

Election Commissioner

At least one from minorities

Demands Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad yesterday demanded at least one election commissioner be from religious and ethnic minority communities.

At a press conference, the organisation's leaders said this is necessary given that 12 percent of the total voters of the country belong to minority communities.

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad organised a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club to place the demand.

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Autocracy Resistance Day observed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Various student organisations observed the Autocracy Resistance Day yesterday, remembering the movement that caused the then autocratic regime to rescind the Mazid Khan Education Commission report.

On this day in 1983, a truck crushed students Jafar, Joynal and Dipali, as per the then government's directive.

A tribute was paid at Shaheed Bedi and a discussion was held at Dhaka Reporters Unity by former student leaders of the movement.



There's a reason we celebrate. When it comes to welcoming spring, it is the festivities of Pahela Falgun that make sure that the message of the new season's arrival is received loud and clear. It makes it easier for us to take notice and revel in the rejuvenating vibe that permeates through nature during this part of the year. This photo was taken yesterday from Suhrawardy Udyana.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Govt showing inaccurate data to int'l community

Speakers tell webinar on state projects in Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is presenting inaccurate data and impact assessments to legalise the environmental onslaught on the Sundarbans, in order to go through with various deadly projects, speakers claimed in a webinar yesterday.

Referring to the recently drafted Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) by the government, they said local people were ignored in the strategic assessment, and that authorities hid the real scenario of the damage that would be unleashed on Sundarbans.

The event was organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and National

Committee to Protect Sundarbans on the occasion of Sundarbans Day.

At the event, eminent economist Anu Mohammad said the government was going ahead with its environmentally devastating projects, ignoring national and international concerns, just to cater to foreign and private company interests.

"The special economic zone (SEZ), constructed to accommodate large industries didn't take any opinion from locals," he said, adding that over 200 industries categorised as "red" were downgraded to "green". They are now being established around the Sundarbans.

He said the government was lobbying with Unesco, costing public exchequer, so

that Unesco does not take a stern position against Rampal Power Plant.

Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bapa, said, "Unfortunately, we saw the strategic assessment was designed to cater to the industries' interest."

Abdullah Harun Chowdhury, professor of Khulna University, said, "Along with the disappearance of sundari trees, the forest also suffers from salinity intrusion, causing seedlings to die. Sedimentation in the rivers also rose to an alarming level."

Bapa President Sultana Kamal, National Committee to Protect Sundarbans' Abdul Matin, journalist Mohsin Ul Hakim and leaders from Bapa's Khulna region also spoke.



The Language Movement did not just come to be. Behind the historic movement, that brought about a turn of events for Bangladesh, are a million stories – of people, of premises, of places.

In this 10-part series, we explore some of the places and premises vital to the movement. Establishments that we've lost to time, buildings that today bear no sign of the glories they once played host to. For part three, we remember the glory days of Rasheed Building, the short-lived office of the Rashtra Bhasha Sangram Parishad.



Gone are the days of thunder

Rasheed Building shows no signs of its glory days; in its place stands a private bank

DIPAN NANDY

Even before the establishment of Pakistan in 1947, Rasheed Building hosted the Surj Jamal mess on its first floor. During the early days of the Language Movement, numerous organising activities were carried out from there.

This is also where the Rashtra Bhasha Sangram Parishad was established. Although it could only carry on activities for three months, the parishad's time there was significant in laying down the groundwork for the movement.

But with the passage of time, this historically significant building has become bound to the pages of history. Located at the south-east side of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), it's now a branch



of Janata Bank. There's also a mess for DMCH staffers there.

According to Language Movement researcher MR Mahbub's book "Ekusher Sharok", crucial activities surrounding the movement was launched from Rasheed Building, which played host to the organising activities of many educational institutions of the city, including Dhaka University, DMCH, Dhaka College and Ahsanullah Engineering College (present day Buet).

In a meeting held there on December 30, 1947, the parishad was formed, with Prof Nurul Haque Bhuiyan as convener. Among other

members were Shamsul Alam, Abul Khayer, Abdul Wahed Chowdhury and Oli Ahad. Later, after it was expanded, Mohammad Toaha and Syed Nazrul Islam also joined.

Language veteran Gaziul Haque wrote on a meeting that took place at Rasheed Building's Tamaddun Majlis office on December 1947.

The meeting was attended by student representatives, professors and intellectuals, along with local members of Muslim Chhatra League, Ganatantrik Juba League and Tamaddun Majlis. The Rashtra Bhasha Sangram Parishad committee was formed at this very meeting, with the aim to take the movement forward.

Due to it being the parishad's office, Rasheed Building's

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ROAD ACCIDENT

Flower vendor's day ends before it even began

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seasonal flower vendor Dipu Mia (26) had gone to Shahbagh area early yesterday morning to buy flowers that he could sell to those who observe Valentine's Day and Pahela Falgun.

But tragically, even before the day rolled on, Dipu died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle near Dhaka's Matsya Bhaban around 6:00am.

Nearby pedestrians rescued him and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he died at the neurosurgery ward around 9:30am, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the hospital's police outpost.

Dipu used to live at his grandfather's house in Jatrabari area.

His body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Police are investigating the incident.

GRAFT CASES

Charge sheets against ex-DSCC, BCB officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed approved charge sheets in two separate cases against former Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) councillor AKM Momimul Haque Sayeed and former Bangladesh Cricket Board director Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

In its 27-months long probe, ACC found that Sayeed amassed about Tk 5.60 crore, while Lokman amassed Tk 6.72 crore, beyond known sources of income.

Earlier, ACC filed a case against Sayeed for amassing about Tk 4.47 crore beyond known sources of income on November 20, 2019, and Lokman for having Tk 4.34 crore illegally on October 27, 2019.

PRAYER TIMING FEB 15



| | Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|--------|------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Azan | 5-25 | 12-45 | 4-30 | 5-57 | 7-15 |
| Jamaat | 6-00 | 1-15 | 4-45 | 6-01 | 7-45 |

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