

BOOK LAUNCH
Women tell of liberation war memories

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday stressed the need for presenting the history of liberation before the next generation so that the country could achieve the desired goal.

"To build a prosperous and developed country, the next generation should be motivated with the spirit of liberation", he said at a book launch at Jatiya Press Club.

The book, *Alokito Narider Smrititey Muktijuddho* (liberation war in the memories of enlightened women), was edited by Jahangirnagar University Lecturer Jebunnessa.

The publication is a collection of memoirs of the 1971 War of Liberation, written by 27 women authors including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Stressing that not only the men but also the women had a lot of contribution in the war, Azad said the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already acknowledged the contribution of the women freedom fighters alongside that of males.

University Grant Commission member Prof Dr Mohammad Mohabbat Khan, Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Harun-Ar-Rashid, Prof Mahfuza Khanam and Boishaki Television Chief Editor and CEO Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul also spoke at the ceremony.

Viqarunnisa Noon branch chief gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Lutfur Rahman, Bashundhara branch-in-charge of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, in a case filed in connection with violation of a female student last year.

Judge Mohammad Arifur Rahman of the Fourth Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression granted the bail as Lutfur Rahman appeared before the court and sought bail in the case.

The same court on Tuesday granted bail to Husne Ara Begum, the former principal of the school, in the case.

On Monday, the court issued arrest warrants against Husne Ara and Lutfur Rahman after accepting charges against them.

On July 5, 2011, the victim's father filed a case against the two and Porimol Joydhor, a sacked teacher of the school's Bashundhara campus.



Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, *centre*, holds a copy of the book "Alokito Narider Smrititey Muktijuddho" along with other guests at the unveiling ceremony at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Harun-Or-Rashid, and Jahangirnagar University lecturer and editor of the book Jebunnessa. On his left are University Grants Commission member Prof Dr Mohammad Mohabbat Khan, Prof Mahfuza Khanam, and Boishaki Television Chief Editor and CEO Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul. PHOTO: STAR

RECKLESS DRIVING
Driver jailed for woman's death on road

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a truck driver to four years' rigorous imprisonment for causing death of a rickshaw passenger by reckless driving in 2007 in the city's Khilkhet.

Metropolitan Magistrate Utpal Chowdhury pronounced the verdict in absence of the driver, Faruque Hossain.

The court also fined the driver Tk 3,000, in default, to suffer three-month more in jail.

According to the prosecution, Driver Faruque ran over rickshaw passenger Nasima Akhter in front of Amtola-Hajibari graveyard in the area on February 16, 2007 when she was returning to her residence.

Later, police filed a case against the driver with Khilkhet Police Station.

Earlier on December 8 last year, a Chittagong court sentenced five years jail to truck driver Mofizur Rahman responsible for the tragic road accident that killed 46, mostly school students, in Mirsarai upazila of the district on July 11 the same year.

Another Dhaka court on October 20 of 2010 sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment on charges causing death of a student by reckless driving at Moghbazar in the capital on October 26, 2007.

Arrest of Ghulam Azam hailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday expressed their satisfaction over the arrest of former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam on charges of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

Expressing satisfaction over the arrest, Workers Party of Bangladesh demanded to complete the trial of the arrested persons, including Ghulam Azam, immediately.

Leaders of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Sector Commanders Forum, and Joy Bangla Sangkritik Jote also expressed their satisfaction and demanded to complete the trial as soon as possible.

Earlier on the day, different organisations arranged human chain programmes and brought out processions demanding arrest of Ghulam Azam and expedite the ongoing war crimes trial.

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Sector Commanders Forum, Bangladesh Muktijodha Sangsad, Moot Court Society of Brac University, Slogan 71, Jagannath University Film Society hold the programmes in front of International Crimes Tribunal at old building of the High Court from 10:00am to 11:00am.

Minutes after their programme, the tribunal delivered the arrest order to Ghulam Azam.

Similar programmes were also held in different parts of the country demanding trial of war criminals.

As part of the central programme, Awami League upazila units of Bagerhat and Munshiganj, held rallies demanding trial of war criminals. Palash upazila Awami League also held similar programme.

Meanwhile, five activists of BCL Sunderganj Upazila unit of Gaibandha sustained injury in a clash between two rival groups during a meeting of 14-party alliances at Sunderganj yesterday that were called for demanding trial of war criminals.

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FAIR ELECTIONS

No alternative to CG: Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Veteran lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain here yesterday said there is no alternative to caretaker government (CG) for a free and fair election in Bangladesh.

Referring to the post-Ershad period and the much talked-about Magura election, he said a neutral administration is very much essential for a fair election in the country.

He called upon the government for "rearranging" the caretaker system since the full judgement in this regard is yet to be given by the court. He also pointed at the court's observation that two more elections can be conducted under the caretaker government.

Exchanging views with lawyers at the Sylhet district Bar Association yesterday, Dr

Kamal also talked on a number of issues including the Tipaimukh project.

He observed that there should be a united protest against the Indian attempt to build the mega dam, but put stress on collecting adequate number of documents while taking a stand against the hydroelectricity project.

He, however, said we need to maintain a good neighbourly relation with India and stage the protest for our national interests. It can be resolved through negotiations, he added.

Sylhet district Bar Association president EU Shahidul Islam chaired the meeting while Supreme Court Bar Association Vice-President Joglul Haider Afrik and Supreme Court lawyer Subrata Chowdhury spoke among others.

Youth found dead in Botanical Garden

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after he went missing, a youth was found dead in the city's Botanical Garden yesterday.

The deceased, Md Rajib, 20, a resident of Senpara area in Kafrul, was an electrician.

Yasin Munshi, sub-inspector (SI) of Shah Ali Police Station, said a couple discovered the body covered in hyacinth near a lake in the Botanical Garden.

They called on the security guards there, who informed the matter to the police around 11:00am, he added.

Police found stab marks on the abdomen and throat of the body.

"Miscreants hacked the youth to death," said Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shah Ali Police Station.

Rajib was missing from his house since Tuesday evening, he said.

SI Yasin said Rajib had a quarrel with another electrician named Rubel, 20, in his locality who did not pay back loans that he took from Rajib.

An arbitration was also held to settle their dispute, he said adding that, local people last saw Rajib in front of his house along with Rubel.

Police raided Rubel's house when he could not be contacted over mobile phone.

Police suspect that Rubel and his friends killed Rajib and fled the area.



Railways Minister Suranjit Sengupta waves a green flag and announces the inauguration of a new train on Dhaka-Narayanganj route at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh-born man shot dead in the US

UNB, Sylhet

A Bangladesh-born businessman was shot dead by miscreants in his petrol station at Texas in the United States on Tuesday.

The deceased, Mahbob Hossain, 67, was rushed to a local hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Mahbob, born at Akakhajana village in Beanibazar upazila of Sylhet in 1945, migrated to the US in 1969 and was living with his family at Wichita Falls in Texas, said sources.

He will be buried in the US.

PW gives false statement Say Sayedee's lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defence counsels of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee yesterday suggested that prosecution witness AKM Abdul Awal MP gave a false deposition to the International Crimes Tribunal because Sayedee was his political rival.

"You are the present lawmaker and Sayedee is a former MP with different ideologies," said counsel Majur Ahmed Ansari, adding, "So, driven by envy, you instigated the filing of a false case against Sayedee with help of the government, and gave a false statement against him."

Awal, the 12th prosecution witness in the case filed against Sayedee in connection with crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War, said it was not true.

The tribunal led by its chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq yesterday finished recording the cross-examination of the ruling party lawmaker from Pirojpur.

Awal had testified in the case on Tuesday.

Counsels of Sayedee Mizanul Islam, Kafil Uddin Chowdhury and Manjur Ahmed Ansari cross-examined Awal by turns yesterday.

Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Sayedee is among five Jamaat and two BNP leaders facing charges of crimes against humanity committed during the war in 1971.

Dhaka-N'ganj route gets new train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Railway yesterday introduced a new train on the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Dhaka route.

With the new one, 13 trains will now operate on the route making a total of 26 trips to and from Dhaka.

Railways Minister Suranjit Sengupta inaugurated the new train at Kamalapur Railway Station.

He also announced plans of turning the Dhaka-Narayanganj single rail track to double tracks. "We will also improve the signaling route", he said.

City Corporation Mayor Ivy, who was on occasion, minister for the new train. She said the lots of proper Narayanganj, not be utilised. minister to take that the proposed for the of railways and

Lawmaker Nasim Osman, Railways Secretary Fazle Elahi, Director General of Bangladesh Railway Abu Taher, and senior officials of the railway were also present.

The railway minister announced last week that one new train each on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet will be introduced soon.

With the new one, 13 trains will now operate on the route making a total of 26 trips to and from Dhaka

WE MOURN



SAMSON H. CHOWDHURY, 1926-2012

ICC Bangladesh is deeply shocked and grieved at the sad demise of Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury, our Vice President and Chairman of Square Group. He was the only Business Legend of our time in Bangladesh. Mr. Chowdhury and his Square Group has been associated with ICC Bangladesh since it started its journey in the 90s. ICC Bangladesh was fortunate to have his continuous guidance and support in carrying out its activities. He attended and actively participated in various ICC Conferences and Congresses held in different capitals of the world. May God in His infinite mercy forgive him & rest his soul in eternal peace.