

Grieving fellows

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Facebook hiding their real names. One of them called politicians "blood sucking animals".

Shiddhartha was very amiable, the bereaved fellows told this correspondent, some breaking into tears at the sight of the photo where Shiddhartha was circled in blood red.

Shiddhartha married another constable, Dipti Rani Sarker, only six months ago and they started living at a rented room in front of the Rajshahi police lines. Both their families were dependent on their earnings, said colleagues and family members.

During filing of this report, Shiddhartha's body was on the way from Dhaka to his home at Sabdi village in Rangpur.

Mayor, ex-mayor

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that night.

In this connection, police detained around 53 people raiding different parts of the city till yesterday morning. Of them, 23 were shown arrested in both cases.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi city BNP General Secretary Shafikul Haque Milon claimed that none of BNP leaders and activist hurled the bomb. "The pro-government people are responsible for the attack," he said.

He also said law enforcers raided four BNP leaders' houses in the city and damaged furniture after the constable's death. The Boalia OC, however, denied the allegation.

Wage movement

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Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and participated by 30 persons of different professions, were awarded in the capital's Sufia Kamal Bhaban.

The course content was designed in a way so that it can raise awareness on gender issues, they said.

Presiding over the function, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam said the course's aim was to spread the movement for establishing women's rights everywhere.

"We tried to arouse some questions in you (participants)...We have to create a

combination of creation, resistance and protest on the issue," she said.

Addressing as chief guest, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said some discriminatory thoughts and trends have become embedded in society and entered the culture.

"We grow up in this environment," he said, adding that these social trends and bad social values were so all-pervading that one woman tended to harm another.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Dr Maleka Banu also spoke among others.



PHOTO: STAR

Discussants at a seminar, "Development Ideas: Linking Research to Policy", organised by International Growth Centre, based in London School of Economics and which aims to promote sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policies, in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. (Story on page 3)

Man's bullet-hit body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bullet-hit body of a man from near Azim tower in the capital's Adabar Thursday night after he had gone missing Wednesday.

The deceased, Saidul Haque, 35, residing at Modhubagh in Moghbazar, sustained bullet injuries in the neck.

Bappi Hasan, son of the victim, said his father did not return home after he had gone to a relative's house at Mirpur Wednesday.

Hizb-ut men

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claimed, crude bombs during the half-an-hour clash.

One of the injured, Monirul Islam, 30, undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, claimed that police caught him from the area and shot him on his left thigh at point blank range.

Another, Suman, hit by pellets on nearly every portion of the upper part of his body, alleged that the law enforcers had fired indiscriminately through a window of his Purana Paltan residence.

The organisation distributed leaflets which read, "People of the country! Establish khilafat under the leadership of Hizt-ut Tahrir and remove the Awami-BNP rulers. Raise the demand among sincere army officers and come out on the streets with this demand."

Rapid Action Battalion Additional Director General Col Ziaul Ahsan said the group was probably trying to cash in on the present political turmoil.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 3

engrossed in themselves.

He said they were conceited, trying to be at the centre of attention at every event, but Mandela never bragged.

Bangladesh's politicians practice politics of revenge, something Mandela never thought of. "We do not see respect shown to the defeated by the winner," he said.

Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said in the present situation, politicians should prioritise public interest.

"I cannot believe that even after 42 years of independence, people of a particular group are living life in tension and some of them are leaving the country," she said.

There must be 'real test' in election

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discussion.

Wahiduddin, a member of the UN Committee for Development Policy, said Bangladesh's democracy was fraught with corruption, cronyism, nepotism and autocracy.

He, however, does not think that Bangladesh will go backward given the country's strong gains in areas such as economic growth and various social development indicators in the last 20 years.

"We don't think that women who have come out of their homes and attended school will retract themselves. But it remains to be seen whether we will be able to maintain the progress we have achieved and advance

further."

"The growth journey might face disruptions between 2010 and 2015 due to political disturbance. But if we don't have any major disaster, we will be able to maintain the accelerated growth in the current five-year term."

Wahiduddin observed that still there are areas of concern, as the country is lagging behind in maintaining its achievements.

"Bangladesh has become a laggard from an over-performer in the case of secondary school enrolment rate for both boys and girls," he said.

He said Bangladesh was able to outperform many developing countries

including some neighbours in social development indicators thanks to effective application of low-cost solutions and successful social campaigns.

He credited social campaigns by non-government organisations and some schemes by the government for the internationally recognised social development records.

"But Bangladesh is increasingly falling behind when it comes to public spending in terms of GDP for sectors such as education and health."

He said Bangladesh would have to increase its public spending and improve good governance to advance the gains in education and health sectors, as the scope to further records riding on low-cost solutions and awareness campaigns was fading gradually.

Wahiduddin said the quality of services would have to be increased, as a World Bank study several years ago showed that about 70 percent doctors did not remain present at hospitals.

"We also know the amount of time teachers spend at schools. If the current situation continues, we will not be able to make progress in these sectors."

While speaking on World Trade Organisation's Bali Conference, Commerce Secretary Mahbub Ahmed said Bangladesh needed to conduct research to identify potential sectors and markets and modes of supply to benefit from the historic deal struck earlier this month.

Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said Bangladesh needed to conduct a study to see the demand where the country was planning to tap the markets following the WTO agreement on services.

Sultan Hafeez Rahman, country director of IGC Bangladesh Research Programme, Salim Rashid, professor emeritus of University of Illinois, and Biru Paksha Paul, associated professor of economics at State University of New York at Cortland, also spoke.

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