

AFTERMATH OF RAMU VIOLENCE



(Clockwise from left) Statues inside a burnt Buddhist temple, Pashchim Moricha Dipangkur Buddha Bihar, in Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar following violent mob attacks on Buddhist populated areas of the upazila early Sunday. Statues of Buddha lie on the floor of the temple after the attack. A Buddhist woman, whose house and belongings in Merong Lowapara in Cox's Bazar's Ramu upazila were torched by the mob, stands at the entrance of a tent Red Crescent provided to the affected.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Dhaka-Delhi narcotics depts to hold talks from Oct 4

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and New Delhi will begin a two-day third level director general level talks between Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) of India and Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) of Bangladesh from October 4 in India.

A five-member Bangladesh delegation led by Mohammad Iqbal, director general DNC, will leave Bangladesh for New Delhi on Wednesday to participate in the talks.

The talks between the two director generals will focus on the ensuing bilateral cooperation between India and Bangladesh in areas of narcotics control and review the progress on the decisions taken at the last meeting held in Dhaka in March last year.

Meanwhile, 18 officials of DNC will attend a training programme on "Drug Law Enforcement" at National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (NACEN) in Faridabad in New Delhi from October 8-19.

The training programme has been designed exclusively for Bangladeshi participants at NACEN which is one of the premier training institutions of government of India.

Uproot religious fundamentalism

Says Inu
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday called upon people to wage a movement to uproot communalism and religious fundamentalism from the country and implement the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War.

He was addressing a rally Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) organised in the capital's Central Shaheed Minar premises marking its 40th founding anniversary.

Inu, JSD president, said recognised groups of Jamaat-Shibir activists and militants carried out the attack on Buddhist populated areas in Ramu of Cox's Bazar early Sunday.

Meanwhile, Chhatra League, JSD-backed students' organisation, at a rally before Dhaka University's Madhur Canteen demanded punishments to the killers of Col Abu Taher, a veteran freedom fighter and a sector commander of the Liberation War.

BREAST CANCER 17,000 die every year in country

Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In Bangladesh, 22,000 women fall victims to breast cancer which leads to 17,000 deaths every year, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

At the discussion styled "International Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October 2012", held at Dhaka Ahsania Mission auditorium, they urged the need for widespread awareness and knowledge creation about this deadly but curable disease.

Begum Dina Haque, advisor of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, said this month is the international breast cancer awareness month. Dr Harunur Rashid, surgical oncologist at Ahsania Mission Hospital, said all women should have basic knowledge about breast cancer. They should check themselves or get regular medical examinations done to detect the disease at an early stage.

Although 90% of the cases are women, men can also suffer from the disease, he said adding that they should also be aware of symptoms of the disease.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury emphasised the role of community clinics and their referral services which can help women at the grass roots level regarding breast cancer awareness.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, among others, spoke at the discussion.

Money confiscation by last CG illegal

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Confiscation of money from businessmen and politicians during the last caretaker government was not legal, said Home Minister MK Alamgir yesterday.

He further said nobody has the right to spend from the amount confiscated, but if necessary, the money can only be spent through the parliament.

During the last caretaker government, a joint taskforce seized, as penalties, more than Tk 1,200 crore from a number of businessmen and politicians in anti-graft drives carried out in 2007 and 2008.

On behalf of the government, Bangladesh Bank maintains a joint account which the funds were deposited into.

The minister, however, did not mention how much was deposited in the account.

MK Alamgir was addressing a roundtable on "Advancing Public Participation and Accountability in the Budget Process" at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital. Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha organised

the roundtable yesterday.

Disagreeing with the finance minister's remarks that budgets for local governments were needed, Alamgir said there is no need of separate budgets for districts, upazilas and union parishads.

If the local governments want to formulate any budget, they will have to do it with their own income, he said.

He also said no parliamentary member should concern themselves with budgets for local governments as it is not their job.

"However, if they [MPs] want to give inputs, they should do so through the parliament," Alamgir said.

On the subject of black money, the minister said all undisclosed money should not be termed black money as people associate the term with bad deeds and sin.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Rashida Begum Hira MP, among others, spoke at the roundtable.

ZIA TRUST GRAFT CASE Hearing deferred for seventh time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred for the seventh time the date for passing an order on whether it will accept charges against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and three others in Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

The date was deferred till November 27.

The deferment came following the defence's time petition, which said the BNP chairperson did not appear in court, as she was shocked at the death of her younger brother Sayeed Iskander, and she needed time. Iskander, a retired army major and former lawmaker, died in New York on September 23.

Khaleda Zia has not appeared in court for seven times in the last seven months since March 18 after securing permanent bail in the case on February 2.

On August 8, 2011, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station, accusing four people, including Khaleda, for abusing power in raising funds from unknown sources for the trust.

The other accused are Harris Chowdhury, former political secretary of Khaleda; Ziaul Islam Munna, assistant private secretary (APS) of Harris; and Monirul Islam Khan, APS of former Dhaka city mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

Judge (in-charge) Md Akhtaruzzaman of Senior Special Judge's Court passed the deferment order and also extended the bail of Ziaul and Monirul until November 27.

Harris is on the run.

1990 democratic success pre-dates Arab Spring

British author tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh offers an example to the rest of the world as a moderate Muslim majority country although the country faces an array of tensions and issues, said David Lewis, a leading British academic and author, yesterday.

"We live in a post 9/11 world, which has generated a huge degree of anxiety around the world, particularly in the West. But here in Bangladesh, we have a stable, Muslim majority democratic country with a unique blend of religious, national and cultural identity," said Lewis, who is currently professor of social policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

"Of course, there are a lot of tensions and issues here. But the big picture is one that offers an example to the rest of the world," he told a discussion at The Daily

Star Centre on his recent book, "Bangladesh: Politics, Economy and Civil Society".

Lewis said the 233-page book, published by Cambridge University Press, was primarily written for an international audience and aimed to send out an optimistic and positive message about Bangladesh. He noted that his book was a contemporary work written around a focus on economics. He felt that Bangladesh ought to receive more than attention in the outside world than it had so far.

The book documents Bangladesh's struggle for independence and its emergence as a fragile, but functioning, parliamentary democracy and examines the country's economic, political and social changes in the last 20 years. Prof Lewis was of the opinion that the War of Liberation in 1971 was part of the process

of a re-creation of the post-colonial order. Describing the struggle for democracy and its triumph in 1990 as an event pre-dating the so-called Arab Spring, Lewis told the audience that his book had highlighted the successes Bangladesh had made in agricultural production and in ensuring better disaster preparedness. Bangladesh's civil society, he observed, had a uniqueness in that it was an incubator of ideas and practices. Civil society, he added, was always a force for good.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam thanked Lewis for his interest in Bangladesh.

Columnist Syed Abul Moksud, Sujjan General Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder, The University Press Ltd Managing Director Mohiuddin Ahmed, and The Daily Star Executive Editor Syed Badrul Ahsan, among others, also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

David Lewis, professor of social policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science, far right, speaks at a discussion on his book, "Bangladesh: Politics, Economy and Civil Society", at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

Death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Today is the 39th death anniversary of Ashu Ranjan Sen, former chairman of Mamunpur union in Rajbari district.

On the occasion, different rituals including Geeta recitation, food distribution and candle lighting programmes will be held at his Rampur village of the district.

His relatives have been requested to attend the programmes.

Ashu Ranjan was hot dead by some robbers at his village residence.

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