

Freedom fighters demand constitutional recognition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of freedom fighters yesterday gave an ultimatum to the government to give constitutional recognition to all freedom fighters of the Liberation War in 1971.

The contributions of freedom fighters were not mentioned anywhere in the country's constitution, although the significance of the Liberation War in achieving Bangladesh's independence and contributions of the martyrs were briefly narrated there, said Abir Ahad, convener of Ekattorer Muktiyoddha, a platform of freedom fighters, at a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The history of Liberation War is incomplete if the word "Muktijoddha" [freedom fighters] and their contributions are not mentioned

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Recipients of the Shomman EBH Award with guests at a programme in the capital's Chhayannaut Sangskriti Bhaban yesterday. Khairuzzaman Monnu, the head teacher of a school for persons with intellectual disabilities in Sirajganj; and Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; won the award for their contributions to improve the lives of domestic helps in their households. In addition, Lutf-e-Tahera, a retired development worker in Dhaka; and Nashid Kamal, a Nazrul researcher; were honoured by the foundation for similar humanistic efforts. Inset, noted entrepreneur Rokia Afzal Rahman speaks at the ceremony.

PHOTO: STAR

For a more humane world

Shomman Foundation awards people who made life easier for domestic helps in their households

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khairuzzaman Monnu hired Jharna as a domestic help in his house back in 2007. Widowed at an early age, she was given a shelter more than a simple livelihood.

Jharna found a new home and a family, which she started to consider as her own. And Monnu never treated her like anyone else other than his own sister.

"I couldn't do much for her. But I never felt that she isn't my sister," said Khairuzzaman, the head teacher at a Sirajganj school for persons with intellectual disabilities.

His contribution for this destitute domestic help was recognised yesterday at a programme at the capital's Chhayannaut Sangskriti Bhaban.

In urban areas, helping hands and people doing so-called lowly jobs like gardeners, cooks, and drivers are part of daily living. But their basic rights such as fixed wage, healthcare and proper accommodation are largely overlooked.

Speakers at the programme said the government needs to fulfil the needs of domestic helps under a legal framework. Moreover, a change in the mindset of the employers and their families is also important for the wellbeing of such workers.

On the eve of May Day, Shomman Foundation arranged

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Quota protesters living in fear

DU, JnU teachers stress students' safety; stable campuses

DU CORRESPONDENT

A section of Dhaka and Jagannath university teachers yesterday urged their respective university administrations to ensure safety of the students who participated in the protest demanding quota reform in public service recruitment and a stable education environment.

The demands came from a programme organised by Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, the leading platform of the quota reform demonstration, in the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) auditorium of DU.

Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, supernumerary professor of DU's Bangla department, said there was no ground for the police attack on the students' logical movement. The government should have resolved the issue before the law enforcers attacked the protestors or filed cases against them, he added.

Condemning the attack on DU vice-

chancellors' residence, he said the university administration and police made the situation more complicated by filing cases against unidentified protesters which triggered fear among general students.

MM Akash, an economics professor of DU, said it would be a great mistake if the government tried to suppress the protest by labelling it "BNP/Jamaat-led movement".

"It is true that a faction infiltrated into the protest programme and that faction launched the attack on the vice-chancellor's residence," he added.

Speaking about the quota system, the professor said a special privilege can be effective for a short period, but it should not continue for generations.

"I am also a freedom fighter. I do not think that the freedom fighters fought for any privileges. The government should reform the quota system to build the public administration on the basis of merit," he added.

Teachers will wage tougher move-

ment if any protester is harassed by law enforcing agencies or the university administration, warned Dhaka University's mass communication and journalism teacher Dr Fahmidul Haq.

"We gave silent consent to the issue but we could not resist ourselves from being vocal after seeing the incident of April 8," he said.

"Students are being tortured in their dormitories and the teachers who are entrusted to ensure their security are not performing their duties properly. Don't always smell conspiracy in all logical movement, try to understand the pulse of the masses," he added.

Tanjimuddin Khan, an associate professor of international relations of DU, said as the hall administration failed to play an active role to resolve the students' problems, the university authorities should install a complaint box in front of the vice-chancellor's house so that general students can easily express their grievances.

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Formulate new guideline to appoint judges

SCBA demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday demanded the government and chief justice to immediately formulate a guideline to appoint new judges to the Appellate and High Court divisions and resolve the crisis of judges.

"If the guideline or a law is delayed to be formulated, we strongly demand that judges will have to be appointed as per the HC verdict on April 13, 2017," said SCBA President Advocate Zainul Abedin.

He was speaking at a press conference organised by the SCBA in its auditorium yesterday afternoon.

The HC in its verdict regarding recruitment of apex courts judges

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Metro rail to be ready 4yrs earlier than planned

Claims Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's first ever metro rail project will be completed by 2020, four years before the stipulated time, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

The works up to Agargaon will be completed within 2019 and the entire works from Uttara third phase to Bangladesh Bank [at Motijheel] within 2020, he said.

"The project is scheduled to be completed by 2024," Quader told reporters after joining a contract signing ceremony regarding the metro rail project at a Dhaka hotel.

However, the overall real progress of the project is 15 percent till April 16, 2018, according to the documents provided by the authorities to journalists yesterday.

The government signed contracts with two joint-venture companies for constructing a portion of metro rail, formally known as MRT Line-6, to give the project a further boost.

Works of MRT Line-6 are divided into eight packages. Package 5 and 6 are for the

construction of viaducts and elevated stations from Agargaon to Motijheel.

Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the government company formed to implement the metro rail lines, signed two separate contracts for package 5 and 6.

DMTCL signed Tk 1,855 crore contract for package 5 with a joint venture of Takken Corporation, Abdul Monem Ltd and Abenikko. It signed Tk 2,332 crore deal with another joint venture of Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co Ltd and Italian-Thai Development Public Company Ltd for package 6. Among the firms, Abdul Monem Ltd is a Bangladeshi one.

DMTCL Managing Director MAN Siddique sang for his company while Tsuyoshi Nishimura and Ikko Kitada sang for their respective joint venture.

Under the project, they will construct 8.1 kilometre viaducts and seven stations from Agargaon to Motijheel.

After the programme, Quader said metro rail

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ROAD ACCIDENTS

2,123 killed, 5,558 injured in four months

Says Jatri Kalyan Samity statistics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 2,123 people were killed and 5,558 others injured in 1,871 road accidents in the country during the last four months, a passenger platform said yesterday.

The figures are higher than that of the same period of time of last year.

Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity prepared the statistics on the basis of news reports published by national and local newspapers and online news portals, says a press release.

A total of 1,979 people were killed and 4,727 others injured in 1,765 accidents in the first four months of last year, it says.

The statistics came when mismanagement in road transport sector, reckless driving and race among vehicles to pick passengers came to the fore.

The organisation said 514 people were killed in 499 accidents in January, 459 killed in February, 483 in March and 461 in April.

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Seven cops sued for framing 2 in yaba case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman has sued seven policemen, including an officer-in-charge, accusing them of framing her son and his friend last week in what she says was a fabricated yaba case.

Meherunnesa, a resident of the port city's Pahartali area, filed the case yesterday with the court of Additional Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Shahdat Hossain Bhuiyan against the policemen of Pahartali Police Station, said her lawyer Babul Das.

The accused are Officer-in-Charge Rafiqul Islam, sub-inspectors Abu Sayed and Uttam Dhar, assistant sub-inspectors Fazlur Bari and Jintu Barua, and constables Nazim Uddin and Mohiuddin.

The court ordered Police Bureau of Investigation to investigate the case and submit its report in 30 days, Babul told The Daily Star.

Quoting the case statement, he said a team of police led by SI Abu Sayed picked her son Mehedi Hasan

Nayeem and his friend Tanjil Islam up minutes after they left her house on Wednesday night.

Another young man was picked up along with the duo, but he was released hours later.

The lawyer said his client's son and his friend had been watching an IPL match before they went outside and got picked up.

When Meherunnesa went to the police station and asked about her son, SI Abu Sayed allegedly demanded Tk 3 lakh for their release, Babul said.

As the woman refused to give money, the officer verbally abused her, he added.

Police produced Nayeem and Tanjil before a court the next day stating that they were arrested in possession of 52 yaba pills, Babul added.

Contacted, OC Rafiqul Islam said police found the yaba pills by frisking the two young men. He added that Nayeem was arrested in 2017 in a case filed with Kotwali Police Station.



With frail health, two workers heave a sack of agricultural product at Anu Majhir Ghat in Chittagong city. The low-income people like them have to sweat for every penny they earn. The photo was taken yesterday, on the eve of May Day that is being observed today.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Mayoral candidates of Gazipur City Corporation election during a programme at Joydevpur Convention Centre in Gazipur city yesterday. Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) organised the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2018

Gazipur candidates Waterlogging tops agenda in Khulna

STAR REPORT

STAR REPORT

All the seven candidates of mayoral posts in Gazipur City Corporation election at a programme yesterday pledged that if elected, they would turn the city corporation office into a corruption-free one by ensuring better service for the city residents.

The mayoral hopefuls including the candidates from the two arch rival parties -- ruling Awami League and BNP -- also promised that they would not allow black money and muscle power during their electioneering for the sake of a free and fair election.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) organised the programme at Joydevpur Convention Centre in Gazipur city.

Voters present in the audience also vowed to cast their votes in favour of honest and competent candidates, reports our Gazipur correspondent.

The seven mayoral candidates present on the stage were Jahangir Alam of AL, Hasan Uddin Sarker of BNP, Kazi Md Ruhul Amin of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Fazlur Rahman of Islami Oikya Jote, Jalal Uddin of Bangladesh Islami Front, Nasir Uddin of Islami Andolon Bangladesh and independent candidate Farid Ahmed.

In the presence of their prospective voters, all the

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Four mayoral candidates of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) yesterday vowed that if elected, they would renovate the drainage system and recover 22 grabbed canals to resolve the city's water logging problem.

The mayoral hopefuls also pledged to take measures for ensuring quality services for city dwellers by checking corruption in the city corporation office.

The candidates -- Awami League's Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Communist Party of Bangladesh's (CPB) Mizanur Rahman Babu, Islami Andolon's Mohammad Mozammel and Jatiya Party's Shafiqul Islam -- made the pledge at a programme in the city's press club auditorium.

Greater Khulna Development Movement and Coordination Committee organised the programme titled "Jonogoner Mukhomukhi (face to face with the people)".

BNP candidate Nazrul Islam Monju refrained from attending the programme alleging that the organiser was favouring of the ruling party candidate.

The allegation however was denied by the organiser, reports our Khulna correspondent.

Last week, Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik organised a similar programme where all five mayor aspirants were

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