

Reprinted copies of constitution in Dec

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said people would get the reprinted copies of the constitution, which is being done as per the court directives, in next December.

"The work of typing, both in Bangla and English, for the copies of the constitution is at the final stage and I hope people will get the reprinted copies in December," he told The Daily Star after attending a ceremony of publication of a book titled "Amader Sangbidhan", written for the easy understanding of the constitution, at Brac University in the city.

Earlier, while addressing the ceremony as chief guest the minister said the historic declaration of independence of Bangladesh given by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 26, 1971 will be placed first in the reprinted constitution.

The proclamation of the independence that was made by the Mujibnagar

government on April 10 the same year will be placed next to the declaration of independence followed by the preamble, he stated.

Shafique said a reprinted copy of the constitution will be available on the website of the law ministry so that people can download it.

Four members of a Moot Court, (where students take part in simulated court proceedings) of Brac University have written the book under the supervision of their teachers.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, at the function, proposed reprinting of the constitution in three ways--one in formal language, one in easy language and another understandable for children--for better understanding.

Dr Kamal, also the chief of the 34-member Constitution Drafting Committee formed in 1972, said they had prepared the constitution based on the four pillars, which were set considering the spirit of the 1971 liberation war and other movements of Bangladesh.

"The constitution was not supposed to be rare and complicated to the people," said National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman.

He said the constitution is a weapon in hands of the people to control the government activities.

Terming the country's constitution one of the best in the world, Director of School of Law, Brac University, Dr Shahdeen Malik said, "As a nation, our constitution is a significant achievement like the Language Movement in 1952 and the War of Liberation in 1971."

He requested the law minister to take steps to observe November 4 every year as the Constitution Day.

Acting Chairman of Law Commission Dr Shah Alam, Dhaka Education Board Chairperson Fahima Khatun, Editor of the book Dr Tureen Afroz, among others, spoke at the function with Brac University Vice Chancellor Dr Ainul Nishat in the chair.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with her party leaders places wreaths at the grave of president Ziaur Rahman on the occasion of November 7.

Military rule better than elected govt?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Military rule is better than an elected government at times, Jamaat-e-Islami Acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam has said.

"At one stage, military rulers are compelled to grant people their rights in the face of movement. But if the government elected by the people establishes one-party rule, it's worse than a military rule," he said at a meeting at the party's Purana Paltan office yesterday.

Jamaat organised the meeting styled "National Revolution and Solidarity Day" marking the November 7.

Pointing to the ongoing war crimes trial, he said the government will be able to do nothing by branding Jamaat leaders as razzakars and Al-Badr men, two auxiliary forces of the Pakistani occupation army during the Liberation War.

"We're sons of this country and will remain here. Those who want to import secularism in the country can go abroad. Islam will prevail in the country, so will the Islamic parties," the Jamaat leader said.

Packaging factory gutted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A packaging factory was gutted in a fire at Dania in the city's Jatrabari early today.

Fire brigade and police sources said the tin-roofed building of SS Enterprise caught fire at 12:25am, while two people were inside the factory.

No casualty, however, was reported.

Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Maniruzzaman of Jatrabari Police Station said the fire was doused at around 1:40am by eight fire brigade units with the help of local people.

Fire brigade, however, could not confirm the cause of fire immediately.



Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote forms a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killers of freedom fighter army officers of November 7 in 1975.

Two arms, 157 bullets seized: One held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered two firearms and 157 bullets and arrested an alleged criminal from Paterbagh at Rahmatganj in the city.

Police said they arrested Mohammad Ansar Ali alias Babu from a house at South Dania Rahmatbagh at around 7:00am and seized a revolver, a gun and the bullets from his possession.

Officer-in-Charge of Kadamtoli Police Station, Kazi Aiyubur Rahman, said in primary investigation, Babu admitted that he and his gang used to rent those firearms to criminal groups of the city.

His group leader Mithu and cohort Rocky gave him the arms and asked to keep those safe, OC said quoting Babu.

Help build modern tech education sector

Nahid urges all

UNB, Dhaka

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday stressed the need for ensuring participation of all to build a skilled, modern and dynamic technical education sector.

"Apart from various initiatives of the government, all workers of the technical education sector have to be more skilled, active and creative to ensure quality education in this sector," he said while addressing the inaugural session of a conference at the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute in the city.

Bangladesh Polytechnic Institute Teachers' Association (BPITA) organised the conference. The theme of the conference is "Technical education aimed at building digital Bangladesh".

Asaduzzaman Kamal, MP, Director

General of Technical Education Directorate Prof Nitai Chandra Sutradhar, chairman of Technical Education Board Prof Abul Kasem and BPITA former president M Shamsur Rahman also spoke at the conference with BPITA President Idrish Ali in the chair.

Nahid said the technical education sector has not got due importance since its inception, and has been facing various problems.

"Many problems like workforce crisis, lack of equipment, infrastructures and modern curriculum are creating hindrance to its development," he said.

He stressed the need for cooperation from the private sector to solve those problems.

Nahid said the technical education sector is the tool of development and eradicating poverty.

BDR CARNAGE

Court shown video footage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court at BDR headquarters, Pilkhana has been shown a video footage in which an accused jawan addresses mutineers through a megaphone saying 14 crore Bangladeshis with them and they will emerge victorious.

The soldier, Lance Nayek Rafiz Uddin Khan of 13 Rifle Battalion, had earlier pleaded not guilty in a mutiny case.

After the screening, Rafiz admitted that he is the man with the megaphone in the footage captured during February 25-26, 2009 mutiny in Pilkhana.

The jawan claimed that he had been forced to deliver the speech. But the court observed the man seemed doing it willingly.

Subedar Farid Uddin Ahmed, first prosecution witness and complainant of the mutiny case, placed direct evidence against 63 accused including Rafiz Uddin yesterday.

The case was filed accusing 622 members of signal sector and 13 Rifle Battalion, Pilkhana.

Brig Gen Obaidul Haque, BDR deputy director general, headed the Special

Court-8 set up at the Pilkhana Darbar Hall.

He adjourned the court's proceedings till 10:00am today.

The complainant will place direct evidence against rest of the accused when the court resumes today.

Subedar Farid also presented video clippings and photographs showing many of the 63. Hardly any of the accused admitted they were in the photos.

Another video footage showed Sepoy Azad Khan sitting in a war field vehicle, armoured personnel carrier (APC), during the mutiny.

But Sepoy Azad told the court that during the mutiny he was not in the area where the APCs were and he was not the man in the clipping.

Subedar Farid also placed footage of the body of a slain officer lying at Darbar Hall during the mutiny that left 74 people, including 57 army officers, killed.

Videos also showed how the accused vandalised the cars of director general and other officials.

The footages and still photographs

showed during the BDR mutiny trials were provided mostly by media and intelligence agencies. Some were taken by CCTVs in Pilkhana.

Earlier on October 21, the court framed charges against the jawans and fixed November 7 (yesterday) for recording statements of the witnesses.

Of the accused, four pleaded guilty and sought clemency from the court while the rest claimed innocence.

The charges against the accused include leaving Darbar Hall during the Darbar -- a special gathering of the force -- on February 25 last year ignoring the directive of the then BDR DG and not taking any effective step against mutineers.

Not informing higher authorities about mutiny on time, disobeying lawful authorities, taking arms and ammunition from arsenals and participating in the rebellion also have been granted as charges.

Some of the accused were also charged with possessing looted ammunition and hobnobbing with mutineers.

All the accused were produced before the court yesterday.

Outlawed leader dies in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An outlawed party leader was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and police near Khariar Beel of Gutudia union in Dumuria upazila of Khulna early yesterday.

Three policemen including an inspector also sustained bullet injuries during the 'gunfight'.

The deceased was identified as Motilal Shikder, 48, operation commander of New Biplobi Communist Party of Dumuria.

Motilal, son of Kalipada Shikder of the union, was accused in six criminal cases, including three for murder, police said.

Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Dumuria Police Station, said a police team challenged a gang of outlaws at about 12:45am when they were making preparation to commit criminal activities in the area.

Sensing danger, the gang opened fire on the law enforcers, prompting them to retaliate with fire.

At one stage, the outlaws managed to flee the scene, leaving behind wounded Motilal.

He later died on way to Dumuria Upazila Health Complex, the OC said adding that the gunfire continued for about half-an-hour.

Inspector of Dumuria Police Station Iqbal Anwar, constables Mujibur Rahman and M Abu Selim, who sustained bullet injuries in the shootout, were admitted to the health complex.

A sawn-off rifle, four rounds of bullet and four gun shells were recovered from the spot.

Motilal used to extort money from the local shrimp traders at gunpoint, police said.

Check extortion by phone

Home minister directs law enforcement agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday asked the law enforcement agencies once again to check tender manipulation and extortion, threatening over telephone.

She gave the directive at a meeting of the cabinet committee on law and order at the home ministry in the city as both types of crimes are continuing all over the country.

Sahara also requested the concerned authorities to introduce online tender process to stop irregularity and manipulation in the process.

"Seek police assistance until introduction of online system in this regard," she added.

On Saturday's violence in garment sector in Gazipur, she said the crisis management unit (CMU) and industrial police would resolve the matter by holding meetings between garment industry owners and workers.

The main opposition party's movement was also a topic of discussion at the meeting.

State minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Hoque Tuku said the opposition, in the name of movement, was resorting to anarchy only to protect the war criminals.

He also blamed the opposition party for choosing street agitation only to save their leader's house.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed, Labour and Employment Minister Khandker Mosharrar Hossain, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Rajuddin Ahmed Raju, Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner and director generals of Rab and Bangladesh Rifles were present at the meeting.

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