

# Nation on verge of ruination due to politicisation

## Hasina tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government has politicised all sectors including sports pushing the country on the verge of ruination.

"It is not fair to treat socio-cultural and sports organisations from political point of view. If any government does so, the country will not advance," said Hasina, also Awami League (AL) President, while speaking as chief guest at a discussion on the premises of Abahani Kriya Chakra at Dhanmondi in the city.

Abahani Samarthak Goshti, the fans' group of Abahani Club, organised the discussion marking the 57th birth anniversary of Sheikh Kamal, slain eldest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The AL chief said Abahani, a premier club of the country founded by her brother Kamal, has been victimised by previous governments including the ruling alliance after the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975.

"Since then they have been conspiring to destroy the club but its supporters have saved the club from all evil designs," she said.

Hasina handed over Sheikh Kamal Gold Medals and prize bonds worth Tk 5000 among five sportsmen and organisers Mohammad Rafiq (Cricketer), Arif Khan Joy (Football), Afzalur Rahman Sinha, late Zahidur Rahman Pushkin and Rezwan Mujib Siddique Boby.

Earlier she placed wreaths at the monument of Kamal on the Abahani premises and observed one-minute silence.

The former prime minister called upon the youths not to follow the path of becoming rich through corruption like the 'Prime Minister's family members', rather they should engage themselves in extra-curricular activities like sports and cultural activities to become worthy sons of the soil.

Refuting an allegation brought by the prime minister in parliament that Kamal was caught red-handed during a bank robbery, Hasina termed it as 'false' propaganda against him.

"If the son of a prime minister needs money, he does not need to loot a bank and the present prime minister's sons, who have made thousands of crore taka in illegal ways, are the appropriate examples," the AL chief said, adding if Kamal would have wanted he could be the owners of many industries like the sons of Khaleda.

"One of Kamal's associates Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku is now a minister in Khaleda's cabinet. So has she appointed a bank dacoit as her minister?" Hasina posed a question.

She said Kamal as the son of President dedicated himself in building the newborn nation's sporting and cultural arenas.

"When I left Bangladesh for Germany in 1975 to see my husband there, Kamal requested me to bring some Adidas boots for his football team, and nothing else," said Hasina in an emotion-choked voice recalling her long attachment with her younger brother.

The AL president urged all including the fans of Abahani across the country to extend their helping hands and co-operation to gear up its activities.

Chaired by Abahani Director Sheikh Mohammad Jahangir Alam, the discussion was also addressed by its Chairman Salman F Rahman, Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Harunur Rashid, AHM Mostafa Kamal, Bazul Haque Beg and AKM Muhiuddin.

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Shikhhak Karmachari Samannay Parishad stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding 100 per cent salary from the government exchequer.

# Be more accountable to strengthen democracy

## Speakers urge politicians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the politicians to be more accountable to strengthen democracy.

They stressed the need for making parliament more effective to discuss various issues constructively.

The seminar titled 'How are we under parliamentary democracy system' was organised by the Society for Bangladesh Development Strategy (BDSS) at the National Press Club in the city.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed attended the seminar as chief guest. He said democracy in the country is yet to be matured.

"We should not expect much right now as our democracy is not matured yet and our economy is marginal. We should not be impatient in this regard," he added.

He however urged all to work together to achieve much more from a nascent democratic system.

"Democracy is comparatively stable now. But the politicians are not committed enough," said Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, former minister.

He said under the existing democratic system people are suffering due to corruption and price hike of essentials.

Citing a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report former education minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam said there are 122 smugglers in the present parliament.

"The politicians need to purify themselves," he commented.

Major (Retd) M A Mannan, general secretary of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, said the alliance government does not work for the welfare of people.

"We are discussing the issue as people are not happy under this government," he said.

Dr Asaduzzaman, chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), said democracy is meaningless when lawmakers fail to discuss important issues in parliament.

"We hear only meaningless discussions in parliament," he alleged.

Anisul Haq, former president of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said general people have no respect for politicians now.

He said the tenure of a parliament should be reduced to four years.

Dr Hemayet Uddin presented a keynote paper at the discussion.

Dr Osman Gani, chairman of BDSS, conducted the seminar while Qazi Fazlur Rahman, former education secretary, chaired the session.

Syed Margub Morshed, former secretary, Sadeq Siddiqui, additional secretary general of Jatya Party (Monju), Dr Giasuddin and Dr M A Mannan, presidium member of Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, also spoke at the seminar.

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Rear Admiral Mahbub Ali Khan, former chief of Naval Staff and minister for communications and agriculture, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at "Mahbub Bhaban," House # 40, Road # 05, Dhanmondi R/A in the city at 7.15pm.

Relatives, friends, admirers and associates of MA Khan have been requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Rear Admiral MA Khan Memorial Committee, Sylhet and UK has chalked out various programmes, including milad mahfil, special prayers and distribution of foods among the poor on the Darga premises of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R).

Seminar and discussions on his life and works and distribution of sweets at different orphanages will also be arranged.

Bangladesh Navy will arrange milad mahfils at its bases in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Kaptai and Mongla.

"SUROVI," a voluntary organisation, will also organise milad mahfils at its branches.

Sontosh Gupta

Today is the second death anniversary of the eminent journalist and litterateur Sontosh Gupta, says a press release.

Sontosh Gupta, former senior assistant editor of Dainik Sangbad, passed away due to brain haemorrhage on August 6 in 2004 at the age of 79.

On the occasion, Sontosh Gupta Smriti Parishad will offer wreaths at his memorial at Postogola crematorium in the city at 9:00am today.

Mahmuddunnabi Chowdhury

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Mahmuddunnabi Chowdhury, former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce (CCC), says a press release.

Mahmuddunnabi, father of former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, was elected member of parliament with Jukta Front ticket in 1954 from Double Mooring Sitakunda constituency and served as communication and relief & rehabilitation minister.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Meher Group Agrabad office.

Obituary

Aftab Uddin, a noted social worker and retired police officer, passed away due to old age complications at the Apollo Hospitals in the city on Friday at the age of 80, says a press release.

He was buried at the family graveyard in Moulvibazar.

Qukhwani

Qukhwani of Khurshid Ahmed Khan, former executive vice-president of Pragati Insurance Ltd and president of Rotary Club of Dhaka North East, will be held at his residence at Confidence Tower, Apartment No-13/D, 5/Kha at Satmasjid Road in the city after Maghrib prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

He passed away due to old age complications on August 4 at the age of 72.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qukhwani.

# Mementoes donated to Liberation War Museum

DU CORRESPONDENT

Mementoes of liberation war were handed over to Liberation War Museum at a ceremony yesterday.

These included photographs, magazines, leaflets, booklets, documents and weapons used by freedom fighters in the war.

Air Vice-Marshal (Retd) AK Khondokar received the mementoes from the donors.

Politician Dewan Farid Gazi donated photographs on the operations of freedom fighters and joint Bangladesh-India forces and mass graves at Shalutikor and Lalmati in Sylhet.

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon donated two photographs on observing February 21 in 1964 where among others Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were present.

Freedom fighter Mahbubur Rahman Selim also donated some photographs of freedom fighters during their training.

Another freedom fighter Habibur Rahman Sunny contributed a number of time pencils, detonators and electric fuse used by freedom fighters of Sector-3.

Noor Mohammad, a teacher from Noakhali, donated some magazines including Samacher (October 30, 1970), Sonar Bangla (August 27, 1971) and MuktiJuddho (December 10, 1971).

He also presented some leaflets and booklets that were published during the turmoil period of 1954 and 1969.

After the donation ceremony, Liberation War Museum authorities gave crests to its new initiator members and establishment members for their contribution to the development of the museum.

Those who received crests are Buet teacher Prof Nizamuddin Ahmed, educationist Dr Siddique Rahman, Advocate Salauddin Abdullah, President of Dhaka Club Limited Selim Bhuiyan, Enamul Hoque and Zebun Nessa Shaker.

Jamuna Bank Limited received a crest as establishment member.

DFID provides IT equipment for Amader Gram project

The Department for International Development (DFID) of the British government has provided IT equipment for Amader Gram ICT4D Project for its e-village network programme, says a press release.

The equipment include server stations, computers, laptops, network accessories with modems, map and design plotter and laser printers.

This equipment will be used by rural youths, aiming at building knowledge-based society at the grassroots level.

It is expected that through this project 100 remote villages of Bangladesh will be covered by a sustainable model approach of Amader Gram Knowledge Centers where 300 youths, half of them are female, are to be self-employed.

Based in Bagerhat district, the Amader Gram ICT4D Project is serving the rural community with ICT appliances in remote villages and schools.

# Missing baby girl found dead in city after 12 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor girl aged two and a half years old, who went missing at Mohammadpur area in the city 12 days ago, was found dead yesterday.

Frantic efforts of her father, a poor vegetable vendor, came to an end when Sabequnnesa Tuli's body was found in front of a children park, about 150 yards off her house at Zakir Hussain