

Hindu numbers in sharp decline

Communal politics blamed at seminar for the silent migration

DU CORRESPONDENT

The country's Hindu population has declined sharply over the last four decades chiefly because of communal tension spilling in from neighbouring countries, land grabbing through violence, forced conversion, abduction, and killing, a Dhaka University professor said yesterday.

Prof Gobinda Chakraborty, who teaches political science, blamed the politics of communalism of all dominant political parties as the reason behind the perpetrators going unpunished.

"Zia's [Ziaur Rahman] policy of sending mainland people to the CHT, Ershad's initiation of making Islam as state religion and Hasina's weird mix-up of secularism and Islam as state religion are strong evidence of the presence of the politics of communalism," he said.

Citing statistics of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the professor said Hindus made up 22 percent of Bangladesh's population before 1971, and it declined to a mere 8.5 percent in 2011.

"This has happened because of the silent migration triggered by such forms of repression," he said in his keynote speech at a seminar titled "Oppression and Intimidation on Minority in Bangladesh".

The Coalition for Communal Harmony in association with Sampriti Mancha and the Centre for Human Rights Safety Platform organised it in RC Majumder Auditorium at DU.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Activists of pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir take on police, not in picture, in Shalbagan area of Rajshahi city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

India staged Felani trial

Says HR chief DU CORRESPONDENT

India has staged a drama over the Felani murder trial to enhance its image before the world, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman said yesterday.

"We have completely been deprived of justice. Our message should be sent to India more strongly. This is the responsibility of the state and the government," he told journalists after attending a seminar at Dhaka University.

Mizanur Rahman, also a law professor at DU, said, "When someone is exempted from punishment even after admitting his guilt, then a wrong message is sent."

"This means that one may escape punishment even after doing the wrong. Those, who capitalise on this weakness, will be more attacking."

Felani Khatun, 15, was shot dead by India's Border Security Force in Kurigram on January 7, 2011.

Four rail staff suspended as coach gutted in Kamalapur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An air-conditioned compartment of Sylhet-bound Parabat Express was destroyed by a mysterious fire at Kamalapur Railway Station around two hours before it was scheduled to leave the station.

The train had to leave the station leaving behind the damaged compartment.

Five railway employees were suspended following the incident. Three probe committees were formed.

The fire started around 4:50am. Two fire units doused the blaze after one hour.

Fire officials suspect that the fire might have originated from a burning cigarette butt.

Govt approval must to fix education fees

Nahid tells reporters saying proposed education act to be placed in next JS session with such provision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to place in the next parliament session, scheduled for September 12, a bill with provisions making it mandatory for educational institutions to get registered with the authorities concerned as per existing laws, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said yesterday.

He was talking to reporters after a meeting with a delegation of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) at his secretariat office in the capital.

According to the proposed Education Act, all educational institutions will have to register with the government before fixing tuition fees and other charges.

The act was formulated to implement the

guidelines of the National Education Policy-2010.

The education ministry formed a 19-member committee to formulate a draft act in 2011 and the committee submitted the draft in February last year. Later, a nine-member working committee was formed to finalise the draft.

On August 5, the ministry published the draft on its website for public opinion within September 10.

Talking to the reporters, the minister said the ministry received 234 proposals on the draft. Of those, 34 proposals came from government institutions, 94 from private institutions and 106 from individuals.

Nahid also said his ministry would replace the word "punishment" with an

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Victimised women with disabilities cry for justice

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While women with disabilities often become victims of violence, the time-consuming judicial system always fail to provide them justice, said discussants at a roundtable in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

By denying justice, the judicial apparatus further weakens the victims while the oppressors become more powerful, they told the roundtable.

"Protibondhi Narir Proti Sahingshata", organised by National Council of Disabled Women.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association Executive Director Advocate Salma Ali said, "Political parties should be forced to specifically tell before the election what they would do for people with disabilities if they go to power."

Women with disabilities face double oppression in society: first for being a woman and then for having disabilities, she said.

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Jamaat, Shibir clash with cops

20 hurt in Rajshahi, Ctg

STAR REPORT

At least 20 people, including a photojournalist, were injured when the activists of pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir clashed with police in Rajshahi and Moulvibazar district yesterday.

In Rajshahi, at least 10 people including a photojournalist were injured when Shibir activists clashed with police in Rajshahi city yesterday morning.

Ziaur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station, said the clash ensued around 11:00am when nearly 200 Shibir men brought out a procession on Rajshahi-Naogaon highway at Shalbagan intersection and hurled brick chips on the law enforcers, reports our Rajshahi correspondent.

They were demonstrating as part of their countrywide movement demanding immediate release of their leaders and activists, Ziaur added.

During the 15-minute clash, the law enforcers retaliated with around 50 rubber bullets and five teargas canisters to disperse the demonstrators.

At one stage of the melee, Kabil Hossain, a freelance photojournalist taking photos of the incident, sustained injuries after a brick chip thrown by the Shibir men hit him, the OC added.

Nine Shibir men were hit by rubber bullets during the clash, Shibir sources claimed.

In Moulvibazar, at least 10 Shibir activists were injured in a clash with law enforcers in Juri upazila yesterday.

Police caught three people, including local Shibir leader Badrul Islam Bodi, 35, on the spot.

Witnesses said as part of the centrally declared programme, Jamaat-Shibir activists brought out a procession around 11:00am.

Jamaat-Shibir activists vandalised a police van and a private car that triggered a clash between them.

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Doctors sued over patient's death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of a patient, who died five days after a surgery in a private hospital in the capital, filed a case with Ramna police Saturday night accusing over five doctors and nurses over negligence.

Nusrat Hasin Joly, 27, wife of Imrul Kayes Emon, 28, was admitted to Monowara Hospital on August 31 for a caesarean section.

She was operated on September 1 and died on Thursday.

Kayes filed the case saying that his wife's condition got serious on the third day of the operation. He wanted to shift her to another hospital but the Monowara authorities rejected it saying that she was okay enough then.

On Thursday night, despite having severe pain and dysentery, the on-duty doctors and nurses did not provide any medicine to Joly, he added.

"She was taken to intensive care unit and after some time, her life support was removed without informing us," Kayes alleged.

Denying the allegation, Amir Hossain, assistant manager of the hospital, said they tried their best to save Joly.



Participants at a roundtable on violence against women with disabilities organised by National Council of Disabled Women at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



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4 held with Yaba, liquor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of the Department of Narcotics Control yesterday seized around 10 Yaba tablets, 18 cans of beer, and 10 bottles of liquor from a house in the capital's Gulshan.

The team around 1:00pm also arrested four persons in this connection, says a press release. Parul Mahbub, one of the arrestees, told The Daily Star that she did not know where the Yaba tablets came from. A case was filed.

Sun Group owner denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail prayer of the owner of a multi-level marketing venture "Sun Group" who was arrested in the capital's Kalabagan on charges of fraudulence on Saturday.

Abdur Rahman is facing seven cases, including one filed on Saturday by one of his relatives, said Ramna police. He defrauded his friends and acquaintance of nearly Tk 20 crore, police added.

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