

News, photography INTERTWINED

Speakers tell discussion on photojournalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a growing demand for visuals among news consumers, properly engaging photojournalists at media houses and understanding the strength of photography is essential, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The event was organised by Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council) and Drik.

They said photojournalists have to be equipped with sound knowledge and technical abilities for this purpose, while newsroom leaders need to understand the importance of photographs.

The discussion, held at the capital's DrikPath Bhobon, was part of the World Press Photo Exhibition 2022. Hosted by Drik, the exhibition started on Friday and will continue till November 21.

On its world tour, the exhibition showcases photo stories from the 65th annual World Press Photo Contest, recognising and celebrating the best photojournalism and documentary photography produced over the last year from around the world.

Addressing the discussion, Drik founder and globally acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam said there was a time when a big gap between text and photography in terms of publicity was apparent.

"Thanks to the advancement of internet-providing services with better bandwidth, photographs can now be shared rapidly from one destination to another, reducing the gap significantly," he said.

"Photography is a much more public form of

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Spectators at the exhibition at the capital's Drik Bhobon. Moderated by Shahidul Alam, a discussion was also held as part of the World Press Photo Exhibition-2022. Hosted by Drik, the exhibition started on Friday and will continue till November 21.

PHOTO: STAR

Dengue claims five more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five dengue patients died, while 788 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the total number of dengue cases this year has risen to 42,199, of which 13,924 have been recorded outside Dhaka.

With the new deaths, the total number of fatalities rose to 167.

Of the deaths, 101 occurred in Dhaka, 23 in Cox's Bazar, 17 in Chattogram, six in Barishal, six in Khulna, four in Mymensingh, two each in Rajshahi and Narail, and one each in Narsingdi, Pabna, Khagrachhari, Bogura, Madaripur and Feni.

A total of 38, 295 patients have already been released, of whom, 12,375 are from outside Dhaka.

Some 3,737 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment at different hospitals of the country.

Enact treaty, amend copyright rules

Speakers say on treaty for accessible books for the visually impaired

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday thanked the government for the recent ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty. The treaty is said to be removing barriers to making published books accessible to people with visual and print impairments, by establishing a set of limitations and exceptions for traditional copyright law.

Through this treaty, an estimated 3,40,000 visually-impaired people (registered under the database of the Department of Social Services) in Bangladesh will now get access to approximately 8,00,000 books via World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)'s accessible book consortium.

They also urged the government to implement the treaty as soon as possible, by revising and amending the current copyright act, so that making these books in accessible formats (Braille or Daisy digital talking books) does not constitute copyright infringement.

The seminar, titled "Marrakesh Treaty Accession Celebration and Way Forward", was jointly organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Visually Impaired People's Society (VIPS) at the capital's Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics auditorium.

The treaty was adopted on June 27, 2013, and entered into force on September 30, 2016. Bangladesh became the 116th nation in the world to sign the agreement on September 26 this year. It will come into force in the country on December 26.

Vashkar Bhattacharjee, national consultant (accessibility) at Aspire to Innovate (a2i), ICT Division, presented the keynote at the seminar.

He said the treaty will pave the way to attaining the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-4) by 2030.

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'Govt wants to restore 1972 Constitution'

Law minister tells seminar marking National Constitution Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government wishes to restore the Constitution of 1972 and abolish the state religion.

Referring to a remark of Rokeya Kabir, member secretary of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangstha, he said, "Rokeya Kabir mentioned that all are asking why the country still has Islam as its state religion. We have to bring people out of this idea that has been injected into their minds. For that, we have been continuing our efforts to restore


on abolishing the state religion, he said, "We are certainly considering it, because we want to return to the 1972 Constitution. The government and the party [Awami League] will decide on it by considering the reality."

Addressing the event, Director of BILIA Prof Mizanur Rahman said to turn Bangabandhu's dream of "Sonar Bangla" into a reality, adherence to the spirit of our Liberation War is a must.

"Any deviation from the spirit may impair the essence and true spirit of the Constitution," he added.

the Constitution Day, eminent jurist Kazi Zahid Iqbal said citizens' fundamental rights and democratic processes were hampered through various amendments of the Constitution, done with political motives.

"From where we started our journey in 1971, our expectations have not been fulfilled. At different times, for various reasons, the rights of citizens and the democratic processes were hampered," he remarked while presenting the main article at the discussion titled "Constitution and Quest for



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PROF MIZANUR RAHMAN
Director of BILIA

the 1972 Constitution."

"We have to keep a bit more patience. After the killing of Bangabandhu, a situation was created in which people could not dare express their thoughts. If we can overcome this fear, we will be able to implement what Bangabandhu did with the 1972 Constitution," said the minister while attending a seminar, titled "Revisiting the Historical Journey of the Constitution of Bangladesh", held at the capital's Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) auditorium.

He was the chief guest of the event. Responding to journalists' query

Speakers at the event said the constitution could not retain its original spirit, as the country's 50-year journey of constitutional rule was interrupted several times by martial law, and a series of amendments either to ratify military rules or tailor the Constitution to successive governments.

AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury, a former judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, and Prof Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Karzon of Dhaka University's law department spoke at the event, while BILIA Chairperson Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam presided over the seminar.

In another similar event marking

Equitable Society".

"Some persons or groups used the mechanisms of the Constitution for their interests," he said.

Addressing the event, eminent jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik said, "Article 7 of the charter states that if anyone assumes power by postponing or abolishing the Constitution forcefully, it is treated as treason. The basic structure of the Constitution cannot be amended. It's a fundamental right."

The Constitution of Bangladesh was adopted on November 4, 1972. This year, the government observed the day as National Constitution Day for the first time.

China wants peace, stability in Bangladesh

Says Chinese ambassador

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China expects Bangladesh to maintain peace and stability, which is essential for development, said Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming yesterday.

He said China's policy is not to intervene in the internal affairs of foreign countries. Therefore, China is also not interested in Bangladesh's political affairs.

However, peace and stability are essential for the development of any country, and so China wants the same for Bangladesh, Jiming said.

The diplomat was speaking at a seminar on the 20th National Congress of China, organised by Bangladesh-China Silk Road Forum at a city hotel. Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon

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DHAKA, N'GANJ, MUNSHIGANJ

Weeklong gas disruption from today

UNB, Dhaka

Residents in the southern part of Dhaka city and adjoining areas, as well as Narayanganj and Munshiganj, may experience disruption or low pressure in gas supply for a week -- from today to November 12 -- as the authorities will conduct technical work on the gas transmission line.

According to a statement from Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, the areas where consumers may face gas supply disruption include some areas in the southern part of Dhaka, including Jinjira, Keraniganj, Meghnaghat, Sonargaon, Haripur, Narayanganj and Munshiganj.

Gas Transmission Company Limited will conduct inspection activities for its 60-km Bakhrabad-Shiddhirganj transmission line during the period, said Titas Gas.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Three-wheelers and goods-carrying tractors have been banned for being unfit to ply highways. However, such vehicles are a regular sight on Dhaka-Rangpur highway, making the roads even riskier. The photo was taken recently near Mithapukur-Payraband area.

Four Bangladeshis conquer Dolma Khang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four Bangladeshi mountaineers have conquered the Dolma Khang summit in Nepal for the first time.

Bangladeshi mountaineers, as a team with two Sherpas, conquered the 20,774-foot Himalayan peak, located in Gaurishankar of the Rolwaling mountain range in Nepal, on Wednesday morning.

The four-member Bangladeshi team was led by MA Muhith, who climbed Everest twice. The other members are Kazi Bahalul Moju Biplob, Ikramul Hasan Shakil and Riyasad Sanvi.

The team also consisted of Kilu Pemba Sherpa and Nima Nuru Sherpa from Nepal.

MA Muhith said on October 28, they started for Simigaon trek. After trekking for two days, they reached Beding village, which was the base camp, situated 12,270 feet high.

Later on November 1, they climbed 16,076 feet high, from where the team started the final journey to conquer Dolma Khang. Finally, the next day, after crossing



a 25-metre narrow and risky ridge-line, they set foot on the peak of Dolma Khang, Muhith said.

"We are delighted over the success of the expedition, as we're the first Bangladeshi team to reach the peak," he added.

The team members said they went for this summit on the occasion of 50 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Nepal.