

2001 POST-POLL VIOLENCE

Probe body receives 4,500 complaints

Many did not turn up fearing reprisal in future

BSS, Dhaka

The probe commission on post-poll violence in 2001 visited 20 districts and received 2,500 complaints of political persecution from the field. About 2,000 more complaints came to the commission direct, raising the number of such complaints to 4,500. The probe commission chief and former district and sessions judge Muhammad Shahabuddin, who is undergoing treatment at Square Hospital, told this to BSS yesterday. He was admitted to the hospital after he had fallen sick during a field visit to Jessore. He said trial of the violence and repression after the 8th parliamentary polls could be held under the ordinary laws. He urged the government not to delay the trial process. The commission chief said, "We are investigating the incidents neutrally and we will recommend necessary actions

against those involved in those incidents directly or indirectly." The government formed the probe commission as per a directive of the High Court. The commission is to submit the report by September 26. Shahabuddin said the worst incidents of post-poll repression on the minority communities took place by BNP-Jamaat men in Bhola in 2001. The commission has recorded the statements of the victims on those sensational incidents. There were about 1,000 incidents of such violence in Bhola alone. Referring to one of the sensational incidents at Lalmoan in Bhola, he said the criminals had gouged out the eyes of Bazlu with the barrel of a pistol. They also gouged out the eyes of Malek with a stick. They are now blind. There were such incidents in Jessore too. He said the atrocities of 2001 remind the mediaeval barbarism. He said many of the victims did not

come to the commission to lodge complaints fearing such repression in future. After the 2001 post-poll violence, it was possible to file cases for only 25 percent incidents of rape, repression, looting and arson. But there was no proper investigation due to the influence by the then ruling party leaders. The commission would take steps for reinvestigation into those incidents and recommend filing cases in this regard. Shahabuddin urged the government and political parties to extend cooperation with a view to establishing good governance and the rule of law. The High Court directed the government to form the probe commission on a writ petition filed by human rights body Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh. The duration of the commission will expire on September 26.



Indian Minister of West Bengal Panchayat and Village Development Anisur Rahman makes a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.



New office-bearers of the Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North pose for photograph with the guests at its installation and silver jubilee ceremony at Hotel Lakeshore at Gulshan in the city recently. Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) Executive Director Sultana Kamal was present as the chief guest at the function with Club President Mohsena Reza in the chair. Inner Wheel District 328 Chairman Tahera Muzaffar and National Representative Sophia Kabir were present on the occasion.

DU to make replicas of Aug 15 citations to Bangabandhu

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities have decided to make replicas of the citation, which was supposed to be conferred on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at a gala reception on the campus. But it was on August 15, 1975, the same fateful day when he along with his family members was brutally killed. "We have decided to make replicas of the citation and will present them to different museums, including the National Museum, Bangabandhu Museum and Liberation War Museum", said DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique. The wooden framed citation was found inside a cupboard at a room of the administrative building on December 2, 2009 while crests and a casket were found in a safe at the registrar's office. Bangabandhu was supposed to be given the citation, crests and casket at a gala reception organised by the students, teachers, officers and employees of DU. A retired deputy registrar, Amir Hossain, found the citation at the council

office of the registrar's building while he was searching for his personal documents and handed it over to Prof Arefin on December 4, 2009. "The citation was part of the preparations to welcome Bangabandhu but it went missing after the assassination of father of the nation," said Prof Arefin. He said Bangabandhu was scheduled to deliver a speech and exchange views during the programme at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). And the then vice-chancellor Prof Abdul Matin Chowdhury was scheduled to read out the citation. He said that the university authorities had also retrieved the certificate folder and crest that were also supposed to be presented to Bangabandhu on that day. The university authorities preserved the memorabilia, he added. Prof Arefin said the contents of the citation reflected the overall social and political situation during that time. He also said they have a plan to build a museum at the university to preserve things related to various democratic movements involving the teachers, students and employees. Bangabandhu was also supposed to

declare DU as a federal university of the country for making it the centre for excellence said former vice-chancellor of DU Prof AK Azad Chowdhury. He recalled that the nation lost its greatest son of all times, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Chancellor of DU, which was decorated befittingly on the black day of August 15. Those busy in arranging the reception did not even imagine that Bangabandhu, architect of the country's independence, could be killed by his own people for whom he sacrificed all of his happiness and comfort, he added. DU official sources said the programme on the fateful day included placing of wreath at the grave of martyred teachers and students. It also included visiting the museum of DU Sociology Department and taking tea at the residence of vice chancellor Prof Dr Abdul Matin Chowdhury. DU was also supposed to present a silver crest to Bangabandhu at the reception.

Bogra students block road for electricity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Hundreds of students of Government Azizul Haque College blocked the road in front of the college at Goshala in the town last night demanding smooth supply of electricity. The agitating students pelted bricks at the power station nearby the college and set fire to the furniture of the building around 10:45 pm, witnesses said. Police fired several rounds of rubber bullets and detained five people from the spot to bring the situation under control. Officer-in-Charge of Bogra Sadar Police Station AHM Khalequzzaman confirmed the incident. Police were yet to remove the barricade when reports last came in.

Breastfeeding can prevent deaths of 37,000 newborns

Says health minister

UNB, Dhaka

Breastfeeding within an hour of birth can possibly prevent death of some 37,000 newborns in Bangladesh, Health and Family Welfare Minister Prof Dr AFM Ruhul Haque said yesterday. He was addressing a function marking the World Breastfeeding Week-2010 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina present as chief guest. Referring to Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey-2007, Prof Ruhul said every year some 1.20 lakh newborns die in the country within 28 days of their birth. Breastfeeding within an hour of birth could possibly prevent the deaths of some 37,000 newborns. "The starting of breastfeeding babies within one hour of birth can save lives of some 12 lakh newborns in the world," he said referring to research reports of Lancet, a globally renowned

medical journal. Describing breast happiness, babies as the symbol of women's happiness, capability and strength, the Health Minister said only breastfeeding ensures complete healing of mothers with babies' good health and therefore holds utmost importance. About various baby foods available in the market, Ruhul said attractively packed and advertised baby-food items could easily misguide the parents of the newborns. "So it's very necessary to create environment and present the right information and concepts about these items," he said. Health Adviser to the Prime Minister Prof Syed Modasser Ali and State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Capt (ret'd) M Mozibur Rahman Fakir spoke, among others, at the function presided over by Health and Family Welfare Secretary M Humayun Kabir.



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