

CMC STUDENT UNION POLL BCL panel wins uncontested amid boycott by others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The panel of Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday won all 20 posts in the uncontested election to Chittagong Medical College Central Students' Union.

No other student body took part in the vote, said Prof Maswood Ahmed, the election commissioner.

Mahidur Rahman, a fifth-year student, was elected vice president and Nabid Anjum Tanvir, a fourth-year student, general secretary.

Nurul Islam, president of Islami Chhatra Shibir at CMC, said there was "no atmosphere" for holding a "free" and "fair" election.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was ousted from the campus in 2009 when the Awami League government took over, while Chhatra Union maintains a fragile existence.

Principal of CMC Dr Selim Mohammad Jahangir said it was not their duty to see who would take part and who would not.

RIGHTS OF MARGINALISED GROUPS Proper implementation of laws needed

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proper implementation of laws and policies passed to protect the rights of marginalised groups, including women, children, and religious and ethnic minorities, is necessary to ensure dignified life of citizens, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The roundtable titled "Surokkhito Manobadhikar Somriddho Jibon" was organised by National Human Rights Commission at The Daily Star Centre on the occasion of Human Rights Day on December 10.

Kazi Reazul Hoque, a full-time member of the rights body, pointed out the necessity of appointing an ombudsman for children as stipulated in the constitution.

However, Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, said there would be no benefit of appointing an ombudsman if he or she was not delegated power or authority.

Prof Mesbah Kamal, secretary general of the National Coalition for Indigenous People (NICP), stressed the need for decentralisation of power in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) by implementing the CHT Regional Council Act, and the Hill District Council Act. He stressed that indigenous identities of all ethnic minorities and their community right to land be recognised in the constitution.

Aroma Dutta, a member of NHRC, said, "If we want to bring minorities to the mainstream, there must be representatives from each religious and ethnic group at policy making levels and in military, police, and civil administration."

Prof Shah Alam, member of Bangladesh Law Commission, stressed the need for proper interpretation of the Holy Quran and Hadith.

Terming Bangladesh a unique country with great potential, Barrister Amirul Islam said human rights education should be made mandatory at all levels.



Participants at a roundtable titled "Surokkhito Manobadhikar Somriddho Jibon", organised by National Human Rights Commission, at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday, marking the upcoming Human Rights Day on December 10.

PHOTO: STAR

His counsel may face contempt

FROM PAGE 5

The tribunal chairman said, "Yes, it is said that if anyone commits certain offences, certain rights will not apply for him."

"The constitution may deprive you of some rights but you can't make such comments. We will take action against you," said Justice Hassan.

Instantly, Mizanul said, "My Lord, I am withdrawing my speech."

"You should not have said this," said Justice Md Shahinur Islam, a member of the tribunal. "You made an

extreme comment." "My Lord, this is perhaps my last argument before this tribunal. My prayer is that my 85-year-old client gets justice."

"Justice is everyone's right," said the chairman. "He will get justice as per his rights. We are sitting here to dispense justice."

Subhan is facing nine charges including genocide in Pabna in 1971.

The defence counsel was also criticised for doubting the sincerity of a prosecution witness's emotion.

The third prosecution witness, Abu Asad, a member of anti-liberation Mujahed Bahini, burst into tears while testifying on rapes by the Pakistani army.

Mizanul said how a man could cry, whose force helped the occupation army in rapes.

The tribunal said the witness might have cried out of remorse, and asked the counsel to refrain from terming it "a false show of emotion".

The proceeding was adjourned until Sunday.

Bombs, raw

FROM PAGE 3

Shibir activists of the college unit are on the run, said police.

Denying the allegations, Salauddin Mahmud, general secretary of Chittagong city unit of Shibir, told The Daily Star that the incidents were staged, by BCL and police.

Cops quizzing four

FROM PAGE 5

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal and eight to Jamaat-e-Islami and its unofficial student wing Shibir. The rest are Shibir armed activists.

Shafiqul, 48, a sociology professor and admirer of mystic philosopher Lalou, was hacked to death in front of his house, outside Rajshahi city, on November 17. Since the murder, his only son Soumin Shahrin Javin kept accusing militants, but the youth yesterday said he had confidence in the police investigation. With the four, 12 persons are remanded so far.

BNP lost confidence in apex

FROM PAGE 5

He was addressing a discussion at the capital's Jatiya Press Club on the 24th death anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milton, a protest leader during HM Ershad's autocracy.

Criticising the ruling party for claiming that the people have accepted the January 5 national election and the government, Fakhru said this govern-

ment had been endorsed by no foreign country, let alone by the country's people.

He urged the government to test its "popularity" by holding an election under a non-party administration. "I personally commit that I will quit politics if people don't vote us," he said.

The BNP spokesperson added the

government had taken control of the administration and the judiciary to found a one-party Bakal rule.

Fakhru called the incumbent government worse than Ershad's autocracy.

"Awami League is the national betrayer. They double-crossed the nation by holding a farcical and voterless election on January 5," he said.

Indictment hearing against 51 men Jan 15

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed January 15 for the hearing on charge framing against Managing Director of Destiny Group Rafiqul Amin, President Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-Ar-Rashid and 49 others in two money laundering cases involving around Tk 4,200 crore.

On October 13, the government published a gazette asking 46 out of 51 of the company's staff, including Rafiqul's wife Farah Diba, to appear before the court.

Earlier, police failed to arrest any of the 46 fugitive staff even though the court asked them on several dates to submit reports on execution of arrest warrants issued earlier.

Harun had earlier secured bail from the High Court while Rafiqul and three other accused are now behind bars. The Anti-Corruption Commission on May 4 this year pressed charges against the 51 accused.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Journalist Shafikul Islam Shibli of Gopalpur village in Pabna died due to Kidney disease in the capital on Wednesday.

He was 60, and was buried at Arifpur graveyard yesterday. Former vice-president of Pabna Press Club, Shafikul was the publisher and editor of Weekly Arshay.

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