

Hasina's remarks about court Samad Azad rebuts newspaper reports

UNB, Dhaka
Awami League acting president Abdus Samad Azad MP has rebutted some newspaper reports in Dhaka that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina made remarks undermining the courts.

When his attention was drawn to Hasina's reported remarks that "the judgement will be whatever Barrister Moudud briefs", Azad told UNB that he could not believe that Sheikh Hasina could make such comments.

He said the remarks of Hasina as quoted by the New York-based weekly Thikana and published by Dhaka dailies were "incomplete and irrelevant".

Azad made it clear that Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has complete faith in courts and she never wants to tarnish the image of courts. Rather, Sheikh

2 dacoities in Khulna city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two dacoities were committed in the city on Wednesday night at Labonchora under Khulna thana.

The first dacoity was committed in the Labonchora residence of Khuda Bux, an employee of Bangladesh Sea Foods Ltd. The masked dacoits looted Tk 25,000 and gold ornaments worth over Tk 1.35 lakh keeping all inmates confined at arms point in a separate room.

The same night, a gang of six dacoits raided house of a businessman and escaped with money and gold ornaments. This dacoity was committed near Sonadanga thana.

Hasina always tried to uphold the image of the court. "She (Hasina) firmly believes in the rule of law, independence of the judiciary and its separation from the executive," he added.

Azad pointed out that before the judgement in the Mazdar Hossain case, Hasina made a clear statement in parliament that whatever the order to be given by the Supreme Court would be implemented in letter and spirit.

He said the Awami League government had formed a ministerial committee to start working on separation of the judiciary.

But he alleged that the present law minister is creating different pretexts and resorting to ill-motivated propaganda to delay that process initiated by the Awami League government.

"The present move by the government against Sheikh Hasina is designed to divert people's attention and create unnecessary confusion and controversy about her," the acting AL chief said, adding that Awami League protests and condemns these ill motives.

Khundkar memorial lecture Jan 6

The 17th Mukarram Hussain Khundkar Memorial Lecture 2002 of the University of Dhaka will be held at 10 am on January 6 at the Lecture Theatre of the Chemistry Department (Room No 200) at Khundkar Biggan Bhaban of the University, says a press release.

Professor Hitoshi Ohtaki of Ritsumeikan University, Japan, will deliver the memorial lecture on "The effect of temperature and pressure on the Hydrogen bonds in liquids."



President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury addressing the inaugural ceremony of the golden jubilee celebrations of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh in the city yesterday.

'Govt to revive gram sarkar for good governance'

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the government is determined to bolster the local government bodies by reviving the 'Gram Sarkar' system for ensuring good governance and balanced development across the country.

"The Gram Sarkar would play catalytic role in boosting food production, increasing rate of literacy, checking population boom, strengthening village co-operative system along with improving the law and order situation," the minister said at the inaugural session of a workshop titled "Prospects of Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) as National Rural Development Model" at LGRD auditorium in Agargaon here.

State Minister for LGRD Ziaul Hoque Zia, Monirul Hoque Chowdhury, MP, and expert on CVDP Dr Tofael Ahmed also addressed the first session.

The minister said Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) is running action research on CVDP from 1976 while RDA is conducting identical research from 1991. He said the political vision of the present government includes establishment of co-operative societies in all villages in the countryside for creation of a poverty and hunger free country.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the whole world is converging into a "global village" and changes in the international arena should be followed keenly when a decision relating to development is taken. The government is determined to streamline all actions aimed at poverty reduction for ensuring food and nutritional security by promoting 'Dal-Bhat' concept of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

BIWTC vessels sold showing non-operational: Employees union

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Employees Union of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) has urged the government to stop the sale of BIWTC operational vessels showing them as non-operational.

In a letter to the prime minister, General Secretary of the Union Mojibur Rahman Mia alleged that operational vessels of BIWTC plying in different routes are being sold out showing them as non-operational. As a result the 273-vessel fleet of BIWTC has now been reduced to only 150 vessels.

He said a group of officials led by BIWTC Chairman MA Matin has adopted this technique to sell the vessels because as per the government rules operational vessels cannot be sold.

While the authorities had been selling the operational vessels, the chairman is going to China today for buying new vessels, he added.

He urged the prime minister to take necessary steps in this regard for the sake of the 'existence' of BIWTC.

1225 more held

Police recovered 11 firearms along with 10 bullets during last twenty-four hours countrywide combing operation, ending at 6am yesterday, official sources said.

Police also arrested 1,225 accused including five identified terrorists from across the country. Eighteen people were arrested in connection with the arms recovery and three cases were filed under Arms Act.

Besides, 48 explosives were recovered during the drive and a case was filed in this connection.

President urges scholars to help build positive image of country

BSS, Dhaka

President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday urged the researchers, educationists and writers to help build a positive image of the nation abroad through projecting its resources, achievements and economic potentials.

"Unfortunately, Bangladesh has been portrayed in the outside world with negative images, but we have so many positive things to boast of," he said as chief guest at a programme marking the golden jubilee of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

B Chowdhury, also the chief patron of the Society, said the heroic deeds and achievements of the nation have been ignored and neglected in foreign media due to a notion that Bangladesh is a country of natural disasters, corruption and malnourished people.

But our country, the president said, has enormous natural resources, skilled and semi-skilled manpower, finest tea, leather, ceramic products and charming tourist spots in the longest sea shore, hills and the largest mangrove forest.

"We also have an exemplary tradition of absolute communal harmony -- majority Muslims are moderate in nature -- colourful cultural tradition, democratic achievements, industrial devel-

opment and heroic chapter of the War of Liberation."

These are all our positive sides which should be properly highlighted through national and international media, Badruddoza Chowdhury said, adding that the government is committed to encouraging and promoting academic, cultural and intellectual pursuits in the country to uphold its tradition and heritage.

Lauding the role of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, the president said that since its inception in 1952, the society has made valuable contributions towards the advancement of knowledge in the country as well as projection of intellectual image of the nation to the outside world.

Mentioning some important publications of the society, he said these would help Bangladesh earn a new identity in the intellectual arena of the world.

The publications include three volumes of the History of Bangla-

desh, Sharia Law, Medicinal Plants of Bangladesh and some other books on the archeological heritage of the country.

Chaired by President of the Asiatic Society Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury, the inaugural function was also addressed by General Secretary Prof Sajahan Miah, General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, Prof Manubendu Banerjee and Secretary of the Asiatic Society Prof Dalem C Barman.

Int'l workshop on microcredit from Jan 6

An international workshop on "Thematic Group Meeting on Understanding the Wider Impact of Microfinance" will be held at the BRAC Centre for Development Management, Rajendrapur from January 6 to 9, says a press release.

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Report and Proposal Writing (RPW)- Length: 30 hrs. Fee: Tk. 7,900 (course materials included) Time: 7:15-8:45pm (two days a week).

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RECKITT BENCKISER

Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) Limited announces shifting of its Share Liaison office at Dhaka with effect from January 06, 2002.

Old Office	New Office
House No. 83 Road No. 07 Sector-04 Uttara, Dhaka	Hafiz Mansion (2nd Floor) 33, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215

Honourable Shareholders are requested to contact at the new address regarding share related issues.

Career Opportunity



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Aquamarine Distributors Ltd. and International Brands Ltd. are the sister concerns of MGH Group, involved in distribution of world famous brands of Eastman Kodak Company USA, The Gillette Company USA and Procter & Gamble USA etc. We are looking for young dynamic and versatile professionals for the following positions. Self-motivated, result oriented individuals can look forward to apply to work in a challenging and participative environment.

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The person will provide technical services in our franchise outlets-KEX Labs having a Diploma in Electronics Engineering and preferably experienced in photo printing machine. The candidate should be fluent in written & spoken English and Bengali preferably having practical experiences in repairing circuit board.

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The person will provide quality monitoring services in the franchise KEX Labs having a Masters in Applied Chemistry/Chemical Engineering. Fresh candidates can apply with knowledge/experience of Densitometre operation being fluent in written & spoken English and Bengali.

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Bachelor/Masters in any discipline is required. Minimum 2-3 years of experience in similar field is preferred. Candidates must have Computer literacy.

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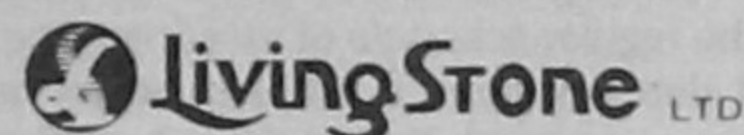
Note : Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.

All candidates should have good communication & leadership skills and be presentable. The candidates should be ready to work anywhere in Bangladesh and must possess strong physique.



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Appeal for help

A promising teacher of Bauphal College, Dolly Hossain has been suffering from acute liver cancer, says a press release.

Dolly had earlier operated upon for breast cancer in Jaslock Hospital, Mumbai, India one year ago.

At that time, her relatives and friends provided her with financial support for the expensive treatment and she was improving gradually.

But Dolly has now been beset with liver cancer. For her treatment she now needs a lot of money which is beyond the means of her family.

Father of Dolly, Md. Abul Hossain, a retired registrar of Dhaka University has appealed to the government, moneyed-men and well-wishers for financial help so that the life of the teacher is not nipped in the bud.

Address for sending help:
"Dolly Hossain", Savings Account No. 2050350, Rupali Bank, Chawk Bazar branch, Dhaka. Phone-7318724.

"Md. Abul Hossain", Savings Account No. 61000540, Sonali Bank, Dhaka University branch, Dhaka.