

Govt makes country dys-functional

Hasina tells newly elected poura chairmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP-Jamaat coalition government has been trying in a planned way to make the country dys-functional.

Pegging the government as 'absolute failure to run the country', she said: "Indeed, there is no existence of government in the country. There is no rule of law. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has to depend on religious extremists to curb law and order."

Hasina, also president of the Awami League (AL), was addressing the newly elected chairmen of Moheshpur and Gobindaganj pourasavas and their supporters at the party's Dhanmondi office.

She alleged that the prime minister has been ruling the country aided by extremist groups and criminals, and she (Khaleda Zia) has let loose the criminals against common people.

Pointing to the emergence of Islamist outfit Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) in the northwest to exterminate outlaws, Hasina once again raised the question, "Why police and other law enforcement agencies use the taxpayers' money when a private

force takes the law into its own hands?"

She asked: "Why the people will pay tax to the government if it fails to provide minimum security to them and hire private force in the name of eliminating outlaws?"

"What has happened to our armed forces and the RAB (Rapid Action Battalion) formed at a cost of TK 1000 crore of public exchequer?", she posed the question adding, "Are these agencies only to harass the opposition people?"

On recent police announcement of TK 50,000 bounty on Bangla Bhai's head, Hasina expressed doubt over it and said: "It's nothing but a farce when police provide shelter to the dreaded operation commander of the religious fundamentalist group".

Illustrating what she termed the free-fall of law and order, Hasina mentioned the assassination of prominent AL lawmaker Ahsanullah Master in Tongi and bomb attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury in Sylhet.

"Apart from the common people, this government has absolutely failed to provide security to law-maker and foreign envoy. They have no right to cling to power anymore



PHOTO: STAR

Women rights activist Ayesha Khanam speaks at a roundtable on 'Budget for the marginalised' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday, organised by the Samunnay, an NGO, the Manusher Jonno, an organisation promoting human rights and good governance, and the daily Sangbad. On her right is budget expert Motahar Hossain and on her left are economist Binayak Sen and Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, executive editor of the Sangbad. (Story on Page 6)

Mobile Mela begins tomorrow

The first mobile handset exhibition 'Mobile Mela' begins in the city tomorrow, says a press release.

Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Syed Margub Morshed will inaugurate the exhibition at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

Sponsored by GrameenPhone Ltd, the three-day exhibition will be participated by handset vendors, content providers of different value-added services and other organisations.

The vendors will offer special prices and attractive gifts. Raffle draws will also be held.

The exhibition will remain open for the public from 10:00am to 8:00pm daily.

All earnings from the admission fee will go to the Children's Education Programme run by Grameen Shikkha.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Huq is expected to be the chief guest at the closing ceremony on Saturday.

Dr Mosharraf gets 'No-Tobacco Global Award'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Health Organisation (Who) has honoured Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain by nominating him for 'No Tobacco Global Award' for his contribution to anti-tobacco campaign.

President Iajuddin Ahmed formally handed over the award to Dr Mosharraf at a ceremony at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city on Monday. The day was observed as World No Tobacco Day.

The health minister played a key role in introducing a wide range of anti-tobacco measures including ban on the advertisement of tobacco products and smoking in some public places.

Presided over by Health Secretary AFM Sarwar Kamal, the function was addressed by State Minister for Health Mizanur Rahman Sinha, Who's country representative Suniti Acharya, BMA President Prof MA Hadi and Secretary General Prof AZM Zahid Hossain.

DHAKA TODAY

Art competition

In observance of World Environment Day, environment directorate organises an art competition for the children with Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises. Time: 2.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Dare Devil' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

IT workshop

A seminar on the 'Use of information technology in libraries' will be held with State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haq Milon as chief guest. Venue: Seminar room of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 11.00am.

BCS workshop

Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) organises a workshop on e-marketing/e-commerce titled 'Marketing and selling IT solutions: What works' with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Sonartori Tower, Sonargaon Road. Time: 10.00am.

ADD workshop

Action on Disability and Development (ADD) organises a workshop on the 'Role of union parishad in the development of disabled population'. Venue: Social service directorate auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 9.30am.

Talk

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will hold a talk on 'Hariti and Pancika, the Buddhist Tutelary Couple'. Isabell Johnne of Berlin University will deliver the talk. Venue: Society auditorium, Old Secretariat Road. Time: 4.30pm.

Jubo Sanghati conference

A conference of Dhaka City (South) Jatiya Jubo Sanghati will be held with Jatiya Party Chairman Hussain Mohammad Ershad as chief guest.

Venue: Mohanagar Natyamancha, Gulistan. Time: 3.00pm.

Discussion

Industrial and Business Association will hold a pre-budget discussion. Venue: Islami Bank Tower, Dilkhusha. Time: 4.00pm.

Condolence meeting

Citizens' condolence meeting will be held in memory of former Buet professor Dr Golam Mohiuddin. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 5.00pm.

Mourning meeting

Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad organises a mourning meeting in memory of slain Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Rally

Jubo Gono Forum organises a rally to drum support for its 8-point demand. Venue: Mukhtangon. Time: 4.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Kal Ho Naa Ho' (2003) and two American films titled 'Wind Talkers' (2002) and 'Delta of Venus' (1995). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Founding anniversary

In celebration of its 38th founding anniversary, Kranti Shilpi Gosthi organises a cultural function that includes song and drama. Venue: Teachers Students Centre of Dhaka University. Time: 6.00pm.

Seminar

Iranian Cultural Centre organises a seminar on 'Theoretical and practical wisdom of Imam Khomeini for the constructive advancement of Islamic Ummah'. Venue: BIAM auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 4.30pm.

Plant at least two saplings for each child: PM

Fortnight-long 'National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair 2004' begins

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated the fortnight-long 'National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair 2004' calling upon the people to plant at least two saplings for each of their children.

Speaking at the inaugural function at the National Parade Square in the afternoon, she reiterated that tree plantation and protection of forest resource were inevitable for safeguarding the environment and ensuring balanced and sustainable development.

"Remember, there is no other unselfish friend like trees," Khaleda said pointing at their economic return and the benefit they bestow to the environment.

Presided over by Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam, the fuintion was also addressed by Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Post and Telecommunication Minister M Aminul Huq, State Minister for Environment and Forest Zafrul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary Syed Tanveer Hossain and Chief Conservator of Forests M Anwarul Islam.

Reminding of the monsoons ahead, the proper time for planting trees, she reiterated her call to plant more and more saplings to turn the whole country green.

She called upon the countrymen of Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, the scientist, who discovered that plants also have life, to be more aware and active in planting trees.

Khaleda mentioned the importance laid by her government on conservation and development of forest resource. She also recalled the importance laid by late President Ziaur Rahman for development of forests.

Detailing various steps, she

said her government in 1993 adopted a 20-year Master Plan on Forestry and also introduced the National Tree Fair.

She said her government has given emphasis on tree-based industries and planting of herbal, wood and fruit-bearing trees.

She said that as part of this initiative a master plan has been drawn up to plant one crore coconut trees in the coastal areas for protection against storm as well as increasing the coconut production.

Over 40 lakh coconut saplings have been distributed during the current year through the Forest

and other departments.

The Prime Minister hoped that the Tree Plantation Movement 2004 would get momentum through concerted efforts of all concerned.

She distributed prizes among the winners of Prime Minister's National Tree Plantaion Award 2003.

In 'Ka' category, the 1st prize went to Botolbunia Ebtedai Madrassah of Patuakhali and the 2nd prize to Chandbhag Government Primary School of Moulvibazar.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal Divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 36.6 degree Celsius was recorded to yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 22.5 degree Celsius at Bogra.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:43pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

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	34.0	26.0	73	74
Chittagong	34.4	25.8	77	69
Rajshahi	31.8	24.3	89	68
Khulna	36.0	27.3	80	76
Barisal	34.2	26.8	74	81
Sylhet	32.7	24.5	96	66
Cox's Bazar	33.6	26.5	82	81



PHOTO: PID

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain receives 'No-Tobacco Global Award' from President Iajuddin Ahmed at a function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city on Monday.