

Hasina demands release of Sayeed Khokon

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina condemned the arrest of party's young leader and former Mayor Mohammad Hanif's son, Mohammad Sayeed Khokon.

The opposition leader demanded immediate release of Sayeed Khokon.

Sayeed Khokon, who was a candidate in the last parliament election from an old Dhaka constituency, was arrested by detective police from his residence Saturday night.

In a statement yesterday, Ha-

sina said the arrest of Sayeed Khokon "without any reasons is the continuity of arrest, repression and harassment of the Awami League leaders and workers by the fascist and killer BNP-Jamaat alliance government".

Expressing deep concern she charged the government with conspiring to eliminate Awami League through arrest, repression and harassment.

"The government, to implement its evil-design, arrests Awami League leaders and activists one after another without any case or warrant for arrest and files false cases against them," she said.



Mohammad Sayeed Khokon, son of former mayor Mohammad Hanif, waves as he was being taken to court from the DB office in the city yesterday.

Violation of human rights '246 killed in 6 months'

UNB, Dhaka

In incidents of 'violation of human rights', 246 people have been killed, 4,714 injured and 2,280 arrested across the country in last six months, a human rights forum said yesterday.

The Adhikar, a coalition of human rights organisations, in a survey report said that 34 people were killed, 63 injured, 60 arrested and 54 kidnapped in CHT area in such incidents during the period.

In another survey, the Bureau of Human Rights, Bangladesh (BHRB) said a total of 1,783 people were murdered across the country during the period that shows 10 people were killed a day.

Compiling the reports published in different national dailies, the Adhikar found that 675 women

were violated across the country and 1,039 children subjected to repression, 230 of them killed, in the period between January 1 and June 30.

According to the Adhikar, 307 of the children were raped, 62 committed suicide, 166 were kidnapped and 74 trafficked while one fell victim of *fatwa* and 35 became victims of acid attack.

During the period, 52 people were killed in police and jail custody while law-enforcers killed another 19 and raped three women, the report said.

The Adhikar said that in the last six months, one journalist was killed, 44 were injured, 20 assaulted, seven arrested, and 72 subjected to threat. And cases were filed against 51 others.

Also, 185 people fell victim of acid attacks during the period. And in dowry-related incidents, 100 women were killed, 47 fell prey to repression, 17 committed suicide, 17 fell victim of acid throwing and one was divorced.

In bordering areas, 58 people were killed, 19 injured, 63 kidnapped, 20 missing and 109 were arrested.

The BHRB survey also shows that a total of 2,287 people were killed in different accidents during the period.

Food officials urged to implement projects on time

BSS, Dhaka

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman yesterday urged the officials of the ministry to take initiatives for implementation of the various development projects on schedule.

City corps asked to reduce dependence on LGRD ministry

BSS, Dhaka

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry asked different corporations, including the Dhaka City Corporation, to reduce dependence on the ministry by enhancing their income.

The ministry also directed the WASA to take steps to check the misuse of water and repair the leaks in the supply lines.

The directives were given during a review meeting of different projects under the local government division of the ministry.

Chaired by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the meeting was also attended by State Minister Ziaul Huq Zia, Deputy Minister Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, Secretary A Y B I Siddiqui and other officials of the ministry and corporations.

The meeting expressed satisfaction at the progress of implementation of the projects.

A total of 57 projects were reviewed in the meeting. Most of those achieved more than 80 per cent progress.

The officials of the projects, which were not progressing as desired, were directed to complete the work immediately.

Youth team leaves for Japan tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

A delegation comprising thirty youths of the country will leave for Japan tomorrow on a three-week visit aimed at understanding Japan and its people and forging friendship with them.

The youths, who were selected by host organisation Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), are expected to share experiences with their Japanese counterparts in the fields of export, industry, insurance, office management and journalism.

'Student politics should be banned'

SABRINA KARIM

Many students, teachers and parents have opined that student politics should be banned considering the violence prevailing in educational institutions of the country.

A significant number of persons have blamed the political parties for patronising the criminals causing violence in educational institutions. They expressed their resentment over the fact that even the premier educational institutions have lost their sanctity.

Majority of the people that were interviewed by this correspondent told The Daily Star that they believe political patronisation of criminals on the campus has

worsened the situation. Violence will continue on the campus so long they will be nurtured by political parties as the source of their power, they opined.

"They are no longer student leaders or activists but only cadres", said Shamsul Huda, father of a student of Mirpur Commerce College while commenting on the student politics.

Muntaim Anwar, a student of the Mechanical Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology said "Although these 'armed cadres' are minority on the campus, they are victimising the majority students. Politics has become a platform for their criminal activities".

The teachers also hold the same view that political parties lack the interest to bridge the violence continuing in educational institutions. Measures have been taken by the administration to curb the criminal activities on the campus for time and again but it turned a futile exercise, said Dr Shoykat Hossain, chairperson of the English Department of Dhaka University. "The root of violence lies in the tacit approval of it by political parties", he added.

"Student politics has drifted away from its tradition. The student activists are now involved in money-making process rather than the welfare of the student community", said Dr Delwar Hossain, professor of the History Department of Dhaka University.

Few students noted their frustration that they have become accustomed with this violence on the campus. "We have become apathetic to this situation," said Nashid Sultana, a student of Dhaka University. "We don't even mind attending our classes while firing or crackers blast continues outside", added her classmate Homaira Binte Bahar.

As for parents, sending of their children to their institutions has

become a matter of serious tension. "I keep on praying so that my daughter can return home in safe and sound after her class," said Mahmuda Sultana, a mother of a student of Jahangirnagar University.

However, some people said student politics should not be banned since it has a glorious tradition in our country. But students must not engage themselves in violence and other criminal activities in the guise of political activists, they added.

Withdrawal of decision to close down AJM demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations have urged the government to withdraw its decision to close down the Adamjee Jute Mills.

They said the closure would make a huge number of people unemployed and bring an end to jute industry in the country.

Adamjee Jute Mills closed at midnight last night as per the decision of the government.

A number of organisations have announced programmes to protest the closure of the mill.

The 11-Party will organise protest meeting and bring out procession through out the country on July 6. Leaders of the party will visit the Adamjee Jute Mills at 3:00 pm today.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh has also announced programmes on July 4 to protest the closure of the mill.

Bangladesh Sanjuktta Samik Federation, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress, Revolutionary Unity Front and other organisations have also condemned the government decision to close down the Adamjee Jute Mills.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country with heavy to very heavy falls at places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions today.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met office predicted.

Country's highest temperature 32.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Chittagong, Sitakunda and Mongla.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.15 am.

Highest and lowest 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	30.0	27.0	81	97
Chittagong	29.0	24.5	83	89
Rajshahi	32.3	25.6	98	90
Khulna	30.4	25.6	93	98
Barisal	27.8	25.2	100	100
Sylhet	30.2	26.0	100	97
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0	92	98

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WHO SHOULD ATTEND: This Course is designed for mid level engineers and others working in managerial position
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