

BNP-led alliance will use Rab for vote rigging Hasina alleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP-led four-party alliance will use Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) for rigging votes in the next general election.

Hasina said people from all walks of life are repressed by the armed cadres of BNP and their godfathers who have killed journalists, politicians, teachers, workers and farmers. "But Kansat and Shanir Akhra incidents have proved that people have now started chasing the BNP terrorists and their godfathers in different parts of the country," she said, urging the people to come forward to end the misrule of alliance government.

resolve any crisis. Its rule has resulted in price hike of essentials, acute shortage of power, water, gas and diesel, rampant corruption, nepotism and politicisation of administration, she added. Hasina urged the countrymen to wage a tougher agitation to oust this coalition government.

Coalition rulers trying to hold polls with 'fake' voter list

Hasina tells Australian envoy UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday told a foreign diplomat that the coalition rulers are trying to escape public wrath by holding elections with a 'fake' voter list. Hasina, also Awami League president, made the remarks when the newly appointed Australian High Commissioner, Bouglas Fogkett, met the opposition leader at her Sudha Sadan residence.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a meeting marking the second death anniversary of former AL lawmaker Ahsanullah Master at the Diploma Engineers' Institute in the city yesterday.

Students go on rampage in Khulna, 14 buses damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Students of Dumuria College in Khulna damaged 14 passenger buses plying on Khulna-Satkhira route at 11:00am yesterday protesting minibuses owners' failure to bear expenses for medical treatment of an injured student.

route was held responsible. Angry students put up barricades on all routes from Khulna to Satkhira from 11:00am to 12:15pm today disrupting transport services in demand of compensation. They seized the bus responsible for accident and took it to college compound. Violence erupted when a student of the college named Nasim was confined in the Bus Owners' Association Office at Dumuria in

retaliation against taking of the bus. Police later rescued the college student from bus owners' office, but could not recover the bus from grip of the students. Tension is running high at Dumuria. Both students and transport owners are taking preparation to confront each other today. Security measures have been stepped up fearing further violence.

'My Beautiful Bangladesh' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cover of a book titled 'My Beautiful Bangladesh' was unveiled at a function in the city yesterday. Nadeem Qadir, journalist and advisory editor of Focus Bangla, a photo agency, has written the book that tells story of growing Bangladesh. The book portrays positive features of the country in different contexts. US Charge D' Affairs to Bangladesh Judith Chammas unveiled the book at the National Press Club where club President Reazuddin Ahmed, Prof Amena Mohsin of Dhaka University, Associated Press Chief Farid Hossain and Dhaka Reporters' Unity President Shaifiqui Karim also spoke.

'TURBULENCE AND TRANQUILLITY'

Azizul Jalil's autobiographical book launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book review programme yesterday lauded writer Azizul Jalil for his book 'Turbulence and Tranquillity', which is an autobiographical account of his journey through life beginning with the pre-partition years of India. The book is the author's personal accounts of the contemporary socio-political events. It consists of three parts- accounts of his life and activities, his encounters with important historical figures, and finally accounts of his friends. University Press Limited (UPL) organised the book review session at Dhaka Club.



Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui addresses a book review session of 'Turbulence and Tranquillity' by Azizul Jalil at Dhaka Club in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Sayed Kamaluddin, Justice Reefat Ahmad, Justice Mustafa Kamal, Azizul Jalil, Prof Anisuzzaman and Badruddin Umar.

Speaking as chief guest Justice Mustafa Kamal said, "The author honestly described what he had experienced in his life. Nothing was added or distorted. This sort of objectivity is very difficult to maintain." Justice Kamal, who was also classmate of the author from school to university level, appreciated his restless spirit saying, "He is a meritorious person and never passed a day in idleness." Presiding over the session Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said Azizul Jalil's book is an example of objectivity in thought and presentation. "I think absence of any partisan attitude was expressed in the book, as he was a civil servant true to his calling."

book provided valuable insights about the life and times of the last days of undivided India, the early days of Pakistan and the birth of Bangladesh. Accounts of the first Prime Minister of Bangladesh Tajuddin Ahmed and Indian leader Subhas Bose were particularly interesting. The author's description of Hindu-Muslim relationship in the pre-partition years of India and how it changed after the communal riot

in 1946 reflects the evolution of the relationship between the two religions in the forties, he noted. Sayed Kamaluddin, acting editor of The Weekly Holiday, said there are many issues the author raised in the book that requires further elaborations. Author Azizul Jalil, a retired civil servant and later a World Bank official, in his reaction thanked the speakers and the UPL for their inspiration and appreciation.

Justice Reefat Ahmad of Supreme Court, Syed Badrul Ahsan, executive editor of The Dhaka Courier, Mohiuddin Ahmed, managing director of the UPL, and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, also spoke.

12 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least 12 people, including doctor, UNO and a university student, were killed and 36 injured in separate road accidents in three districts yesterday. Our Correspondent from Sirajganj reports: At least seven people were killed and six others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Bogra highway at Alokdira Loargati area under Solonga Police Station at Rayganj upazila in Sirajganj yesterday. The injured were rushed to Sirajganj Sadar hospital in critical condition. Police and witnesses said that the accident took place at around 8.00am when a Sirajganj-bound tempo collided head on with a speeding truck coming from opposite direction, leaving three passengers -- Bahar Ali 45, son of Yunus Ali of Masimpur village and Abdul Momin 25, son of Nurul Islam and Bulbul 35, son of Nurul Malek, of Raypur village --- dead on the spot and 10 others injured. Of the injured, Nur Islam, 33 of Erandaho in Raiganj upazila, Murad 42, son of Abdul Moiz of Mahshapara in Sirajganj town, Yunus Ali 38, of Boraigram in Natore and an unidentified man aged about 30, succumbed to their injuries at Sadar Hospital. UNB from Narayanganj adds: An air-conditioned bus swerved off Dhaka-Sylhet highway into a ditch in Ararhazar upazila yesterday killing three people on the spot and injuring 30 others. The dead are a doctor, a businessman and a university stu-

dent, police and witnesses said. They are Dr Ismail Ahmed, 50, businessman Haridas Pal, 55, and Mukul, 22, a student of Dhaka's Stamford University. Local sources said the Dhaka-bound coach from Habiganj tumbled into a ditch while trying to give passage to a covered van near a bridge at Panchrukhi Bazar at about 10.30am. Of the injured, 12 were admitted to Narsingdi Sadar and other local hospitals "in critical condition". Transport movement on the busy route halted for two hours following the accident. "A serious traffic jam was created on the highway, with hundreds of vehicles queuing up on both sides of the spot," the sources said. Meanwhile, Tungipara Upazila

Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and his driver were killed when a bus rammed into their jeep at Nagarkanda upazila in Faridpur yesterday. The deceased were identified as UNO Alamgir Kabir Khan, 45, and his driver Abdul Qader, 35. Police said the accident occurred when Alamgir Kabir was going to Tungipara from Dhaka at about 9:00am. Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has expressed her deep shock at the death of Alamgir Kabir. Hasina prayed for salvation of the departed soul and Conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

5 JCD activists expelled

DU CORRESPONDENT

Five Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists were expelled from the organisation for their involvement in a clash between Ziaur Rahman Hall and Suryasen Hall units of the JCD. The expelled activists are: Toriqli Islam Torique, Tareq Mojumdar, Miraj, Borhan and Hafiz. Four of the expelled activists are from Ziaur Rahman Hall, while Torique from Suryasen Hall. JCD DU unit President Hasan Mamun and General Secretary Saiful Islam Firoz made the decision at a meeting. At least 13 JCD activists were injured in two-phase clashes between the JCD activists of the two halls over a trifle matter on Saturday.

3 shops gutted in fire in N'ganj

BSS, Narayanganj

Three shops were damaged in a fire at Sirajuddowla Road here yesterday. Fire Service sources said one CD and VCD shop was burnt to ashes and two other shops were partially gutted in the blaze that occurred at 6:30am. The shops were closed when the fire broke out, the sources said, adding firemen doused the blaze within half an hour by breaking open the shutters of the shops. The cause of the fire was stated to be an electric short circuit, the sources added.

WEATHER TODAY Rain likely

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Death anniversary

Today is the 25th death anniversary of Alhaj Khan Bahadur Mohammad Ismail, says a press release. He passed away in Dhaka on this day in 1981 at the age of 90. Khan Bahadur Ismail was a dedicated leader of the Muslim League at the time of the partition of the sub-continent, the first Muslim government pleader of undivided Bengal, president of Faridpur Bar Association for over 25 years, and the senior-most advocate of Bangladesh Supreme Court. All have been requested to pray for the eternal peace of his soul.

Kulsuma Begum

The fifth death anniversary of Kulsuma Begum, wife of late Delwar Hussain Khan of Shologhar, Bikrampur will be observed today, Monday, May 8, says a press release. On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at her residence.

Property of Maa-O-Shishu Hospital, Ctg handed over

Former commerce minister Amir Khasru Chowdhury handed over the property of Maa-O-Shishu Hospital, Chittagong to Dr A F Karim, president of Maa-O-Shishu Hospital at a function recently, says a press release. On the occasion, Rafean Seraj, member of the Project Bangladesh Foundation, presented a cheque for Tk 1 lakh to Amir Khasru to support a bed in the hospital on behalf of the Foundation. The "Amra Bangladesh" wristband is the first initiative of Project Bangladesh Foundation. One of the main goals of the Amra Bangladesh wristband is to unite all Bangladeshis to work together to address issues such as orphans, acid victims and flood devastation. This idea of the wristband came from Rafean Seraj. The entire proceeds from the band go for charity, the Acid Survivors' Foundation, several orphanages and flood relief programmes. Rafean Seraj said, "Today I am here on behalf of the Project Bangladesh Foundation to present the cheque for a bed for this hospital in memory of my grandfather, O R A Rasul Nizam who was the chief patron of the Project Bangladesh Foundation and a life member of the Maa-O-Shishu Hospital.

Outages in Demra spoils Wasa efforts

irregular power supply and low voltage. He managed to run the pump for two hours and was running out of fuel to operate the pump with the alternate power generator installed with the pump. A next-door resident to the pump, Humaira Begum, said she did not get any supply of water since Saturday. "I am managing with reserved water which is also almost finished," she said. Only those who have water reservoirs at their houses could manage their household works with the supply water. Most of the eight lakh residents of the area, however, do not have reservoirs at their houses. "The pumps have to be operated round the clock to supply water to the residents who do not have reservoirs," said another Wasa official. The supply water was dirty and emanated a malodour rendering it unusable, local residents alleged. "Look at the water we are getting," a resident, Rehana, said while showing this correspondent the water that was coming out of a tap. "We can hardly use this for lavatory," she said. "We carry or buy water from yards away for drinking and other household works," said Amina, echoing Rehana. Meanwhile, the BNP cadres,

2 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed in separate incidents at Mirpur and Sutrapur in the city yesterday. The body of Abdullah Hel Baqi, 36, a local distributor of Virgin Cola of Youth Group, was found near his own house at West Shewrapara. His head was severed from his body. It is learned that he was also a part-time businessman of garment wastes. Police and family members suspect that Baqi may have been

killed because of his involvement in garment wastes business. Baqi's brother filed a murder case with Mirpur Police Station. Meanwhile, another unidentified youth was beaten to death by a mob allegedly for stealing at Dinnath Sen road in Sutrapur yesterday morning. Sutrapur police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue. Police filed a murder case with Sutrapur Police Station.

Buet term final exams from May 27

The term final examinations of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will begin on May 27. Draft schedule of the examinations of different departments has been announced, said the controller of examinations.

British Council launches new website in city

British Council (BC) launched a website in the city yesterday with a view to developing international partnership among the educational institutions across the world. The new website www.globalgateway.org will provide quality and updated information in designing school curriculum in accordance with international standard. To mark the occasion, the BC organised a seminar titled 'School Partnerships' under its global gateway school link project at its auditorium. "We will provide effective connection among the schools in various parts of the world to promote international dimension in school curriculum," said the speakers at the seminar. They said link among the schools would be established through video conferencing. The speakers said the website would also create opportunity for teachers' professional development. John Tomlinson, deputy head teacher of Sedgfield Community College, and Vicky Gough and Dominic Regester from London office of British Council spoke at the seminar. Schoolteachers and curriculum designers from home and abroad attended the seminar.