

Govt conspires to hand over power thru' unconstitutional means: 14-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising 'existence of two presidents' in the country, the Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine yesterday alleged that the BNP-Jamaat coalition government has been conspiring to hand over power through unconstitutional means to foil the forthcoming parliamentary election scheduled for early next year.

The opposition combine also reiterated its 'no election stance' before implementation of reform proposals and resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two other "politically appointed" commissioners.

The 14-party leaders were speaking at a rally at city's Chwakhazar with Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya in the chair.

The opposition combine organised the rally demanding implementation of reform proposals and protesting BNP Lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu's indecent comments on AL President Sheikh Hasina in the parliament and to make roads, rail and river communication blockades on July 2 a success.

Addressing the rally, AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu said the government has to accept demands for reforms before its tenure ends. The government has finally agreed with the demand of resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner made by the opposition.

"The government will be compelled to bow down to our all demands," Amu said.

Senior leaders, including Motia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, Dilip Barua, Nurul Islam, Syed Zafar Sajjad, Abdul Mannan, and Haji Selim also spoke on the occasion.



14-Party stages a demonstration at Chwakhazar in the city yesterday protesting indecent remark about Awami League President Sheikh Hasina by ruling party lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu.

Trial of collaborators to be held someday

Speakers tell memorial lecture on Jahanara Imam

DU CORRESPONDENT

Trial of the collaborators of 1971, as initiated by Jahanara Imam, popularly known as Shaheed Janani (mother of the martyrs) through mass court and investigation, will be held on someday on this soil.

This hope was expressed by the speakers at a memorial lecture on Jahanara Imam to mark her 12th death anniversary in the city yesterday.

On this day in 1994, she died at a hospital in the USA after prolonged sufferings from cancer.

The speakers said Jahanara Imam will remain alive forever in the hearts of Bangladeshis for her contribution to the cause of the Liberation War.

Ektattur Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee (committee to eliminate killers and collaborators of 1971) organised the programme.

Justice KM Sobhan delivered the memorial lecture titled "Trial of war criminals and the Constitution of Bangladesh" with National Professor Kabir Chowdhury in the chair.

In a written speech, Justice Sobhan said through an amendment to the constitution Bangladesh government tried to hold trial of the collaborators.

But an order of the military regime in the following period stopped the trial and those who were punished earlier by the special tribunal, were released, he said.

However, with a mission to punish the collaborators Jahanara Imam later organised a mass-court for trial of Golan Azam as a leader of all collaborators with the spontaneous presence of thousands of people at Suhrawardy Udyan, Justice Sobhan added.

Nirmul Committee acting president Prof Muntasir Mamun, General Secretary Kazi Mukul, Vice-president Prof Anwara Syeda

Haque, committee central leader Rabiul Hussain and Artist Hashem Khan also spoke on the occasion.

At the programme, Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid and Somyo Prokashon were awarded Jahanara Imam Memorial Award 2006.

Earlier in the morning, leaders of the Nirmul Committee placed wreaths at her grave at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) and left-leaning student organisations including Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Pragotishhe Chhatra Jote also placed wreaths at her grave.

Rathjatra festival begins in Dhamrai today

JU CORRESPONDENT

An 11-day Rathjatra Utsab, a religious festival of Hindus, will begin at Rathkhola Prangan in Dhamrai today amid festivity and enthusiasm.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam will inaugurate the 'Rathjatra festival of Shree Shree Joshomadhav' at 5:00pm.

Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri, local lawmaker Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, Maj. Gen. (ret'd) CR Dutta and Prof Dr Nim Chandra Bhoumik will attend the inaugural function.

A month-long fair will also begin at Rathkhola Prangan as part of the celebrations.

The annual festival attracts thousands of devotees from across the country.

COAL EXTRACTION

Open-pit mining to be disastrous for country

Speakers say at JU roundtable

JU CORRESPONDENT

Open-pit mining for lifting coal in massive scale will be disastrous for the country, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They said if the government allows open-pit mining in its coal policy now being formulated, it will destroy cultivable land and ecological balance.

The roundtable titled 'Lifting of Bangladesh coal resource and its distribution: What should be the role of government?' was organised by Arthonity Adhyayan Kendra at Jahangirnagar University.

"Though fuel became a dominant factor in politics and economics across the globe after 1973, Bangladesh has not formed any policy yet to utilise the non-renewable resource. The way policy is being formulated in our country will only put present and next generation at risk," said Prof Anu Mohammad of economics department.



IPMB executives

Alhaj Anwarul Azim and Mohammad Shahjahan have been elected president and secretary general of the Institute of Personnel Management, Bangladesh (IPMB), says a press release.

Other office bearers are Senior Vice President: Lt Col (Retd) Nazmul Hoque, Vice Presidents: Alhaj Abul Latif Meah, ANM Ibrahim Khan, Khokon Chandra Das and Major (Retd) Md Younus Ali, Assistant Secretary General: ABM Osman Ghani, Office-cum-library Secretary: Md Alamgir Hosain, Organising Secretary: Alhaj Bilkis Begum, Finance Secretary: AKM Fakhru Alam and Publicity Secretary: Md Nazimuddin.

Executive council members are Ashraf Saleheen FCA, Md Nurul Haque FCA, Md Habibur Rahman, Quazi Md Nizamul Haque, MA Wahab, Syed Saiful Hoque, Lt. Col. Nasimuddin Ahmed (Retd), Md Shakil Meraj, KM Nur-ul-Alam, SM Waliullah, Alhaj Md Nasirullah, Md Zakaria Khan and Md Khaled Bin Hamid.

The speakers stressed the need for extracting coal to reduce pressure on natural gas which is feared to be exhausted by 2011.

They said two points must be kept in mind while formulating the coal policy.

These are 'fuel safety' ensuring the highest utilisation of lifted coal inside the country rather than export, and 'comparatively safer lifting method,' they added.

The speakers said of the two coal lifting methods, open-pit mining destroys fertility of nearby farmland and causes draught and water pollution.

As the method also needs a vast area it does not allow human habitation within a considerable range of the mine, they said, adding it will be harmful for a densely populated country like Bangladesh.

The speakers said as the demand for coal in the country is low, three to four million tons a year, coal can be lifted through underground mining.

They also opposed the Asian Energy proposal of lifting coal in

massive scale through open-pit mining and exporting large portion of lifted coal.

"Giving away the resource means giving away the soil," said Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury urging the youth to protect the resource of the country.

The speakers criticised the government for awarding policy formulation task to an organisation which has no expertise on the issue.

They also condemned the government's failure to realise compensation worth Tk 12,900 crore from Unocol and Niko which could be used in building skilled manpower for conducting the job.

"Our own resource is getting inaccessible due to the conspiracy of imperialists and their cohorts in our country. Only mass protest with the spirit of sacrifice can make it possible to protect our resources," said Engineer Md Shahidullah.

Prof Badrul Imam of geology department and Prof Zinatunnessa

R M M Khuda Khandaker, chairman of economics department, took part in the roundtable which was moderated by Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury.



ESTCDT executives

Industrialist Towhid Samad and Ambassador CM Morshed have been elected chairman and vice-chairman of the Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT), the founding Trust of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) for 2006-2008, says a press release.

ESTCDT was formed to give IUB a material start. It is a non-profit body consisting of industrialists, business leaders and eminent academics, professionals and diplomats.

Hasina for protecting presidential institution

FROM PAGE 1  
Capital, Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) organised the meeting marking the UN International Day for victims of torture.

Hasina criticised Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar for using the president's car and monogram even after President Iajuddin Ahmed returned home. The AL chief said, "Sircar has not only occupied the office of the president but also occupied the official Bangabhaban residence."

"After the president's plane touches the country's ground, the Speaker cannot use the president's car or monogram," the AL chief said adding, "But the Speaker did that when he went to welcome the president home at the airport. A Speaker can never use the president's monogram or car, Hasina said adding that they have never heard of this sort of practice even during the rule of General Ayub Khan."

The AL president alleged the alliance government is searching for a docile president for the country to rig the upcoming parliamentary elections to retain power. Urging the people to be aware of their rights, Hasina asked them to prepare for a last battle against the misuse and corruption of the coalition government.

Hasina also criticised the alliance government for its torture, repression and filing of false cases against opposi-

tion workers. She urged the well-off people of the country to help those who are tortured and repressed by the coalition government and 'its law enforcers'.

She asked the victims to prepare a list of policemen, along with his or her photograph, who tortured opposition, legislators, leaders, activists and female workers. She also asked them to prepare the list by including the family members of the police personnel involved in the atrocities.

"Why the family members of those oppressor policemen will be spared when our mothers and sisters are being tortured?" she questioned adding that she believes in the rule of law.

"We will not get justice in this country as there is absence of law and order in the country under the rule of the alliance regime," she said adding, "The oppressors will not be spared. But I'm not asking anyone to take the law in their hand."

If anyone manages to get away torturing others, there is no alternative but to take revenge, the AL president said asking her party leaders to prepare another list of those who are the complainants of false cases filed against the opposition men.

Hasina said they would enact a law to put the repressors on trial if her party is voted to power. She also urged the lawyers to prepare a draft law so that

they could enact the law immediately after receiving power.

She apprehended that both the JMB kings might be killed in so-called crossfire lest they should leak the secrets of their links with government high-ups including the prime minister, her son and state minister for home affairs in the anti-state activities.

Hasina alleged the Jamaat-BNP coalition government do not care about the constitution and the laws and for this reason they are doing whatever they want using their power and money.

A number of Bangla Bhai (militant leader Siddiqui Islam) victims -- Chowdhury Golam Mostafa, Sabina Akhter Tuhin, Mahbubul Islam, Shafi Noor Nahar, Mohsin and Rebeca from Bagmara, Atrai, Raninagar and Naldanga upazilas -- narrated their episodes of repression before the opposition leader. They also told the AL president that hundreds of victims are still staying away from their homes fearing torture by cadres of Bangla Bhai.

Bangladesh Bar Council Vice-president Rokanuddin Mahmud, Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister M Amir-UI-Islam, Proshika Chairperson Kazi Faruque Ahmed also spoke in the meeting.

BIHR Secretary General Akram Hossain Chowdhury chaired the meeting.

Apartment/Office Space/Show-room Sale

Exclusive & Luxurious Apartments, Office Space, Shop/Show-room at attractive Locations in Dhaka & Narayanganj city. A few shops/show-room & Apartments are ready for handover immediately.

Please Dial : 9556320, 9569448, 9559794, 9559752  
01711592184, 01715087559, 01715027773, 01716068084

Challenging Career Opportunity for Software Developers

A leading software development company is seeking ASP.NET Developer for one of its projects.  
Requirements:  
Minimum 3 years experience in software development under Dot Net platform with 2 years experience in ASP.NET. Strong concept of object oriented development methodology. Experience in custom control and web part development. Knowledge in AJAX technology with ASP.NET. Strong ability of problem solving. Work experience with Visual Studio 2005 Team System.  
Minimum post qualification (preferably in a related field) experience 5 years. We are offering a one year contract with a total compensation package between Tk 70,000 to Tk 1,00,000 per month. Further extension of the duration of contract possible if the project is extended.  
Please apply within 7 days of this advertisement with a detailed CV and a color photograph to The Advertiser, Box # A-149, The Daily Star, 19 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Please mention the name of the position applied for on top of the envelope.

Obituary

BSS, Gazipur

Freedom fighter Mohammad Ali Jinnah Pathan passed away at his home here yesterday at the age of 65.

He had been suffering from paralysis.

Pathan was Commander of Gazipur Sadar thana under Sector No 3 during the Liberation War. He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Pathan was buried at his family graveyard with state honour.

Advertisement for 'পোনা!' (Chicken) featuring an image of a chicken and text describing the quality and availability of fresh chickens.

Advertisement for 'FLAT TO-LET' offering a flat measuring 1850 sft 3 (three) bed rooms, drawing cum dinning with 4 bath rooms at Dhmndi, Rd 10/A (New), House-25 for rent. Contact: A. A. Qurashi- 8815007

Advertisement for DCCI Business Institute (DBI) offering a unique opportunity for training of trainers (TOT) in International Purchasing & Supply Chain Management (IPSCM). Includes details about the program, benefits for trainers, and contact information.

Advertisement for Mercantile Bank Limited regarding the distribution of Bonus Shares for 2005. Includes details about the bank's accounts, shareholding, and contact information for the bank's offices.

Advertisement for 'বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Notice) regarding a recruitment or administrative notice from the Dhaka Metropolitan Corporation. Includes details about the position, qualifications, and application process.

Advertisement for 'Vacancy Announcement' by Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra. Lists several professional positions (Advocacy Officer-2, Manager Finance-1, Training Officer-2, Divisional Coordinator-5) with their respective duties, responsibilities, and qualifications. Includes contact information for the organization.