

Alliance govt wants to grab power thru' conspiracy

Alleges Awami League

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) leader Amir Hossain Amu yesterday alleged that the BNP-Jamaat alliance government wants to grab power again through conspiracy.

"The alliance government knows it will not return to power if a free and fair election is held. So, it is hatching conspiracy," he said at a discussion.

Awami Jubo League, the youth front of opposition AL, organised the discussion at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city marking the 'National Mourning Day'. Jubo League Vice-chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman presided over the meeting.

Amu, senior presidium member of AL, further alleged that the alliance government had politicised the administration and the Election Commission to rig the next national polls.

He said: "The BNP-Jamaat

alliance will spend Tk 4,000 crore, which it earned illegally, to win the upcoming election.

The AL leader demanded reconstitution of the Election Commission with its independent character, removing the present Chief Election Commissioners and two other commissioners.

Another AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed alleged that the BNP-led coalition government would hand over power to another BNP administration during the period of caretaker election. "No free, fair and credible election will be possible under such a caretaker administration," he said.

Tofail was highly critical of the Jamaat leaders, saying that "the hands of Nizami and Mujahid are tainted with the blood of the freedom fighters, but it is our misfortune that they are now in state power. We didn't want this Bangladesh."

He added: "It's our pledge to free the country after compelling this government to step down through mass movement."

AL presidium member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim accused late president Ziaur Rahman of having link with the assassination of four national leaders. "Zia rehabilitated the war criminals in the country's politics and revived communalism in politics," he said.

Bangladesh Bar Council Vice-president Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud, economist Prof Abul Barakat and Jubo League leaders Mahbubur Rahman Hiron, Abdus Sattar Masud, Ataur Rahman Ata, Advocate Mamunur Rashid and Mohiuddin Ahmed Mohi also spoke at the discussion.

Meeting of BNP joint secretaries general held

UNB, Dhaka

A meeting of the joint secretaries-general of BNP yesterday adopted some decisions about National Executive Committee meeting of the ruling party on August 26, seen as important as the leaders are sitting at the fag-end of the government's tenure.

The meeting also discussed preparation and took decisions for observing the 28th founding anniversary of the party on September 1.

Presided over by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the meeting, held at his residence, directed "all leaders, workers, supporters and sympathisers of the party to help all eligible adults in their respective areas enlist as voters".

The BNP leaders expressed deep shock at the death of poet Shamsur Rahman.

The meeting expressed their surprise over some newspaper reports about the position of BNP senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman.

"Tarique Rahman has been appointed no. 1 or senior joint secretary general of BNP as per party constitution. There is no scope for creating confusion over this matter," says a party release.

Tarique Rahman, Abdullah Al Noman, Selima Rahman, Mirza Abbas, Harris Chowdhury, Nazrul Islam Khan and Gayswar Chandra Roy were present at the meeting.

Injured Jubo League leader dies in city

UNB, Dhaka

Abu Sayeed, convener of Dopakandi union Jubo League under Gopalpur upazila of Tangail, who was injured in an alleged attack by BNP cadres, died at Ayesha Memorial Hospital at Mohakhali in the city yesterday.

Jubo League sources said Sayeed was critically injured when attacked by some BNP cadres on his way home at Dopakandi union after attending a programme marking the 'National Mourning Day' on August 15.

He was first admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated and later was taken to Ayesha Memorial Hospital.

Local Jubo League has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Gopalpur upazila tomorrow to protest the killing of Sayeed.

Tangail district Jubo League will hold a protest rally at the Shaheed Minar premises in Tangail today.

In a joint statement, Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak and General Secretary Mirza Azam have condemned the killing of Sayeed and demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers.

DU students appeal for Lina's treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Students of the Department of English of Dhaka University (DU) at a press conference appealed to people from all walks of life

to extend their helping hand for treatment of Ferdousi Binte Juned Lina, 20, who is suffering from Leukaemia.

She needs to undergo a bone marrow transplantation that requires around Tk 35-40 lakh. Her family is unable to bear the too high medical expense.

Lina, a college student, is the only sister of Shahed, a student of English department at DU.

DU English department organised the press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday appealing people to come forward to save Lina.

Students and teachers of English department including Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam, Dr Kaiser Hamidul Huq and Golam Gaws-Al-Quaderi were also present on the occasion.

Two leading mobile companies of the country Aktel and Citycell have agreed to help Lina by arranging special numbers. The money saved from all the SMS sent to these special numbers will be spent for Lina's treatment.

People are requested to send their SMS from any Aktel number at 8243. Citycell will announce its number soon.

Contributions can also be sent to A/C No. - 19191, Uttara Bank Limited, Dilkusha branch, Motijheel, Dhaka, or Savings A/C No. - 10810130447, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Shantinagar Branch, Dhaka.



Awami League (AL) President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina consoles the wife of poet Shamsur Rahman at her residence at Shyamoli in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

THIRD KARNAPHULI BRIDGE 'Pillar bridge to hamper navigability'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Third Karnaphuli Bridge should be constructed on the basis of the recommendations of experts so that the navigability of the river is not hampered in future, said the engineers and environmentalists at a press conference yesterday.

They said a taskforce like Buriganga Save Taskforce should be formed to safeguard the Karnaphuli river from illegal encroachment and pollution.

The press conference was organised by Nagarik Sanghati at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

Presenting a keynote paper Engineer Sardar Amin said, "Karnaphuli river carries huge amount of sediment from the upstream. The navigability of the

river will be hampered and the port channel will be threatened if pillar-based bridge is constructed."

He said the government should make the design of the bridge as per the recommendations of the experts of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Water Engineers' Association President Engineer Inamul Haque said the construction of the bridge on a faulty design would create shoals threatening the existence of the port in the long run.

"Such a construction will also be a wastage of huge public funds," he added.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) General Secretary Mahidul Haque Khan said a pillar-based bridge is not suitable for 132-mile-long Karnaphuli river.

"Chittagong Port Authority and

Ministry of Shipping have recommended for a suspension bridge. So the decision should be taken considering environment and river flow, and not the political interest of vested quarters," he said.

Sharifuzzaman Sharif, general secretary of Nagarik Sanghati, said normal flow of the river should not be disturbed in the name of bridge or river training.

"Views of experts should be taken into consideration while making the design of any bridge," he added.

Presided over by former director general of Water Development Board Mashrur Haque Siddiqui, the press conference was also attended by Engineers Kamrul Haque, Abdul Hakim, Manjur Ali and Kabir Hossain, Dr Mustak Hossain and Bhashkar Rasa.

Three die in separate incidents in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

Three people died in separate incidents in Chittagong yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

Of the victims, Abdul Awal, 21, son of Mohammad Shahnewaz, a car driver hailed from Chunati village under Lohagara upazila and Yousuf Ali, 65, son of late Reazuddin of Nowapara under Raozan upazila in the district, were killed in separate road accidents.

Awal died on the spot as two passenger buses, one of which he was on board, collided head-on at Chunati on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway under Lohagara upazila at about 1:00pm.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where on-duty doctors declared him dead at 3:00pm.

Yousuf Ali sustained serious head injuries as a human-hauler knocked him from behind at Oxygen Crossing in the port city at about 7:00pm on Thursday night.

He was rushed to CMCH where he died at about 10:30am yesterday. The third victim, Jasmine Akter, 21, wife of Abdul Sobhan of New Shaheed Lane under Khulshi thana in the city, committed suicide, the sources said.

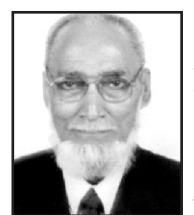
Jasmine committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at her residence at about 8:00am yesterday following a feud with her husband, the sources said.

She was rushed to the CMCH for treatment where attending doctors declared her dead.

Correction

In the caption of a photo of sixth expert group consultation meeting of the Nagarik Committee 2006 published in The Daily Star on page 2 on August 17, the name of a participant of the meeting was inadvertently mentioned as former BGMEA president Kutubuddin instead of Syed Abdul Hossain MP. We regret the mistake.

Obituary



Noted homeopathic physician and former chairman of Homeopathic board, Prof Badrul Alam passed away on Thursday at his own residence due to old age complications, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter along with a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his village home at Noakhali district.

Different socio cultural and doctors' organisations have expressed deep shock at the death of this eminent physician.

His quikhwani will be held at his residence at Mohammadpur on Monday after Magrib prayers.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary



Today is the 15th death anniversary of Jaheeda Khatun, mother of two martyred sons - freedom fighter Engineer Md Fazlul Rahman and Md Rafiqul Islam Baset, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his home at Kazi Kandi village in Narsingdi after Zohr prayers.



Proma Abritty Sangathan takes out a mourning procession in Chittagong yesterday condoling the death of poet Shamsur Rahman.

PHOTO: STAR

40 per cent people facing silent famine: B Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said 40 per cent people in the country have been facing a silent famine while ruling party men are making huge properties through corruption.

Badruddoza bitterly criticised the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition and alleged that ministers and lawmakers of the coalition invested their illegal money in different sectors including banks and private television channels.

The BDB chief was addressing at its central office in the city when a group of leaders and workers of Kushtia unit of Jatiya Party (JP) joined BDB.

Badruddoza urged people to defeat the BNP-led coalition in the next election as a protest to their bad rules, which is marked by corruption, violence and price hike of essentials.

Central leaders of the party were present at the joining programme.

Injured AL leader came under attack at health complex in Rangamati

UNB, Rangamati

A local Awami League leader who was undergoing treatment at a health complex again came under attack allegedly by BNP activists on Thursday night.

AL leader Mohammad Milon Talukder along with four others was injured when BNP cadres reportedly attacked a National Mourning Day procession at Naniachar upazila on August 15.

The cadres again beat up Milon on the night of August 16. Injured Milon was admitted to Naniachar Thana Health Complex.

At about 11:00pm on Thursday, the BNP cadres stormed into the health complex and hit Milon with sharp weapons, leaving him seriously injured.

Receiving information, the police arrested three people -- Faruk Hawlader, his father Latif Hawlader and Tajul Islam.

Police have been put on alert in Naniachar where an uneasy calm is prevailing following the incident.

Thalassemia can be prevented through premarital blood test

Speakers tell seminar

BSS, Rajshahi

Specialists at a scientific seminar have said thalassemia could be prevented through premarital blood test and creating mass awareness.

Rajshahi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (RCHRC) in collaboration with the Acme Laboratories organised the seminar on thalassemia in the hospital conference hall here on Thursday.

Dr Belal Uddin and Dr Imdadul Haque, assistant professors of Pediatrics of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH), presented two separate keynote papers elaborating definition, class and causes of the disease along with its prevention and treatment.

With Professor HM Haider of the Pediatrics Department of RMCH in the chair, the seminar was addressed by Vice-President of RCHRC Dr Shamsul Alam, Medical Officer of Acme Laboratories Dr Masum Azad and

Training Coordinator of ICDDR Dr Samina Sultana.

General Secretary of RCHRC Dr Patric Bipul Bishwas described the activities of the hospital along with the objectives of the seminar in his welcome address.

The speakers said thalassemia can be prevented through awareness buildup among general masses.

Terming the disease as inheriting, the discussants said premarital blood test is essential to prevent the disease. Blood counseling is also essential to create awareness in this regard.

They also said thalassemia patients can be recovered, provided they get the right treatment.

More than 70 doctors, including medical practitioners and cancer specialists, attended the seminar.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Sayedpur and the lowest of 25 degrees at Teknaf.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:29pm today and rises at 5:35am tomorrow.

The 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	33.0	27.0	80	69
Chittagong	32.5	25.2	76	83
Rajshahi	32.5	26.2	88	89
Khulna	32.6	26.8	83	93
Barisal	31.6	26.0	--	83
Sylhet	33.5	25.2	83	88
Cox's Bazar	31.5	26.2	87	83