

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique speaks at a seminar at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban yesterday.

Gandhism a way out of world conflicts

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said while fight against violence would go on, the people must not forget to wage war against the elements that make way for violence.

Poverty, extremism, discrimination, racism and alienation are some of the root causes of violence and need to be addressed, they said.

The opinions came at the seminar jointly organised by High Commission of India and the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies in Dhaka University at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban marking the "International Day of Non-Violence".

At the seminar titled "Peace, non violence and democracy - The Gandhian principles", the speakers highlighted many of Mahatma Gandhi's inspirations, principles, beliefs and philosophies, referred to as Gandhism, as a way

out of conflicts in the present world. Though the great leader is gone, Gandhism can never be outdated no matter what people may say and believe. In this world torn by violence and corruption, Gandhi's philosophy is the only hope that keeps the human race going,

the speakers said.

"and therefore, we now need to follow Gandhi's footsteps and his principles, more than ever, as a way out of these tensions.

Gandhi, a pre-eminent political and spiritual leader of India during the country's independence movement, pioneered "Satyagraha". This is defined as resistance to tyranny through mass civil disobedience, a philosophy firmly founded upon "Ahimsa" or total nonviolence, the speakers said.

This concept helped India to gain independence and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world, they added.

Gandhi believed in the philosophy of non-violence to an extent where he was ready to give his life, the speakers added.

"After his assassination, many raised questions that his death was due to insufficient security measures," said Prof Anisuzzaman, "but here was a man who believed in peace and non-violence so passionately that he put his life on the

Gandhi believed in non-violence as a law of human society, a vehicle towards peace and true democracy, he said.

Former Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman spoke at the programme as the chief guest. He said "Violence is everywhere and on the Gandhi's footsteps and principles rise in Iran, Palestine, Pakistan and else- should be followed in our everyday lives where," said Prof Kabir Chowdhury, to seek a way out of violence and con-

flicts that riddle the world.

Prof N Radhakrishnan, chairman of Indian Council of Gandhian Studies, Delhi, said non-violence is a subject that needs to be thoroughly studied and researched to achieve what Gandhi was

He said Gandhi should not be treated

as a saint but rather be remembered and followed as a revolutionary, who used non-violence as a tool and practice to set examples for generations to come. Other speakers at the seminar urged

India to resolve disputes with Bangladesh through non-violent ways rather than killing Bangladeshis along the borders.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique chaired the programme.

High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Rajeet Mitter, Prof Dalem Ch Barman of Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre Director Ankan Banerjee were also present at the programme.

The International Day of Non-Violence was observed in the country yesterday as elsewhere across the globe.

The United Nations in 2007 declared October 2, the birthday of Gandhi, as the "World Non-Violence Day".



Indigenous students stage a demonstration on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding constitutional recognition.

Breast cancer death rate high in Bangladesh

Says WHO study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen percent of the total cancer affected women in the country are victim to breast cancer, says a World Health Organisation (WHO) study.

WHO also ranked Bangladesh 2nd in terms of mortality rate of women in the country from breast cancer.

Dr Lutfar Rahman, project director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, referred to the study while speaking at the inaugural session of the month-long International Breast Cancer Awareness Programme

Hospital in the city yesterday.

Cancer specialist Prof Mahbubul Alam said around three-fourth of women aged over 50 in the country are affected with breast cancer.

Unmarried women are at high risk of breast cancer, but it can be cured completely if detected at early stage, said National Prof Dr MR Khan.

Surgical oncologist Prof Haronor-Rashid suggested women to marry after 20 and adopt first baby before 30 to avoid breast cancer.

Detection Centre and Hospital organised by Ahsania Cancer Director Brig Gen (retd) Syed Fazle cancer.

Rahim presided over the function.

Jurist barrister Rafiq-ul-Haque, lawmaker MA Jabbar, artiste Parveen Mushtari, and the hospital adviser Mohammad Ali, among others, were present there.

As a part of the awareness programme, the hospital has set to provide free counselling on breast cancer from 9:00am to 2:00pm during the whole October beginning yesterday at the hospital.

People can also contact at Ahsania Mission Cancer 01718594682 and 01712103689 for any information relating to breast

Bangladesh medical team returns from Pakistan

UNB, Dhaka

NEWS

Prof Khan Abul Kalam Azad who led a 40-member medical team to treat flood victims in Pakistan returned home yesterday, saying that the post-flood situation has now improved there.

The medical team that left here for Pakistan on September 6 distributed medicines and treated patients in Larkana, Dadu, Shikarpur, Jamsuru, Jacoabad.

Talking to reporters at Shahjalal International Airport, Azad said they had set up a camp near Hyderabad and treated 350-400 patients everyday and distributed medicines with the help of the local administration.

A total 54 tons of medicines were distributed. The team was comprised surgical and child specialists.

He said the Foreign Ministry and the Health Ministry from Bangladesh kept contact with them through Bangladesh High Commission in Pakistan.

About security for the medical team Azad said the Pakistan government ensured fool-proof security roundthe-clock for them. He said the Pakistan gov-

ernment appreciated the activities of the Bangladesh medical team.

Azad hoped that this would further strengthen the bilateral ties with Pakistan.

Health Secretary M Humayun Kabir and other senior officials were present.

German radio to launch Bangla programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deutsche Welle (DW) Germany's international broadcaster, will officially launch Bangla programme in DW-Radio from next Wednesday in Bangladesh, says a press release.

The programme will be broadcasted via Bangladesh Betar's FM network in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna, Rajshahi and Rangpur daily from 8:00am to 8:30am and from 8:00pm to 8:30pm.

The Radio has been continuing test transmission since March 9 of this year following an agreement with Bangladesh Betar.

It offers international and regional news and 10-minute radio magazine on different issues including youth, health, women, music, science, environment and sports.

Indigenous students demand constitutional recognition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous students in Dhaka yesterday formed a human chain in front of the Aparajeyo Bangla at Dhaka University demanding constitutional recognition of the indigenous people in the country.

Speaking at the human chain, Dhaka University Prof Robaet Ferdous said the original constitution of 1972 was not flawless.

"People of Bangladesh were termed as Bangalis in that constitution. There was no mention of other ethnic groups living in the territory," he said. He demanded inclusion of

every ethnic group in the constitution.

President of Pahari Chhatra Parishad Babul Chakma said the indigenous people of the country have good contributions in building the country but there is no mention about them in the constitution.

Student of Eden College Zinia Chakma said the indigenous people should be recognised in the constitution as the government has taken steps to amend the constitution.

Jewel Chakma of Dhaka University moderated the programme, which was presided overby Napoleon Chakma.

New 7 Wonders of Nature

Musa Ibrahim joins Sundarbans campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Musa Ibrahim, the first Bangladeshi to conquer Mount Everest on May 23 this year, assured to do his best to help the Sundarbans become one of new seven wonders of nature in the world.

Musa said this while addressing a reception programme at Khulna Press Club yesterday.

Sundarban Supporters' Committee (SSC), Khulna Press Club, Sundarban Academy, Nagorik Forum, Shishu Foundation and Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee jointly organised the reception for Musa for his Everest success.

SSC Convenor and Editor of Dainik Purbanchal, Alhaj Liakat Ali, presided over the function, which was attended by Khulna City forest win the final race to be



Musa Ibrahim

Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque as the chief guest among others.

The chief guest termed Musa Ibrahim as a national hero, urging the conqueror to actively join ongoing campaign launched by SSC to help the world's largest mangrove held on November 11 next

The SSC Convenor, terming Musa Ibrahim the ambassador of Sundarbans on behalf of SSC, said Musa had earned laurels for the country conquering Mount Everest at

risk of his life. He also called upon Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to make arrangement for the people so that they can vote for the Sundarbans free of cost over phones.

Editor of The Daily Tribune and President of Khulna chapter of Professional Women's Business Association, Begum Ferdausi Ali, proposed to hold a cabinet meeting in the Sundarbans.

According to Ferdausi, if Maldives can set a unique example of holding cabinet meeting under water, then why we can't do so in the

Form body to check adulteration of food

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday demanded of the government to form a food and drug administration department to implement the laws to ensure food and drug safety as well as to check adulterated and toxic food.

They placed the demand while addressing a seminar titled "Vision statement and necessity of toxic food and drug control administration" jointly organised by the Poribesh Bachao Andolon (POBA) and Bangladesh Scouts, Dhaka district unit Rover at the Public Library.

POBA Chairman Abu Naser Khan in his keynote paper said the dishonest traders and profit mongers are using toxic chemicals to ripen fruits and keep the vegetables and fish fresh posing a serious health hazard.

Due to lack of coordination among the government agencies like Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), Food and Sanitation Department of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Department of Environment and Public Health Institute, no effective measure has been taken to check the toxic food and food mixed with chemical and drug, he said.

He cautioned that if such a situation continues, it will affect the country's economy as the consumers will opt for foreign products giving up the domestic ones.

presided over the seminar. Dr Arup Ratan said the risk of liver and kidney diseases and

MANAS founder president Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury

cancer are increasing alarmingly because of taking toxic food. Shamim Ahmed, joint secretary of the Bangladesh Scouts, Dhaka district unit Rover, said he would extend

against adulterated food. Tapan Kumar Nath, deputy secretary of the industries ministry, POBA Programme Officer Atiq Morshed and over 50 members of Bangladesh Scouts were present at the function.

cooperation from his side to strengthen the movement

HC registration section to remain open on Saturdays

CJ asks authorities to reopen HC Mazar Gate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The registration section of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court (SC) will remain open for business on Saturdays from now on. The decision was made

into immediate effect follow-

ing a directive of newly appointed Chief Justice (CJ) ABM Khairul Haque, SC Registrar M Ashraful Islam told The Daily Star yesterday. The initiative was taken so

that the lawyers can swear affidavits for filing the petitions even on Saturdays to accelerate the court procedures benefiting both lawyers and litigants, he added.

Earlier, registration section of the HC enjoyed two weekly holidays on Fridays and Saturdays.

The chief justice also directed the authorities to re-open the HC Mazar Gate, which was shut down in October last year on security concerns prior to the hearing on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case.

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