

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON BDF AND WTO LAUNCHED

Govt urged to expand social safety nets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) was formally launched yesterday, aiming to protect economy and ensure social justice.

The parliamentary group is comprised of 11 lawmakers from BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party (Ershad) and Jamaat-e-Islami as its founder executive board members and patrons.

"Being the people of a developing country, we the parliamentarians feel the question of food sovereignty, the need to protect our agriculture, trade, economy and to ensure economic and social justice must not be diluted with partisan politics while meeting the challenges of globalisation and trade liberalisation," its Chairperson Md Abu Hena of BNP said while reading out the declaration of the group at a press conference.

The parliamentary group urged the government to address the moral and social implications of globalisation and trade liberalisation by reshaping social services and enhancing social safety nets in order to support social justice within an open economy.

It called on the developed countries to provide wider market access to exports from LDCs, including Bangladesh, and supplement more rapid debt relief with an increased



Md Abu Hena of All-Party Parliamentary Group on Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

level of new financial support for the heavily indebted countries.

"We, the parliamentarians, strongly call upon the BDF, specially the World Bank, IMF and ADB to ensure that the democratically elected representatives in Bangladesh are the final arbiters of all economic policies in the country and to ensure the primacy of sovereign of National Parliament in all matters of national interest," Abu Hena said.

The parliamentary group's vice-chairpersons -- Prof Quazi Golam Morshed and Khadiza Amin of BNP

and Muhammad Serajul Akbar and Motahar Hossain of AL, Ghulam Habib Dulal of JP and Farid Uddin Chowdhury of Jamaat -- were present at the press conference held at the National Press Club.

The patrons of the group are Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Anwarul Kabir Talukdar, state minister for finance and planning, Redwan Ahmed, chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce Ministry, Lt. Col. (Retd.) Faruk Khan, whip of the Opposition in Parliament, and Dr Md AbdurRazzaque MP.

JANMASTAMI

President hosts reception

UNB, Dhaka

On the occasion of the Janmastami, President Iajuddin Ahmed and his wife Prof Dr Anwara Begum hosted a reception for members of the Hindu community at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan and State Minister for Water Resources Advocate Gautam Chakravarty were present.

Judges, political and religious leaders, high commissioner of India and ambassador of Nepal in Bangladesh, teachers of universities and colleges, representatives of international organisations, freedom fighters, recipients of national awards, high officials, lawyers, doctors, journalists, artists, leaders of Hindu community, businessmen and other professionals attended the reception.

President Iajuddin and Dr Anwara welcomed the guests, talked to them freely and exchanged pleasantries with them. They wished them a happy and prosperous future.

Unite against misrule of govt: Dr Arefin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday at a discussion called upon the youths to work for materialising the dreams of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, says a press release.

Prof Siddique, also founder advisor of Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad, urged the young generation to be united against the corruption and misrule of the government.

He was addressing the discussion organised by Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city marking the 30th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"It is unfortunate for the nation that the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case has not yet been executed," he said.

He demanded of the government for immediate execution of the verdict for the sake of establishing the rule of law in the country.

Jubo Parishad General Secretary Md Rezaul Karim Khan Reza also spoke as the special guest.

Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad Dhaka city unit convener Hasibul Kabir Ripon presided.



Chirantan '71, a children's organisation, observes a token hunger strike at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday demanding execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case.

FARIDPUR-1 BY-ELECTION

Candidates show rare gesture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented move, candidates in the Faridpur-1 by-election gathered on a single stage and joined their hands together, pledging not to use muscle power and black money to influence the results of the election.

Shujan, a citizens' initiative for good governance, brought them together on the stage on Thursday.

Three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents in the capital and Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Staff Correspondent reports: An elderly man was killed in a road accident at Khilgaon area in the city yesterday.

The accident occurred when covered van hit a rickshaw leaving Abdul Hamid, 60 assistance sales manager of Pharmadesh Pharmaceutical Company, dead on the spot. Hamid was going to his house from Malibag Kithchen market by the rickshaw.

Police arrested driver Helaluddin and seized the van. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue for autopsy.

BSS from Cox's Bazar adds: Mother and her daughter were killed and 10 others injured, including three seriously, in a road accident on Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway at Kairchra bus station under Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila.

The victims identified as Nurun Nahar, 40, and her daughter Tarzin, 2, died on the spot when a Ramu upazila bound passengers' jeep was hit from behind by a truck at the bus station.

Three seriously injured were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for treatment.

The rest were admitted to Cox's Bazar Zila Hospital and Ramu Upazila Health Complex.

Driver Saiful and the truck were handed over to Eidgaon Police Post.

Pak president to meet US Jewish leaders

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf will meet with US Jewish leaders in a bid to "bridge the gap" between the two religions, his spokesman said Thursday.

Spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan confirmed the military ruler had accepted an invitation by the American Jewish Congress to speak about his campaign for moderation in the Muslim world.

"This is a good opportunity to bridge the gap," Sultan told AFP. "It is a way to start clearing up misperceptions and misunderstandings and we hope that it will prove good for world peace."

Musharraf would address the group in New York on September 17 after attending a UN Summit, Jack Rosen, chairman of the American Jewish Congress Council for World Jewry, said Thursday.

It was an "unprecedented opportunity", Rosen added.

Modern restaurant to be set up at Dhaka Zoo

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Tourism Corporation plans to set up a modern restaurant at the Dhaka Zoo in a bid to improve facilities at the zoo as well as make it more attractive to the visitors, a senior official said yesterday.

Ministries of Civil Aviation and Tourism, and the Fisheries and Livestock will prepare a project proposal of Tk 22 lakh in this regard.

The Dhaka Zoo curator Mohammad Mafizur Rahman said officials from the concerned ministries selected the lake-side location for the proposed restaurant beside the elephant and horse sheds.

"There was a restaurant at this place in previous times too," the curator said. "The tourism corporation has also a plan for renovation of the restaurant, closed a year ago due to financial constraint," he added.

Besides, there were three more eateries inside the zoo. All of those were shut down following allegations of harassing the visitors to the zoo.

Both the candidates declared that they would accept the election results and work together for the development of the area.

DHAKA TODAY

Sammilita Samajik Andolon
Sammilita Samajik Andolon organises a discussion on 'Rise of fundamentalist terrorism, present Bangladesh and responsibilities'. Venue: Shaheed Tajul Auditorium, Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust Bhaban, Purana Paltan. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion
Bangladesh Muktiyuddha Prajonma will hold a discussion to mark the 30th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Venue: Hotel Rajmoni Esha Khan hall room (2nd floor). Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain
Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan will form a human chain demanding immediate execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case and punishment to those involved in the August 17 serial bomb blasts. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 10:30am.

Rotary Dhaka North West
The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West, followed by fellowship dinner, will be held. A guest speaker from UNDP will speak on 'Street Children'. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 7:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central
The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Rotarians are invited to attend the meeting for fellowship and make-up. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka Kawran Bazar
Rotary Club of Dhaka Kawran Bazar will hold its regular weekly meeting, followed by a family fellowship event. Venue: Broccoli Restaurant, 745 Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 7:30pm.

Govt urged to formulate herbal medicine policy

BSS, Dhaka

An eminent herbal medicine expert has urged the government to formulate a policy soon to facilitate herbal treatment in the country.

"Herbal treatment is not getting popularity in the country like in China, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan due to reluctance of some of the concerned persons to take initiatives to formulate a herbal medicine policy," said Dr Alamgir Mati, Managing Director of Modern Herbal Group of Companies, on Thursday.

Talking to BSS, Dr Mati, a homeopathic physician and expert in herbal medicine (neuro), said the government is giving approval to herbal products as food items not as medicines.

"We cannot manufacture herbal medicines as we are not getting approval from the authorities concerned to do so. So, we have to sell herbal products as food items," he said.

Dr Mati, also the owner of MXN

Modern Herbal Food Ltd, Modern Herbal Food Ltd and Macro Unani Pharma, said Bangladesh has to follow China, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan to popularise herbal medicines in the country and reduce dependence on allopathic medicines to avoid side effects.

Referring to the government steps to encourage plantation of medicinal plants across the country, he said the efforts will not be fruitful until we will be able to produce herbal medicines on a large scale.

He highlighted the curative properties of herbal medicines and said that people for generations in the past had long life as they used to take traditional medicines.

"We have to go back to herbal treatment and have more organic foods to earn long life," he added.

The treatment of herbal medicine has become popular in different countries across the world as it was scientifically proved that there was no side affect of herbal medicines.

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DUJA polls held

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Kazi Saifuddin Avi (Bhorer Kagoi) and Mustak Ahmed Masud (Dainik Jugantor) were jointly elected president while Imamul Haq Shamim (BSS) general secretary of Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) yesterday.

Avi and Masud got 12 votes each in the presidential post. They will share the one-year tenure.

Avi will work as president for the first six months while Masud the next six months.

Shamim was elected general secretary polling 13 votes against his rival Ishaiq Husain (Dainik Samakal), who bagged 10 votes.

Sujan Mehedi (NTV) was elected vice president with 14 votes.

All the 25 voters cast their votes for 10 posts seven secretariat posts and three executive member posts.

Other office-bearers are: Joint Secretary: Mahabubur Rahman (Amar Desh-13 votes), Treasurer: Sheikh Adnan Fahad (UNB, 13 votes), Information and Library Secretary: Ashik Md Shafi (Bangladesh Today, 13 votes), and Office Secretary: Riayul Islam (Manabjani, 13 votes).

The executive committee members are: Mokarram Hosain Shuvo (Prothom Alo, 15 votes), Siddique Rahman Sumon (The Independent, 13 votes) and Kamrul Hasan (BDNEWS, 13 votes).

Obituary

Asaduzzaman Shahin, president of Motalgan upazila Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad, passed away due to cardiac arrest at a nursing home in Khulna on August 25 at the age of 38, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and one son to mourn his death.

Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad President Akhter Ahmed Khan and General Secretary Rezaul Karim Khan Reza in a joint statement condoned the death of Shahin and prayed for salvation of the departed soul. They also conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.



Nagorik Sanghati, Projonmer Chetona and Green Voice form a human chain in the city yesterday demanding measures to check indiscriminate felling of trees at many parts of the country, including Meherpur and Sylhet.

Take steps to check felling of trees

Prof Serajul Islam urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury yesterday demanded that the government has to take measures immediately to check indiscriminate felling of trees at many parts of the country, including Meherpur and Sylhet, says a press release.

Speaking at a rally at Shahbagh in the city, he said on the one hand the prime minister is conducting tree plantation programme, on the other hand her lawmakers and party men are selling out trees.

Nagorik Sanghati, Projonmer Chetona and Green Voice jointly organised the rally. Engineer Sheikh M Shahidullah, Engineer Inamul Haque, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Dr Roubiyet Ferdous, Principal Liakat Ali, Mehir Biswas and Sharifuzzaman Sharif also spoke.

The speakers said the ruling party leaders are misappropriating the money selling the trees through tenders in name only.

The speakers demanded of the government to stop felling trees and punishment to the persons involved in felling trees, including of the Department of Forest, Roads and Highways, local administration and political leaders.

Malaysian envoy meets Noman

BSS, Dhaka

Malaysian High Commissioner Dato' Ashaari Sani on Thursday called on Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman at his office in the city.

They discussed bilateral issues during the meeting.

They also hoped that the existing relations between the two brotherly countries would be further strengthened in the days ahead.

'Join oust-govt movement'

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak yesterday urged the people, including the student community, to join the oust-government movement.

He made the call at a discussion meeting on the occasion of the National Mourning Day organised by Dhaka City Chhatra League (North) at the Bangabandhu Avenue.

"Be ready once again for a struggle similar to that of 69 and 71," he said, urging people to join the united movement to get rid of the nation of the clutch of the BNP-Jamaat alliance.

Speaking on the occasion AL

presidium member Tofail Ahmed said the extremist fanatic forces have surfaced to ruin the country and seize the state power under the direct government patronisation.

He urged the people to get united and raise their heads once again with a view to ousting the government through a mass upsurge and help form a pro-liberation government under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

AL leaders Obaidul Kader, Alhaj Mokbul Hossain, BCL President Liakat Sikdar and General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu also spoke at the meeting with Mohammad Ishaq Miah in the chair.

WEATHER TODAY

Slight rise in day temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also expected at places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period, Met Office said. It said day temperature is likely to rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 5:39am 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	33.1	27.0	83	82
Chittagong	29.5	25.2	82	87
Rajshahi	35.5	26.5	87	87
Khulna	33.6	27.2	90	95
Barisal	30.7	26.5	93	94
Sylhet	31.5	25.9	83	95
Cox's Bazar	28.5	24.0	87	87

Training workshop for high school English teachers

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA) organised a training programme for the high school English teachers at the Presidency University from August 14 to 25, says a press release.

A total of 62 English teachers in two groups from Bangla medium schools, mostly from the regions, participated in this interactive workshop.

The programme was facilitated by Dr Steve Cornwell, an ELT teacher training specialist from the USA, currently based in Japan.

BELTA teacher trainers also facilitated some sessions. Jonathan Cebra and Dr Michelle Jones, Director and Deputy Director of the American Centre gave away certificates to the participants.