

Join dialogue to appoint CEC

Quader urges BNP

BSS, Dhaka
Communication Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday urged the BNP-led opposition to take part in the dialogue scheduled to begin on December 22 with political parties by the president for appointing new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

"Join the talks without any condition. If you have any demand, you better raise it during the dialogue," Quader, also Awami League presidium member, said while distributing winter clothes among the poor in the city.

Bangabandhu Chhatra Parishad (BCP) organised the programme in front of the graveyards of three national leaders adjacent to Dhaka University campus with Tareque Raihan in the chair.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) President H M Badiuzzaman also spoke on the occasion.

Quader said the BNP-Jamaat men created anarchy in the name of agitation to oust the AL-led grand alliance government. "The BNP is trying to capture the state power through different destructive activities but it is, indeed, a day-dream," he said.

"BNP's intention to oust the elected government is also a threat to the country's democracy."

He urged the opposition to refrain from the politics of confrontation and join the president's dialogue that would remove barriers toward holding a free, fair and neutral general election.



Visitors at an exhibition on excellence in architecture at Drik Picture Library in the city yesterday. Berger Paint Bangladesh Ltd organised the event. PHOTO: STAR

Photo exhibition on excellence in architecture begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-day exhibition on excellence in architecture began in Dhaka yesterday to showcase the innovative works of talented architects in the country.

Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd has organised the exhibition at Drik Picture Library to display the photos of award winning projects. The company has recently awarded a number of talented architects to recognise their works.

Since 2003, Berger has been recognising the works of talented architects of the country and the competition is held once in every two years.

This year the competition was held in two categories Berger Architects' Award and Berger Young Architects' Award. Both the categories have two sub-categories Residential and Non-residential. Total six projects got recognition in both the categories.

The winner architects are Salauddin Ahmed, Rafiq Azam, Patrick D' Rozario, Selim Altaf Biplob, Tamanna Sayeed, Shahnawaz Khan, Rumana Chowdhury, and Shamsuddin Ahmed.

The exhibition will remain open for all from 3:00pm to 8:00pm till Friday.

Children affairs ministry demanded

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of Child Parliament has submitted a proposal to the prime minister's health adviser to set up a separate ministry for the children and form a children's rights commission.

The delegation, comprising members of the Child Parliament, also placed a set of proposals relating to development and welfare of children during meeting with the adviser Dr Modasser Ali at the Prime Minister's Office in Tejgaon yesterday.

They also discussed about various problems of children, specially those of the under-privileged and the deprived children.

Modasser Ali received their written proposals and gave a patient hearing to them.

The adviser assured them of sincerely considering their proposals.

He said: "It is a good proposal and the

government will sincerely consider the proposal to set up the children affairs ministry and the child rights commission."

He said children are the future of the country and the nation and hoped that the Child Parliament play an important role to create a children-friendly atmosphere in Bangladesh.

Modasser Ali said, "All we have to take responsibility for development of children, ameliorate their problems and create a child-friendly atmosphere in the country."

The Speaker of the Child Parliament Shahriar Sifat, and its members Troya Shakma, Anika Bushra, Raju Ahmed and Nargis Akhtar, also spoke at the meeting.

Earlier, Dr Modasser Ali attended the ninth session of the Child Parliament on Healthcare and Good Governance, held at BIAM auditorium in city on Sunday.

'Resist conspirators out to foil war crimes trial'

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Tajul Islam yesterday urged the new generation to build a strong resistance even on the streets against those out to foil the ongoing trial of war criminals.

"You have to be united and raise your voices for smooth holding of the trial of the war criminals who perpetrated atrocities on the people specially on women and children during the country's War of Liberation in 1971," he told the youths.

Addressing a reception accorded to the artistes of "Guerrilla", a movie based on the freedom struggle, he said an identified quarter is out to create anarchy across the country to protect the

war criminals. The World University of Bangladesh organized the reception at National museum in the city.

In this connection, he mentioned yesterday's violent incidents across the country that left two people dead and scores of others injured.

The state minister said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has joined hands with the anti-liberation Jamaat-e-Islami to save herons.

Referring to President Ziaur Rahman murder trial, he questioned why Khaleda Zia did not pardon the accused of the killing case. He said 13 persons were hanged, 17 were given life-term imprisonment and 26 were sacked from their jobs on charge of the Ziaur Rahman murder case.

"Why are you creating obstacle on

way to the trial of war criminals as they have killed thousands of freedom-loving people and raped women during the war of liberation in 1971," he posed a question to Khaleda Zia.

He categorically said the trial of the war criminals must be held in the country to establish rule of law.

Major (ret) Shamsul Arefin, a researcher on freedom struggle, attended the function as special guest with Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Abdul Mannan Chowdhury in the chair.

Script writer of the film and litterateur Syed Shamsul Haque, director of the movie and valiant freedom fighter Nasir Uddin Yusuf Bachchu, Managing Director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagor and artiste ATM Shamsuzzaman Khan also spoke.



Varsity student killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Miscreants killed a student of a private university and dumped the body at a hill-slope under Kotwali Police Station in the port city yesterday.

On information, police recovered the body of Mohammad Kafil Uddin, 22, from the slope near Jamiatul Falah Jaam-e-Mosque around 10:00am.

Kafil, a 2nd-year student of Computer Science department of International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) and son of Mohammad Rafiq, was residing near Chatterswary Road.

Police said the body bore some marks of injury in his neck while the tendon of his right hand was cut off.

OC Abul Kalam Azad of the police station suspected that miscreants might have stabbed Kafil to death somewhere and dumped the body in the area.

Quoting victim's family members, the OC said Kafil went out of his residence at 7:00pm on Sunday to go to his village home in Anwara upazila.

Zillur condoles death of Kim Jong Il

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman has expressed profound shock at the death of North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong Il.

In a message to Kim Jong Un, vice chairman of Central Military Commission of Workers Party of Korea, Zillur Rahman said in his untimely demise, the people of North Korea have lost a great leader and Bangladesh has lost a dear friend.

2 City Bank staff shot, mugged of Tk10.50 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot two employees of a real estate company near Lotus Kamal Tower at Nikunja Khilkhet in the city yesterday afternoon and snatched Tk 10.5 lakh from them.

Khilkhet police told this correspondent that the muggers waylaid the employees Ismail Hossain, 30, an accounts manager and Md Istiaque, 32, an executive officer, while they were going to their office on foot drawing the money from the City Bank's local branch.

Four muggers riding two motorbikes shot the City Bank staff and snatched the bag containing the money. The injured have been rushed to a local hospital.

In another incident, a gang of four armed criminals riding two motorbikes snatched away Tk 10 lakh from two traders in the city's Gendaria area yesterday afternoon.

Shyampur police said the muggers, creating a panic by firing blank shots, obstructed the traders Ranajit Sarkar and Abul Bashar of Mrs Grameen Iron and took away the money around 4:00pm.

The traders were returning to their business centre by a motorbike from Standard Chartered Bank in Motijheel, said the police.



Dr Mahbubul Bari speaks at a view exchange meeting on Dhaka Detailed Area Plan: Reality and Expectation at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. On his left are Dr Zahirul Haque, Abu Naser Khan, AKM Abul Kalam, Shawkat Ali Khan and Syed Mahbubul Alam. PHOTO: STAR

MoU to strengthen community clinics signed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and USAID here yesterday to facilitate health service through community clinics across the country.

The MoU has been signed under two projects-- Revitalisation of Community Health Care Initiative in Bangladesh (RCHCIB) Project under the ministry and Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) of USAID--at BMRC Bhaban in Mohakhali.

Dr Makhduma Nargis, project director, RCHCIB and Dr Ishtiaq Mannan, chief of party, MCHIP signed the deal. Save the Children is the implementing agency of MCHIP in Bangladesh, said a press release.

The public-private partnership is expected to leverage strengthening of the health system and add value in terms of key strategies in management of the community clinic, said the release.

Support systems like management information systems, quality of care and logistics management will be strengthened under this initiative, it said.

Ensure rights of the challenged

Deputy Speaker asks all

BSS, Dhaka

Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Colonel (ret) Shawkat Ali yesterday urged all to work together for ensuring rights of the people with disabilities for establishing them in the society.

"The challenged people are the part and parcel of the society and they are human beings too," he said while addressing a national seminar on 'barriers and success of the participants in general sports' at Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) auditorium here.

He said that presently the people with disabilities have come forward by enhancing their capacity to contribute to the society with their sincere efforts.

"The society would be developed if the challenged could be established in the society through establishing their rights," Shawkat said, adding, "We have to take meaningful initiatives nationally to solve problems of the people with disabilities."

National Association for Sports for Disabled (NASPD) in collaboration with the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and CBM organised the seminar.

Chaired by president of NASPD Major (ret) Yaad Ali Fakir, the function was addressed, among others, by director general of BOA Col (ret) M Wali Ullah, Shah Nawaz Koreshi and AHS Noman Khan.

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