCE

For an elegant Romantic candle night dinner, our signature restaurant Sublime could be the best choice in the town. Water Garden Brasserie offers you the widest variety of delicious buffet. Take a special Valentine's Day food journey at our Spice & Rice Restaurant. Besides, Chit Chat Deli Cafe's Valentine's Day cakes and cookies can also be delightful gifts for anyone.

Discover, Explore and Experience more at Radisson

Radisson Water Garden Hotel Dhaka  
Airport Road, Dhaka Cantonment  
Dhaka 1206, Bangladesh  
Phone: 8754555, Fax: 8754554  
www.radisson.com/dhakabd



'Make MPs' Code of Conduct bill a law'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of two major political parties and civil society members at a roundtable yesterday hailed the 'Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament Bill 2010' and called on the government to enact it as a law soon.

Awami League lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury placed the bill as a private members' bill in parliament recently. The bill is designed to ensure that the lawmakers uphold high moral standards in their activities in and outside the House.

AL lawmaker Golam Mawla Rony, AL leader Mahmudur Rahman Manna and BNP leaders Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahubur Rahman and Enam Ahmed Chowdhury attended the roundtable organised by

Shujan at the National Press Club in the city.

Some speakers said that the government should discuss all crucial issues, including signing of treaties with any other country, in parliament.

Mahubur Rahman said it is necessary to change the mindset of political leaders alongside formulation of a code of conduct for them.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna said practice of democratic culture is a must in all segments of society. But more important is what the two leaders -- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia -- want in this regard, he added.

Enam Ahmed said all the treaties signed with other countries should be ratified in parliament through discussion.

Golam Mawla Rony emphasised the need to bring a positive change to the political culture through constructive criticism.

Chairing the discussion, Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad underscored the need for turning the bill into a law immediately.

Shujan Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar said one of the important tasks of parliament is to ensure transparency and accountability of its members.

Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, former minister Sardar Anzad Hossain, former secretaries Mosleh Uddin Ahmed and KM Nurul Huda, former Public Service Commission chairman Mostafa Chowdhury and actor Ilias Kanchan also spoke.



SSC examinees sit for the Bangla first paper examination yesterday, the first day of the public examination. The photo was taken at Motijheel Government Boys' High School in the city.

DU economics dept alumni reunion tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The reunion of Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association will be held at Sonargaon Hotel in the city tomorrow.

The association will also launch its annual lecture series this year. Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus will deliver the lecture.

The reunion, beginning at 6:30pm, will feature launch of a website of the association, membership drive, scholarship distribution, dinner and cultural event.

General Secretary of the association Dr Farid Uddin Ahmed has requested all alumni to attend the programme.

Donors out to make country indebted

Speakers tell seminar

METRO DESK

Speakers at a seminar termed the upcoming Bangladesh Development Forum the 'Debt Development Forum' which, in fact, is the planning of making the country more indebted, says a press release.

They urged the government to drop the donor-driven Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) process and declare a participatory roadmap for preparation of the next five-year plan by 2010-2011.

The speakers said this at the seminar on 'PRS-II: Sovereign Development Planning' organised by Equity BD, a network of civil society organisations, at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday.

Presenting a keynote paper, Syed Aminul Haque said the present PRSP followed the same framework of the previous governments which included the basic conditionalities of the donors, especially of the World Bank, that is, import liberalisation, blanket privatisation and commercialisation of the public service sector, including the agriculture sector.

These conditionalities will hinder the growth of local industry and employment generation and, thus, will reproduce poverty, he added.

The debt servicing liabilities of Bangladesh now stand at 20 percent of revenue budget, that is, per year \$2250 million, which have already surpassed the annual health and education budget.

Aminul expressed worries that the implementation of several mega projects, including Padma Bridge and deep seaport, will make the country more indebted and the debt servicing liability would go up to 30 percent of revenue budget.

Former state minister and BNP leader Abdul Mannan, ex-minister Abul Hasan Chowdhury, ex-minister KM Jahangir Hossain, ex-lawmaker Shamsuzzaman Duda, Ahmed Swapan of VOICE, Ziaul Haque Mukta of CSRL, Md Shamsuddoha, Mostafa Kamal Akanda and Dr Sohel Iqbal of the group, journalist Kaiser Rahman and Salahuddin Bablu also spoke in the seminar.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, convener of Equity BD, moderated the seminar.

DHAKA-DELHI, DHAKA-BANGKOK  
Biman's flights to resume Feb 15, 16

UNB, Dhaka

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will resume its operation on Dhaka-Bangkok-Dhaka and Dhaka-Delhi-Dhaka routes on February 15 and 16 with the induction of new generation Boeing 737.

Biman's operation on the two routes was suspended last year due to shortage of aircraft.

The flight operation on the Dhaka-Bangkok-Dhaka route will be operated four days a week while on the Dhaka-Delhi-Dhaka route three days a week.

The Biman authorities have decided to offer special

discount on air fares on these two routes from February 15-March 31 on resuming its operations with the new logo and livery. Details are available from Biman sales counter at Motijheel and also other ticket sales offices as well as local travel agencies.

Biman on February 6 started its flight operations on Dhaka-London-Dhaka route with the new generation Boeing 777-200 ER bearing the new logo and livery and carrying 311 passengers.

Biman is now operating flights on Dhaka-London-Dhaka route four days a week.

A symbol of beauty and elegance



এমন কিছু, যার স্পর্শে ভালোবাসা চিরসবুজ হয়ে উঠে।



Molly Capita Centre (1st Floor), 76 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Phone : 881 5555, 881 6666, 881 7777, Fax : 880-2-881 8888, Email : jarwahouse@gmail.com