



PHOTO: STAR

The Power Development Board continues to fell trees on a land at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday in violation of a High Court order.

Wallich calls on Bhuiyan

BSS, Dhaka

Country Director of the World Bank Christine I Wallich called on LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his office in the city yesterday.

She discussed a pre-appraisal mission report on supporting the government's block allocation to the union parishads.

The WB has proposed the government to provide financial assistance to the project side by side with extending support to the government's efforts for strengthening the local government bodies.

Secretary of the Local Government Division SM Zahurul Islam and Operation Advisor of the WB Florent Agus and mission chief David Seves were present.

Oust govt to ensure a free, credible election: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for ousting the coalition government through an intensified movement to ensure a free and credible parliamentary election in Bangladesh.

"We want to ensure people's rights through free, fair and impartial elections... We're determined to establish a democratic and non-communal Bangladesh, human rights and the rule of law," she said in a statement on "Democracy Killing Day" marking the February 15, 1996 voter-less election held by the then BNP government.

Hasina, who placed in parlia-

ment a package of proposals to reform the appointment procedure and power and function of non-party caretaker government and the Election Commission on Sunday, alleged that the alliance rulers have completed all machinations to rig the next elections.

"People want to get rid of this alliance rule, they are sick of corruption, terrorism, price-hike of essentials that have made their lives miserable," she said, adding that the people in power are now trying to protect their illegal money and wealth piled up in the last four and a half years by retaining power.

Hasina, also the president of the Awami League (AL), accused the government of filling the administration and the Election Commission with its own people and extending the service period of High Court judges to appoint its 'own man' as the chief advisor of the next caretaker government.

"For all these reasons, I have placed in parliament the reform proposals on caretaker government and the Election Commission to protect people's voting rights," Hasina said, urging people to make positive contributions from their respective positions to ensure the downfall of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

'Hundred Yrs of Bangabhaban' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday launched a book titled 'Hundred Years of Bangabhaban', marking the 100 years of Bangabhaban, the official residence of the president.

Bangabhaban, which was earlier known as the Governor House, started its journey in 1906. It was renamed Bangabhaban after independence.

Prof KM Mohsin, chairman of the editorial board of the book, presided over the publication ceremony held at the Darbar Hall of the Bangabhaban.

Speaking on the occasion, President Iajuddin Ahmed thanked the editorial board members and said the book has great historical significance.

The 400-page book was published in both Bangla and English by the Bangabhaban's press wing. Abdus Sattar has designed the cover of the book. The title of the Bangla version of the book is 'Bangabhabaner Shatabarsha'.

The book is the outcome of two years' research by a panel of eminent historians, researchers, scientists and architects.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, Akbar Ali Khan, former cabinet secretary, Prof ZM Tahmida Begum, chairman of PSC, Abu Mohammad Moniruzzaman Khan, secretary to the president, Mokhlesur Rahman Chowdhury, press secretary to the president, and Prof Sharif Uddin Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

Former president Abdur Rahman Biswas, former chief advisors of caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman and Justice Latifur Rahman, Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Md Mujahid, Chief Election Commissioner Justice MA Aziz, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission Justice Sultan Uddin Khan, UGC Chairman Prof Asaduzzaman, MPs, secretaries, vice-chancellors, and high civil and army officials attended the programme.

On February 14 in 1906, Sir Joseph Bampfylde Fuller, the first lieutenant governor of the then province of Eastern Bengal and Assam started his official work at the Darbar Hall of the Bangabhaban during the British Raj.