

Oust govt as soon as possible: Hamid

UNB, Munshiganj

Deputy Leader of Opposition in Parliament Advocate Abdul Hamid yesterday said the government has pushed the country towards ruin and it is better for the nation to oust the alliance government as soon as possible.

"The nation has no safety now and torture, murder, rape and extortion have become regular features," Hamid said this while he was addressing the Gazaria upazila Awami League conference as the chief guest on the local Vaterchar High School premises today.

Former MP and Munshiganj District AL president Mohammad Mohiuddin inaugurated the confer-

ence. Former MP Sagufta Yasmin and District AL general secretary Lutfor Rahman also spoke. Former MP AKM Shamsul Huda presided.

The Deputy Leader of Opposition said the alliance government has started killings of AL leaders and freedom fighters in a planned way.

He said the opposition party is now not allowed to speak in Parliament but it was not so when his party was in power. As the Speaker, he had allowed BNP to speak in Parliament, he added.

Hamid called upon all irrespective of party affiliation to come forward to save the country from anarchy and lawlessness by ousting the present government.



The Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation stages a token hunger strike at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding arrest of those responsible for the torture of Ranu Aktar, a garments worker.

Guidelines for infrastructure dev under pvt sector

BSS, Dhaka

Experts and senior government officials yesterday agreed on increased private sector involvement in infrastructure development under a changed government role in running the services.

The consensus came as the Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Centre (IIFC), a government-owned company, presented a draft guideline on private sector's role in infrastructure development at a workshop here.

The government should now concentrate more on developing its

negotiation and financial skills, leaving the technical ones to private operators, it suggested.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui chaired the workshop, joined by senior officials of different state-run services and concerned bodies, economists, leaders of professional groups like engineers and representatives of several development partners.

"We are yet to have any guideline to involve the private sector in any major project and the situation prompted the government to formulate it, Dr Kamal Siddiqui told news-

men on the sidelines of the workshop.

Siddiqui who heads the expert-official committee to frame the draft with the IIFC assistance, said the document would be placed to the economic affairs committee after a review ahead of submitting it to the highest policy level for its final endorsement.

Presenting the draft guideline, IIFC Executive Director Nazrul Islam said despite earlier government policies allowing the line ministries to deregulate and privatise their infrastructure services in required cases, the ministries never

felt encouraged to open their grips.

But, he said, the global scenario of increased competitiveness demands the government to categorically say which of the infrastructures should be kept under government control and which should go to private sector.

The draft said the planning commission supervision on private infrastructure projects should be waived and another entity with private sector dominance should regulate the services for better and quicker output.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 23.8 degree at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at 5:42am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.1	26.0	73	64
Chittagong	32.5	25.2	69	69
Rajshahi	33.5	26.4	82	71
Khulna	32.5	25.5	82	80
Barisal	32.0	26.0	81	79
Sylhet	32.0	23.8	93	80
Cox's Bazar	33.2	24.5	74	85



Vice-Chancellor of American International University-Bangladesh Carmen Z Lamagna presents a crest to UGC Chairman Dr M Asaduzzaman at an orientation programme for the students of the university recently.

Comilla BJP leader dies

UNB, Dhaka

A Awal, president of Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), Comilla district unit, and ex-upazila chairman, died at his residence in Comilla yesterday. He is survived by his wife, three sons and three daughters, said a press release.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Sangraish after a namaz-e-janaza at Comilla town hall ground.

BJP chairman Naziur Rahman and secretary general Kazi Firoj Rashid, in a condolence message, expressed deep shock at the death of Awal.

All staff of Jongra office at Sundarbans suspended

UNB, Bagerhat

All forest officers and employees of the Jongra office under Chadpai range of the Sundarbans have been suspended on charge of timber smuggling.

DFO Tariqul Islam ordered their suspension on Thursday night. He also directed new officers and employees to take charge of the Jongra office.

The suspended officers and employees are Alauddin Akan, guards Molla Azad Hossain and Shoab Khan and boatmen Abdul

Mannan, Abul Kalam Akan, Zahur Molla, Haris Pramanik, Molla Humayun Kabir and Shahidul Islam.

Sources said timber trader Amar Krishna Pal of Khulna had bought timbers worth Tk 1.40 lakh through two auctions held last month.

Later, Amar in connivance with the forest officers and employees took the timbers along with about 100 cft smuggled timbers to Khulna in a trawler.

DFO of Sundarbans West Zone, Bazlul Anam, seized the trawler with the smuggled timbers from near Batiaghata patrol camp recently.

136 colour TV sets, 44 VCD players seized

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Navy personnel in cooperation with customs officials recovered smuggled electronic goods and automobile accessories worth Tk 37.37 lakh from outer anchorage of Chittagong port on Thursday.

The items included 136 colour TV sets and 44 VCD players, an ISPR press release said yesterday.

The items were deposited with the authorities concerned.

A case was registered with Bandar Police in this connection.

Pak general arrives in city

BSS, Dhaka

Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of Pakistan Armed Forces General Muhammad Aziz Khan arrived in the city yesterday on a five-day goodwill visit.

Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General AM Mahmuduzzaman received him at Zia International Airport.

Pakistan High Commissioner to

Bangladesh Iqbal Ahmed Khan was also present at the airport.

During his stay, General Muhammad Aziz Khan will call on President Iajuddin Ahmed.

He will also meet Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba, Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Fakhru Azam, Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General AM Mahmuduzzaman and Defence Secretary KM Ehsanul Haq.

Foundation laying ceremony

The foundation laying ceremony of the new building of Dhaka District Judge Court will be held with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest. Venue: Court premises. Time: 11.30am.

Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Diabetic Association organises a meeting to commemorate the 14th death anniversary of its founder National Professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim. Venue: Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre, Shahbagh. Time: 5.00pm.

Get-together

The World University, Regional Campus organises a get-together of its management, faculty members and students. Venue: Park Town International Cousin, Monipurpara. Time: 7.30pm.

ASB workshop

A workshop on 'Art of adjustment and coping with the stresses of modern civilisation: A clinical psychological perspective', organised by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB), will be held. Venue: Seminar room of the society, Old Elephant Road. Time: 12.00 noon.

DIU workshop

In observance of the 5th death anniversary of Prof Syed Ali Ashraf, a renowned scholar and poet, Islamic Academy organises a workshop on 'Aim and objective of Darul Ihsan University (DIU)'. Venue: University campus, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

MIFT meet

A meeting on 'Cancun conference of the World Trade Organisation and mass media in Bangladesh', organised by Media Initiative for Fair Trade (MIFT), will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.00am.

Greenforce seminar

A seminar on 'Urbanisation in China', organised by Greenforce, an organisation working for protection of environment, will be held. Venue: BUET

auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Jehad discussion

On the occasion of the 32nd birth anniversary of Shaheed Nazir Uddin Jehad, Jehad Foundation organises a discussion and milad mahfil. Venue: Weekly Ajker Jehad office, Purana Paltan. Time: 5.00pm.

PHM conference

The inaugural session of third national conference of People's Health Movement (PHM) will be held with Health and Family Planning Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: IDB Bhaban auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 10.00am.

Anti-tobacco rally

Pratyasha, an anti-drugs club, organises a rally demanding enactment of anti-tobacco legislation with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: Nagar Bhaban premises. Time: 11.30am.

Rotary meeting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 1.30pm.

Samity meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Dhaka based Chittagong Samity will be held. Venue: Chattagram Bhaban, Topkhana Road. Time: 7.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Swordfish'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Mughdpara Adarsha Samaj Kalyan Samity will be held. Venue: Samity office, 161/1, South Mughdpara. Time: 8.30pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'A beautiful mind'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.



A student of fine arts decorates the hand of Fatema-tuz-Zohra, a noted singer, with henna at Ivy Mehendi Corner at the two-day Handicrafts and Small Industries Fair that began yesterday. The Bangladesh Homewokers Women Association organised the fair at the Women Sports Complex in Dhanmondi.