



PHOTO: STAR

Police chase Islami Chhatra Shibir activists when they take out a procession at Bijoy Nagar in the city yesterday demanding release of the arrested Jamaat leaders.

Bangladesh to play 'peace building' role: Quayes

UNB, Dhaka

Recalling Bangladesh as the largest troop contributing country in the UN peacekeeping missions, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes expressed the hope for a "peace building" role of Bangladesh in near future from present "peacekeeping" role.

He said this at a discussion on "Bangladesh Foreign Policy: Challenges and Opportunities" at the Heritage Foundation in Washington DC.

The foreign secretary said Bangladesh foreign policy strives for promotion of democracy, inclusiveness and human rights.

A good number of State Department officials, Capitol Hill staff, members of think-tanks, academia, press and trade and investment executives attended the discussion, said a release of the foreign ministry yesterday.

Quayes said while the government pursues a foreign policy that ascribes equal space

for bilateral as well as multilateral diplomacy, Bangladesh's natural niche has been on the multilateral front.

Film on War of Liberation mugged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers snatched eight video cassettes, containing a film on the War of Liberation, from the city's Moghbazar area Wednesday night.

Producer Esha Yousuf said a gang of muggers riding a black taxicab snatched away the documents at around 8:30pm near Adwin Hospital from their employee Abdullah al Mamun.

The film 'Guerrilla' is being directed by theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuf Bachchu and produced by his daughter Esha Yousuf.

Sub-inspector Rezaul Karim of Ramna police station said a general diary was filed in this connection yesterday.

He said Bangladesh has, over the years, evolved not only as a responsible member in the community of nations, it has earned her place as a "contributing" country.

Quayes touched on the developments in the South Asia region including the prime minister's visit to India.

About the conflicts in South Asia, he stressed the need for action to stem the spread of extremist tendencies.

Elaborating Bangladesh's renewed effort for a regional connectivity, Quayes expressed his satisfaction at the support Bangladesh is receiving regionally as well as globally.

About Bangladesh's impressive win in the CEDAW election with highest number of vote, the foreign secretary said that Bangladesh's good works both at bilateral as well as multilateral level, are not going unnoticed.

He assured the audience that Bangladesh shall continue its effort for a peaceful world through active processes and dialogue with the actors at the regional and global level.

DAILY STAR-MUTUAL BANK DEBATE

'Practise logic through debate'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Daily Star-Mutual Trust Bank Debate Festival began here yesterday with a call for practising logic and reasoning in every sphere of life.

Chairman of Chittagong University Marketing department Prof Syed Ahsanul Alam Parvez inaugurated the festival at a function at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy.

Drishy, Chittagong, an educational and cultural organisation, is organising the festival.

Speakers stressed the need for practising logic for making proper decisions in every sphere of life. The practise of logic should begin from student life, as students are the future leaders to take helm of the country, they observed.

They urged for organising such debate programme more in the school level so that students can easily understand differences between the right and wrong.

Drishy president Masud Bakul chaired the programme that started with national anthem.

Mutual Trust Bank senior vice-president Md Nazrul Islam, Chittagong Stock Exchange director SM Shahidullah and Sunshine Grammar School principal Safia Gazi Rahman, among others, were present.

Drishy general secretary Saif Chowdhury and joint secretary Adnan Mannan made address of welcome.

The final round of 18th inter-school debate was held on the 1st day of the festival yesterday. Debaters of Ispahani Public School and Silver Bells School took part in the parliamentary style debate on "Indian films are negative impact on us."

Four fun debates including student-teacher debate, balloon debate, and humorous debate were also held in participation of the leading debaters, teachers and cultural personalities.

Assistant Editor of local daily Azadi Arun Das Gupta, Bhorer Kagoj Bureau Chief and poet Omar Kaiser and ATN Bangla reporter and debater Mahfuz Mishu moderated the debates.

3 bakeries fined in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court fined three bakeries and six buses Tk 43,000 on different charges at West Madarbari and Tigerpass in the port city yesterday.

The court led by Executive Magistrate Mohammad Fizzur Rahman, found that the bakeries -- Messers Chattala Bakery, Kamal Bakery and Jasim Bakery of West Madarbari -- are producing biscuits, breads and other bakery items in an unhygienic environment defying the rules of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI).



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646 children killed, 300 raped in 3 yrs

Says report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 300 children aged between three to 18 years were violated in last three years and 62 of them were killed after the rape, says a report.

It says 646 children were murdered and 4,807 died in various circumstances in 2007-2009.

Save The Children, Sweden-Denmark placed this statistics at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

The report titled "This is our life" was made based on the reports published in daily newspapers collected by Ichchey Media Group, a children-run organisation.

The report says there are more than 85 ways by which children can be harmed, injured, abused, murdered or tortured and a total of 5,461 children died in various circumstances in three years.

The number of early marriage has also increased as 24 early marriages took place in 2009 compared to 15 in 2008, said Swapna, a member of the Media Group while presenting the findings.

Physical torture on children

has also increased over the last three years with 77 children reportedly being tortured in 2009 compared to 29 in 2008, said Ramjan, another presenter adding, "Girls are the main victims of physical torture."

But number of children who were mentally tortured as reported in the newspapers was only 1 but such torture was 334 in 2007 and 558 in 2008, said Sujon, another member of the group.

Terming the figure as alarming, Save The Children Country Director Birgit Lundbak said it is the duty of adults to save children against such violence.

"The report is called 'This is our life', but it is not a very good life," she said, adding that children are the victim of rape, abuse, murder, drowning, mistreatment and many other things.

The members of Ichchey Media Group urged journalists to make follow up reports on the torture on children to keep pressure on the authorities concerned.

Swapna of the group said they monitored the Prothom Alo, Ittefaq, Somokal, Jai Jai Din and Jugantor.

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Chaitanya, Kabir Court Reporters' Assoc president, general secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Chaitanya Chandra Halder of The Daily Star and Advocate Anwarul Kabir Babul of the daily Jugantor have been elected president and general secretary of the Court Reporters' Association (CRA) for 2010-2011 on Wednesday, says a press release.

Other office bearers are Vice President: Samiul Karim Alamgir (The Bhorer Kagoj), Treasurer: Prashanta Kumar Karmakar (The Prothom Alo), Assistant General Secretary: Abul Kalam Azad (The Ajkaler Khabar), Office and Publicity Secretary: Moniruz-zaman Hawlader (The Ittefaq).

Executive committee members are Dulal Mitra (Focus Bangla), Monzur Alam (The Independent) and Moshirur Rahman (The Destiny).

Advocate Sayeed Ahmed Gazi of the daily Inqilab has been elected adviser to the association unanimously.

Dhaka District Judge Bhabani Prasad Singh, Metropolitan Sessions Judge Ismail Hossain, and Special Divisional Judge Md Abdul Majid, and Advocates Khalequzzaman Mantu and AKM Rezaul Karim Hiron conducted the election at the CRA office.