

Publish new edition of constitution as per Supreme Court verdict

Justice Rabbani urges law ministry

DU CORRESPONDENT

Justice Ghulam Rabbani yesterday said the law ministry should publish a fresh edition of the constitution soon as per the Supreme Court's judgment so that people can know its latest edition to give them rights to join the debate on whether it should be amended further.

"The constitution of 1972 has been reinstated with the first, second and third amendments following the recent appellate division's judgment cancelling the Fifth Amendment," Rabbani said while speaking at a discussion in the city.

Echoing Justice Rabbani's statement, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said, "The High Court has declared illegal the constitutional amendment that had legitimised the military rule by PM Ershad and directed to put the constitution in its previous state."

Now the constitution will be close to the original constitution of 1972 after reprinting

it as per the court directions, said the minister.

Shafique mentioned that the special committee formed to review the constitution is also working accordingly.

Replying to the criticism that the process of trying war criminals is going slow, law

minister said an investigation committee has already been formed and efficient investigators are working sincerely.

It will not be wise to disclose findings of the investigation now, he added.

He assured that the trial of war crimes and crimes against

humanity during the war of liberation in 1971 would be completed before ending of the tenure of the present government.

The government is very cordial to the trial of war crimes as it is an electoral pledge, Shafique said seeking coopera-

tion from all to finish the task.

Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee arranged the discussion on 'Trial of 71 genocide, 72' constitution and August tragedy: responsibility of the government and citizen's groups,' at BILIA auditorium in the city with President to the Central Advisory Committee of the Nirmul Chowdhury was in the chair.

Justice Syed Amirul Islam said the trial process of war criminals should start soon establishing a combination among the ministries of law, home and war crimes trial tribunal.

If necessary, manpower and fund allocation should be increased to the tribunal, he added.

Justice AK Badrul Haque, Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman, Lawyer Turin Afroz, Executive President of Nirmul committee Shahriar Kabir, Mohila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam, among others, spoke at the programme.



Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman speaks at a discussion on 'Trial of 71 genocide, 72 constitution and August tragedy: responsibility of the government and citizen's groups,' organised by 'Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee at BILIA Auditorium in the city yesterday.

Power holders mostly indulge in corruption

Says law minister

UNB, Dhaka

Coming close to the truth, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed has frankly said to those exercising the state power are mostly involved in indulging corruption.

"95 percent of the country's people are farmers and labourers. They are not involved in corruption. Those few exercising the state power are mostly found indulging in corruption," said Shafique.

He was speaking at a function marking release of CD of United Nations Convention Against Corruption-UNCAC in the city yesterday.

Shafique said those executing state powers are doing corruption as long as they are serving their own interest instead of serving the people. They must remember that the power exercised by them was bestowed on them by the people. They are simply working as their trustees.

The minister noted with regret that corruptions are rampant although there are some provisions in the law to curb them. He said he is convinced that there can be no corruption if supervisors, coordinators and controlling officers in an organisation are right, opposed to corruption.

There shall be no need of Anti-Corruption Commission or anti-corruption law if supervising and controlling officers of every organisation do not indulge in corruption and also not allow subordinates to do it, he added.

Shafique made an earnest call upon those exercising state power to change their mentality of taking extra facilities and benefits at the cost of the poor nation.



Noor Jehan Murshid's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 7th death anniversary of Noor Jehan Murshid, a veteran freedom fighter, politician and cultural activist, will be observed today.

Noor Jehan Murshid, who passed away on this day in 2003, fought for establishing a democratic and secular society, said a press release.

She also took an active part in the anti-colonial movement in this part of the British India and against the Pakistani military rule.

Her speech at the joint session of Lok Sabha and Rajyasa of India, as a special envoy of the Bangladesh government in exile and as an elected representative, remarkably facilitated India's recognition and all-out cooperation to Bangladesh's war of liberation.

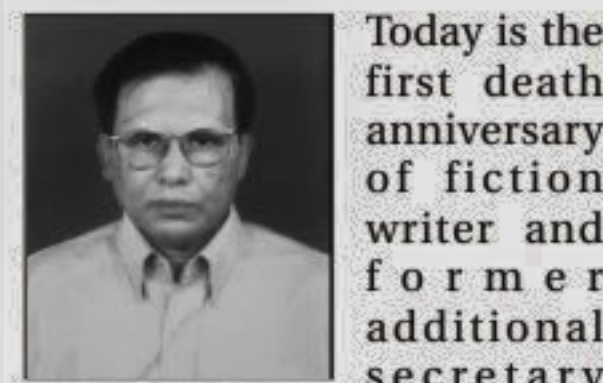
A distinguished leader for women's emancipation, Noor Jehan was elected a member of the provincial legislative assembly as a Juktfront candidate and became the first state minister for health and social welfare in the independent Bangladesh.

She served as general secretary of the then Pakistan Mahila Awami League during 1969 to 1971 and was elected member to the provincial assembly in the general elections of 1970.

In her lifetime, she maintained an unqualified loyalty to her progressive ideals for a modern and democratic Bangladesh, honest politics, a just society and equal rights.

Khurshid Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mohammad Khurshid Alam.

On the occasion, foods will be distributed among the orphans today. All have been requested to pray for the departed soul.

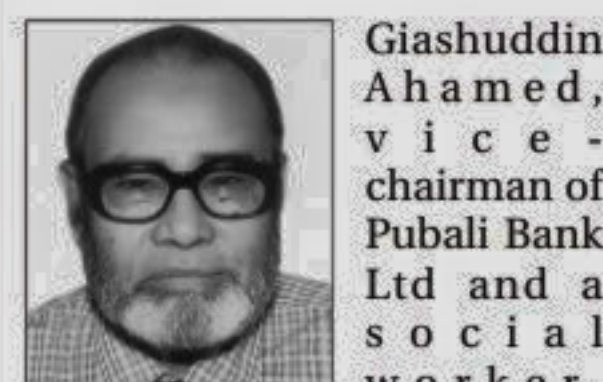
Khurshid Alam was born in Priyokati village of Shariatpur in 1955.

He wrote 19 books that include Shetkopoter Dana, Hridoyi Nodi Raktopati, Digambari Prem Nei, Galpo Shamvar, Prodig Shikhay Oviyan and Shikkhoy Samudrajatra.

His novels include Kothao Jabona Fire, Abobahika, Bibah Puran, Ferari Prem, Janaronney Nirobata, Daho, Samar Asamar, Tittoreri Shangan, Unashottoreri Koishar, Vangoner Padaboli, Nartoki O Brikhkonari and article books are Paribesh Samaj O Samajik Bikash.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Giashuddin Ahamed, vice-chairman of Pubali Bank Ltd and a social worker,

passed away at around 3:00am yesterday, says a press release.

He was the founder of Roymon Nessa Girls College, K L High School, Gazipur and Abdul Aziz Yatimkhana and Madrasa.

Giashuddin was a prime exporter of fute business. He was also a founder of Popular Jute Mills, Sidlu Jute Mills, Sagar Jute Mills, Popular Life Insurance and Peoples Insurance.

Kahirul Anam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahammad Kahirul Anam, educationist and veterinarian of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Monday at the age of 66.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the administration building of BAU.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

BAU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr MA Sattar Mandal expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Anam and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

2001 POST-POLL VIOLENCE Victims fear to make complaint

Says probe commission chief

BSS, Dhaka

The probe commission on post-poll violence in 2001 will seek more time to submit a 'complete report', as the deadline will expire on September 26.

"Only one commission has been formed to probe thousands of incidents taking place nine years ago. This task is difficult, but the commission is working relentlessly. We need more time," said probe commission chief and former district and sessions judge Muhammad Shahabuddin.

He told the news agency yesterday that the commission has already decided to seek more time to conduct investigation and submit its report.

He said many of the victims do not dare to come to the commission to lodge complaints fearing repression in future like 2001 post-poll violence.

The government formed this probe commission as per a directive of the High Court. The commission was to submit the report by September 26 as per the directive of the higher court.

The probe commission chief said the commission is now scrutinising the complaints it received. It will start probe in the districts of Chittagong, Feni and Comilla in September, he added.

He said, "We are investigating the incidents neutrally and we will recommend necessary actions against those involved in those incidents directly or indirectly."

He said the trial of the violence after the 8th parliamentary polls could be held under the ordinary laws. He urged the government not to delay the trial process.

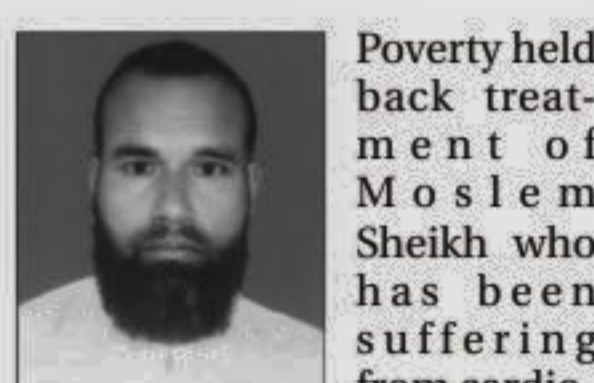
Muhammad Shahabuddin said the worst incidents of post-poll repression in the areas of minority communities took place in Bholia in 2001.

The commission has recorded the statements of the victims on those sensational incidents. There were about 1,000 incidents of such kind in Bholia alone.

Referring to one of the sensational incidents at Lalmojan in Bholia, the commission chief said the terrorists had gouged out eyes of one Bazlu with the barrel of a pistol. They also gouged out the eyes of one Malek with a stick. The persons are now blind. There were such incidents in Jessore too.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Poverty held back treatment of Moslem Sheikh who has been suffering from cardiovascular diseases for a long time.

Though he got admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, financial inability forced him to leave the hospital without completing treatment.

A residence of Karari village in Bagerhat, Moslem, 47, needs to undergo diagnosis immediately and check up like ETT, physicians said. He needs Tk 2,000 each month only for taking medicine.

But, neither he could buy medicine nor undergo treatment because of financial crisis.

His treatment requires a huge amount of money, but it is not possible for his poor family to bear its cost.

His wife Nazma Begum has made a fervent appeal to the well-off people of the society to extend hands with financial help to save her husband's life.

Financial assistance can be sent to the savings account no 8235, Agrani Bank Ltd, Chulka, Bagerhat Branch, Bagerhat.

WB to help restore navigability of selected rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will effectively maintain information on the rivers nationwide and will restore the navigability of selected rivers with the assistance of the World Bank (WB).

The proposed Bangladesh Rivers Information and Conservation (BRIC) project focuses on upgrading the hydrological network of the country, restoration of the Gori river mouth, and providing support to institutional development for water resources management, said a WB press statement yesterday.

The country's growing population and increasing industrialisation have led to deterioration of the water quality. Moreover, the climate change impacts, such as rise in sea level and increased storm surges, are threatening of inundation and saltwater intrusion into agricultural land.

According to the statement, the 310 rivers flowing through the country are the lifelines of which 57 are international rivers and of those 54 are shared with India.

So, it is important for Bangladesh to enhance information, infrastructure and institutions related to water management.

The statement also said millions of people of Bangladesh would suffer from the silting up of the Gori river, the last remaining major channel in the South West due to a lack of fresh water resources.

The initial restoration of the Gori river mouth would take at least three years. The proposed BRIC project involving \$180 million will address these issues. The project preparation fund involving three million dollar was approved in July.

Feasibility analytical studies that are part of project preparation are being commissioned, and are likely to be mobilised by mid-October.

The press statement also said that less than 10 percent of the river basin falls within the national territory. And that over 95 percent of all river flows are concentrated in just three rivers - the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna.

Moreover, most of these flows are concentrated within just 5 months of the year, with limited infrastructure in the country to store water for the long lean season. Bangladesh's geographical position makes it vulnerable to natural disasters including floods, droughts, and cyclones.

BNP's 32nd founding anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP celebrates its 32nd founding anniversary today. On this very day in 1978, late president Ziaur Rahman founded the party.

The party has chalked out programmes to mark the occasion.

The programme includes hoisting party flags at BNP central office and all the party offices across the country, placing wreaths of Ziaur Rahman's grave.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who is now in Saudi Arabia, in a statement yesterday congratulated countrymen, party leaders, workers and activists and well-wishers on the occasion.

Gousal Azam made envoy to Sweden

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint AFM Gousal Azam Sarker, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the next Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Sweden.

A career diplomat, Gousal Azam belongs to the 1986 batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs) Cadre and joined the Service in 1989.

During his diplomatic career, he served in Bangladesh missions in Paris, Kathmandu and Cairo in various capacities and in Hong Kong as Consul General.



A delegation of Yunnan Province of China led by its Governor Qin Guangrong visits North South University (NSU) in the city on Monday. On this occasion, NSU organised a reception and sponsorship ceremony on the campus. UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xianyi, Chairman of NSU Board of Governors Azimuddin Ahmed and Hafiz GA Siddiqi were present at the programme.

17 traders fined Tk 97,000 for extra profit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Price monitoring teams yesterday fined 17 more businessmen Tk 97,000 for making extra profit by selling essential commodities at higher prices than those fixed by the government and for preparing food in unhygienic condition.

Two teams of the commerce ministry and a third one of the National Consumer Right Protection Directorate (NCRPD) led the drives at Palashi, Jigatola, New Market, Green Road and Mohammadpur areas in the city, said a commerce ministry press release.

New Gawsia Hotel and Sunami Hotel of Jigatola, Hotel Appayan and Khaza Hotel of Green Road were fined Tk 60,000 for preparing and preserving food items in filthy condition.

Sohag Store, Obayed Store, Sharna General Store, Sunayed Store and Liakat Store of Palashi Bazar; Nihal Store, Meem Store, Suchana General Store, Miami Traders and Farazi Store of Jigatola Salek Garden were fined Tk 28,000 for selling goods at higher prices.

Three shops of New Market kitchen market were fined Tk 9,000 for not displaying the price list of essentials.

The teams on Monday realised Tk 65,500 as fine from 17 businessmen of Hatirpul, Kaptan Bazar and Karwan Bazar kitchen markets for charging higher prices.

Five injured as cracker explodes at Iftar party

AL intra-party conflict blamed

UNB, Dhaka

At least five leaders and activists of Mahila Awami League were injured as a cracker exploded at an Iftar party in city's Pallabi yesterday evening.

The incident took place when State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasan Mahmud reached the Iftar party just after Maghrib azan.

Awami League Ward no-2 unit hosted the Iftar where Sahida Tarek Dipti MP, was also present as a guest.

Surces said the incident occurred due to internal feud of local Awami League. Local MP Ilias Mollah was not present at the Iftar party.

Talking to the agency, Rukhsana Molly, organizing secretary of Mahila Awami League (Dhaka North), said rival groups staged the incident. She said organisers earlier were threatened to postpone the Iftar due to intra-party disputes.

Five local women leaders, including Lucky, Selina Zafar, Farida Hossain and Rukhsana Molly, were injured with splinters from the cracker.

Dr Hasan left the place soon after the incident.

Pallabi police arrested one Taku Monir in connection with the incident.

Threat issued to blow out key point installations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A threat to blow out key point installations across the country was issued yesterday through an e-mail message posted on the website of International Crime Tribunal demanding release of four Jamaat leaders before upcoming Eid.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Rezaul Karim of Shabbagh Police Station filed a general diary in this connection as Deputy Register Hafizur Rahman of Bangladesh Supreme Court (High Court Division) sent a copy of the e-mail message to the police.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sayeed Nurul Islam of Ramna zone of DMP told The Daily Star that a person identifying himself as a member of Jamaat Majlish-e-Sura posted the e-mail on the website of the International Crime Tribunal.

According to the email, police will be attacked and key point installations will be blown out if four Jamaat leaders--Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid and senior assistant secretaries general Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla---are not freed.

'Women's role in social change undiscovered'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Knowledge on women leadership's connection to social change remains undiscovered though steps are being taken to develop women leaders, reveals a research.

Ryan Higgitt, a PhD student from Queens University, Canada, presented the results of the study on "Women's Leadership as a Poverty Reduction Strategy" at a seminar in the city yesterday.

Nagorik Uddyog and VSO Bangladesh organised the seminar with former advisor to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal in the chair.

The study says that schemes promoting female leadership may create divisions among women, giving

privilege to some while depriving others.

Working closely with the local human rights NGO, Nagorik Uddyog, for nine months, the research was conducted in 2008 by collecting data on the situation of women's poverty in rural Bangladesh and schemes undertaken by Bangladeshi NGOs to empower women.

Aroma Dutta from PRIP Trust and Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh, Dr Mahbuba Nasreen from the Sociology Department of Dhaka University, Information Commissioner Dr Sadeka Halim, Shahana Hayat, Executive Director, VSO-Bangladesh, and Zakir Hossain, Chief Executive of Nagorik Uddyog were present.

TODAY

Art competition
Directorate of Environment will organise an art competition. Venue: Shishu academy. Time: 2:30pm.

Seminar
Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industries will arrange a seminar. Venue: DCCI auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

Janmashtami uthsab
Sri Sri Geetasanga Bangladesh will arrange a Janmashtami uthsab. Venue: 12, K M Das Lane. Time: 5:00am.

Discussion
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will organise a discussion. Venue: 8 no ward community centre, Mirpur. Time: 5:00pm.

Award
Campus will arrange an award giving ceremony. Venue: 33, Topkhana road. Time: 10:00am.

Meeting
Doctors Association of Bangladesh will arrange a meeting. Venue: Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh. Time: 4:00pm.

Rally
Dhaka City Corporation will organise a rally on the occasion of Janmashtami. Venue: Polashir More. Time: 2:30pm.

WEATHER

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:17pm today and rises at 5:40am tomorrow.

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	32.1	27.6	76	69
Chittagong	31.5	25.0	76	89
Rajshahi	33.2	27.0	79	75
Khulna	33.0	27.0	80	76
Barisal	31.7	26.5	80	87