

Badruddoza, Ershad discuss political situation with Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former presidents AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and HM Ershad yesterday called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan house separately and discussed the political situation.

They extended their deepest sympathy to Hasina, who narrowly escaped the assassination attempt, and condoled the deaths of 20 people in Saturday's grenade attack.

They also expressed grave concern over the law and order downslide and strongly criticised the government for its failure to check crimes.

After the meeting, Badruddoza, also the president of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, told the reporters: "An intolerable situation is prevailing in the country. This is unfortunate for any nation."

It seems that the government is not able to control some criminal gangs, he added.

He also observed that when criminal gangs became more powerful than the government, it could not stay in power any longer.

"This government has lost its right to stay in power. We want to say it clearly that the government should step down immediately for the sake of the country and its people," said Badruddoza.

During the meeting with Hasina, Badruddoza was accompanied by his party's Secretary General Abdul Mannan.

In the other meeting, Ershad, chairman of the Jatiya party, was accompanied by his wife and political secretary Bidisha Ershad.

Senior leaders of the AL aided the party chief in both the meetings.

Lawyers to boycott court today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad, an association of lawyers, today observes a boycott of court across the country to protest appointment of High Court judges on 'political grounds'.

The government Monday appointed 19 additional judges whom the lawyers described as unqualified saying they should not be addressed My Lord. They demanded a new term to be decided in consultation with the Supreme Court Bar Association to address the newly appointed judges.

The association has urged all lawyers to take a strong stand against the conspirators, who are trying to destroy dignity of the highest tier of the judiciary.

Association Convenor M Amir-Ul Islam, Joint Convenors Shafiq Ahmed, Sahara Khatun, ZI Khan Panna and Member Secretary Subrata Chowdhury in a statement yesterday termed the new recruitment the worst case example of political motives.

Turkish, Nepalese aid for flood victims

UNB, Dhaka

Turkey and Nepal yesterday donated 100,000 US dollars each as a gesture of sympathy for the flood-affected people of Bangladesh.

Turkish Ambassador Ferit Ergin and Nepalese Ambassador Bhagirath Basnet together handed over cheques to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office.

The prime minister apprised the ambassadors of the post-flood rehabilitation programmes of her government and thanked the governments and peoples of Turkey and Nepal for their generosity.

Both the envoys lauded government measures in tackling the exigencies of floods and emergency relief operation during the floods and the post-flood rehabilitation programmes.

They appreciated the leadership of Khaleda Zia in facing the calamity and referred to her visits to theaffected areas and her personal endeavour to mitigate sufferings of the flood victims.

The Nepalese Ambassador also handed over a letter of Nepal's Prime Minister to Khaleda Zia.



PHOTO: STAR

A partial view of the burnt houses of the people of minority community at Pargachha in Rangpur. Armed mobsters with alleged links to ruling BNP in a raid on a remote village on Monday torched 22 houses of minority Hindus. (Story on Page 12).

Croatian envoy calls on FM

UNB, Dhaka

The newly appointed Croatian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dino Debeljuh, paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office yesterday.

During the meeting, the foreign minister extended hearty welcome to the new envoy of Croatia and assured him of full cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Morshed Khan hoped that the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Croatia would be further strengthened in the days ahead.

"Bangladesh is a proper place for eco-tourism and it has tremendous potentials for investment," he said.

In the other incident, a gang of 20 armed robbers barged into the house of one Musa Mia at Bhatikhaine in Patiya at around 1.30am and looted valuables worth over Tk 1 lakh.

They also fired at the villagers who chased them, injuring three people.

The mob, however, caught hold of a robber and beat him up, leaving him dead on the spot.

Two injured villagers, Kalam and Abu Monsoor, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College

Robbers kill one, mob beats robber to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Robbers shot one person dead and a mob beat a robber to death in separate incidents in the district early yesterday.

A gang of 15 robbers broke into the house of one Mokter Ahmed, 40, at Hazipara in Chandanaish at around 2.00pm and looted gold ornaments and money totalling over Tk 1 lakh, police said.

Before fleeing the scene, they also fired point-blank at Moktar, leaving him dead on the spot, as he tried to resist the gang.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a New York-based media rights' watchdog, has expressed deep concern at the threats by Islamic groups in Dhaka and Chittagong to shut down the Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

"These intimidation tactics amount to blatant attacks on press freedom in Bangladesh," said CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper on August 23.

"We call on the authorities concerned to publicly condemn those who are harassing and threatening our colleagues at the Prothom Alo, and do everything in their power to protect the newspaper and its staff," added Ann Cooper.

Hospital. The other injured is Mrinal Barua.

The robber could not be identified immediately.

CPJ concerned at threats to Prothom Alo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mohanagar Puja Committee executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Subrato Chowdhury and Monindra Kumar Nath have been elected president and general secretary of Mohanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee for next two years, says a press release.

Kajol Debnath, Jayanto Sen Dipu, Brinda Sikdar, Biresh Chandra Saha and Basudev Saha have been elected vice presidents.

Jayanto Kumar Dev and Taposh Pal have been elected joint secretaries while Babul Debnath- treasurer, Nirmol Kumar Chatterjee- organising secretary and Dhruva Kumar Laskor- office secretary.

The election was held at the biennial conference of the puja committee at Dhakeshwary National Temple premises on Monday.

China, Canada condemn attack on AL rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

China and Canada yesterday condemned the grenade attack on Saturday's Awami League rally and expressed sympathy to the families of the victims.

In a statement, Canadian Acting High Commissioner Robert Beadle urged the Bangladeshi authorities to "thoroughly investigate this act of political terrorism in accordance with the rule of law."

He called on all parties to refrain

from instigating and resorting to such violence in future.

Canada is concerned that such violence puts at risk the gains made in reducing poverty and improving the socio-economic condition of Bangladeshis, he added.

In another statement, the Chinese embassy in Dhaka expressed its shock at the grenade attack and condoled the deaths.

It also expressed sympathy and solicitude for the bereaved families and those injured in the incident.

Religious extremists blamed for grenade attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More organisations yesterday condemned Saturday's grenade attack on Awami League rally in the capital.

Bangladesh Bar Council said religious extremists wanted to kill Opposition Leader and AL President Sheikh Hasina as she stands by the pro-liberation forces. They also demanded immediate resignation of the government for its failure to ensure security of the people.

Bangladesh Engineering University Teachers' Association said such heinous act is hardly found in the history of a democratic country. The people will have to be united against the culprits behind the bomb and grenade attacks to protect the independence, the association added.

Bangladesh Lawyers League for

Human Rights demanded formation of a judicial probe committee to be headed by a former chief justice.

Agriculturists Association of Bangladesh (AAB) urged the people to unite against the evil forces setting aside the political differences. The association leaders also demanded immediate punishment to the culprits.

Islamic Welfare Foundation also condemned the grenade attack saying Islam never allows such heinous act.

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Welfare Front leaders said the barbaric attack was launched to destabilising the democracy.

Other organisations that condemned the attack included High Commission of Pakistan, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Jumchab Metta Foundation and Bangladesh Tank Lari Samik Federation.

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division till 6.00pm today.

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

Highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:23pm today and rises at 5:38am 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	33.6	27.5	66	73
Chittagong	32.5	26.0	87	75
Rajshahi	35.0	27.1	80	80
Khulna	34.5	26.8	72	89
Barisal	33.5	27.0	83	79
Sylhet	34.1	27.1	74	77
Cox's Bazar	32.7	26.0	70	82