


PHOTO OF THE DAY

RASHED SHUMON



Busy on phone, a man sits at a place which once probably was a bus stop while the last remaining metal panel of this ramshackle passenger shed hangs precariously right above him. The shed is supposed to protect commuters from heat and rain. Instead, it has become risky for people. The photo was taken on Manik Mia Avenue recently.

'Massive reform needed in judicial process, policing'

Says Akbar Ali Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The judicial process and the policing system of the country need a "massive reform" to reduce the scale of repression against women, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government said yesterday.

He also said repression against women is taking place at a "tremendous scale" due to the existing culture of impunity.

He was addressing a parliamentary-format inter-college debate contest as chief guest on Feni madrasa student Nusrat, at BFDC auditorium in the capital.

Debate for Democracy organised the competition which was won by Siddheswari Girls' College, arguing in favour of the topic "Justice for Nusrat will reduce repression against women in the country or not", by defeating Dhaka Commerce College.

Hasan Ahmmad Chowdhury Kiron, chairman of the organisation, presided over the programme.

Dr Akbar Ali Khan said, "The accused are taken to the court; police investigate; but only three percent are punished through police investigation and judicial system."

"A recent allegation against police is that they don't accept FIR (First Information Reports) and GD (General Diaries) like they used to before, to prove their efficiency (in maintaining law and order)," Dr Akbar Ali Khan said. "The judiciary and the policing system of the country need a massive reformation. Otherwise, the situation will not improve."

Replying to a query, Dr Khan said, "If you look at cases of women and children repression, courts were formed for quick trial; but the backlog of cases is same as other courts... just forming special tribunals will not be enough; there is a need for massive reforms in the country's judicial process." About backlog of cases at courts, Akbar Ali Khan

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Buet students return to class

Authority promises to fulfil demands

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) yesterday returned to classes after a week of demonstrations, following written assurance from authorities that their 16-point demand including removal of newly-appointed Director of Students' Welfare (DSW) will be met.

According to the assurance, Ministry of Education will implement some of the demands, while the academic council of the university will decide on some issues.

Anis Rahman, a coordinator of the movement, said they received the written assurance on Friday night. Later, with everyone's consent they decided to return to class yesterday.

Students, who were demonstrating since June 15, on Thursday said they would end their agitation if the authorities issue an official notice regarding fulfilment of their 16-point demand.

Wage a movement if you can: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday challenged BNP to prove its ability to wage movements.

"They keep talking about movement. Let the BNP wage a movement if they have the ability and the courage. Haven't seen any movement lasting even 10 minutes in the last 10 years though," Quader said while talking to journalists at party president Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office.

He made the remarks in response to BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir's recent comment on strengthening anti-government movement to "restore democracy" and ensure immediate release of party's imprisoned Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Responding to a query, Quader said Fakhru secured victory in the national election but did not join parliament.

"Five BNP lawmakers joined parliament; a woman lawmaker took oath in a reserved seat. But their party secretary general did not. What kind of democracy is this? It is ridiculous democracy!"

BNP to hold division-level programmes for Khaleda Zia's release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday announced programmes at divisional level in the next four weeks, to realise its demand for immediate release of the party's imprisoned Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"We will go for a movement under democratic manner within four weeks, to ensure release of our party's Chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told a press briefing at Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office in Dhaka yesterday evening after a standing committee meeting of the party.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman joined the meeting via Skype.

As part of the programmes, demonstrations will be held at

divisional-level headquarters across the country and BNP's central leaders will attend the programmes, Fakhru said.

He, however, did not share details of when the movement will kick off.

The government is creating barriers to hinder the bail of Khaleda Zia, Fakhru alleged.

'PM LIED IN PARLIAMENT' Fakhru also criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for claiming that the person responsible for "pillow scam" in Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant was a former leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

In reply to a question in the parliament on June 17, the prime minister said she came to know that the person responsible for the

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An overloaded truck seems to be bursting at the seams, while two people precariously sit on sacks. The photo was taken at Aminbazar area of the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Govt making all-out effort to destroy Sundarbans'

Says Prof Anu Muhammad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the Unesco proposal to put Sundarbans on the list of "World Heritage in Danger" is around the corner, Bangladesh government's inadequacy to protect the forest is about to bring "great shame" for the country, said economist Prof Anu Muhammad yesterday.

"The government is supposed to take all-out effort to save Bangladesh's only globally recognised world natural heritage site. Instead, the government is making all-out effort to destroy it," he said during a meeting at the capital's Mukti Bhavan.

The eminent environmentalist demanded that the government immediately stop building controversial Rampal coal-based power plant near the Sundarbans, saying the plant is a great threat to the natural habitat of the world's largest mangrove forest.

National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports, arranged the meeting on the budget, and Rampal and Rooppur power plant projects.

Unesco's World Heritage Committee recently proposed to put the Sundarbans on the list of "World Heritage in Danger" in the proposed agenda for its 43rd session to be held in Azerbaijan's Baku from June 30 to July 10.

The World Heritage Centre has been raising objections about Rampal power plant. Although the government has claimed that the plant would not pose threats to the Sundarbans, Unesco and environmentalist groups were never convinced.

Criticising high budget allocation for Rampal, Rooppur and Matarbari projects, Prof Muhammad said in the long run, this would also create financial burden for the country.

Row over new JCD committee intensifies

UNB, Dhaka

Aggrieved leaders of the recently dissolved Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) committee yesterday announced to continue their movement until their demand for either formation of a new short-term committee or removal of age limit is met.

They came up with the announcement at a press conference on the ground floor of BNP's Nayapaltn central office.

"Chhatra Dal leaders and activists have become angry as the age limit has been set for forming its new committee, allowing only those who passed SSC and equivalent examinations after 2000 to vie for various posts," said former JCD vice president Iktiar Rahman Kabir. "There's a deep conspiracy by a syndicate behind it," he alleged.

He further said, "We demand either a Chhatra Dal committee just for six months or a regular one removing the age limit. Chhatra Dal is not willing to accept any decision of a vested quarter. We'll continue our movement until our demand is met."

Kabir also called upon BNP acting Chairman Tarique Rahman to accept their demand.

Ajmal Hossain Pilot, a former JCD vice president, said, "If 35-year-old people can be included in the committee, what is the problem with inducting 37-38 year olds in it?"

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Highlight women's feat

Speakers urge historians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite outstanding contributions in different spheres of society, many of the country's women are deprived of proper recognition, said speakers at a conference yesterday.

They urged historians to highlight those successful women to encourage others.

The speakers made the call at the inauguration of an international conference on "Women in history: South Asian context" at Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University. The event was organised by Bangladesh Itihas Parishad, a platform of historians.

In her speech, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said many women had contributed during the Language Movement and Liberation War but they are yet to be recognised properly.

The country is progressing as women, defying obstacles, are being successful in all sectors including education, culture, industry, politics, business and economy, she said.

She urged historians to conduct an extensive research on women's contribution to the country.

Citing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as a unique example of women's empowerment, the Speaker urged women to learn from her life so that they can take forward this trend of empowerment.

Education Minister Dipu Moni stressed the need for learning true history. No quality leadership can be created without proper knowledge of national history, she added.

She hoped that the conference would play an instrumental role in changing mindset of people towards women.

Speaking as chair, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman said Itihas Parishad was formed in 1966 with a view to creating a society cognisant of history. "Since establishment, this platform has been playing an important role in helping the nation know its proper history," he said.

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DHAKA TODAY

EXHIBIT	SEMINAR
18 years of Nitya Upahar Venue: National Museum Time: 2pm	Transparency in Public Administration: Rules and Practices Organiser: Transparency International Bangladesh Venue: Midas Centre, Dhanmondi Rd 27 Time: 11am
ART EXHIBITION	THEATRE
When I grow up Artworks by Rohingya children Venue: EMK Centre Time: 9am	Konjush Troupe: Loko Natyadal Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Time: 7pm
THEATRE	
Bangladesh Intl Theatre Festival Venue: Shilpakala Academy Time: 6:30pm	



Members of the Rabidas community form a human chain at Jatiya Press Club yesterday, protesting their exclusion from a recently-published gazette on small ethnic groups.

PHOTO: STAR

MURDER IN UTTARKHAN

Three suspects confess involvement

BSS, Dhaka

Three suspects arrested in connection with the death of a youth in the capital's Uttarkhan yesterday confessed their involvement in the murder.

Shahin Miah alias Black Shahin, 24; Monjurul Islam alias Miju, 24; and Farhad Hossain, 26 -- who were arrested on June 17, gave statements under section 164 before the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Atikul Islam over the murder of Sakib, 20.

After recording their confessional statements, the court sent the trio to jail.

Earlier, police produced them before court after end of their two-day remand.

Muggers tried to rob Sakib and his friend Shipon as they went to visit Batulia river bank in Uttarkhan area on June 15.

The muggers hacked them indiscriminately as they tried to resist.

Both the victims were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where Sakib succumbed to his injuries that same night.

Rapid Action Battalion members arrested the trio on June 17, and recovered the weapons used in the crime.