

Upaban Express to stop at Bhairab Bazar

People of Bhairab Bazar will get the privilege of availing inter-city train Upaban Express, running between Dhaka and Sylhet, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Railway has decided to allow stoppage of Upaban Express for two minutes at Bhairab Bazar on experimental basis for three months.

'AL govt turns food-deficit country into food-surplus one'

Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that it's a matter of great satisfaction that Awami League government has successfully turned Bangladesh into a food-surplus country from a food-deficit one, reports BSS.

While kicking off a general debate on the vote of thanks to the President for his New Year address on Thursday to the Jatiya Sangsad, she said former United States secretary of state Dr Henry Kissinger's much-quoted remark on Bangladesh that it's a "bottomless basket" has been proved wrong by the performance of the present Awami League government.

"It's quite satisfying because Kissinger has seen a self-sufficient Bangladesh in food production during his lifetime," the minister said.

Motia Chowdhury turned emotional while giving the figures showing how the country has attained the Herculean task and said pragmatic and persistent efforts under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the seemingly impossible task of attaining food-autarky into a reality.

The country produced 10.58 lakh metric tons of excess food in the year 1999-2000 which is worth Taka 1400 crore and 257.09 million US dollars would have been required to import this quantity of foodgrains, she said.

She referred to a comment by senior BNP leader A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury that it was the late president Ziaur Rahman, who introduced cultivation of wheat in the country, and said Nobel laureate Dr Norman Borloug had praised the wheat cultivation here long before.

Thanking the President for his realistic address in the House, Motia Chowdhury said it contains no elements of exaggeration and reflected the situation prevailing in the country in different areas of national life. "The opposition has chosen to stay away from the House because it cannot tolerate the success story of the present government," she said.

Motia Chowdhury said during the last four and a half years' rule, the government has spared no efforts to bring about positive changes and development in the country even though it inherited a largely shattered economy.

She said the achievements of the government are manifold specially in the empowerment of women during the time of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. "The scenario is quite opposite although the previous head of government was also a woman," she said.

She ridiculed a remark by the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament that if voted to power her government will set up separate ministry for the freedom fighters, saying Begum Zia and her late husband Ziaur Rahman had made known collaborators ministers or even prime minister.

Haji Mohammad Selim (AL-Dhaka) was the only other speaker to take part in the motion yesterday.

The ruling party member said the President in his speech has narrated the performance of the government in a frank manner as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's administration has done remarkably well in running the country.

He listed several achievements of the government and said a destructive opposition is hell-bent in retarding the progress by its cynical mind and negative approach.

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Wedding



The wedding of Mr Wasim-ul-Quddus, son of MA Quddus, 295/Chha/1, Tali Office Road, Rayar Bazar, was solemnised with Sharmin Zaman, daughter of Hasheem Uzzaman, 2/3 North Central Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, on 11 January 2001. Due to constraint of time, all friends and relatives could not be contacted. However, the bride and bride groom seek the blessings of all.

MA Quddus page C-70

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