

22 martyred FFs' wives honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a reception yesterday said it would have been impossible to achieve the liberation of the country without the supreme sacrifices of the martyred freedom fighters.

They were speaking at the reception accorded to 22 wives of martyred freedom fighters in the city's Public Library Seminar Hall.

The government should have recognised the martyred freedom fighters' wives immediately after the war ended, they said.

Two pro-liberation organisations Amra Muktijoddhar Santan and Projonmo-'71 aided by Samaj Kalyan O Unnayan Shahayata organised the programme.

Each of the wives was given a crest as a memento.

SIM Nurunnabi Khan, Bir Bikram, a valiant freedom fighter, said legal action must be taken against the military and civil officials who acted against national interests during the War of Liberation.

He demanded formation of more war tribunals, as it is impossible to try thousands of war criminals with just one.

Freedom fighters and their near and dear ones would never have mental peace unless the nation punishes the war criminals, said Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of World University, who attended the reception as the chief guest.

The wives, who were honoured, included Hena Qadir (posthumously), Nurjahan Shiraj, Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Rowshan Aziz, Jesmin Alam, Salma Haque, Anwara Begum, Abeda Khatun, Achia Khatun, Nilufar Khanam, Meshunnahar, Jebunnessa Begum, Anwara Begum, Rashida Begum, Amena Begum, Aleya Begum, Shaheda Akhtar, Monwara Khatun, Aleya Begum, Ayesha Khatun, Rahima Khatun and Nurjahan Begum.

Nadim Qadir, son of martyred freedom fighter Col Qadir, freedom fighter M Hamid, Mahmudur Rahman Babu, 11-party coordinator, Dr Sahadat Hossain, Gonotantri Party Presidium Member, Shahin Reza Noor and Sazzad Hossain, respectively president of Projonmo-'71 and Amra Muktijoddhar Santan also spoke on the occasion.



The wives of martyred freedom fighters with guests at a reception organised by Amra Muktijoddhar Santan and Projonmo-'71 at Public Library Seminar Hall in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Minor boy hit by train dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor boy was killed after a train hit him near Tejgaon Railway Station in the city yesterday.

Witness Shahidul Islam said 10-year-old Sohel was walking along the rail tracks around 12:00 noon when the incident happened.

He rushed Sohel to Pongu Hospital where doctors amputated his left hand damaged from the accident.

Sohel was later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment of his hand injury, where he died at around 4:00 pm, said Shahidul.

The kid could not give his identification except his name before his death.

Get proper science education

PM asks younger generation

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the younger generation to pursue proper education in science and technology to make advancement at a pace with the world community.

To develop the country, we have to give proper education to our people, especially our children. This is our main objective and the government is making all-out efforts to this end", she said at a function at Gono Bhaban.

The programme was organised to distribute prizes among the winners of the painting and essay-writing competitions for the children and teenagers held this March, marking the 91st birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The prime minister gave away prizes and certificates among the winners while Prof AF Salahuddin Ahmed, president of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust, presided over the event.

Hasina said, "We want to build the nation in a way that will ensure a beautiful, developed and meaningful life for the children".

Unless the people of Bangladesh are made free from poverty and illiteracy, it will never be possible to build the country as "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by Bangabandhu, she said.

Citing the government's steps to ensure computer facilities and internet services at union level, the prime minister said the government has already taken steps to reach laptops to the masses as part of its initiatives to build "digital Bangladesh" by 2021.

About Bangabandhu Memorial Trust, Hasina said the house at Dhanmondi-32 was given to the Trust to continue its activities as the house bears the history of movements that led to the war of liberation and the independence of the country.

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The Trust provides stipends to young students and holds different competitions so that the young generation can learn the real history of the war of liberation since the history has been distorted over the years, she said.

"Through the competitions, the children will be able to learn and spread the spirit of liberation. Such competitions will help the future generation to go ahead and enable themselves to make their mark globally".

Speaking on the occasion, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique urged the juvenile to have lesson from the honesty, patriotism, and moral principles of the father of the nation.

"Bangabandhu not only allowed us to

dream, but also did everything to materialise those...[he] spent his every moment to lead the nation to gain independence", he said.

Prof AF Salahuddin Ahmed said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a poet of patriotism and lover of humanity".

"All of us will have to respect the ideology of Bangabandhu, if we want to show our respect to him", he said.

At the function, Bangabandhu Memorial Trust member secretary Sheikh Hafizur Rahman delivered the welcome address and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum curator Syed Siddique Rahaman gave the vote of thanks.

Poet Rabiu Hussain and advocate Tarana Halim MP, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Noted singer Bulbul Mohalanabish conducted the function.

Razzak's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political, cultural organisations and individual yesterday expressed profound shock at the demise of veteran Awami League leader Abdur Razzak, one of the key organisers of the War of Liberation in 1971.

In separate messages, many of the organisations marked Razzak's death as an irreparable loss and commented that the politicians of Bangladesh have lost one of their guardians.

The organisations and individual which expressed shock include Sector Commanders' Forum, Liberation War-'71, Dhaka University Teachers' Association, Jatiya Party, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Awami Muktijoddha League, Bangladesh Auto-Rickshaw Sramik League, Bangladesh Truck Chalak Sramik Federation, Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee, World University of Bangladesh, Revolutionary Workers' Party of Bangladesh; Muktijuddho O Ganomukti Andolon, Sangbadhan Odhikar Forum, Gano Odhikar Basta bayan Parishad, Jatiya Ganotantrik League, Joy Bangla Sangskritik League; Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad; Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association, Gano Oikya Committee, Sammilita Samajik Andolon, Sampradayekota-Jongibadhi Birodhi Mancha, Bangabandhu Manob Kalyan Parishad, Jatiya Kabita Parishad, Bangabandhu Lekhok Parishad; Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Ganotantrik Majdur Party, Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote, Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh Muktijoddha Ainjibi Parishad and lawmaker Advocate Sanjida Khanam.



Uttara Association forms a human chain on the bridge adjacent to Uttara Gausul Azam Avenue and Lakedrive Road in the city yesterday calling on the government to preserve Uttara Lake. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

Mirzapur ex-cadets' reunion

UNB, Dhaka

The reunion of Mirzapur ex-Cadets Association (MECA) has started at Mirzapur Cadet College in Tangail.

General Abdul Mubeen, chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh Army, attended the event as the chief guest.

Maj Gen Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiqul Huq, the adjutant general of Bangladesh Army and the chairman of the governing body of cadet colleges, welcomed the chief guest at Mirzapur Cadet College on Thursday.

Brig Gen (Retd) SM Sultan Uddin Iqbal, the president of MECA, and high military and civil officials were present on the occasion, an ISPR release said.

50 YEARS OF RU STATISTICS DEPT Involve statisticians in planning

Speakers urge authorities

RU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday urged the authorities concerned to involve statisticians in formulating plans for the country's development sectors including agriculture, industry and economy.

The success of plans depends on proper statistical knowledge, they added.

They said this while addressing a seminar marking the 50th founding anniversary of the Department of Statistics of Rajshahi University (RU).

As part of its two-day celebrations that ended yesterday, the department organised the seminar on "Uses, limitations and abuses of statistics in different fields: possi-

ble expectation" at the university senate building.

The speakers also said the statistical method is applied to depict the clear status of the socio-cultural and social-economical status of a country.

Sometimes refined and relevant information may also distort the objective of analysis, if inexperienced and untrained personnel handle it, creating a scope for abuse of statistics, they said.

This problem can be obviated if experienced and trained personnel handle the data, they added.

Several professors of the department also presented their respective articles during the seminar.

New method to purify groundwater

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Groundwater can easily be purified with inexpensive and readily available items like a few sheets of polythene, straw, sunlight and a bit of patience, a technology dissemination programme was told yesterday.

Keeping the water in a round, flat-based bowl, surrounded with straw and covered with four layers of polythene, for three to four hours under the sun removes the harmful micro organisms, it was told.

The novel water purification method was revealed at the "Launching of Technology Dissemination Programme" at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban auditorium of Dhaka University (DU).

DU Department of Biomedical Physics and Technology organised the programme to share local technologies for water collection and purification.

The device can be easily erected anywhere "even on a raft floating on floodwater", said Dr Khondkar Siddique-e-Rabbani, the department's chairperson.

"While surface water is contaminated with diarrhoea-causing germs, groundwater contains arsenic," said Dr Rabbani.

Arsenic remains a major problem for the country and therefore more focus should be

given in purifying surface water, he said.

After various researches, the department came up with the new purification method using local knowledge and technology, he added.

One downside of the technique is that it has no alternative for polythene. Instead of banning polythene and enforcing stringent laws against its use, the government should initiate a massive awareness campaign to ensure its safe disposal, said Dr Rabbani.

Chairing the programme, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said safe drinking water is becoming scarce with each passing year.

The new water purification technique which employs everyday tools should be disseminated among the masses, he said.

Kichi Oyasu, officer-in-charge of Unesco Dhaka Office, said this knowledge should be shared with other countries, especially those in the South Asian region where the challenges are similar.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid was present as the chief guest while Secretary of Disaster Management and Relief Division M Aslam Alam and Prof M Firoz Ahmed of Dhaka University's civil engineering department spoke at the programme.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid speaks at the "Launching of Technology Dissemination Programme" on water purification organised by Dhaka University Department of Biomedical Physics and Technology at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban auditorium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR