

Govt politicising edn instts: Jalil

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday accused the four-party alliance government of



Saudi health minister arrives today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Health Minister Dr Hamid Bin Abdullah Al-Manea arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day official visit.

He will lead a high profile official delegation, says a press release.

During the visit, the Saudi delegation is expected to meet with President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The Saudi health minister will also hold a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain.

Export of quality medicine and taking doctors and trained nurses from Bangladesh will come up for discussion in their meeting.

destroying the education system and politicising all educational institutions.

The government has "rehabilitated inefficient partisan people trampling all rules and regulations, policy and ethics," he told a meeting marking the Education Day.

Education and Human Resources Affairs sub-committee of the Awami League organised the meeting at the party's Dhanmondi office, with Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

Jalil said the immediate-past Awami League government had started to implement a 'pragmatic, scientific and secular education policy' it formulated in line with the report of Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission formed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

But the government was engaged in deep conspiracy to introduce an anti-people, backward and communal-frenzy creating education system in the name of so-called Moniruzzaman Education Commission.

"All higher seats of learning are now affected with session jam, making the future of new generations uncertain. The government has pushed the education system towards ruination through politicisation, terrorism, corruption and plunder," he said.

The AL general secretary called upon people of all strata, including teachers and students, to unite against Khaleda-Nizami alliance government to overcome the mismanagement prevailing in the academic arena.

AL Education Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid, Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Dr Harun-or-Rashid, M Shafe Alam, Bahadur Bepari and Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury also spoke.



Rail workers inspect tracks at Gandaria Rail Station in the city yesterday as the five-day downpour caused damage to tracks, snapping rail link between Dhaka and Narayanganj.

Muggers strangle autorickshaw driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Muggers strangled a driver after hijacking his autorickshaw at Sitakunda upazila in the district on Thursday night.

Two muggers Sumon Nath and Liton Nath hired a CNG-run three-wheelers from Bara Takia of Mirer Sarai upazila for travelling upto Bansh Baria of Sitakunda at around 10.30pm, sources said.

As the autorickshaw reached Moha Lanka of Sitakunda, the muggers told the driver Wahab Mia,

40, to enter into a narrow lane and dragged him out of the vehicle.

They strangled the driver and tried to flee the spot with the three-wheeler.

But the muggers failed to start the vehicle and began to push it ahead rousing suspicion among the local people.

They caught the criminals red-handed and handed them over to police after giving a mob-beating at around 11.00pm.

A case was filed with Sitakunda Police Station in this connection.

Jubo Dal-JCD gunfight in Natore

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

At least five people, including a porsava commissioner, were injured in a gunfight between the Jubo Dal and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in Chhayabani Cinema area of the town on Thursday night.

The clash erupted at around 9.00pm after JCD activists beat up a Jubo Dal activist who allegedly took Tk 40,000 from them.

Both the groups fired eight

rounds of bullet and exploded hand bombs, witnesses said.

Natore Porsava commissioner and Jubo Dal leader Sohag, 30, received bullet wound.

On information, police rushed to the spot and charged baton to disperse the warring groups.

Police also arrested three activists, Shah Alam, 30, Rowshan Uzzaman, 28, and Rabul Islam, 26.

They were sent to jail yesterday after police produced them before court.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the period, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

Highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 23.2 degree Celsius at Maijdeecourt.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:59pm today and rises at 5:46am 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	30.0	24.4	80	80	80
Chittagong	32.4	24.5	82	70	70
Rajshahi	29.3	24.0	91	97	97
Khulna	29.5	24.4	91	95	95
Barisal	29.6	24.0	96	89	89
Sylhet	31.8	25.0	89	76	76
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.9	76	87	87



Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui hands over a certificate to a participant of a workshop on 'Women in Parliament: Empowerment and Effective Participation' in the city yesterday. On his left is British Council Director Dr June Rollinson.

List of reconstituted JS bodies

BSS, Dhaka

The Jatiya Sangsad reconstituted 44 parliamentary standing committees on Thursday night incorporating lawmakers from the Awami League.

On behalf of the Leader of the House, Whip Ashraf Hossain proposed the names of the standing

committees which were unanimously approved by the House.

Following are the names of chairmen of the committees: Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar -- parliamentary standing committee on rules of procedure and petition committee; Khondker Mahbubuddin law, justice and parliamentary affairs; Mahbubur Rahman --

defence ministry; Prof MA Matin -- jute and textile; Md Mozaher Hossain -- women affairs; Advocate Harun-ur-Rashid -- public accounts; Delwar Hossain Syeedi -- religious establishment; Joynal Abedin Faruk -- youth and sports; Mosharraf Hossain Mangu -- labour and employment; Mohammad Shahjahan -- food and disaster management; Mushfiqur Rahman -- finance; Mahbubur Rahman -- land; Abdul Mannan Talukdar -- LGRD and cooperatives; M Akbar Ali -- planning; Golam Mohammad Siraj -- shipping; Abdul Hye -- social welfare; Nurul Islam Moni -- science and ICT; Syed Manzur Hossain -- communications; GM Fazlul Haque -- post and telecommunications; Redwan Ahmed -- commerce; MA Matin -- water resources; Mohammad Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury -- information; Salahuddin Ahmed -- liberation war affairs; Shahjahan Chowdhury -- works and housing; Abdul Mannan -- agriculture; Shamsul Alam Pramanik -- education; Prof Kazi Golam Morshed -- civil aviation; Mahmudul Hasan -- industries; Prof. Mohammad Shahjahan Mia -- home; Md Mashirul Rahman -- health and family welfare; Md Nazimuddin Alam -- environment and forest; Ziaur Rahman Khan -- foreign affairs; Md Shahidul Islam -- power and energy; Md Mozammel Haque -- fisheries and livestock; Nazir Hossain -- expatriate welfare and foreign employment and Mohammad Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu -- primary and mass education.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bill providing for the reserved seats for women will be passed in the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad, said Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui yesterday.

The Jatiya Sangsad most probably will see women members in the reserved seats by January as they should be elected within 45 days from the passage of the bill, he said at the concluding session of a workshop.

The British Council and Khan Foundation jointly organised the five-day workshop on 'Women in Parliament: Empowerment and Effective Participation' in the city.

The bill seeking 45 reserved seats for women in parliament has already been placed in the House and sent to the parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny, said the Deputy Speaker.

Although women are competent, the political parties do not nominate them for general seats as they could not work hard for winning the election in face of various social obstacles, Siddiqui said.

He hoped that such obstacles would be removed soon and women

could be able to become lawmaker through direct election.

Women participants in the workshop called on the political parties to earmark 10 percent nominations for women in the national election.

Speaking as chief guest, British Council Director Dr June Rollinson said it is absolutely important for optimum progress to have equal

participation of men and women in the decision-making process.

Mary-Anne Stephenson, consultant and trainer of Women Empowerment in Politics, and Advocate Rokhsana Khondker, executive director of the Khan Foundation, also spoke.

About 40 women politicians from across the country took part in the workshop.