

What's on today....

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of a book 'Learning NGOs and the Dynamics of Development Partnership' published by Dhaka Ahsania Mission in association with Coalition for Environment and Development, Finland and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - Lokayan (Global Responsibility Forum). India will be held. Venue: Conference hall of mission at House No 19, Rd No 12 (new), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 3:30 pm.

Concert: The "Mind Blowing Concert" by The Attempted Band, Pearls, part of the Scenery, Lime Rain, Subconscious, Koprofilia will be held. Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka. Time: 4:00 pm.

Annual certificate giving ceremony: The annual diploma certificate and essay competition certificate giving ceremony of Bangladesh Insurance Academy will be held. Venue: Serai Restaurant, 65, Mohakhali C/A.

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of the 'Sangrami Nari Juge Juge (Part One and Part Two)' will be held. Organiser: Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha. Venue: Novera auditorium of the National Museum. Time: 4 pm.

Concert: Alliance Française de Dhaka has organised a "Mind Blowing Concert" by The Attempted Band, Pearls, "Part of the Scenery, Lime Rain, Subconscious, Koprofilia." Tickets are available at the Alliance reception. Venue: Alliance Française premises, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm.

Symposium: A symposium on 'Disease Vectors in Bangladesh and their Management,' and the annual general meeting will be held as part of the 3-day twelfth national conference of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh. Venue: Auditorium of the Department of Zoology, Dhaka University. Time: 9:30 am and AGM at 2:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Cardiology congress: the inaugural session of the first SAARC Congress of Cardiology will be held. Organiser: SAARC Cardiac Society. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10 am.

Certificate award ceremony: British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dr David Carter will distribute certificates among the lawyers and trainers who took part in three separate training courses held under the auspices of Legal Education and Training Institute of Bangladesh Bar Council. Venue: Bangladesh Bar Council premises. Time: 1 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Light rain is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Met office said forecasting moderate fog at the river basins during the night and the morning.

It also predicted slight fall in night temperature over the country.

The country's highest temperature 29.0 degree Celsius was recorded today at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 11.2 degrees at Syedpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:74 pm and rises on Sunday at 6:38 am.

Maximum and minimum 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	25.5	19.8	70	70
Chittagong	27.5	18.0	78	72
Rajshahi	25.1	15.0	85	72
Khulna	27.5	18.8	80	72
Barisal	26.2	19.2	96	82
Sylhet	25.6	16.5	89	73
Cox's Bazar	29.0	18.0	79	80

US warns of another military flare up across Taiwan Strait

China increasing forces

WASHINGTON, Feb 4: United States has warned of another military flare-up across the Taiwan Strait this year, reports PTI.

CIA Director George J Tenet told the Senate select committee on intelligence yesterday that the catalyst for these tensions would be the Taiwan election on March 18.

He said China would be monitoring for signs that a new president will retreat from current President Lee Teng-Hui's statement that Taiwan's relations with the mainland should be conducted under the fabric of state to state rather than One China — or further extend the political distance from reunification.

Although Beijing today still lacks the air and sea capability to successfully invade Taiwan, said Tenet, China has been increasing the size and sophistication of its forces arrayed along the strait, most notably by deploying short-range ballistic missiles, and Beijing should receive the first two Russian-built destroyers later this month.

He expected the two destroyers to join the Chinese East Sea Fleet, which regularly conducts operations near Taiwan.

"In the coming year," said Tenet, "we expect to see an uncertain Chinese leadership launching the nation deeper into the uncharted waters while trying to retain tight grip political control."

"Thus far," he said, "Beijing's approach has largely succeeded. But the question remains open whether, in the long run, a market economy and an authoritarian regime can co-exist successfully."

Director of the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) Thomas R Wilson, testifying before the same committee, said by 2015, Chinese forces would be much better equipped, possessing more than a thousand theatre-range missiles, hundreds of fourth generation aircraft, thousands of late cold war equipment Tanks and Artillery, a handful of advanced diesel and third generation nuclear submarines and some 20 or so new surface combatants. China is also likely to field

Organisation of professional agriculturists start its journey

By Staff Correspondent

Krishibid Association of Bangladesh (KAB), an organisation of the professional agriculturists of the country, formally started its journey. The new organisation is aimed at upholding the interests of the agricultural sector and the agriculturists as well.

Leaders of the organisation made an announcement yesterday in this regard at a press conference at the National Press Club. The press conference was attended, among others, by Prof Khandkar Sirajul Islam, Prof Mosharraf Hossain Mian, Prof Halizur Rahman, Mahfuzur Rahman, Ahmed Ali, AM Farooq, M Shahjahan and Idris Mian.

Addressing the press conference, the KAB leaders said the agriculture sector is yet to be turned into an industry although the economy of the country is based on agriculture.

They said despite 80 per cent of the total population are involved with agriculture, there were deficits of two million tonnes of food, 2.7 million tonnes of fish, 3.12 million tonnes of meat, 1.07 million tonnes of milk and 722 million pieces of egg in the country.

They said the production of agricultural items affected as the knowledge and expertise of agriculturists were not being used properly.

"An inadequacy of meritorious and efficient technologists was created in the country as the public organisations and research institutions were being politicised," they observed.

They alleged the Krishibid Institution, which was formed about 30 years ago for the total development of the agricultural sector, failed to discharge its duty.

"It (Krishibid Institution) has become an organisation of the government... merit and efficiency is not valuable here," they complained.

They, however, hoped that the agriculturists would be able to raise food productions by using their knowledge, efficiency and new technologies in the new millennium.

Replying to question, leaders of the KAB revealed that the organisation would be run under the principles of Bangladesh nationalism, belief in religious values, democracy, economic and social justice.

Criticising the present government, they said the agriculture sector of the country has been made dependable on the Indian goods although there were some positive indications of development of this sector during the previous government.

The agriculture sector had been considered as one of the thrust sectors and there were programmes to diversify products during the previous government.

an integrated air defence system and modern command and control systems at the strategic and operational levels, he said.

Beijing, he said, is modernizing and improving the People's Liberation Army (PLA) at a steady pace, consistent with the country's emphasis on general economic and infrastructure development.

During the past year, the PLA has fielded several new ballistic missiles, agreed to purchase SU-30 flanker aircraft from Russia and taken delivery of the fourth Russian Kilo Submarine and additional indigenous submarines. China could field its first airborne early warning aircraft within the next year or so.

Beyond modernization, the PLA has revised its training programme to improve pilot proficiency, improve its capabilities for engaging stealth aircraft, cruise missiles and helicopter gunships, and improve its ability to defend against precision strikes, electronic jamming, and all forms of reconnaissance.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to reduce poverty, the Prime Minister placed stress on sustaining high growth rate to get out of the poverty trap.

"We recognise that high growth does not necessarily address poverty. We would continue to pursue policies and programmes which have significant impact on poverty alleviation."

She said a government could not act genuinely in the interest of the people without empowerment of the populace. "Only when the conditions for empowerment have been fulfilled, can the people voice their demands and make government recognise the importance of those demands."

Hasina said democracy provides the basis of the political system and institutional arrangement for people's empowerment as well as a responsive and accountable government.

Replying to queries from her European audience about political situation at home, Hasina blamed the agitating opposition parties for trying to capture power through extra-constitutional means.

She told them that the government had taken initiative to resolve political disputes through discussion and expected that the opposition would come back to democratic



Barrister Najmul Huda speaking at a press conference organised by Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangathan (Bangladesh Human Rights Organisation) at the National Press Club yesterday.



Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) held a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

Hasina: Aid flow

From page 1

lucrative incentives for FDI, Hasina said the capital account has been liberalised, and foreign investors can own hundred per cent of investment and restriction on repatriation of profit and capital has been abolished.

Foreign investment enjoys preferential treatment with regard to customs duty for import of capital goods, she said, adding that tax sparing treaty with several countries reinforces the policy of income tax exemption for foreign investment.

The Prime Minister said the government has also allowed private sector to establish industrial and export processing zones, including investment by foreign entrepreneurs.

She said infrastructures and utilities such as power, energy, port and telecommunications have been opened up for foreign direct investment. As investment in power and energy has responded to the new opportunities, she hoped similar response to other sectors as well.

Hasina said since the new tariff and trade regimes have posed a problem for domestic industries established under protection through high rates and dispersion as well as quantitative restrictions, investment for restructuring in the context of new policy and in new industries is necessary.

About EU-Bangladesh trade relation, the Prime Minister said European Union is one of Bangladesh's most important trading partners, accounting for 46 per cent of the country's total export.

She hoped that volume of trade between Bangladesh and EU would increase and larger export to the Union would help Bangladesh realise its export-led growth.

About Bangladesh's economic growth, Hasina said until mid 1990s, annual growth rate was around 4 per cent, occasionally exceeding that low rate. Since she took over in 1996, growth rate has been over 5 per cent and in most years above 5.5 per cent.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to reduce poverty, the Prime Minister placed stress on sustaining high growth rate to get out of the poverty trap.

"We recognise that high growth does not necessarily address poverty. We would continue to pursue policies and programmes which have significant impact on poverty alleviation."

She said a government could not act genuinely in the interest of the people without empowerment of the populace. "Only when the conditions for empowerment have been fulfilled, can the people voice their demands and make government recognise the importance of those demands."

Hasina said democracy provides the basis of the political system and institutional arrangement for people's empowerment as well as a responsive and accountable government.

Replying to queries from her European audience about political situation at home, Hasina blamed the agitating opposition parties for trying to capture power through extra-constitutional means.

She told them that the government had taken initiative to resolve political disputes through discussion and expected that the opposition would come back to democratic

path in greater national interest.

"I hope they will come back to the way of democracy leaving the move for changing power by extra-constitutional means," she said.

The Prime Minister said the Bangladesh people had rejected the opposition parties, particularly BNP that has become intolerant losing power.

"The people are with us," she told the meet. She said her party would continue its efforts to stabilise democracy and hoped that the people would continue their support to Awami League for institutionalising democracy.

Hasina to a question said empowerment of women is a major area of government's work, where the ruling party has achieved remarkable success. "Europe can look at this matter," she suggested.

About the interest of expatriate Bangladeshis, she said wherever she visited, she had taken up the matters of Bangladeshi labour with the respective governments. "It is a political commitment and responsibility of the ruling party to protect their interest."

About the postponement of the SAARC summit, she said this type of stalemate had been here in early times for various reasons.

This time the problem has been created due to India-Pakistan tensions and the injury of the SAARC current chairman, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

She hoped that the SAARC would continue its due role for the development of the region and for continued peace and progress of its around one and a quarter billion people.

About Bangladesh's view of world economy, she said Bangladesh recognises the importance of market-driven economy and thinks about the mobility of labour force alike the flow of capital and other resources.

She proposed that 'labour mobility should be free and unhindered across the globe.'

She proposed that 'labour mobility should be free and unhindered across the globe.'

She proposed that 'labour mobility should be free and unhindered across the globe.'

She proposed that 'labour mobility should be free and unhindered across the globe.'

She proposed that 'labour mobility should be free and unhindered across the globe.'

She proposed that 'labour mobility should be free and unhindered across the globe.'

She proposed that 'labour mobility should be free and unhindered across the globe.'

She proposed that 'labour mobility should be free and unhindered across the globe.'

She proposed that 'labour mobility should be free and unhindered across the globe.'

Ministers, VCs condole death of BAU VC

Ministers and vice chancellors of various universities yesterday condoned the death of Prof Muhammad Hussain, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), reports BSS.

In their separate condolence messages, they expressed their deep sorrow at the sad demise of the Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Foreign Minister and acting president of Bangladesh Awami League Abdus Samad Azad and Local Government Minister and AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, condoling the death of Prof Hussain, said in his death the nation has lost a noted educationist and brilliant scientist.

They expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

In her message of condolence, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury expressed grave shock at the death of Prof Hussain.

Describing Prof Hussain as a popular administrator, scientist and researcher, she recalled his contribution to the development of agricultural education in the country.

Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu, Fisheries and Livestock Minister A S M Abdur Rob, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Prof Abdul Qudus also condoned the death of Prof Muhammad Hussain.

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, in his message of condolence, described Prof Hussain as an illustrious alumnus of Dhaka University, a competent vice-chancellor and a renowned educationist.

The vice chancellors of BUET, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Rajshahi University also expressed their deep sorrow at the sudden death of Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

The vice chancellors of BUET, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Rajshahi University also expressed their deep sorrow at the sudden death of Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

The vice chancellors of BUET, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Rajshahi University also expressed their deep sorrow at the sudden death of Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

The vice chancellors of BUET, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Rajshahi University also expressed their deep sorrow at the sudden death of Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

The vice chancellors of BUET, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Rajshahi University also expressed their deep sorrow at the sudden death of Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

The vice chancellors of BUET, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Rajshahi University also expressed their deep sorrow at the sudden death of Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

The vice chancellors of BUET, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Rajshahi University also expressed their deep sorrow at the sudden death of Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

The vice chancellors of BUET, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Rajshahi University also expressed their deep sorrow at the sudden death of Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

The vice chancellors of BUET, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Rajshahi University also expressed their deep sorrow at the sudden death of Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

The vice chancellors of BUET, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Rajshahi University also expressed their deep sorrow at the sudden death of Prof Hussain and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Rose Festival begins in city

Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury yesterday formally inaugurated the 'Rose Festival-2000' at the Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex in the city's Dhanmondi area, reports BSS.

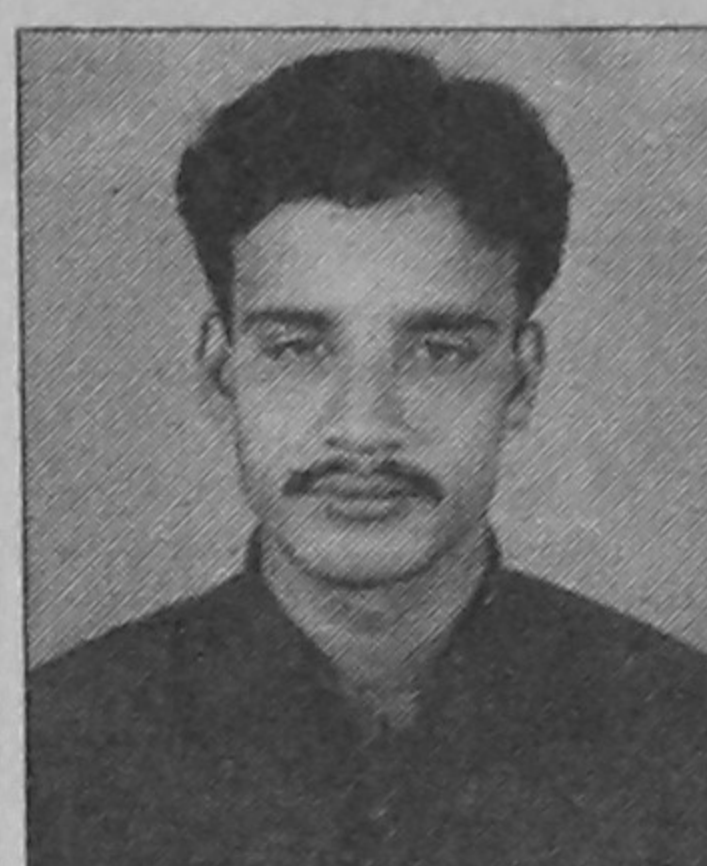
Bangladesh National Rose Association has organised the festival to donate its proceeds to the National Blinds Welfare Association (Jatiya Andha Kalyan Sangstha).

Inaugurating the festival, the Agriculture Minister said the rose is being cultivated commercially in the country that creates employment opportunity for educated unemployed youths.

She urged the concerned persons to expand the rose cultivation for its export and assured all-out cooperation from the government in this regard.

President of National Rose Association Prof Z M Tahmida Begum and Vice-President S A Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Later the minister went round different stalls of the exhibition and appreciated the show of different kinds of rose.



Noorunnabi was the lone ray of hope for his elderly parents

By Staff Correspondent

Noorunnabi, who was killed in a bomb explosion during the 36-hour hartal was the lone source of income for his elderly parents. He was a driver of the Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women, a non-government organisation.

He was asked by his office to go on a leave ahead of the opposition sponsored 36-hour hartal. But he did not go on leave as the car he drives needs to have polish. So he hired a policeman and engaged himself in supervising the work on the first day of the 36-hour hartal.

He was hit by a bomb at Khilgaon rail-crossing while returning to his Tilapara residence after finishing the polish work.

He hailed from village Rakhala under Raipur thana of Laxmipur district.

Now, Noorunnabi's parents are in despair and in a difficult strait with none to look after them. Their plight seems unending without any ray of hope as their eldest son left them too early to face the cruel game of survival.

He hailed from village Rakhala under Raipur thana of Laxmipur district.

Now, Noorunnabi's parents are in despair and in a difficult strait with none to look after them. Their plight seems unending without any ray of hope as their eldest son left them too early to face the cruel game of survival.

He hailed from village Rakhala under Raipur thana of Laxmipur district.

Now, Noorunnabi's parents are in despair and in a difficult strait with none to look after them. Their plight seems unending without any ray of hope as their eldest son left them too early to face the cruel game of survival.

He hailed from village Rakhala under Raipur thana of Laxmipur district.

Now, Noorunnabi's parents are in despair and in a difficult strait with none to look after them. Their plight seems unending without any ray of hope as their eldest son left them too early to face the cruel game of survival.

He hailed from village Rakhala under Raipur thana of Laxmipur district.

Now, Noorunnabi's parents are in despair and in a difficult strait with none to look after them. Their plight seems unending without any ray of hope as their eldest son left them too early to face the cruel game of survival.

He hailed from village Rakhala under Raipur thana of Laxmipur district.

Now, Noorunnabi's parents are in despair and in a difficult strait with none to look after them. Their plight seems unending without any ray of hope as their eldest son left them too early to face the cruel game of survival.

He hailed from village Rakhala under Raipur thana of Laxmipur district.

Now, Noorunnabi's parents are in despair and in a difficult strait with none to look after them. Their plight seems unending without any ray of hope as their eldest son left them too early to face the cruel game of survival.

He hailed from village Rakhala under Raipur thana of Laxmipur district.

Now, Noorunnabi's parents are in despair and in a difficult strait with none to look after them. Their plight seems unending without any ray of hope as their eldest son left them too early to face the cruel game of survival.

He hailed from village Rakhala under Raipur thana of Laxmipur district.

Now, Noorunnabi's parents are in despair and in a difficult strait with none to look after them. Their plight seems unending without any ray of hope as their eldest son left them too early to face the cruel game of survival.

LDF, IOJ call for cancelling Clinton's visit

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) and Islami Oikya Jote yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over the forthcoming visit of US President Bill Clinton to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In separate statements both the left and right-wing parties expressed their reaction almost in a similar language and called for cancelling the US president's scheduled one-day visit.

The LDF in its statement, issued after an emergency meeting of the Left Front Central Council, said this visit of the US President is not a general diplomatic tour nor a reflection of goodwill towards the people of Bangladesh, rather it aims at strengthening US power in South Asia and establishing an absolute command over the country's oil and gas resources.

The Left Front convenor Bimal Biswas presided over the meeting, while LDF leaders Nirmal Sen, A F M Mahbubul Haq, Rashed Khan Menon, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Abdus Salam, Dilip Barua took part in it.

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The visit the IOJ observed, would support the present government's weak foreign policy."

The IOJ in its statement said, "The US president is making his visit to Bangladesh when the opposition parties are continuing anti-government movement. The