

Make JS more effective for greater interest of nation

President urges MPs

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has urged all members of Parliament irrespective of party affiliation to actively participate in the functions of parliament and make it more effective for the greater interest of the nation.

"Parliament is the nucleus of a democratic state," he said yesterday, thanking the lawmakers for enacting legislation for governance, ensuring justice and rule of law, and improving socioeconomic status of the people.

While the president started delivering his speech around 6:15 pm with a request to work together, main opposition Awami League members were absent from the House.

The president said that after achieving independence and democracy "now our job is to attain a greater prosperity. Irrespective of party affiliation and opinion, we should work together according a high priority to national interest."

He said humanity and human rights should be given the highest place and every step should be taken for the welfare of the people and for the benefit of the humanity.

"Let patriotism and humanity be ingrained deep in our heart, we should be equipped with moral strength," he said, adding that the entity of a nation suffers largely because of degeneration of moral values.

President Iajuddin said: "We must

be strong morally to build an outstanding, well-established nation. Time has come to uphold national interest to achieve total prosperity rising above any personal and party interest."

He appealed to all citizens to rise above differences of opinion and participate in nation building activities with the resolve to make Bangladesh a prosperous country free from poverty and hunger.

In his 26-page written speech, the president highlighted the success stories of the coalition government and government's future plan to revamp the economy and for the welfare of the people.

Diplomats, senior civil and mili-

itary officials, and dignitaries were present in the VIP gallery to listen to the president.

Speaking on law and order situation, he said despite extreme adverse situation in national and international level, the government has given special attention to improving the situation and curbing crime.

He mentioned the enactment of various laws and tribunals to arrest and punish the criminals by holding speedy trials. He said manpower of police force and strength of BDR and Ansar has been increased to enhance the effectiveness of the law enforcers.

On international affairs, he said Bangladesh had consolidated its position and image against the back-

drop of globalisation.

It has been possible, he added, through the protection of her political, economic and commercial interests, expansion of magnitude and scope of relations with the neighbouring countries by playing positive role in various international issues.

Iajuddin said the government has given emphasis on national security, regional stability, economic development and increasing affiliation with international community.

He said commitment of the government to poverty alleviation, eradication of corruption and crime, and establishment of good governance needs to be fulfilled.

"The call of the day is to develop a modern and educated nation. The expansion of technical education by necessary reforms along with institutional education is also needed."

Educational institutions must be developed as incubators and sanctuary for a true learning process," the president said adding that in this age of information technology necessary infrastructure must be built for using the facilities for free flow of information and communication and efficient manpower should be built to this end.

He said no nation could sustain in this competitive world if it failed to enrich itself with knowledge and attain skills for utilising the benefits of globalisation.

Iajuddin pointed out that achievement of the government faded away due to negative attitude and adverse comments of some quarters. "Personal frustrations and failures dominate the expressions while baseless and motivated propaganda are unleashed to tarnish the image of the country."

He said the debt of patriotism elevates a person or a nation to a greater height. "We should rise above personal and party interest and give priority to national interest to help the nation attain a prestigious place in the comity of nations."

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of MH Chowdhury, a former CSP officer, will be held at House # 30, Road # 9/A, Dhanmondi, after Asr prayers today, January 19, says a press release.

Friends and relatives have been requested to attend the qul and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Anwar Hossain Khan

Qulkhwani of Anwar Hossain Khan will be held at his residence at Matullah in Demra after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Anwar Hossain, father of Zeaul Ahsan Shamim, director, Creative Service & IT of Unirent Ltd., died of a cardiac arrest on January 15 at 62.

Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qul.

Swedish minister calls on Morshed

BSS, Dhaka

Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Carin Jämtin called on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office yesterday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Morshed briefed the Swedish minister about the progress achieved in social sector.

Bangladesh's achievement in increasing literacy rate, education for women and children, empowerment of women and life expectancy is remarkable, he said. Many countries are replicating Bangladesh's experiment in many fields like micro-credit and oral saline, he added.

The Swedish minister lauded the active role of Bangladesh in regional and international forum for establishing peace. She also appreciated the progress achieved in many areas, including social sectors.

They hoped that the bilateral relations between the two countries would be strengthened further in future.

Killing of Manik Saha condemned

The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) in a statement yesterday condemned the killing of journalist Manik Saha.

The FNB expressed its deep shock at the murder of Manik Saha and said he was a fearless and honest journalist.

It urged the government to conduct speedy investigation into the killings of all journalists killed in the southwestern region and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

It also called on the government to ensure security of the people.

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elb Eastern Lubricants Blenders Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Padma Bhaban, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chittagong

Price Sensitive Information to the Shareholders

Board of Directors of Eastern Lubricants Blenders Limited resolved the following at the Meeting held on 17th January, 2004 at 4:30 PM.

1. Date of Annual General Meeting : 35th Annual General Meeting will be held on 17th March, 2004.
2. Time of Annual General Meeting : At 11.00 AM.
3. Venue of Annual General Meeting Book Closure : Padma Bhaban, 6, Paribagh, Dhaka-1000.
4. Share Transfer Book and Register of Members will be closed from 4th March, 2004 to 17th March, 2004 (both days inclusive).
5. Dividend : Board recommended Dividend for 2002-2003 fiscal year @ Tk 2.50 (25%) per share of Face Value of Tk 10.00 each.

By order of the Board
M. Mahfuzul Haque
Company Secretary

Date: 17th January, 2004
GD-36

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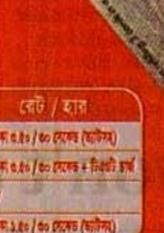
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