

Govt kills AL candidates to foil polls: Hasina

Exhibition on Bangabandhu inaugurated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government as part of its conspiracy to foil the next general election has begun killing of AL candidates who have the possibility of winning the polls in their constituencies.

"The government has begun killing political leadership through grenade attacks. They have killed many of our MPs and tried to kill me through grenade attack on August 21, 2004. And now they are killing our

party's probable candidates as they don't want election," said Hasina while inaugurating a photo exhibition at Road No 32 in Dhanmondi in the capital.

Bangabandhu Lalitakala Academy organised the exhibition on glorious life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Trust.

A total of 2200 photos on Bangabandhu and War of Liberation were on display at the exhibition which will remain open for all till 6:00pm of August 31.

Regarding the holding of next general election in a free and fair

manner, Hasina said they (BNP-Jamaat) want nothing but to make farce in the name of polls.

She said as the coalition came to power through stealing votes and rigging 2001 election, they do not want to accept reform proposals fearing that they won't get people's mandate this time.

"The BNP-Jamaat wants to steal votes and rig the next election only to soak up thousands of crores of taka looted from people," said the AL president.

Referring to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's recent speech that the AL does not want election, Hasina said it is not the AL but the BNP has

been conspiring not to hold the election by misleading people through falsehood.

She said the BNP always came to power through backdoor, gunpoint or vote rigging.

Hasina asserted that the alliance government will have to accept reforms in caretaker government and Election Commission (EC) within its tenure to hold the election in free and fair manner.

"Whatever tactics of dillydallying they [alliance government] may pursue with the reform proposals to foil the election, they shall have to accept the proposals," said the former prime minister.

The AL chief also blamed the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition for distorting the country's glorious history to achieve its heinous design.

Thinking the organisers of the photo exhibition, Hasina urged them to organise such exhibition at district and upazila headquarters to make people aware of the glorious history of the liberation war and life of Bangabandhu who led the nation to its independence.

Academy Advisor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, President MA Khaer, General Secretary Zahid Hossain, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, AL leaders Obaidul Quader, Subed Al Bhuiyan, Yafes Osman, Shahara Khatun and Reza Kibria were present on the occasion.

Earlier, Hasina went to Zia International Airport to see off her sister Sheikh Rehana who flew for London.

In the afternoon, she went to Labaid Cardiac Hospital to see her ailing husband Dr Wajed Miah, a noted nuclear scientist, who has been suffering from cardiac arrest since Friday night.



PHOTO: STAR
Kobita Parishad observes one minute's silence at a discussion in memory of poet Shamsur Rahman at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

Hill students demand end to land grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council yesterday demanded an immediate end to grabbing of lands of indigenous people, shifting of settlers to plain lands and withdrawal of army camps from the CHT.

The ethnic people are living in fear as the government is patronising the settlers who are out to grab thousands of acres of lands, they said at a rally on Dhaka University campus, marking the 'Mahalchhari Devastation Day'.

On August 26 in 2003, the settlers killed two indigenous people, raped ten women and burned four hundred houses in Mahalchhari, the speakers said, adding that the settlers again launched a raid on Maichhari on April 3 in 2006 to grab more lands.

Whenever the victims try to raise voice against such repression, they face torture by law enforcers, said the student leaders.

Later, they took out a protest procession that paraded through the campus.

British HC closed today

British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed to the public today for UK Bank Holiday, says a press release.

Phulbari killings condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different socio-political organisations yesterday condemned the killing of seven people by the law enforcement agencies during a protest rally at Phulbari in Dinajpur.

They also demanded proper investigation, immediate trial of the culprits, compensation to the victims' families and provision for proper treatment of the injured people.

"Oil-Gas-Mineral Resources-Electricity-Port Protection Committee, which organised the rally at Phulbari yesterday, will announce its next course of actions at Muktangan in the city at 4:30pm today.

Committee Convener Engr Shahidullah and Member Secretary Prof Anu Muhammad said people would not let the government execute its blueprint to siphon the country's resources elsewhere.

Protesting police attack on peaceful rally at Phulbari, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and other left leaning political parties will bring out processions in the city.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement condemned the killing and demanded judicial investigation into

the incident.

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Biswas in a statement condemned the killing and said the government intentionally orchestrated the event to materialise its imperialist powers.

Acting General Secretary of Gono Forum Engr Abul Kashem condemned the killing and said as the people are the owners of the resources of the land, it is their right to protect them from being pillaged.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, a leftist student organisation, brought out a procession protesting police attack on common people at Phulbari and marched different streets of the city.

Besides, 11-Dal, 5 leftist political parties, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri, Jatiya Sramik Federation Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Awami Party, Jatiya Gono-Front, Gonosanghati Andolon, Zaker Party, Samajtantrik Sramik Front, Samrajjobad Birodhi Gonotantrik Oikyo, Jatiya Gonotantrik Front, Jatiya Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation and Sammitia Samajik Andolon also condemned the killing.



PHOTO: STAR
Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visits a photo exhibition in front of Bangabandhu Museum in the city yesterday. Bangabandhu Lalitakala Academy organised the exhibition.

BCL, Shibir clash in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least six people, including two police constables, were injured in a fierce clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir in and outside Daulatpur Government BL University College last night.

According to police, the clash took place at around 8:00pm over illegal drug selling points outside college campus and at Daulatpur Bazar. Shibir leaders alleged that Chhatra League and Chhatra Dal run the drug points jointly, but Chhatra League has always denied the charge.

3 more PBCP men arrested in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police arrested three more activists of outlawed Purbia Banglar Communist Party (Janajuddho) at village Shahpur in Tala upazila of the district on Friday night.

The arrestees are Abdul Ali Gazi, Hossain Ali Gazi and Ujir Ali Gazi.

With the latest ones, the number of arrestees in last couple of days rose to 10.

Some of the arrestees meanwhile claimed themselves to be the local leaders of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal and Jubo Dal, labour and youth fronts of the ruling BNP.

Earlier on Thursday night, seven operatives of the outlawed party were held in Sultanpur area of Satkhira town. Police made the arrests while the outlaws-- Sattar Sardar, Babul Sardar, Lutfor Rahman, Akhtaruzzaman, Abdul Alim, Babul Gazi, and Kamruzzaman-- were extorting Tk 1 lakh from Mafizul Islam of Tala upazila.

Following leads obtained from the seven in interrogation, police on Friday night rounded up the three.

Talking to The Daily Star at Tala Police Station yesterday, Lutfor Rahman claimed that he is a member of district unit Jubo Dal and vice-president of Tala Upazila Jubo Dal. Another arrestee Abdus Sattar said he is the president of Khesra Union Shramik Dal while Abdul Alim said he is a member of Khesra Union Jubo Dal.

But Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Delowar Hossain said all the arrestees are involved with PBCP Janajuddho faction.

Of them, seven are top listed criminals wanted by police in connection with several cases filed with Tala and Assassuni Police Stations for murder, robbery and extortion, he added.

Police produced them before a magistrate's court yesterday and petitioned for them to be placed on a five-day remand each. The court sent them to police custody, fixing today for hearing the remand prayer.

Supporters of warring parties used brickbats and sticks during the clash, which was continuing as of writing the report.

The activists also vandalised 12 vehicles and 10 roadside shops, leading to disruption of traffic movement on Khulna-Jessore route.

According to police, Shibir activists also exploded two bombs at 8:30pm at Daulatpur Bazar.

As the clash spread to different areas, all the shops in Daulatpur kept their shutters down.

At least six platoons of police and a large number of Rapid Action Battalion rushed to different points to bring the situation under control.

Daulatpur Shop Owners' Association has called a half-day hartal for today.

50 injured in clash over submission of tender in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

More than 50 people were injured in a clash between rival groups over submission of tender for buying copper wire from the Baghabari Power Plant yesterday.

The clash took place at 5:00pm between supporters of Abul Sarkar and Kalu Molla who freely used sharp weapons against each other.

Seventeen of the injured in both sides admitted to Bera Hospital are Aynal, Sohrab, Jalal, Wares, Asad, Kuddus, Mamoon, Barkat, Jahangir, Swapan, Babul, Muzam, Tikka, Korban, Titas and Rezaul. Others were taken to Shahjapur hospital and different clinics.

Lankans

FROM PAGE 1

Susanthika established her supremacy halfway through the race and won the 100m with a comfortable dash, which helped her achieve the 100 and 200 metres double for the second time after a gap of 11 years. She clocked 11.33s, ahead of teammate C de Silva (11.76) and Pakistan's Sadaf Siddiqui (12.07).

The 30-year-old Lankan sprint queen had won the double in Madras 1995 but the federation ignored her for the next Games in Kathmandu when fellow countrywoman Damayanthi Darsha set the Games record in both events.

Injury ruled Susanthika out of the Islamabad Games but she returned with a vengeance, winning three gold medals here. She also won gold in the women's 4x100m relay on Friday.

As expected, the Bangladeshi sprinters had a bad day out. Shamsunnahar Chumki (12.32s) finished fifth and Nazmunnahar Beauty (12.45s) seventh in the women's 100m while Masudul Karim (11.11s) and Shamsuddin (12.15s) brought the rear as seventh and eighth in the men's 100m.

Without any genuine 400m runner in the squad, Bangladesh men's and women's teams both came fourth among five teams in the 4x100m relay events that rounded the day's show.

By the end of the day, Bangladesh added two silver and eight bronze medals to raise their collection to two gold, 14 silver and 30 bronze.

Although any of the taekwondo team members failed to get past the first round, female martial artists produced two silver medals, karateka Sharmin Parveen in the 48kg female kumite and judoka Momtaj Pushpo in the 70kg category.

Aside four team bronze medals in kabaddi (men's and women's), archery (men's) and squash (men's), Bangladesh also won bronze in karate (Zahurul Islam, 60kg male kumite), judo (Mizanur Rahman, 81kg, Al Mahmud Sarker 100kg) and wrestling (Mizanur Rahman, 96kg).

India crossed the 100-gold barrier, bagging a 'nelson' of 111 gold, 67 silver and 42 bronze. They were followed by Pakistan (39-41-65), Sri Lanka (35-58-75), Nepal (8-12-25), Afghanistan (6-7-14), Bangladesh (2-14-30) and Bhutan (0-2-9). Maldives have yet to strike the medals table.

10 bodies recovered from coast of Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least ten floating bodies have been recovered from the coast of the Sundarbans by the fishermen last week, with more bodies being seen drifting away in the Bay.

The bodies might be of the ill-fated fishermen gone missing during the depressions and storms created in the Bay since August 10, the local fishing trawler owners and workers said.

Dublar Char Fishermen Group buried the decomposed bodies in a mass grave at Alorkol from Wednesday to Friday, reports from the remote area of the Sundarbans coast at the south-west of the country said.

Witnesses said the bodies were of mid-aged males and burial was done in mass grave as these were beyond identification, adding that some 25/30 more bodies have been seen floating in the Bay, at about 80 kilometre of the Patharghata coast of Bagerhat district.

Golam Mustafa Chowdhury, president of Barguna district Trawler Owners Association alleged that district and local administration were

informed about the catastrophe, but they did not take any steps to rescue or recover the missing fishermen.

Abdur Rashid, an official of the Dublar Char Fishermen Group, said after receiving reports of floating bodies, rescue teams were sent on Wednesday that searched the 10 kilometre area from Alorkol to Meherali and recovered the bodies. As the sea became rough, fresh rescue attempts were suspended, he added.

Md Moinuddin, deputy commissioner (DC) of Bagerhat, said a 10-member police team has been sent to the spot from Sharonkhola Police Station and forest and coast guard members are helping the recovery attempts.

But the officials of Dublar Char Fishermen Group denied his claims and said that the police team went back only after visiting Alorkol and did not make any attempts to recover the bodies from the sea.

Hearing the reports of the recoveries, relatives of the missing fishermen and crew thronged different fishing trawler association offices in the coastal area.



Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at one or two places, Met Office said in a forecast. It said that day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimongal and lowest 25.0 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 5:39am 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	32.5	27.3	76	69
Chittagong	32.4	26.0	80	78
Rajshahi	33.2	27.0	96	74
Khulna	33.0	26.6	81	83
Barisal	31.8	25.7	83	78
Sylhet	33.0	25.0	87	79
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.6	80	89

'Save rivers from industrial pollution'

UNB, Gazipur

A boat procession was brought out yesterday demanding protection of the rivers from pollution by industrial wastes.

Starting from Shaswan Ghat of the Chilai river at about 8:30am the procession passed through the Belai Bee, Balu and Turag rivers and terminated at Ashulia.

Bangladesh Nadi Bachao Andolon organised the procession. Leaders of the organisation said industrial wastes have been polluting the water. All kinds of fish unable to survive in the heavily polluted water are extinguishing from the rivers and beels.

Besides, greedy and influential people have been grabbing lands along the rivers obstructing the flow.

The procession chanted slogans demanding protection of biodiversity of rivers from industrial wastes and construction of water treatment plant in all factories.

The leaders also held rallies at five points. Former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Jasim Uddin Ahmed and Paribesh Bachao Andolon convener Abu Naser Khan spoke.

JU JCD MAN'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY Vow to resist Jamaat-Shibir politics

JU CORRESPONDENT

With a call to resist and eliminate Jamaat-Shibir politics, the 17th death anniversary of JCD activist Shaheed Habibur Rahman Kabir was observed on Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus yesterday.

Wearing black badges on chest, leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a silent procession on the campus at 11:00am.

It was followed by a rally in front of old arts faculty building. Speakers at the rally vowed to resist any sectarian activities on the campus.

JU JCD President Parvez Mallick and General Secretary Nazmul Hasan Obhee addressed the rally.

Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall authorities held a milad mahfil after Maghrib prayers at the dormitory mosque while JCD held another one at the university central mosque after Asr prayers.

Habibur Rahman Kabir, a JCD activist, sustained serious injuries in an attack by Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on August 15, 1989.

He succumbed to his injuries on August 26 prompting the leaders of JCD and Bangladesh Chhatra League to announce the ban of shibir politics on the campus.

Obituary



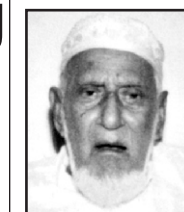
August 24 at the age of 64, says a press release.

He was laid to rest at Banani Armed Forces graveyard on August 25 after Juma prayers.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence at House -10, Road-12, Sector-14 at Uttara in the city after Asr prayers.

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

Ali Akbar



Thursday at the age of 97, says a press release.

A doa mahfil will be held at his house at Akbar Astral Apartments at 29 West Panthapath in the city after Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the mahfil and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Death anniversary



a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at W/14 Nurjahan Road at Mohammadpur in the city after Maghrib prayers.

Similar programme will also be held at her father's house in Gaibandha town.

Lighterage vessel detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) in a drive yesterday detained a lighterage vessel for carrying overloaded cargoes endangering the port channel and the ship as well.

CPA Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, who conducted the drive, also detained all the documents including survey certificate of the vessel MV Gazipur, and ordered immediate unloading of about 1000 MT cement clinkers from it.

Tipped off, the magistrate conducted the drive at the estuary of Karnaphuli river at Patenga and detained the vessel at the jetty of Diamond Cement Company Ltd.

The master of the vessel was penalised as per CPA act, they said.

Officials of Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) inspected the vessel and found to their utter surprise that the vessel was overloaded 11 inches up from its 'Load Line' mark which was an illegal act and a very risky practice for both the vessel and the port channel, sources said.

"Besides, the vessel was not at all fit for navigation and we wondered how its owner obtained the survey certificate from the office of the Directorate General of Shipping," said an official of MMD.

Municipalities growing in unplanned way Speakers tell JU seminar

JU CORRESPONDENT

A daylong seminar titled "Plan, Planners and People" organised by the department of Urban and Regional Planning of Jahangirnagar University (JU) was held at the seminar room of the proposed Zahir Raihan auditorium on the campus yesterday.

Speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session, VC Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman said "If we fail to ensure practical use of urban planning, the objective of the seminar will not be achieved".

"The number of municipalities has been growing up across the country in a totally unplanned way by encroaching land and filling up water bodies and lowlands, resulting in water logging and exposing life of the citizens to risk," said Prof Abdul Hai, treasurer of the university.

Mahmuda Ghani were present at the seminar. Earlier, a colourful procession was brought out on the campus before the inauguration of the seminar.

Three papers were presented at the seminar. Prof Dr Md Ghulam Muratza of Urban and Rural Planning Discipline (URPD) of Khulna University presented a paper on "Citizens' participations and awareness: The context of urban governance" while Mir Ahmed Tariqul Omar, ministry of planning, Dhaka presented a paper on "National physical planning institutional set up: A proposal" and Mir Abdul Matin, head of GIS division, CEGIS, Dhaka presented another paper on "Application of GIS and remote sensing for implementation of urban plan".

A roundtable discussion on "Urbanisation and Planning Regulations" was also held.