

Govt spreading propaganda to cover up failures, misdeeds: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is spreading propaganda against the Awami League to cover up its 'misdeeds and failures', Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

CU classes resume tomorrow amid PSA siege

CU CORRESPONDENT

Classes at Chittagong University will resume tomorrow after a month long rainy vacation amid siege programme called by the PSA.

However, the examinations were held as per schedule. Progressive Student Alliance (PSA), a conglomerate of three left student organisations, enforced an indefinite siege programme on the campus on June 26 protesting attack on its activists by the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadres.

The Shibir cadres assaulted about 15 PSA activists mercilessly at the station ground at on the day.

The PSA enforced the siege demanding immediate arrest and trial of the persons responsible for the attack.

The government is misleading the countrymen with false information, she said while addressing the information and research secretaries of different district units of the party at its Dhanmondi office.

The opposition leader called for strengthening the publicity activities of her party to counter the propaganda of the government.

Hasina urged the grassroots level leaders to send the reports of 'misrule' and 'misdeeds' of the BNP-Jamaat government with a view to exposing the real face of the government.

She alleged that crimes and corruption by the ruling partymen destroyed the economy and the price hike of essentials made the people's life miserable.

AL Information and Research Secretary Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin placed a report on its future plan at the meeting while AMA Muhiit, sub-committee chairman of information and research of the party, presided.

AL Presidium Member Abdus Samad Azad, General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Organising Secretaries Abdul Mannan and Sultan Mohammad Mansur, Publicity Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor and Office Secretary Abdul Mannan Khan attended the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan forms a human chain at the Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday demanding that the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban be declared as national and world heritage.

Toxic fumes from brick kilns a threat to health

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Emission of huge quantity of toxic elements from brick kilns is causing serious health hazards, experts at a seminar said yesterday.

The brick kilns emit toxic fumes containing suspended particulate matters rich in carbon particles and high concentration of carbon monoxides and oxides of sulphur (SOx) that are harmful to eye, lungs and throat.

These air pollutants stunt the mental and physical growth of children, the experts said at the seminar on 'Brick fields and its ill effect on environment'.

They also expressed concern over the growing number of brick fields, saying that the toxic fumes also affects crops and plants in the areas adjacent to brick fields.

The Legislative Support Service

Project of Manabik Shahajya Sangstha (MSS) organised the seminar in the city in association with the European Commission. Parliament Members Begum Raushan Ershad, Prof. Shahidul Islam, Muhammad Shahiduzzaman, Faruk Khan and GM Kader took part in the seminar.

According to the keynote paper, the primary source of Sox -- the major pollutants in the air -- is traffic vehicles (55.8%), followed by brick manufacturing industry (28.8%). And the primary source of NOx (nitrogen oxides) pollutants is also traffic vehicle (54.5%) and brick manufacturing industry (8.8%).

About 8000 brick fields were set up in the country without any clear environmental guidelines, resulting in loss of fertility in agricultural lands, the experts said.

Also, nearly 25 to 26 per cent of the country's wood production are used for burning bricks every year, causing deforestation, they said.

Describing the laws concerning brick kilns as inconsistent, Shahidul Islam called for formulating new laws after a discussion with the experts and stake holders to curb environmental pollution.

Faruq Khan suggested introduction of modern technology in the brick manufacturing industry. Dr. Mushfuqur Rahman, an expert on geological science, presented the keynote paper while Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, Chairperson of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) moderated the seminar. Feroz M Hassan, president of MSS, and Dr Iftekhar Ahmed also spoke.

Prize Bond draw results

The 32nd draw of 100-taka Prize Bond was held in the city yesterday with Additional Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka Md Abdul Alim Khan in the chair, says a press release.

The first prize of Tk 6 lakh went to the Prize Bond No. 0062462 and the second prize of Tk 3.25 lakh to Prize Bond No. 0612476.

The Prize Bond Nos. 0229467 and 0481796 got the third prize while the fourth prize winning numbers are 0301775 and 0311877.

Following are the fifth prize winning numbers:

0014091, 0026519, 0039849, 0058732, 0078944, 0080295, 0082167, 0082308, 0084046, 0093143, 0130585, 0181078, 0203808, 0219776, 0227090, 0269840, 0293047, 0306161, 0378722, 0393754, 0438339, 0452626, 0490462, 0511592, 0610378, 0614670, 0643052, 0645702, 0658938, 0688005, 0728446, 0736159, 0863976, 0882437, 0921099, 0931463, 0940640, 0964633, 0976711 and 0990516.

'Cancel illegal lease of Singha Bari'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a rally in the city yesterday reiterated their demand to cancel the 'illegal' lease of the historic Singha Bari.

The rally was organised by the Arpito Sampatty Ain Protirodh Andolon (vested property law resistance movement).

Sylhet City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, who is also the convener of the committee, presided over the rally conducted by its member-secretary Lokman Ahmed.

Ex-MP Barun Roy, District Awami League President ANM Shafique, and Amnesty International Bangladesh Chapter President Barrister Arash Ali addressed the rally.

The speakers demanded fresh leasing of Singha Bari to the families who are still in possession of it.

They said the agitation would continue through mass contact at upazila level and exchange of views with professional groups.

They also demanded immediate transfer of the deputy commissioner for his alleged misbehaviour with the leaders who went to hand over a memorandum recently.

An organised group under the shelter of influential quarters and the district administration is out to occupy the valuable property worth about Tk 4 crore at Chouhatta area of the city.

'Reform laws to ensure rights of the disabled'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for reformation of laws to ensure basic human rights and social securities of the disabled.

They also called for creating opportunities to help disabled persons become useful members of the society.

"Proper employment could turn the disabled from burden to wealth", said the speakers.

They said a massive awareness campaign is needed to eliminate negative attitude towards them.

The national seminar on 'Engagement of women with disabilities into development' was organised by Bangladesh Protibandhi Kalyan Samity (BPKS) at LGED seminar hall.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed inaugurated the seminar presided over by Md Saifullislam, chairman of BPKS.

Ashrafun Nahar Mishit, member-secretary of Women With Disabilities (WWD) and coordinator of Asia-Pacific Women Interact Networking (AP-WIN) presented the keynote paper.

Secretary of social welfare ministry MA Jabbar, Secretary of primary and mass education division Prof Dr Tahmina Hussain, Vice-Principal of Dhaka Deaf High School Masuda Akhtar and a human rights activist Masuda Banu spoke on the occasion.

Journalist robbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna-based journalist was robbed of Tk 8,000 and a cell phone in Dhaka in the early morning yesterday.

A gang of three muggers intercepted the taxicab, in which Manik Saha, president of Khulna Press Club, was travelling, near the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and robbed him at gunpoint.

Manik Saha was going to Zia International Airport from Lalmatia at around 6.30am to return to Khulna.

He is a staff correspondent of the Sangbad, a Bangla daily.

DIIT orientation programme

The orientation programme of the 10th batch of Daffodil Institute of IT (DIIT) Banani Campus for the BSc Degree course of "Computing & Information System" under London Metropolitan University (UK) was held on July 27 on its Banani Campus, says a press release.

The programme was led by AKM Raquibuddin, Deputy Director of DIIT and Incharge of Banani Campus. Md Sabur Khan, President of Bangladesh Computer Samity and Chairman of DIIT was present as chief guest. Dr Md Fokhray Hossain, the Chief Course Coordinator of DIIT and Business Development Manager Sk Monirul Alam were present as special guests.

Moudud Ahmed said the government is trying to engage disabled persons into mainstream of development.

Md Shahidul Hasan, LGED chief engineer, said they are planning to engage disabled women in their projects.

The speakers said disabled persons specially women are left alone in every aspect of life like including education, health and employment.

They said disabled persons are capable of doing many things like

normal beings if they are helped and properly trained.

But family members take them as burden. They do not pay much attention to educate or empower them, the speakers added.

Three disabled women-Anjuman Ara Begum, Antora Ahmed and Farzana Taleb Liza, also spoke at the seminar.

They said if family members support the disabled they could do almost any job.

But the society shows negative attitude towards them, they lamented.

DHAKA TODAY

Drama

Shishu Theatre Dhaka will stage a drama titled 'Bhut Shikar'. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium, New Bailey Road. Time: 10.30am.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen two feature films titled 'Four Feathers' and 'Pretty Woman'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

French film show

Alliance Francaise will screen a film titled 'Yamakasi, les samourais des temps modernes' directed by Ariel Zeitoun (2000). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Mirpur road. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

Movie show

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'Seven Samurai', directed by A Kurosawa. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

Print exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a print exhibition titled 'Four Pioneer Printmakers of Bangladesh' will be held with National Professor Kabir Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Gallery Chittrak, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till August 15 from 10.00am to 9.00pm daily.

Art competition

Youth and Social Development Organisation will hold an art competition on the occasion of the World Population Day with Communication Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 2.35pm.

Cultural programme

The annual cultural programme of Newcastle Law Academy will be held with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 5.00pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Colour Atlas of Plastic Surgery' authored by Prof Syed Ahmed Siddiqui, will be held with State Minister for Housing and Works Alamgir Kabir as chief guest. Venue: National Press

Club. Time: 10.00am.

BCGP seminar

A seminar on 'Hypertension- a silent killer', organised by The College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh (BCGP), will be held. Venue: BCGP lecture auditorium, Boro Moghbazar. Time: 9.00am.

BCS meet

A general meeting of BCS General Education Association will be held. Venue: Dhaka College auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

WBW seminar

The inaugural seminar of the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) will be held with Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar as chief guest. Venue: Sasakawa auditorium, ICDDR, Mohakhali. Time: 9.30am.

Law seminar

A seminar on the 'Role of Bangladesh immigration lawyers towards immigration laws of different countries of the world', organised by Bangladesh Immigration Lawyers' Samity will be held. Venue: Supreme Court Bar auditorium. Time: 5.00pm.

Lecture

The second Ahmad Safa Memorial Lecture on 'Mosammam Rezia Khatoun: A forgotten Muslim feminist' will be held. Venue: Business faculty conference hall of Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am.

Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Old Students' Association of West End High School will be held. Venue: School premises, Azimpur. Time: 6.00pm.

Rally

Green Club organises a rally to continue its campaign against polythene shopping bag. Venue: Pallabi, Mirpur. Time: 10.00am.

Blood donation

Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Pallima Sangsad, Khilgaon. Time: 10.00am.

Painting exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a solo painting exhibition of Toru Matsuoka, a Japanese artist, will be held. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 5.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till August 7 from 2.00pm to 8.00pm daily.