

Govt wants to keep opposition out of parliament: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday blamed the government for hatching a conspiracy to keep the opposition away from parliament.

"The government is not serious about the dialogue offered by the deputy speaker and that is why the treasury bench members are delivering speeches full of invective against Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina without any objection from the Chair," Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid told The Daily Star yesterday.

In this respect, Shahid pointed to Tuesday's speeches made by Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain in the House.

"We did not brush aside the

dialogue offer and it is in the process," he said, adding that but the treasury bench members' attitude towards opposition makes it clear that the government wants to make parliament inactive.

Meanwhile, in a statement yesterday, the opposition chief whip strongly protested the remarks made by the law minister, shipping minister and two other MPs in the House on Tuesday.

He called on the Speaker to expunge the unparliamentary languages from the proceedings.

Expressing doubt about the 'neutrality' of the Speaker, Abdus Shahid said, "He (the Speaker) did not stop the treasury bench members when they were delivering speeches violating Articles 270 and 301 of the rules of procedures."

Arsenic-free water by 2010: Bhuiyan

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday told the House that supply of arsenic-free pure drinking water would be ensured by 2010.

Replying to a question from treasury bench member Manirul Haque Chowdhury, the minister said the BNP government had ensured pure drinking water to 98 per cent of the population during its tenure in government from 1991 to 96. But pure drinking water could not be supplied as tubewell water was contaminated with arsenic.

He said the government had in the meantime implemented various projects to provide arsenic-free water. He said arrangements are being made to provide pure drinking water in the contaminated areas through pipelines under a pilot project.

He said at present there are two lakh 10 thousand subscribers of Dhaka WASA. He said daily production and supply capacity of WASA is 152 crore litres while actual production and supply is 145 crore litres.

Replying to another question from Hafiz Ibrahim, Bhuiyan said as per a survey a total of 5,20,341 tubewells in 59 upazilas were contaminated with arsenic. He said that survey would be carried out in another 147 upazilas soon. He told the House that 80 thousand field workers would be imparted training to conduct the survey.

He listed various steps to solve the problem which include testing tubewell water of all upazilas, creating public awareness, identify patients with primary symptom, supply of pure drinking water on emergency basis in arsenic contaminated areas and taking step to survey the arsenic level.



The Oikya Prachesta stages a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting 'anti-people' budget and the move to send soldiers to Iraq.



PHOTO: STAR

British High Commissioner Dr David Carter called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in Dhanmondi yesterday.

Call for integrated approach to prevent outbreak of dengue

Effective coordination needed to ease traffic jam, remove garbage: Khoka

BSS, Dhaka

Policy makers, bureaucrats, editors of different national dailies and news agencies yesterday called for an integrated approach to prevent outbreak of dengue and improving quality of services to the city dwellers.

An integrated approach should be taken immediately involving ministries concerned to make Dhaka a beautiful city by discharging garbage, easing traffic congestion and checking dengue outbreak during the breeding season of aedes mosquitoes, they said.

"Dhaka has turned into a city of garbage and mud as digging roads have been continuing indiscriminately," they viewed.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) organised the meeting with the editors and senior journalists to exchange views at hotel Sheraton here.

Information Minister Tariqul Islam, Mayor Sadek Hossain

Khoka, State Minister for Health Anisur Rahman Sinha, LGRD Secretary AYBI Siddique, Health Secretary Fazlur Rahman, Barrister Mainul Hossain and Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed addressed the meeting.

Tariqul Islam said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at a meeting with the senior ministers recently asked them to take all out efforts for making Dhaka a beautiful city by ensuring all civic amenities. "The mayor has to meet the requirements of the city dwellers," he added.

Khoka said effective coordination among the departments concerned is needed for easing city's traffic congesting, removing garbage and stopping indiscriminate digging of roads.

A new master plan should be implemented jointly by DCC and RAJUK to ease traffic congestion in the city, he added.

Referring to disposal of garbage he said the DCC is clearing nearly

4,500 tonnes of garbage everyday and dumping it at Jatrabari. DCC is planning to dump garbage at four other places, he said.

Khoka urged the city dwellers to come forward to check dengue during the current breeding season of aedes mosquitoes. He also sought cooperation from media in this regard.

The speakers, however, suggested the DCC authorities to launch awareness campaign for prevention of dengue involving local people.

President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Gias Kamal Chowdhury, News Today editor and President of Jatiya Press Club Reazuddin Ahmed, Daily Star editor Mahfuz Anam, Jugantor editor Golam Sarwar, Janakantha editor Atiqullah Khan Masud, Bhorer Kagoj editor Abed Khan, Manabjain editor Motiur Rahman Chowdhury and Shaikh Shiraj of Channel I also spoke on the occasion.

One more transformer added to Basundhara sub-station

BSS, Dhaka

A new 60 MW transformer was added to the Basundhara Grid Sub-Station yesterday to improve power supply situation in some areas of the city.

The 132/33 KV sub-station with two 60 MW transformers has been facing acute problems in meeting the demand of subscribers of Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, Basundhara, Badda, Joarshahara, Kalachandpur, Nikunja and Uttara.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hossain Mahmood formally inaugurated the transformer on the sub-station premises at Basundhara yesterday.

Secretary of Power Division SM Shamsul Alam and Chairman of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) Brigadier General AAMA Rob were also present.

Sources in the DESA, owner of the sub-station and power supplier to Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO), said about 60,000 subscribers would be directly benefited with the installation of the third transformer at a cost of Tk 6.3 crore.

"Areas under the sub-station will get required electricity at least for a pretty long time, but they may face same problem in future due to growing demand," Brigadier Rob said.

However, he said, steps have already been taken to set up more stations at different places, including Uttara, to meet the future demand.

Iqbal Mahmood said the government has earmarked a record allocation in the current budget to make the power sector vibrant.

Two shot dead, 12 robbers held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were shot dead and 30 others injured in two incidents of robbery at Rangunia and Banshkhali upazilas in Chittagong in the past 24 hours till 6.00pm yesterday.

Twelve members of a gang involved in one robbery at a bazaar at Banshkhali were also arrested yesterday.

In Rangunia, a gang of armed robbers shot dead a truck driver, Md Salauddin, 35, at Zianagar under Rangunia at around 5.30am yesterday, police said.

During a manhunt from early yesterday morning, district police and Banshkhali police with the help of local people arrested 12 robbers from Puichhari and Gandamara areas.

Police also recovered one rifle, one LG, four bullets, a big knife, wristwatches, cameras and umbrellas from nearby hilly area.

The arrested are Omar Ali, Anwar, Jasimuddin, Md Kamal, Faridul Alam, Mohammad Miah, Alamgir, Jalil Uddin, Md Yunus, Md Ismail, Abdus Shukur and Nurul Amin.

District Police Super Matiuur Rahman visited the spot and set up a police camp at Napora Bazaar to maintain law and order.

Earlier, the gang blocked the road in a bid to loot vehicles passing through the area.

The truck was carrying mangoes and vegetables.

Angered by the news, truck drivers and workers put up barricades on the road protesting the killing. They also attacked a few vehicles before police brought the situation under control.

In Banshkhali, an armed gang of about 50 robbers stormed into Napora Bazaar at around 8.30pm on Tuesday and looted goods and valuables worth around Tk 40 lakh.

Contractor shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed hoodlums shot a contractor at Shyamoli in the city yesterday afternoon, hospital sources said.

Sahidul Islam, 35, a contractor of LGRD, was shot when he was going to his Shikder Real Estate residence at Hazaribagh by his motorbike. As soon as Sahidul reached Shyamoli, the miscreants riding in a microbus fired on him at about 2:00pm, hospital sources added.

Bullets hit in his legs and thigh and waist. Sahidul was rushed to Sikder hospital in unconscious. Later, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The reason behind the attack could not be known immediately. Police said that they were investigating the matter.



Bangladeshi student killed in car accident in US

Saam Ruslan Anando, the only son of M Fazle Selim, managing director of Ranks ITT Ltd, and Rokhsana Selim (Swapna), died in a car accident near Oregon-Nevada border in the USA on July 8. He was only 16, says a press release.

Anando was travelling with his parents and sisters when their car met with the tragic accident. His parents and sisters were also injured and are in the hospital.

Anando was a nephew of late Dr. Fazle Rabbi, a prominent surgeon who was killed during the war of liberation.

A student of grade IX in European Standard School in Dhaka, Anando was a good singer and earned prominence in this young age participating in various functions. He left behind a lot of friends and admirers.

Abu Taher Miah



Abu Taher Miah, immediate past chairman of the National Bank Limited, died of a cardiac arrest at Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok on Monday at the age of 71, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Employees of the National Bank Limited expressed deep shock at the death of Taher Miah and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

His nama-j-e-janaza will be held today at Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Zohr prayers.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The 12th death anniversary of former lawmaker and president of East Pakistan Journalist Association Shamsuddin Mollah will be observed today.

Mollah was also the vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council and an organiser of Liberation War.

Shamsuddin Mollah Smriti Sangsad has taken different programmes including meetings in remembrance of Mollah at Faridpur Pourasava auditorium at 4:00 pm today and at Bhanga upazila on July 12 to observe the day.

Eminent politicians and intellectuals of the country are scheduled to address the programme, while another such discussion would be held at Bhanga upazila of Faridpur on July 12.



Law Minister Moudud Ahmed hands over the weekly Financial Mirror Businessman Award-2002 to Sanjiv Mehta, chairman and managing director, Lever Brothers (BD) Ltd, at a ceremony in the city recently. The Lever Brothers won the award in the category of the Best Multinational Company with highest growth in 2002-03.

Debate workshop begins in Ctg today

CU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day debate workshop begins at the Ispahani Public School and College auditorium in the city today.

A total of 407 debaters from 21 educational institutions of the port city are taking part in the workshop.

The schools participating in the workshop are Ispahani Public School, Chittagong Government High School, Chittagong Government Girls School, Collegiate School, Kapasgola City Corporation School, Silver Bels, Ankur Society, Sent Scholastica School, East Madarbari City Corporation School, Hate Khari, Dr. Khastagir School, BAF Shahin College, Cantonment Public School, Goljar Begum School, Mayon Sun School, Ticket Printing School, Railway Public School, Muslim High School, National Public School, Agrabad Colony School, Kusum Kumari School and Aarna Charan City Corporation School.