

Evil forces out to foil war crimes trial

Sahara tells public meeting

BSS, Dhaka

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the evil forces, which killed Bangabandhu in 1975 along with most of his family members, are hatching a conspiracy to foil war crimes trial.

"The same group carried out the grenade attack on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 21 in 2004 to kill her," she said urging the countrymen to forge unity to undo all conspiracies.

Sahara Khatun was speaking at a public meeting at Uttara Nawab Habibullah Model School and College ground on the occasion of inaugural of a new branch of Karmasangsthan Bank.

Chairman of the Bank M Muniruzzaman, Managing Director Dr M Nurul Huda and local political leaders spoke on the occasion.

Urging the people to turn shock into strength, the Home Minister said, "The war criminals will be tried with the support of the

countrymen."

Sahara Khatun said the Awami League government in 1998 had established the Karmasangsthan Bank. But, the activities of the bank became slow after the BNP-led four-party alliance assumed power in 2001.

The bank was rejuvenated after the present government came to power and took massive programmes for creating employment opportunity for the youth, she said.

She said the government is relentlessly working to fulfil its election commitment of giving job to at least one member of each family and build a modern technology based nation.

The Home Minister urged the youth to avail the opportunity of self-employment by taking soft loans from the Karmasangsthan Bank which gives loans for 21 employment generating sectors including poultry farm, livestock, sewing, cottage industry, weaving, pottery, block-dyeing and boutiques.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina consoles son of acting secretary of Women and Children Affairs Ministry Razia Begum at her Gono Bhaban complex residence in the city yesterday while, right, daughters of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (Bscic) Chairman Siddiqui Rahman mourn their father's death at their Khilgaon residence. (Story on Page 1)



PHOTO: STAR

Concern over increasing number of heart diseases

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday expressed concern at the increasing number of people who are suffering from heart diseases, saying that it was mainly due to faulty lifestyle, intake of non-nutritional foods and lack of physical work.

Change of lifestyle, intake of nutritional foods and regular exercise can make people free from heart diseases, which claimed many lives in the country, said the experts at a seminar.

Two-day first national seminar on reversal programme aimed at prevention of heart diseases concluded at LGED auditorium at Agargaon yesterday.

Bangladesh Cardiac Society Chairman Prof Dr Amanullah MP, Bangladesh Science and Industrial Research Council Chairman

Prof Dr SM Imamul Haq, Dr Anwar Hossain, Prof Dr M Kasimuddin, Dr SM Shahidul Haque, Dr Shakhawat Hossain Bhuiyan and Prof Dr M Shamsheer Ali spoke at the seminar.

Dr Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, reversal programme specialist and vice chairman of Indian Cardio-logical Society, presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

Dr Nirmal said insulin leads a healthy life being free from heart diseases as per reversal programme invented by eminent US scientist and cardiologist Prof Dr Dean Ornish.

About 900 people, including physicians, attended the two-day seminar organised by the Science And Art of Living (SAAOL) Health and Research Foundation to raise awareness about the outbreak of heart diseases and its prevention.

Self-rectification to ensure HR stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights will not be established in the society unless people exercise self-rectification, speakers yesterday said this at a function observing the first founding anniversary of Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation (BHRF) at BIAM auditorium.

They said home is the primary institution of establishing human right. Every body should behave well with our domestic helps as well as family members before ensuring human rights of others.

"Parents can play a vital role in reducing suicide due to stalking. They should advise their daughter against thinking of suicide as they are not at all guilty rather the stalkers", said Justice Nazmun Ara. The parents of stalkers should also take care of their children well to prevent them from doing so, she added.

Noted singer Asif Akbar, representatives of BHRF of different districts were among them who spoke at the programme.

Eelina Khan, chairperson of the foundation, gave the welcome speech.

Jamaat involved with militancy, says Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami was involved with all militancy and terrorist activities in the country and they nurtured the forces to transform the country into a communal and fundamentalist country said Suranjit Sengupta yesterday.

Citizenship of people who do not believe in the spirit of the liberation war should be cancelled and they should leave the country said Suranjit, the co-chairman of the Special Committee on Constitution Amendment.

"All citizens should have some responsibilities and obligations to their state", he added.

Suranjit made the remark while speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable styled 'Militancy in Bangladesh and Shibir politics' organised by the Bangladesh Educational Writers Forum at the National Press Club.

Referring to Moudud Ahmed's comment that he could not accept the High Court verdict on the Fifth Amendment, Suranjit said, "As a citizen of the country, everyone is obligated to obey the verdict."

About trial of the war criminals, he said the whole nation is united in demand of war crimes trial and it is government's duty to hold the trial to establish a secular democratic Bangladesh.

Forum president Mufdi Ahmed presided over the function, while the now-defunct Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, TV actor Dr Inamul Haque, spoke among others.



GPA-5 achievers in the HSC examinations celebrate at a reception at Nandan Park in the city yesterday. The Prothom Alo and Robi organised the event. PHOTO: STAR

Mannan Bhuiyan's contribution recalled

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said the death of Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has created a void in the country's political arena as he established himself in the national politics by dint of hard work and dedication.

They were addressing a memorial meeting on Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, former secretary general of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), at Central Shaheed Minar in the city. Shahid Asad Parishad organised the discussion.

General Secretary of Shaheed Asad Parishad Samsuzzaman Milon chaired the discussion. Freedom fighters Matiur Rahman and Shamasul Momen spoke at the function.

They described Mannan Bhuiyan as a fearless politician and said he (Bhuiyan) had played a leading role in all pro-democracy movements since 1962.

Bhuiyan, who was a freedom fighter, had also joined the anti-Ayub movement, they said.

Reconsider Tk 5000 as minimum wage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political and worker organisations yesterday rejected the government decision of fixing the minimum wage of garments workers at Tk 3,000 and demanded reconsidering it to Tk 5,000.

They also demanded withdrawal of all cases filed against the worker leaders and to stop harassing them.

In a statement, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the government and the owners had finalised the new wage board without discussing the matter with the workers.

They urged the government and garment factory owners to meet with the workers for immediate resolution of the problem.

Leaders of the Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra, Garment Sramik Sangram Parishad, Garment Sramik Oikya Forum and Bangladesh Sangjukto Garment Sramik Federation, Samajtantrik Mahila Forum, Gonotrantik Bam Morcha, Jatiya Gono Front, Textile Garment Workers Federation, Garments Sramik O Shilpo Rakha Samannaya Committee, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh placed the same demands and condemned police attack on the workers.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Bangladesh National Council of Textile Garments and Leather Workers at a press conference greeted the Prime Minister for announcing the new wage board.

They also urged all the workers to refrain from engaging in violence but rather sit with garment factory owners and the government to resolve the problem in a constructive way.

Construction workers demand re-fixing of wage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction workers' trade union yesterday demanded re-fixing of their wage structure.

The demand came from a daylong conference entitled 'construction workers trade union representative conference-2010' in the city, said a press release.

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) arranged the conference aiming to finalise a unified demand for ensuring safety and rights of the construction workers.

Husband strangles wife at Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man strangled his wife to death in the city's Mirpur area early on Friday.

The deceased was Labonno Jahan Nargis, 18, wife of Riffat Hossain Suman, 25, of Purba Monipur area.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Mirpur Police Station Kazi Wajed Ali said police yesterday morning recovered the body from her residence and sent it to Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue for autopsy. Suman fled the rented house after the incident.

Suman's father Abdul Aziz Talukder went to the police station late Friday night and informed the police about the incident, said the OC.

After having a squabble Thursday night the couple went to sleep. In the following morning when Aziz noticed an open door, he entered the room and found Nargis lying on the bed. Her throat was tied up

JICA promotes urban safety

METRO DESK

A Minutes of Meeting on JICA Technical cooperation named "Project for Capacity Development on Natural Disaster - Resistant Techniques of Construction and Retrofitting for Public Buildings" was signed on July 27, says a press release.

Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW), Public Works Department (PWD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed the minutes.

JICA's project, in collaboration with PWD, mainly focuses on enhancing building safety of the public buildings, which have key role in response activities after disasters, such as hospitals, fire services and government offices.

The risk of Dhaka and other cities from natural disasters is catastrophic in several cases. PWD is the leading organisation of this project and expected to spread the knowledge and technology to other governmental and private organisations.


The target of the project is to develop the capacity of PWD engineers and establish a sustainable system for promoting urban safety after the project period.

CPB's demand week begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will observe a demand week for the immediate trial of war criminals, restoration of the 1972 constitution and immediate resolution of crises in public life.

The programme will kick off with the party marching from Muktangan to Bahadur Shah Park as part of its programmes at 5:00pm today, says a press release.



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