



History cannot be erased

Says PM about Bangabandhu's March 7 speech

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the international recognition of Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech proves that history cannot be obliterated, although the anti-liberation forces tried it. "History cannot be erased, truth cannot be covered by false, and now that has been proved. The historical speech of March 7 has attained its recognition in the world," she said.

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Women's Day celebrated at Franco-German embassy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

German and French embassies in Dhaka yesterday celebrated the International Women's Day, stressing the increasingly important role of gender equality and building an inclusive society.

Addressing an event at the Franco-German embassy, the French and German ambassadors said both their countries have feminist foreign policy and will continue to support the initiatives that promote women empowerment.

French Ambassador Marie Masdupuy said German Ambassador Achim Tröster spoke on the occasion.

Women leaders, entrepreneurs, journalists, and media personalities, among others, were present at the event.



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 8

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:15	12:30	4:30	6:05	7:30
JAMAT 5:30	1:15	4:45	6:10	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SCBA voting ends, result today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day voting for electing the new leadership of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) ended yesterday.

Out of total 7,888 voters, some 5,319 lawyers casted their ballots at the SCBA auditorium in Dhaka to elect 14 executive posts.

The result is likely to be announced today, SCBA Secretary Md Abdun Nur Dulal told The Daily Star.

SCBA sources said, the main contest will be between ruling Awami League-backed Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad and pro BNP Bangladesh Jatiyatadi Ainjibi Oikya panels. Abu Sayeed Sagor and Shah Monjurul Hoque are contesting for the posts of president and secretary respectively from the pro-AL panel.

Meanwhile, former SCBA secretaries Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Ruhul Qudus Kazal are contesting for the same posts from the BNP-backed panel.



For the fourth year running, UNDP and The Daily Star gave six women the "Nirbhaya" award yesterday for championing the cause of women changemakers from grassroots communities. They received crests and certificates during a ceremony at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Fearless in bringing change

Six women get 'Nirbhaya' award by UNDP Bangladesh, Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheuly Khatun, 36, hailing from an impoverished background in Satkhira, faced dire circumstances when her husband abandoned her, leaving Sheuly to fend for her two children with no income.

Thanks to financial assistance from UNDP Bangladesh's "SWAPNO" project, Sheuly, who once struggled to sustain herself and her children, now manages an ice cream factory, supporting her own family as well as six destitute women.

Her hard work and integrity shaped her into the woman she is today.

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2024, six women, including Sheuly Khatun, were awarded "Nirbhaya" (fearless) by The Daily Star and UNDP Bangladesh yesterday.

The others are Asma Begum of Dhaka, Nazma Akter Reshmi of Cox's Bazar, Nipu Tripura of Khagrachhari, Poly Khatun of Satkhira, and Suraiya Khan of Khulna.

They were recognised for championing the cause of women changemakers from grassroots communities and handed crests and certificates during a ceremony at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. This was the fourth edition of the "Nirbhaya" initiative.

Asma Begum, 40, was honoured for her efforts to restore greenery by planting trees in

the capital's slum areas, while 23-year-old Nazma Akter Reshmi was recognised for her innovative business venture producing fish powder and crackers.

Nipu Tripura, born in Rangamati, once uncertain about her future during the pandemic, now produces mushrooms on a large scale, generating 12,000 spawns per month. She has created job opportunities for five other women.

Poly Khatun, affectionately known as "Pani Apa" in her

"Let us remember that achieving a sustainable and equitable world for our future generation requires guaranteeing the rights and freedom of women and girls across all aspects of life," said Stephen Lillard, resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh.

community, received training in installing and maintaining rainwater harvesting systems. She diligently cleans the catchment areas, gutters, and filters of numerous households in her village.

With just Tk 7,000 from UNDP's project, Suraiya Khan, a survivor of child marriage, has become a successful egg entrepreneur, setting an example for many

women in her village.

At the event, Stephen Lillard, resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh, said learning about the Nirbhaya's experience was deeply inspiring.

"Not only to us, but to all the people who will be reading about your journeys, about overcoming adversities, challenging discriminatory norms, and your triumphs to help uplift others in your communities and beyond," he said, addressing the Nirbhayas.

"Let us remember that achieving a sustainable and equitable world for our future generation requires guaranteeing the rights and freedom of women and girls across all aspects of life," he added.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said the confidence displayed by the Nirbhayas should serve as an example for others.

"I extend my salute to you and find much inspiration in your confidence. For those facing financial hardships, it is very difficult to overcome such challenges and achieve success. And it is tougher for women," he said.

"It is a weakness on our part that we fail to respect women, and often harbour the perception that we are superior to women - this mindset infects us, leading to discrimination against women in society," he added.

Recognising the invaluable contributions of women to

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Bangladesh missions observe Mar 7

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh missions abroad yesterday observed the historic March 7 with due solemnity and reverence.

Heads of the missions hoisted the national flag and placed floral wreaths at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Speakers at the events called for taking inspiration from Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech to work towards building a prosperous Bangladesh.

Messages issued by the President and the Prime Minister on the occasion were also read out by the mission officials, while special prayers were offered for Bangabandhu, his family members, and all the martyrs, alongside the peace and progress of the country.

Foreign guests and expatriate communities participated in the events.

At an event, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Mustafizur Rahman said Bangabandhu's speech, which had inspired the people of Bangladesh to fight for independence from the occupation forces, will continue to be a source of inspiration for all oppressed people across the world.

Addressing an event organised by Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo, ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed said

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Five women to be honoured as Joyeeta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Simeen Hussain (Rimi) yesterday said the government is going to honour five women as Joyeeta, a Bangla word for victorious woman, for their contributions to various fields on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be present as the chief guest at the programme, which will take place at Osmany Memorial Auditorium today at 10:00am.

The state minister was addressing a press conference at the secretariat on the occasion of Woman's Day.

This year the theme of Women's Day is "Invest to accelerate gender equality and opportunity". Every awardee will receive a cheque for Tk 1 lakh along with a crest and certificate.

The state minister said Anar Kali of Mymensingh; Kalyani Minzi of Rajshahi; tea worker Kamali Rabidas of Sylhet; Jahanara Begum of Barguna and Pakhi Datta of Khulna will receive the awards.

Highlighting the achievements of the winners, the state minister said Kamali Rabidas of Sylhet is a successful mother. After tirelessly working as a tea worker on a daily wage of only Tk 18, she educated one of her sons who is currently an officer at a private bank.

Anar Kali of Mymensingh is a successful entrepreneur and businesswoman. Kalyani Minzi, a member of the Orao community, graduated in Social Science from Rajshahi University and is currently the headmistress of Sonadhighi Government Primary School.

Jahanara Begum of Barguna was married off at the age

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DSCC fines Labaid, 3 establishments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday fined Labaid Hospital Tk 2 lakh for running an unapproved restaurant on the rooftop of its Green Road establishment in the capital.

Besides, three restaurants and establishments on the road - Boushahki Restaurant, Pizza Garage, and Babu Land - were also fined Tk 170 lakh during the drive, led by DSCC executive magistrate Md Jahangir Alam.

This was the fourth consecutive day of the drive after a deadly fire at Green Cozy Cottage shopping mall on Bailey Road claimed 46 lives on February 29.

"The court found a rooftop restaurant cafeteria built on Labaid's 8th floor, violating approved design. We also found fault with the fire extinguishing system and leakage in one of the gas cylinders kept near staircase," said the magistrate.

TCB reverses decision to hike sugar price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh has walked back its decision to raise sugar prices by Tk 30 per kg, taking the price to Tk 100 per kg.

The state-owned company was selling a kilo for Tk 70 yesterday morning.

While inaugurating TCB's commodity sales programme in capital's Tejgaon, State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam Titu said, "I apologise for our mistake. We will be more cautious to ensure small issues don't escalate into major ones."

Despite the fire at a sugar mill, the existing sugar stock is sufficient, he added.

TCB increased sales price of sugar by 43 percent (Tk 30 per kg) in a bid to contain subsidy bills.

Humayun Kabir, spokesperson of TCB, announced the sale of sugar at Tk 100 per kg, citing increased subsidies due to global market price spikes and higher import costs. The retail price of sugar in Dhaka is Tk 140-150 per kg.

FEMALE MIGRANT WORKERS Govt shouldn't send them as house helps: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Migrant workers going abroad should be prepared in a way so that they can talk about their own rights, Salim Reza, full time member of National Human Rights Commission, said yesterday.

Addressing a seminar at Probashi Kalyan Bhaban in the capital, Salim, a former secretary of expatriates' welfare ministry, said migrant workers are going abroad without minimum life skills.

"All of them have to be provided with compulsory skills training," he said, emphasising the need to provide them with training on languages of destination countries.

If migrant workers are sufficiently skilled, they will be able to earn more, he added.

Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS), with support of Manusher Jonno Foundation, organised the consultation seminar on "Reintegration of Returnee Women Migrants".

On the migration of female workers abroad, Salim said instead of sending female workers as house helps, Bangladesh should focus on sending them for "decent jobs".

Pointing to migration of over 13 lakh workers abroad last year alone, he said the government needs to monitor migrant workers in host countries to ensure their well being.

He also said government institutions were not serving the purposes of people as per their requirements.

Sourendra Nath Saha, joint secretary and project

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TCB Card holders in Tejgaon area gathered at the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute ground to collect cooking oil, sugar, lentils, rice and dates at subsidised prices. The state-owned company started selling essentials to low-income families across the country yesterday, marking Ramadan.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN