

Sayed urges Opposition Leader to shun politics of violence

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday called upon the Leader of the Opposition to shun the path of politics of violence and cease politics of hartal and respond positively to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's historic announcement that the Awami League would not call hartal any more, reports BSS.

Exchanging views with senior journalists, mostly news editors of newspapers and news agencies at the conference room of the Ministry of Information, Prof Sayeed said, Sheikh Hasina's unilateral and unconditional declaration on Sunday before the editors of national dailies and news agencies about not calling hartal has already received positive response from various quarters.

He regretted that when the entire business community and common people of society have profusely hailed the Prime Minister's announcement, the Leader of the Opposition has ironically announced that she would go for continuous hartal in the near future.

The state minister for information said, the country is now divided into two main streams — one for independence, democracy, peace and progress and the other is for hartal, damage, destruction and instability. He said there is no alternative to hartal except for not to go for hartal as it pushes the country towards chaos and instability.

The Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Jawadul Karim was present during the press briefing. Referring to a series of assertions of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia against hartal, Prof Sayeed remarked that, unfortunately, she herself has been negating all her previous statements by calling hartal, one after another, and without any valid reasons.

He said, when Awami League was in the opposition, it called hartals to establish people's right to franchise and for issues which were nationally important. But the BNP and its allies, he said are now calling hartals, one after another, on so minor issues and concocted allegations that the conscious people have already started raising their voices against such negative politics.

For instance, Prof Sayeed said, they (BNP) even called hartal for the death of one Akkas, who was beaten to death by mob recently. He also referred to the 60-hour hartal by BNP, saying that though BNP did not publicly admit of their links with the killers of Bangabandhu, they called the hartal obviously to create a situation for the protection of the killers.

The State Minister for information alleged that the BNP had been protecting the killers of Bangabandhu right from the beginning and even rehabilitated them in the country's foreign missions. He pointed out that it was Gen. Ziaur Rahman who incorporated the black indemnity Ordinance into the sacred constitution in an effort to block the trial of the killers permanently. He also alleged that Ziaur Rahman had, at one stage, also sent his emissary, Gen. Nurul Islam Shishu, to Bengazi, Libya, to negotiate with the killers of Bangabandhu.

Prof Abu Sayeed, author of the well-known book, 'Facts and Documents' on Bangabandhu Murder, also said that the then Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Ziaur Rahman had prior information about the assassination of Bangabandhu. He also cited various examples to prove that the current street agitation and repeated hartal calls by the BNP are aimed at creating a chaotic situation in the country, to protect the killers of Bangabandhu.



Rashed Khan Menon speaking at a discussion meeting at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. The meeting was organised in observance of death anniversary of Moulana Bhasani. —Star photo

Weather Light rain likely

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions while weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, according to Met Office.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the lowest of 19.0 degree Celsius at Srimangal.

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Minister says Telemedicine service to help the poor

SAVAR, Nov 17: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf today said telemedicine service which is going to be introduced by the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) will help the poor and the helpless patients get proper treatment, reports BSS.

The Health Minister was addressing the concluding ceremony of a two-day workshop on 'spinalcord injury management' organised by the CRP in its auditorium here.

The telemedicine service, the first of its kind in the country, will be a new addition to the healthcare system of the subcontinent.

Presided over by Major General (ret'd) Nurul Huq, the function was addressed, among others, by Professor Ata Elahi Khan, coordinator of CRP MIS Vellore, A Taylor, directors Mohammad Fazlul Huq and AKS Momin.

Shaheda Obaid's allegations

By Staff Correspondent Shaheda Obaid, wife of jailed BNP leader KM Obaidur Rahman MP, was not allowed to meet her husband despite a court order, a press release signed by Mrs. Obaid said Monday night.

Obaidur Rahman has been detained at Dhaka Central Jail since September 29 as accused in the Jail Killing Case. The jail authorities kept her waiting for three hours and later sent her back saying that it has not been fifteen days since Barrister Rafiqul Islam, Obaid's lawyer visited his client on 5th November, the press release added.

Mrs. Obaid urged the government to shift her husband to hospital as he is seriously ill and mentally depressed due to loneliness.

Shaheda Obaid alleged that her husband is not being allowed to talk with others in the jail.

Help implement rehabilitation programmes: Amu

BATIAGHATA, (Khulna) Nov 17: Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu called upon the people to help the government implement the post-flood rehabilitation and development programmes, reports BSS.

The programmes have been launched to alleviate poverty, and to eliminate illiteracy and health hazards from the society to build a 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he said.

The AL leader during his two-day visit to Khulna was addressing a huge public meeting at the Jalma-Chakrakhal High School premises as chief guest, arranged in connection with the joining of a large number of people from different political parties yesterday.

Presided over by local AL leader Ranjit Malik, the meeting was addressed by the president of Khulna District Awami League Shaikh Harun-ur Rashid, Whip of Jatiya Sangshad S M Mostafa Rashidi Shuja and Awami League leader S M A Rob as special guests.

Amu said the Awami League government has been making relentless efforts to free the people from the scourge of all evils.

Healthcare in Khulna gov't hospitals hampered

KHULNA, Nov 17: Healthcare in government hospitals of the district is being hampered owing to lack of adequate number of doctors, reports APB.

People who come for treatment to these hospitals have to look for alternative arrangements for obvious reasons. The non-government clinics and hospitals, therefore, have been doing a roaring business.

Out of a total number of 126 sanctioned positions of physicians in different hospitals under the Civil Surgeon's office, as many as 32 are now lying vacant.

The positions that are lying vacant include one in the Government Medical College Hospital, one in the General Hospital, nine in Thana Health Complexes, 14 in Thana sub-health centres and nine in others.

Many of the physicians do not reside around their places of duty and do not attend their duties punctually. They reside in the town and are more interested in private practice.

Doctors posted at the Medical College hospital and the Sadar Hospital are also apparently more interested in their private practice.

As a result, private clinics and hospitals have mushroomed at the Khulna city and thana levels. Most of these private clinics and hospitals charge their patients exorbitantly and provide them with sub-standard medical services.

Locals have urged the government to ensure proper health care facilities for more than 50 lakh people of Khulna district and adjoining areas.

'Govt determined to reform legal system'

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru yesterday said the government is committed to ensuring accessible and effective justice to the common people through bringing about reforms in the legal system, reports BSS.

The criminal justice system that we inherited from the British is now unable to cope with the increased rate of crime and anti-social activities," the minister said while inaugurating a three-day workshop on "Investigation and trial of criminal offences: In quest of capacity enhancement".

Bangladesh Law Commission (BLC) has organised the workshop at the CIRDP auditorium in the city. BLC chairman Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, the inaugural was also addressed by World Bank Country Director Frederick Thomas Temple.

The minister said the government had already under-taken a comprehensive programme to change the legal system with the financial assistance of World Bank.

Frederick Temple stressed the need for judicial institutional development saying it was important for economic development and a healthy society.

Business cannot flourish unless the rule of law prevails and there is an effective legal system, he said.

Justice Kemaluddin Hossain said efficient investigation and speedy but fair trial of criminals is a precondition for the establishment of rule of law as well as social advancement and economic progress.

People from the legal profession and police department are participating in the workshop.

'Govt formulating universal edn policy' 17 BNP activists held in Sirajganj

CHITTAGONG, Nov 17: State Minister for Textiles AKM Jahangir Hossain today said the present government is formulating a modern and universal education policy in the light of Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission and the spirits of the Liberation War in the country, reports BSS.

The pragmatic education policy aimed at turning the vast youth community into an efficient human resources" Jahangir said this while addressing the refreshers reception at Imam Gazzali College, Rawzan here.

Jahangir said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took initiatives to wipe out terrorism and remove session jams from the educational institutions.

Presided over by student leader Jannat Alam, the meeting was addressed, among others, by college principal Mohammad Ali, convener of Chittagong North district Juba League Omar Faruk Chowdhury.

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Mural of Moulana Bhasani unveiled

A mural of leader of the masses Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was unveiled yesterday at the national hockey stadium renamed after him, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader unveiled the mural at the Moulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium in the afternoon on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of death of the late leader.

National Sports Council (NSC), which renamed the hockey stadium after the national leader, laid the 12'x8' mural in front of the VIP gate of the stadium at a cost of Tk 1.32 lakh.

Munajat was offered for salvation of the departed soul. Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports ASM Shahjahan, NSC Secretary ASM Ali Kabir and General Secretary of Bangladesh Federation Shamsul Bari were present on the occasion.

The state minister informed that the mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be erected at Bangabandhu National Stadium and it will be unveiled on March 17, the birthday of the father of the nation.

Murals of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haq and Hossain Shahid Suhrawardy will also be set up at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium and National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur and both will be unveiled on the birthday of the two leaders.

Later, the Sports Minister met with national hockey players who were in a practice session at the hockey stadium for the 13th Asian Games to be held in Bangkok.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Dr Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury, a child specialist, will be held tomorrow after Magreb prayers at his residence, House No 32 Road No-2, Dhanmondi Residential Area, reports BSS.

Friends, well-wishers and relatives have been requested to attend the chehlum.

Dr Chowdhury died of old-age complications on October 10.



Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury and UNFPA representative in Bangladesh Alain P Mouchiroud signing an agreement regarding UNFPA's assistance to the Department of Population Sciences of the university yesterday at the VC's office.

Tk 3 cr project signed with UNFPA DU to introduce new deptt next session

Dhaka University and UNFPA yesterday signed a project of 6 lakh US dollar (equivalent to Tk 3 crore) for introducing a new department, reports APB.

The department — Population Science Department — will be introduced under the Faculty of Social Science from the next academic session.

"This is for the first time that the United Nations Fund for the Population Activities (UNFPA) is financing for such a department," said the project coordinator and DU Proctor, Dr AKM Noor-un-Nabi.

The main objective of the project is to improve the standard of living of the people.

A total of 20 students including 10 female students will get a chance for admission into the department equipped with all modern facilities including computer, laser printer, audio-visual, and xerox machine.

A separate library will also be developed at a cost of 15,000 US dollar, according to the agreement.

JS business advisory body meet held

A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad was held yesterday at the Sangsad Bhawan with Speaker Humayun Rashed Chowdhury in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed the duration of the current session, disposal of the remaining law matters, and allocation of required time for this purpose.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Industries and Commerce Minister Toifal Ahmed, Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Chief Whip of the Opposition Khondaker Delwar Hossain, Hussain Muhammad Ershad, M Saifur Rahman, M Rahmat Ali and Kazi Shamsur Rahman participated in the meeting.

Parliamentary Affairs adviser to the Prime Minister Suranjit Sengupta and Whip M Abdus Shehadeh attended the meeting on special invitation.

Parliamentary Secretary Kazi Muhammad Manzoor-e-Moula and concerned high officials were also present.

Assembly elections in four Indian states Pre-poll survey predicts BJP's defeat to Congress

NEW DELHI, Nov 17: As the campaign for the assembly elections in four states in India including the capital Delhi is gaining momentum, a pre-poll survey predicted a total defeat for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to the opposition Congress, press reports said here today, reports BSS.

Elections to the state assemblies of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and capital Delhi will be held on November 25 as per schedule.

A pre-poll survey conducted privately by the BJP to gauge its chances in the Delhi state assembly elections, has predicted a virtual rout for the party (BJP) in the capital, English daily 'The Asian Age' reported today.

The survey conducted last week has given the BJP only 29 out of the 70 seats in Delhi.

In the Delhi assembly at present, the BJP has 49 seats, Congress 17, independents three and Janata Dal one.

The reverses predicted by the survey have further dampened the spirits of the BJP, whose candidates are already finding it difficult to face the electorate in the wake of unbelievable price-hike of essential commodities.

A member of the Delhi Legislative Assembly (MLA) Ram

Bhaji was not allowed to campaign and chased out by the residents, while former transport minister of Delhi was hooted when he tried to explain the reasons behind price rise, The Asian Age said. Voters did not even spare the newly appointed Chief Minister Ms Sushma Swaraj either. She was heckled by a gathering at Bawana (outer Delhi) when she spoke on the 'salt crisis' caused, according to her, by the Congress, the report said. "We are in a difficult situation, there is no doubt about it. But we still have more than a week for the election. We might scrape through," one of the BJP poll managers was quoted as saying by The Asian Age.

Pre-poll surveys by various news magazines have also predicted poll reverses for the BJP in Delhi.

Prestigious 'The Hindu' today said that the Congress appears all set to return to power in Rajasthan in the November 25 elections.

According to the report which quoted a survey there, the Congress is likely to capture 120 seats in the 200-member assembly. The BJP could lose nearly one-third of the seats won in 1993.

The Congress (I) could win 40 more seats, according to the

survey. In the first survey in Rajasthan, it was shown that the Congress was expected to win 102-106 seats but subsequently the Congress support started rising particularly among the Muslims and the Sikhs.

Three-fourth of the voters say they feel the pinch of the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities. Their anger may seal the fate of the BJP government led by BS Shekhawat, 'The Hindu' said.

Besides, the price-rise, unemployment, corruption and law and order are the other issues bothering voters, the report said.

The forthcoming state assembly elections in four states including Delhi is considered by political analysts as very significant as it would ultimately decide the fate of the central Indian government led by BJP leader and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

With a new process to unite the secular democratic forces the defeat of the BJP in the coming state assembly elections would come as a severe jolt for them (BJP-led coalition) threatening the survival of the Vajpayee government.

Seminar on hepatitis vaccine

State Minister for Planning, Science and Technology Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir called for transfer of technology for producing hepatitis vaccines in the country, reports APB.

The disease is spreading alarmingly in the country," he said and urged the experts to acquire the latest know-how.

The state minister was speaking as the chief guest at a day-long seminar on "Technology transfer of Hepatitis B vaccine" at LGED auditorium yesterday.

The opening session was addressed by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, and vice president of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences Prof M Shamsur Ali and its president Prof Kamaluddin Ahmad.

Prof Mohammad Mozammel Haq of Department of Microbiology, DU and Dr Ferdousi Begum, executive director of Development of Biotechnology and Environmental Conservation Centre (DEBTEC), also spoke on the occasion.

About 150 biotechnologists, biochemists, microbiologists, pharmacists and representatives from pharmaceutical industries participated in the seminar.

The seminar was jointly organised by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Science and Technology, DEBTEC and Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture (BAPTIC).

Rival groups clash in Sylhet: 2 killed

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Nov 17: Two persons were killed and at least 20 others were injured in a clash between rival groups of villagers over establishment of possession over a fishery in Gowainghat thana this morning. The injured had been admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The clash ensued at about 9 am when a group went to the Bhangakhal beel for erecting bamboo fencing for fishing and the rival swooped on them with lethal weapons. Both the groups used local weapons. Mobarak Ali, 60 and Abdur Raufiq, 45, both from village Tekerhal died on the spot.

All the 20 injured had been admitted to the Medical College Hospital. Among them, condition of ten are stated to be serious.

There had been a longstanding dispute over lease of the fishery.

A case has been filed. No arrest has yet been made. Police has been deployed in the area.

In another incident, 8 persons were injured in a clash between rival groups of villagers at Ikarchhara in Gowainghat thana this morning over possession of khash land.

All the injured had been admitted into the Thana Health Complex. A case has been filed.

Another report says, today's day-long transport strike called earlier by the Sylhet district Transport Workers Association and Minibus Microbus Owners group has been called off after a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, it was called in protest of the introduction of Luxury Coach service on Dhaka-Jakiganj route via Sylhet.

The meeting was attended by the leaders of political parties and leader of transport sector while the Deputy Commissioner presided.

Obituary

Masuda Kamal, wife of Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Asst Vice President, National Bank Limited, North Brook Hall Road Branch, died of cancer on Monday. She was 38, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, one son, one daughter and host of the relatives to mourn her death. Her qalqahni will be held on Friday after Asr prayer at H-2 South Banasree Eastern Housing, Goran, Dhaka.

Dacoits kill one at Magura

MAGURA, Nov 17: A young man was shot dead and another suffered bullet wounds when a band of dacoits opened fire at villagers in Mohammadpur thana on Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said the bandits fired shots when the villagers encircled them while they were making off with booty worth more than Tk one lakh from the house of one Nani Kumar Shah at Binodpur village, leaving Farid, 25, dead.

The injured, Albar, 20, was admitted to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. The dacoits fled the scene soon after the shootout.

Meanwhile, senior police officials visited the spot. A case was filed.

Opposition activists demonstrate in US

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition activists based in Washington staged a nine-hour token hunger strike, demanding release of K M Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur of the BNP and Shah Moazzam Hossain of the Jatiya Party.

According to the Saptahik Bangladesh, a weekly published from the USA, the strike was observed at the Zia Mancha office in Washington on October 30. Supporters of the BNP-led Seven Party alliance and JP participated.

After the hunger strike, a protest rally held at the same venue resolved that the opposition workers would stage a demonstration in front of the United Nation's building soon.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet. Phone No: 716339. Notice Inviting Tender. 1. Tender Notice No: 11/Sylhet Road Division/1998-99. 2. Name of works: Erection and construction of 120.00 meter long single span 'Qualtar Hall' steel truss bridge... 3. Earnest money: At the rate of 2% of the amount quoted by the tenderer... 4. Time allowed: 3 (Three) months from the date of issue of work order for each work. 5. Eligibility of contractors: a) 'A' special category contractors of Roads & Highways Department having experience of constructing at least one RCC bridge of length minimum 300ft or one PC girder bridge. b) 'B' special category contractors of RHD having experience of constructing at least 3 (Three) RCC bridges of minimum length 100'-0" each or any PC girder bridge. c) 'A' and 'B' special category contractor of RHD having experience of constructing similar nature of steel truss bridge of per meter weight not less than 3 tons with RCC decking of minimum length 150'-0". 6. Name of the offices where tender documents will be available for sale: Office of the undersigned/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Moulvibazar/Sunamganj/Hobiganj/ Procurement (Civil) Division, Dhaka/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Chittagong/Rajshahi/Rangpur/Khulna/Barisal/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Sylhet/ Golapganj/Biswanath and Mechanical Sub-Division, Sylhet. 7. Name of the offices who will be received the tender: Undersigned/Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka/Chittagong/ Comilla/ Rajshahi/ Khulna/Rangpur/Barisal Zone/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Sylhet/ Monitoring and Evaluation Circle, Dhaka. 8. Tender will be opened by: Undersigned. 9. Last date of sale: At 5-00 PM of 24.11.98. 10. Last date of receiving tender: At 12-30 PM of 26.11.98. 11. Date & time of opening tender: At 11-30 AM of 30.11.98. 12. Tenderer shall submit their offers in two envelopes—1st envelope shall contain TECHNICAL PROPOSAL including his/her qualification, experience, details methodology of erection supported by drawing etc and the 2nd envelope shall contain FINANCIAL PROPOSAL duly marked and sealed properly as instructed hereinafter. 13. Evaluation of tender: The Technical Proposal will be evaluated by a committee under the bridge design unit of RHD. The Financial Offers of technically qualified tenderers will only be opened. 14. Before signing of the deal/contract it may be required/necessary to negotiate on certain matters (rate, methodology, drawing etc) with the successful bidders. 15. The work will be executed on turnkey basis on a total Financial Package. 16. The tender shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of last receiving of tenders of last call. 17. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and without any financial obligation to any tenderer. Monjur Ahmed Bhuiya Executive Engineer, RHD Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet. GD-927