

People against Bangabandhu's leadership opposed independence: Nasim

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim said yesterday that those who could not accept the leadership of Bangabandhu had opposed the independence, reports BSS.

Speaking at a discussion organised by Islamic Foundation in observance of the Independence and Victory Day, Nasim said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Awami League and Bangladesh were inseparable.

The minister said anti-Awami League propaganda had been orchestrated for long 21 years to keep Awami League outside the power.

But the people of Bangladesh with their love and support, he said, had installed the Awami League in power by thwarting the propaganda against the party.

The Minister said the ill-activities of the reactionary forces could have hit the independence of the country if the pro-liberation forces would not come to power.

Presided over by Director General of Islamic Foundation Moulana Abdul Awal, the func-

tion was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam and, Mokbul Hossain MP and Prof Abdul Mannan, a teacher of Management Department of Dhaka University.

Nasim said US President Bill Clinton during his recent visit to Bangladesh had admitted the united struggle of Bengalees for their independence in 1971.

Criticising the leader of opposition for her complain regarding the country's domestic affairs to Bill Clinton, he said it did not benefit for any responsible leader to lodge such complain.

Nasim said opposition leader had reminded the people again her Pakistani bias by sending congratulatory message to Pakistani Military ruler on the occasion of the Pakistan Day on March 23.

No one can, he said, revive the spirit of 1947 in this country despite all efforts.

The spirit of independence and war of liberation will be further consolidated, he added.



Health Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim speaking at a discussion, organised by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to mark its 27th founding anniversary, in the city yesterday.

BFTA thanks Hasina

Leaders of Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA) yesterday congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for handing over cheques for the retired and dead non-government teachers, turning the Welfare Trust into a complete organisation, reports BSS.

Govt to set up medical college for women

The government is planning to enact a new law preventing sale of blood by professional donors to check spread of HIV/AIDS in the country, reports BSS.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim told this at a function marking the 27th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) yesterday.

He said the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is now setting up 97 blood screening and transfusion units in different hospitals in the country under the assistance of UNDP to prevent spread of HIV/AIDS.

Chaired by the BDRCS Chairman Sheikh Kabir Hussain, the function was also addressed by its board member and former Member of Parliament Mahiuddin Ahmed, Bob McKerron of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society and the BDRCS Secretary General Maj (ret'd) Ali Hasan Qureshi.

The minister said the government as part of its broad-based programme in the health sector would establish a women medical college in the BDRCS complex. "We have already received a proposal in this regard

from the BDRCS and an approval for it will be available as soon as possible," he said.

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said the government had been implementing various programmes including the largest ever Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP) in the country since 1996 to reach the health services to every doorstep of the common people.

"We have been upgrading district and thana level hospitals along with increasing the number of beds and improving medicare facilities across the country," he said, adding that the government has been putting maximum emphasis on ensuring welfare of the people as they are the main resources of the country.

Lauding the role of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society in serving the distressed humanity, Sheikh Selim said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman organised it in Bangladesh just after the independence to carry out relief and rehabilitation work in the war-ravaged country.

"The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is always ready to extend its best possible help and assistance to any noble gesture of the BDRCS to ameliorate the condition of the distressed humanity in time of their need," he said.

Earlier, he inaugurated a blood donation programme organised by the Society. He also paid a surprise visit to the Orthopaedic Hospital where he talked to the patients and inquired about their treatment facilities.

The minister talked to the physicians and asked them to keep different wards and the surrounding area of the hospital always clean for the greater welfare of the patients.



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Justice Mostafa Kamal awarded Ahsanullah Gold Medal

Former Chief Justice Mostafa Kamal was awarded the "Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal 99" yesterday for his outstanding contribution in the field of judiciary, reports BSS.

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman handed over the award to his predecessor, Justice Mostafa Kamal, at a function as chief guest. Organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, the function was held at a city hotel.

The Chief Justice said the mission has selected the right person who deserves this prestigious award for his outstanding contribution to the judiciary.

"During his short tenure of seven months as the Chief Justice, Mostafa Kamal took many positive steps for the improvement of the Supreme Court and his contribution in the field of law is enormous and multidimensional," said.

Paying tribute to the memory of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah, the founder of the Ahsania Mission, Justice Latifur Rahman said Ahsanullah was a pious, dutiful and true Muslim who dedicated his life for human development including spiritual uplift of men and women.

Chaired by Kazi Fazlur Rahman, Chairman of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, the function was also addressed, among others, by the recipient of the award and Mazhar-us-safa, son of Ahsanullah.

Non-govt pry teachers' rally April 30

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association will hold a grand rally on April 30 at Paltan Maidan to press home demand for nationalisation of jobs of primary teachers.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the primary teachers with its president Md Shamsul Alam in the chair.

The meeting also decided to invite chiefs of political parties, professionals and intellectuals to address the grand rally.

A fresh course of programme is likely to be announced from the rally.

Essay competition Romeo wins first prize

Muktadir Rashid Romeo, a student of Magura Government High School, has won the first prize in the countrywide essay competition on the Liberation War organised by Bangladesh Shishu Academy, reports BSS.

Some 1365 children from different schools and madrasahs took part in the competition titled "The Liberation War in My Locality."

A Shishu Academy press release said Romeo, and those who secured the first three places at each district would be awarded the prizes later.

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