

## BNP always came to power through 'backdoor'

### Hasina tells National Mourning Day discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP always came to power through 'backdoor' or by holding someone at 'gunpoint', said the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at a discussion yesterday commemorating today's National Mourning Day.

The four party coalition government of BNP-Jamaat does not want to accept electoral reforms as they do not want a free, fair and neutral election in the country, Hasina, also Awami League (AL) President said. "They (BNP-Jamaat) know very well that the people would not vote them in the upcoming election and this is why they are wavering over whether to accept the reform proposals or not".

On the fateful night of August 15 in 1975, some disgruntled army officers assassinated the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with most of his family members.

Addressing the discussion, the senior leaders of the AL-led 14-party opposition combine recalled Bangabandhu's memory and vowed to execute the verdict of the Bangabandhu murder case as adopted in their 23-point common national programme if they are elected to form a government. They also vowed to resist any election in the country without reforms in the

caretaker government and the Election Commission (EC) systems.

The 14-party leaders blamed the anti liberation war forces for killing Bangabandhu and spoke of ousting the present coalition government and form a pro-people government.

The AL chief said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government wants to come back to power through a blue-print-election. Hasina termed the BNP-Jamaat government as 'Jatiyatabadi Jamaat Panbar' and alleged that they have plundered TK 2,86,000 crore out of the poverty-stricken people and pocketed hundreds of crores of taka through essentials' price hike.

The former prime minister Hasina questioned Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's confidence about winning the next election since she (Khaleda) is trying to get HM Ershad's support - whom Khaleda once accused for killing her husband Ziaur Rahman.

Khaleda Zia is hungry for power and wealth and she had received two houses in Dhaka from Ershad, Hasina accused. "Now she is patronising militants for power again".

The opposition leader reiterated that the alliance government has created the militants and are still patronising them. She also accused the present regime for all bomb blasts and grenade attacks including the August 21 attack on an AL rally.

The AL president said BNP kills people for power and protects the killers. Hasina, the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu, paid tributes to her father, mother and other family members who were killed on August 15 night of 1975, and said Ziaur Rahman gave indemnity to the killers of Bangabandhu only to save them and gave constitutional rights to the religious fundamentalist forces to do politics in the country.

Hasina sternly criticised Khaleda for her having several birth dates including August 15 and questioned her motive of celebrating birthday on the day when Bangabandhu was assassinated.

The Leader of the Opposition Hasina directed her party leaders to be with the people and pledged to sacrifice her life for establishing people's rights.

Senior leaders of the AL and its allies including Zillur Rahman, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Dilip Barua, Zakir Hossain, Abdus Salam, MA Gani, Jahurul Islam, Aminul Islam Khan and Asaduzzaman Noor also spoke at the discussion.

## BEN airs dismay at broadside against CPD board members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) yesterday expressed its dismay over the Board of Investment (BoI) executive chairman's recent remarks and action against the members of CPD board of trustees.

In a statement, the global network of non-resident Bangladeshis said the BoI Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman's virulent statements against Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya call for an apology.

Mahmudur Rahman recently accused CPD to be a 'shameless liar and conspirator', filed a defamation case against five CPD trustees and singled out Debapriya, terming him 'black sheep' and saying that "he does not have the right to live in Bangladesh".

Such statements are totally uncalled for, BEN said. "If Mahmudur Rahman thinks that CPD has erred in its data and analysis, he can very well challenge them and offer his counter-positions. He has the entire government machinery to support him in doing so," it added.

"Instead, he seems to have taken recourse to personal attacks. We note that CPD Trustee Board Members, in particular the five CPD against whom he has filed suit, are very eminent citizens of the country," BEN observed.

Prof Rehman Sobhan played a historic role in formulation of the 6-point demand charter, which served as the basis of Bangladesh's independence movement, it added.

Within a short period of time, CPD has established itself as the prominent centre of the country for policy discussions and played a very constructive role in defending Bangladesh's interests in the WTO negotiations, the BEN noted.

It also observed that Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya also played a crucial role in raising CPD's national and international profile. A very capable person, he has shunned the allure of living abroad in order to be useful for Bangladesh and set an example of patriotism to his generation, BEN added.

"Describing such a person as a 'black sheep' and declaring that 'he does not have the right to live in Bangladesh' are poignantly unfortunate."

"The tendency on the part of ministers to take on personally individuals who disagree with them needs to be stopped," BEN added.

BEN also called on Mahmudur Rahman to rethink about his recent statements and action and stop proceeding along this destructive line any further.

"This type of arrogant actions on the part of the government representatives raises questions about the rule of law in Bangladesh and tarnishes her image abroad," BEN said, adding that Mahmudur Rahman's recent spat with CPD can hardly be helpful in enticing foreign investment.

Meanwhile, over five hundred people staged a demonstration at Elenga in Tangail on Saturday protesting the filing of a case against five eminent citizens, including Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, who hails from Elenga.

At a rally, the speakers demanded that Mahmudur Rahman withdraw the case and offer his unconditional apology.

Hazrat Ali Debal, principal of Lion Firoze College, presided over the rally.

## Two killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed in separate road accidents in Chittagong and Pabna yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Chittagong reports: One old man was killed in a road accident in the port city yesterday.

The victim identified as Abdul Hai, 60, son of late Syed Hossain, of Nutanpara under Hathazari Upazila fell on the street while he was getting off a special city service bus at the GEC intersection at around 1:30pm.

He was rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where he succumbed to his head injuries at around 2:00pm, sources said.

Our Correspondent from Pabna says: A speedy bus ran over a cyclist on the Dhaka-Pabna highway at Razapur Bazar under Pabna Sader Upazila at about 11:00am yesterday.

A passenger-laden Faridpur-bound speedy bus ran over Jahangir, 15, of village Razapur as its driver lost control over the steering.

At least 10 passengers of the bus were also injured. The injured were sent to the Pabna General Hospital.



Prof Anisuzzaman speaks at the fifth expert group consultation meeting on 'Vision 2021 for Bangladesh: Goal 5: To have a skilled and a creative workforce' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Zafar Iqbal, Prof Rehman Sobhan and former finance minister M Syeduzzaman. The Nagorik Committee 2006 organised the meeting.

## India summons Bangladesh envoy over border firing

AFP, New Delhi

India Monday summoned the Bangladesh ambassador to protest against "unprovoked firing" by Bangladesh border guards which left two women dead and a child seriously wounded.

The Indian foreign ministry "summoned the High Commissioner (ambassador) of Bangladesh to ... express India's concern at the unprovoked firing by the BDR (Bangladesh Rifles border guards)" in the north-eastern state of Assam, foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters.

The firing on August 9-10 was a continuing attempt at "infiltration and encroachment by Bangladesh," Sarna said in New Delhi.

While stretches of India's borders with Bangladesh are still to be demarcated, Sarna said there was no ambiguity about the area at which the firing was directed.

Despite this, Bangladesh border guards fired mortars and shells which "resulted in the death of two Indian women ... and critically injured a child," Sarna said.

"In response, the high commissioner of Bangladesh assured that ... he would convey to his government India's concerns," Sarna said.

Soldiers from the two countries often exchange gunfire along their 4,000-kilometre (2,500-mile) border. Both sides accuse each other of provoking the clashes.

## Australian envoy visits tourist spots in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Douglas Foskett visited the city's potential tourist spots yesterday.

He visited the left banks of the river Padma and Barendra Research Museum.

Wage Pharma's Klean Heat LPG Ltd Country Director Klaus Gohra accompanied with Foskett. He also attended the inaugural ceremony of 'Klean Heat Auto gas' at Nanking Darbar Hall.

Rajshahi city Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu inaugurated the marketing of Klean Heat Auto gas. Foskett addressed the ceremony as the special guest.

Later he visited Alam Filling station at Shalbagan areas in the city where the auto gas company has set up their marketing centre.

The Wage Pharma's Klean Heat LPG Ltd, Navana CNG Ltd, Australia Trade Commission and Australian High Commission jointly organised the programmes to promote marketing of Klean Heat gas.

## 20 tonnes of adulterated food seized in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court has seized around 20 tonnes of adulterated food items including 336 sacks of date-expired milk powder in the city.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the anti-adulteration drive with the help of Chittagong Metropolitan Police and

Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute.

During the drive at 10 godowns in Chaktai on Sunday, one of the traditional business hubs of the city, the court seized 20 tonnes of adulterated food items.

None could be arrested as the owners and staffs of the godowns fled away keeping the goods under lock and key, said Munir.

## Painter found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A painter was found dead with stab injuries in an under-construction building at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Police recovered the decomposed body of Delwar Hussein, 32, who was working as a painter of the building at North Pirerbagh area at Mirpur.

On information, police rushed to

the spot and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue for autopsy.

Later, victim's brother identified the body at DMC morgue and said Delwar has been missing for the last three days.

Police suspect that the assailants might have tried to bury Delwar on the floor of the building as they found piles of rubbles beside the body.

## BSF returns bodies of 2 Bangladeshi nationals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Border Security Force (BSF) of India yesterday returned bodies of two Bangladeshi nationals after flag meetings with Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

One meeting was held between BDR 14 Battalion and 116 BSF at Dhamajoin under Biral upazila in the afternoon.

After an hour-long meeting the BSF agreed to return the body. BDR however strongly protested the killing.

BDR officials quoting family sources said Wahab Ali, 30, son of Abdul Hanif went to visit his relatives on Wednesday and was returning home on Saturday night when the BSF men gunned down him at Kamdevpur village under Biral upazila in Dinajpur district.

In another incident, BSF shot dead a Bangladeshi citizen on Sunday morning at Baliadangi upazila in Thakurgaon district. Local sources said the BSF of Baragharua camp opened fire on Helaluddin, 30, son of Majed Mistri of Paria village when he went near the main pillar 378. Helal died on the spot.

BSF took away Helal's body inside the Indian territory and sent a message to Paria BDR camp at 7:30am to identify the body.

Twenty-two battalion of BDR in Thakurgaon held a flag meeting with 200 BSF at Baliadangi border and received the body.

Tension is escalating between BDR and BSF following the killings.

## Attack on meeting of Dipu Moni condemned

Twenty-three eminent personalities of the country in a joint statement yesterday condemned the armed attack on a meeting of Dipu Moni, secretary of the female wing of Awami League (AL).

"Though Dipu Moni survived the attack, by no means such occurrence can be tolerated. This sort of attack would hold women back from taking part in politics", the statement observed.

They also demanded for proper investigation into the matter and punishment to the people responsible.

The signatories in the statement are Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Prof Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, Prof Muntasir Mamun, Prof Dr Sultana Shafi, Prof Dr Abul Baraqaat, poet and language movement warrior Mahbul Alam Chowdhury, litterateur Syed Shamsul Haque, Barrister Amirul Islam, Advocate Sahra Khatun, Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, journalists Kamal Lohani, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Nasimun Ara Haque, Sukanta Gupta Alok, actors Ramendu Majumdar, Tarana Halim, painter Hashem Khan, Asma Kibria, sculptor Ferdousi Priyobhasini, women rights activist Shirin Akhtar and Dr Reza Kibria.

## Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Prof Hamida Rahman, a language movement veteran and an educationist, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and memorial meetings were held on August 14.

## Shamsur Rahman

Today is the 8th death anniversary of Shamsur Rahman, former vice-president of Dhaka City Awami League Ward No 48 and an executive of Philatelic Bureau, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 91/3 Moneshwar Road at Zigatola in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.

## Moksed Ali Mollah

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Moksed Ali Mollah, a social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Jalisha at Dumki under Patuakhali district after Zohr prayers. Foods will also be distributed among the destitute.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the programmes.



Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion at Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city yesterday. AL organised the discussion to mark the National Mourning Day.

## Rajshahi reels under severe loadshedding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Some 10 lakh people in the divisional city have been reeling under an unprecedented loadshedding.

Power Development Board sources said only 20 MW power is now available against a total demand of 50 MW in the city and its adjoining areas.

From one to one and a half-hour-long loadshedding occurs at frequent intervals bringing total power outage to over 12 hours a day.

Owners of small and medium mills and factories are the worst victims of loadshedding as many of them have already shut down their factories.

On Sunday night, power outage occurred six times at Shalbagan feeder and eight times at Sericulture feeder.

According to PDB officials the situation has aggravated following decrease in local generation and supply from the national grid.

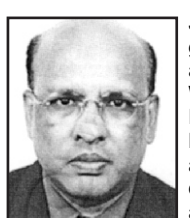
The 250 MW power station at Barapukuria is providing only 60 MW power while 251MW power station at Baghabari is also providing the same amount.

The supply from the national grid has gone down to 80MW from normal 150MW.

Due to power outage, water supply system in the city has also broken down as the pump machines failed to operate smoothly.

Different citizens' body are planning to launch agitation soon demanding uninterrupted power supply.

## Obituary



Jahir Ul Alam, general manager of Apex Weaving And Finishing Limited, passed away yesterday due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 46, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters and one son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Chittagong University Ex-Students' Club, Dhaka expressed deep shock at the death of Jahir.

Members of the club expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members and also prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

## Community pry teachers' ultimatum to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Community primary teachers, who have been observing hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar demanding nationalisation of their jobs since August 6, yesterday formed a human chain, with their eyes covered and hands tied with black cloths.

Leaders of Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers' Association urged the government to meet their demands by 10:00am

today. Otherwise, they will enforce tougher movements at 11:00am.

Teachers have also been keeping the schools closed since August 1 forcing the government to realise their one-point demand.

As many as 10,565 community primary school teachers, who are employed to teach 10 lakh students in remote areas in the country, remain stuck in miserable conditions with a monthly salary of only TK 750.

## 2 BCL girls beaten at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two female leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were beaten up by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists at Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Mamotaz Mamot and Joba, general secretary and joint secretary of BCL Shamsunnahar hall unit, were beaten up as they took money from some students saying that they would manage seats at the hall for them, sources said.

But they failed to manage any seat. As the JCD leaders yesterday came to know that Mamot and Joba took money from the students, they confined them at the hall's guest room and beat them up.

JCD hall unit General Secretary Eeti Sutradhar and Female Student Affairs Secretary Tanjim Chowdhury Lily led the JCD girls in beating them, sources said.

Later, hall Provost UAB Razia Akter Banu and other house tutors freed the BCL leaders.



## Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet, Dinajpur and Chuadanga and lowest 25.0 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and Kheupura.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:32pm today and rises at 5:34am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.8	26.8	76	86
Chittagong	32.5	26.2	83	75
Rajshahi	34.2	26.3	81	65
Khulna	31.2	26.5	81	96
Barisal	32.2	26.5	79	92
Sylhet	34.5	25.4	86	64
Cox's Bazar	29.0	25.0	86	83