

THE DAILY STAR VIEW EXCHANGE MEET Call to publish positive news

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a view exchange meeting on Tuesday night called for more coverage of positive news and success stories in national newspapers, including The Daily Star.

Coverage of success stories in newspapers would inspire the achievers to get more involved in such activities for the well-being of the people, they said.

Publishing negative stories in newspapers only makes frustration in the society, they observe.

The Daily Star organised the meeting at a hotel in Sylhet city while Editor and Publisher of the English daily Mahfuz Anam moderated it.

Prof MA Aziz, vice-chancellor of Metropolitan University, thanked The Daily Star for giving good coverage on education related issues. He also stressed the need for using simple and easy English in the newspaper so that readers can easily understand the language.

Success stories from grass-roots level should also be given more coverage in national newspapers, he said.

Dr Zakaria Hossain, chairman of Sylhet Tourism Foundation, said the press should give more coverage on tourism in Bangladesh to attract tourists from home and abroad.

Private sector is contributing "in a big way," Hossain said, adding Bangladesh needs a tourism-friendly atmosphere for attracting tourists.

Faruque Mahmud Chowdhury, TIB's

conscious citizens' committee convener and Sylhet Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) administrator, said the process of setting up of the long desired Special Economic Zone in Sylhet is underway. It would open a new era in investment especially by the non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs), he added.

Md Shah Alam, regional director of Bangladesh Betar, requested The Daily Star authorities for organising events for the meritorious students of English medium schools in Sylhet region.

Prof SMA Khaleque, chairman of Sylhet Education Board, said the newspapers should give more focus on education related issues.

He stressed the need for regular evaluation on the education boards' activities and monitoring the education institutions to increase their standard of education, he said.

Nasim Hossain, city unit BNP general secretary and former vice-president of SCCI, said opportunities for setting up small and mid level industries in greater Sylhet should be increased as the two existing BSCIC Industrial estates have no scope for expansion while a good number of expats are ready to set up new industries.

He also emphasised setting up a Special Economic Zone in the region soon. It would create ways for the NRB investors. Nasim also requested for more coverage of positive news and success stories.

Muktabs Un Noor, president of Sylhet Press Club, said new generation

NRBs are losing interest towards Bangladesh for some reasons. The government should increase facilities for the NRBs and immediate steps should be taken for keeping them in touch with the country, he said.

He said harassment at the airports and by the national carrier Biman is yet to be stopped.

Marian Mamma Chowdhury, veteran women sports organiser and former national athlete, said newspapers should focus more on the decaying facilities for female sports, especially in the districts including Sylhet where playgrounds are disappearing fast.

Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, said though there have many problems, journalism of Bangladesh is far better. The Daily Star is trying to overcome the problems to ensure quality journalism, he said.

He requested all to identify the problems and loopholes in media so that The Daily Star and other media can focus on those issues more effectively.

Rumi Hossain, managing director of Rangs Toshiba, Golam Rabbani, Sylhet divisional commissioner, Sazzadul Hasan, deputy commissioner, SP Shakhawat Hossain, Misbah Uddin Siraj, public prosecutor, Dr. Ehtesham Ul Haque Chowdhury, Sylhet BMA secretary, Infranuzzaman Chowdhury, BLAST regional coordinator, Ahmed Nur, press club general secretary, barrister Arosh Ali, president of Udichi, Sylhet and cultural activist and writer Nizam Uddin Lashkar also joined the programme.



Nigeria's Transportation Minister Yusuf Suleiman receives Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja as she arrives to attend the D-8 Summit in Nigeria yesterday. On her right is Foreign Minister Dipu Moni. (Story on Page 1)

DELEGATION IN DELHI Bangladesh to purchase rice, wheat from India

BSS, New Delhi.

A three-member Bangladesh delegation reached Delhi yesterday to negotiate with the Indian officials for procurement of rice and wheat from India.

The delegation, led by Director General of the Directorate of Food Ahmed Hossain Khan, will discuss the possible purchase of 1 lakh tonnes of rice and 4 lakh tonnes of wheat, sources said.

The Bangladesh side is likely to discuss details regarding purchase of rice with the State Trading Corporation of India and the procurement of wheat with the Food Corporation of India.

The price and other details would be worked out later in Dhaka during the visit of an Indian delegation.

The delegation includes Khandaker Atiar Rahman, joint secretary, food division and Ilahi Dad Khan, director, Directorate of Food.



Comptroller and Auditor General Ahmed Ataul Hakeem submits the Annual Audit Reports to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday.

TWIN BABIES MURDER Father confesses killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Narayer Abul Kashem has killed his nine-month-old twin babies by drowning them in a pond after being insulted by his mother-in-law.

Kashem confessed this during interrogation by Shiddhirganj police on Tuesday night.

Bodies of Simanto and Shimu were recovered from the pond at Kadamtoli in Shiddhirganj upazila on Tuesday morning. Later, police arrested their father Kashem in this connection.

During the interrogation, Kashem, a garment worker at Mouchak in Gazipur, described the gruesome killing of his children to police.

Kashem, his wife Salma, their five-year-old son, twin babies--Simanto and Shimu--and his mother-in-law stayed at Kadamtoli in Shiddhirganj.

Quoting Kashem, officer-in-charge SM Badrul Alam of the police station said Kashem's mother-in-law often insulted and rebuked him, as he could not maintain his family expenses.

Getting hurt by his mother-in-law's insult, Kashem took baby girl Shimu from the pond and threw it into a nearby pond around 4:00am on Tuesday. In the same way, he killed his baby boy Simanto. Then, he returned to the bed and made a pretend of sleeping.

In the morning, Salma found that her two children were not in the bed. After a search, locals found the bodies in the pond and informed police of the matter.

Salma filed a murder case against her husband Kashem with the police.

Kashem got married with Salma about 7-8 years ago. He worked at a garment factory in Gazipur while his wife at another factory in Adamjee EPZ of Narayanganj.

Ensure best use of taxpayers' money President asks CAG

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called for conducting audit efficiently to make the best use of taxpayers' money and establish good governance through sound financial management.

The president made the remarks when Comptroller and Auditor General Ahmed Ataul Hakeem submitted the Annual Audit Reports to him at Bangabhaban.

Zillur emphasised careful audits in all public and autonomous bodies to maintain accountability and transparency in all sectors.

He also advised the authorities to recruit necessary manpower in different audit and account offices under the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to ensure smooth financial management.

Hakeem apprised the president of remarkable contributions to the public accounts committee of the 9th Jatiya Sangsad. He said during fiscal 2008-09, Tk 670 crore has been recovered as a result of audit observations.

Secretaries concerned to the President's Office were present.

WEATHER

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at a few places

over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:18am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Jessore and lowest 24.7 degrees Celsius at Hatiya.

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	33.4	27.8	75	68
Chittagong	31.8	26.0	71	81
Rajshahi	34.6	26.0	76	71
Khulna	33.6	26.4	93	65
Barisal	32.8	26.9	78	69
Sylhet	31.6	27.2	76	92
Cox's Bazar	33.3	26.0	75	72

Chy Alam's counsel takes back petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The counsel for Chowdhury Alam, a BNP councillor of Dhaka City Corporation, yesterday took back a writ petition, which challenged Alam's detention, from a High Court bench.

Counsel barrister Moudud Ahmed took back the petition from the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain, as the bench refused to issue a rule on the government for an explanation in this regard.

During hearing on the petition Tuesday, Moudud prayed to the court to issue a rule asking the government to explain why Alam's detention should not be declared illegal, and also to direct the government to produce Alam in any appropriate court.

The court yesterday wanted to order the government to find out the whereabouts of Alam, but Moudud did not receive that order.

Emerging from the court, the counsel told reporters that they took the petition back as they were not satisfied with the HC bench.

He said they would move the petition to another HC bench.

Alam, president of Ramna thana unit BNP, went missing on June 25, two days before the opposition's hartal across the country.

BNP leaders alleged that the plain-clothes lawmen picked Alam from the capital's Farmgate, but police denied his arrest.

Alam's son Abu Sayeed Chowdhury filed the writ petition with the HC on July 4 to declare Alam's arrest illegal.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza stood for the government.

Advice to close 36 private teachers training colleges

BSS, Dhaka

The National Teachers Education Council recommended suspending the activities of 36 private teachers training colleges across the country, said a hand-out yesterday.

It asked the National University to implement the suspension so that the institutions cannot enroll any trainees this year.

The council also recommended extension of Bachelor of Education (BED) courses to two years -- as it was till 2008 -- from the current span of one year.

The recommendations came on Tuesday at the council's first meeting presided over by Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

Education Secretary Syed Aatur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of National University Prof Qazi Shahidullah, Vice Chancellor of Open University Prof RIM Aminur Rashid, Chairman of Dhaka Education Board Prof Fahima Khatun, Director General of Technical Education Department Prof Nital Chandra Sutradhar, Chairman of Madrasa Education Board Prof M Yusuf and other high officials concerned also attended the meeting.

Declare December 15 Nat'l Mourning Day HC advises govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) has advised the government to declare December 15 "National Mourning Day" in memory of lakhs of people who sacrificed their lives during the Liberation War.

It has also advised that the place in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan where the Pakistani occupation army surrendered on December 16, 1971, be named "Liberty Square".

An HC bench gave the advice in a judgement, the copy of which was released on Tuesday.

The court suggested identifying and preserving all the important places related to the Liberation War.

Talking to journalists yesterday, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said he will urge the government to implement the HC advice as early as possible.

The HC bench comprised of Justice ABM Khairul Haque (now a judge of the Supreme Court) and Justice M Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed delivered the judgement on July 8 last year upon a writ petition jointly filed by freedom fighters Maj Gen (Retd) KM Safiullah and Prof Muntasir Mamun.

Hearing on Khaleda's cantonment house continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday continued for sixth day the hearing on the writ petition filed by the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging the legality of a government notice to vacate her cantonment house.

The HC bench of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Sheikh Hasean Arif will resume hearing the case at 2:00pm today.

Advocate TH Khan and barrister Rafique-ul Huq yesterday placed arguments on Khaleda Zia's behalf before the court.

The high court stayed the government notice asking Khaleda to vacate the cantonment house on May 27 last year and issued a rule upon the government to explain why its notice should not be declared illegal.

37 yrs RI for 2 accomplices of Bangla Bhai

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced two associates of Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai, the executed second-in-command of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, to 37 years of rigorous imprisonment each for possessing arms and ammunition.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 handed down the sentences in presence of accused Masud alias Abdur Rouf and Mohammad Chand Miah.

The court acquitted Fahima Begum alias Farzana Begum as the charge brought against her was not proved.

Earlier the prosecutor and the defense attorneys had completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 23 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Bangla Bhai along with Rouf and Chand Miah from a house at Rampura in Muktagachha of Mymensingh on March 6, 2006.

Rab also seized a small machine gun, a foreign-made pistol, two revolvers and a huge stock of ammunition from the house.

Later an arms case was filed against them with Muktagachha Police Station.

Bangla Bhai along with JMB leader Shaekh Abdur Rahman and four other top militant leaders were executed in 2007.

'TB prevalence higher in rural areas than urban'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prevalence rate of Tuberculosis, commonly known as TB, has come down remarkably in last 20 years in the country due to higher detection and cure rate of the once deadly disease, a national survey said.

According to the survey, 79 persons in every one lakh now suffer from this disease, down from 800 persons in the 90s.

Rapid and wide coverage of Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course (DOTS) programme throughout the country, high case detection rate, and the persistently high cure rate should be accredited for this reduction in the prevalence of the disease, Dr K Zaman, who led the survey, said.

The Nationwide Tuberculosis Disease-Infection Prevalence Survey 2007-09 was conducted on 50,000 people across the country revealing that the prevalence is higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

In rural areas, for example, 86 adult persons in every one lakh suffer from TB, against 51 persons in urban areas, said the study.

The National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in collaboration with International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) conducted the study with finance from the USAID and The Global Fund.

Presenting the findings at a city hotel yesterday, Dr K Zaman, senior scientist and epidemiologist of ICDDR,B said the number of men suffering from this pulmonary problem is three times higher than women.

However, despite the drop in the prevalence rate, 23 per cent people are still out of DOTS coverage, which is not good at all, speakers said, adding that the death rate from the disease came down to 45 from 76 per one lakh in 1990.

They recommended that the current achievements, particularly the case detection and cure rates, should be maintained with increased emphasis on the elderly, rural populations and lower socioeconomic groups.

Speaking as the chief guest, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said a total of 1,050 DOTS centres are there at upazila level and that the treatment of the disease is completely free.

"Still very few people know about the disease and its treatment in rural area due to lack of awareness," he said stressing the need for strengthening awareness building campaign, as it is a curable disease.

Mozibur Rahman Fakir, state minister for health and family welfare, Shaikh Altaf Ali, health secretary, Prof Shah Monir Hossain, director general of DGHS, Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association and Alejandro Cravioto executive director of ICDDR,B, among others, spoke on the occasion.