

Call to formulate law to ensure rights of Dalits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Harijan and Dalit community yesterday demanded formulation of a law to eliminate the social discrimination against them and to ensure their civic rights.

They demanded special allocation for the marginalized community in national budget and preserve quota in higher education and government jobs.

Addressing a press conference at National Press Club in the city yesterday, Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Dalit Parishad also demanded representation of Dalit community in the Jatiya Sangsad.

They submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister with a number of demands including formulation of a pay structure consistent with the present market price of daily essentials.

Addressing the press conference HOP secretary general Nirmal Chandra Sen alleged they

are worst victims of discrimination in getting government jobs.

"We are living an inhuman life with no citizens' rights. There are no educational facilities for our children. Even if some of them get education, they do not get jobs as they are Harijans," Nirmal Chandra said.

The press conference was jointly organised by HOP, BDP, Manusher Jonno Foundation, BLAST, Caritas and some other NGOs to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination yesterday.

The Harijan leaders also demanded to regularise their jobs in city corporations, municipalities, non-government and private organisations and reserving 80 percent post of sweepers in the every sector for the Harijan community.

HOP leaders Babu Montu Horijan, Babu Krishna Lal, Babu Kailash Das, and Bajju Lal Sardar were present at the press conference.

Ban financial institutions of Jamaat

AL leaders demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leaders at a rally yesterday alleged that Jamaat-e-Islami is spending crores of taka to foil the trial of war criminals.

So, a ban should be imposed on all financial institutions belonging to Jamaat to ensure the trial, they said.

They also said that Jamaat does not believe in Islam and it bluffs the people in the name of religion.

The rally was held in front of the party's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said the war criminals, including Nizami and Mojaheed, will not be able to avoid punishment.

State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam called for steps to control the financing organisations of Jamaat.

He also said the process of forming tribunal and investigation agency for the trial of war criminals is at the final stage.

Barisal AL leader feared drowned

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An Awami League leader was feared drowned in Kirtonkhola river in Barisal after he fell from an engine-run boat while crossing the river last night.

Barisal AL Vice-President Himangshu Kumar Das Nathubabu fell into the river when another engine-run boat hit his boat near Shaheber Hat at about 9:00pm. He was returning from Durgapur village in Sadar Upazila.

He remained missing as of filing of this report at 11:30pm.

Tiger kills fisherman in Sundarbans

UNB, Satkhira

A tiger killed a fisherman while he was catching fish at Podkhal canal near the river Chuna in Sundarbans yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Morol, 60.

A local forest official said the body, which bore several injury marks, was recovered from Sathkira range of west forest department at 3:00pm.



General students of Eden Girls' College form a human chain in front of the college in the city yesterday demanding steps to restore congenial academic atmosphere at the institution.

PHOTO: STAR

College girl dies in rooftop fall, 2 domestic helps found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female college student and two female domestic helps were killed in three separate incidents in the capital yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Mahruha Akter, 24, an honours student of Tejaona College, Jahura Khatun, 35 and Rabeya Akter, 22.

Mahruha fell down from the rooftop of her residence -- a six-storied building at Maddha Manipur in Mirpur while drying up clothes in the sun at around 11:30am.

Locals and relatives rushed her to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

Rabbi, a relative of the deceased said Mahruha completed honours from marketing department and was waiting to be enrolled in Masters classes.

Shahbagh police recovered the body of Jahura Khatun in front of Meherba Plaza at Topkhana Road at around 8:00am.

Fatema Begum, elder sister of the deceased told The Daily Star yesterday Jahura worked as a help for the last sixteen years in the flat of Mohsin Baker, also the owner of 15-storied

Meherba Plaza on Topkhana Road.

She also said they suspected Jahura had been murdered.

"For the last 20 days, me and my family members tried to meet Jahura. But the owner of the flat did not allow us to meet her," she said.

Officer-in-Charge of Shabagh Police Station Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star quoting the flat owner that Jahura went to the kitchen at around 6:30am but since then she had been missing.

He also said that the locals heard a big sound of falling something on the ground and on information they recovered the severed body of Jahura.

But her severed right hand was found on the cornice of the first floor.

The police picked up Mohsin Baker and his wife.

Meanwhile Dakkhin Khan Police recovered the body of Rabeya Akter from the Bapari Bari in Kawla. They found the body hanging from the ceiling fan with a scarf.

Hedayet Ullah, grandfather of the deceased said she had been working as a domestic help in the house of Abdur Rahman but had no idea about the cause of her death.

Woman held in connection with rape of teenage girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a woman yesterday in connection with the rape of a teenage girl at Nandipara in the city's Khilgaon area early Friday.

With the arrest of Nasima Begum, a neighbour of the victim, three people have been arrested so far.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Nazim Uddin of Khilgaon Police Station said they arrested Nasima as she helped the criminals by giving them information about the victim.

The victim's sister said they started staying at the rented house on March 4.

OC Nazim said they are trying to arrest eight other accused, but refused to disclose their names for the sake of investigation.



Marginalised community people, including Dalits and Harijans, bring out a procession from the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding steps to ensure their human rights on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

PHOTO: STAR

Community police should be strengthened

Says Sahara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Community police should be strengthened to reduce the gap between police and public as people could not reach police due to brokers active in the police stations, Home Minister Sahara Khatun said yesterday.

A total of 21,000 community police members of 771 committees are active in the capital. They can trace out the militants and criminals who are hiding among mass people, she said at a conference of community police members held at Ramna Botomul in the capital.

She said 10 more police stations will be set up in the DMP areas. All the police stations will be interconnected through Internet and modern equipment will be installed there to build a digital Bangladesh.

DMP Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque said, the community police can help to a great extent to eradicate misconception about police.

Community police can play role in reducing traffic jams, extortions, eve-teasing and such other crimes, said the speakers in the meeting.

Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique of Dhaka University in his speech said, "Violating traffic rule is a crime. We knew that as it was taught us earlier."

It should be included in the curriculum of school level, he added.

The conference was presided by DC Krishna Pada Roy, while lawmakers Rashed Khan Menon, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Begum Asma Zerin Jhuma and Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan were present.

Sound infrastructure management system a must for economic dev

Says planning minister

DU CORRESPONDENT

Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandaker yesterday said a sound infrastructure management system is a must for the country's economic development.

He also said the government is committed to providing a significant amount of the budget to facilitate country's infrastructure development.

The planning minister was addressing as the chief guest the groundbreaking ceremony between at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and Japan Institute of Disaster Prevention and Urban Safety (JIDPUS) at the new academic building of Buet.

Khandaker said Buet is one of the leading advanced technological institutes for higher technical education and research in Bangladesh. The university is enriched with facilities having expertise in promoting advanced technology and research.

Termed Bangladesh a disaster-prone country, Buet

Vice Chancellor Dr AMM Saifullah said disaster management cycle and infrastructure management cycle should be compatible to each other.

Japanese Ambassador Tamotsu Shimotsuka said the aim of this institute is to assist the Bangladesh government to strengthen and maintain the infrastructures all over the country and to prevent and well manage natural disasters from the viewpoint of civil engineering.

Dr Taketo Uomoto, professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo, and Takao Toda, chief representative of JICA, also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the planning minister laid the foundation stone of the Buet-JIDPUS Project Bhaban on the new academic building premises of the university.

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