

Govt conspires to foil polls: 14-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Awami League-led 14-party opposition combine yesterday alleged that the ruling four-party coalition government is conspiring to hand over power through unconstitutional means to foil the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

They also alleged that the government is trying to make parliament ineffective using their lawmakers to deliver indecent and unparliamentary speech against the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina aiming to force the main opposition AL to resign.

The 14-party leaders were speaking at a rally at Muktagang in the city. The opposition combine organised the rally followed by a procession to

protest the police atrocities on the opposition men during the Election Commission (EC) Siege Programme on June 20 and BNP lawmakers' derogatory remarks against AL President Sheikh Hasina in parliament on June 19.

Reiterating its stance to resist any election without the implementation of the reform proposals and resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and two other "politically appointed" commissioners, the opposition leaders urged the countrymen to blockade roads, rail tracks and river routes on July 2 to compel the government to accept the demands.

Abdur Razzak said the BNP lawmaker, who made indecent remarks on Sheikh Hasina in the House, will

be resisted in the streets if he makes such remark again.

Tofail Ahmed said the government had recruited hundreds of party workers including accused in Ramna Batomul blasts case in police department who are now carrying out torture on the opposition.

Rashed Khan Menon said until the reform proposals are implemented the countrymen would have to listen unparliamentary speeches in parliament.

Presided over by Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya, the rally was also addressed by Amir Hossain Amu, Motia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, MA Gani, Nurul Islam, Zakir Hossain, Dr Asit Baran Roy, Syed Zafor Sazzad and Harun Chowdhury.

Obituary

Eng Md Abdul Malek, manager of Bangladesh Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company, passed away yesterday at the age of 48, says a press release.

He was buried at the Martyr Intellectuals Graveyard yesterday.

His quikhwani will be held at his residence (6C, Eskaton View, 120/1 Eskaton) in the city tomorrow after Asr prayers.

Alhaj Abul Maksud Khan

Alhaj Abul Maksud Khan, father of human right activist Alena Khan, passed away yesterday at the age of 86 at his village home in Pabna, says a press release.

During his lifetime he established many schools, colleges, hospitals in his locality. He also worked for women education and development in Pabna.

Secretary of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights condoled his death and expressed sympathy to his bereaved family members.

Death anniversary



Today is the 15th death anniversary of Mary Gomez, a teacher of Little Jewel School and religious and social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, prayers will be offered at Ramna Church, her grave in Wari cemetery and at a her mother's residence at Thomas Tower at Kakrail in the city.

Madhu Sen Gupta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Today is the second death anniversary of former newspaper agent Madhu Sen Gupta.

The family members will organise a discussion, recitation from the Geeta and special prayers at his residence at city's DC Road in Dewan Bazar area.

Qulqhwani

Qulqhwani of MA Bari Talukdar, son of late Abdul Hady Talukdar, and former superintendent engineer of the Water Development Board, will be held at his residence at House 10, Road 5, Dhamondi in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Chehlum

Chehlum of AFM Imam Hossain, former additional secretary, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at the Mosque near his residence at Road No-9, House No-21, Block-B, PC Culture Housing Society, Mohammadpur after Asr prayers.

Imam passed away on May 13 at the age of 65.

Maleka Hosna Afroz

Chehlum of Maleka Hosna Afroz (Ranu), wife of late MI Chowdhury, former joint secretary, will be held at her residence at 54,

New Eskaton, in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Ali Morshed Mahmood

Chehlum of Ali Morshed Mahmood will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held and foods will be distributed among the orphans in the Kuchukhet Orphanage at Dhaka Cantonment in the city.

Doa mahfil will also be held after Asr prayers at the residence of the deceased.

Shraddha

Shraddha of Dr Manjures Chowdhury, an eminent educationist and litterateur, will be held on the Dhakeshwari Temple premises today, says a press release.

She passed away at Birdem Hospital in the city on June 11 at the age of 80.

Probe into death of journo demanded

Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra (NSK) and Bangladesh Mohila Parishad (BMP) demanded proper investigation into the unnatural death of Journalist Shanta Sultana, says a press release.

They also expressed deep shock at her death.

In a statement NSK President Nasimul Ara Huq said, "With Shanta's death, we lost a potential journalist".

Jubilant faces of SSC examinees



SSC examinees who came out successful with flying colours celebrate on their school premises following the publication of their results yesterday. (Clockwise from top left) Holy Cross School in Dhaka, Govt. Laboratory High School in Dhaka, Govt. Collegiate School in Chittagong, Govt. Khastagir School in Chittagong, Ispahani School in Chittagong and Ideal High School in Dhaka.



Maj. Gen. (ret'd.) Dr ASM Motiur Rahman, chairman of Technical Sub-Committee of National AIDS Committee, speaks at a programme titled 'Caring patients living with AIDS' at a city hotel yesterday.

Dutch-Bangla Bank support for HIV positives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the second consecutive year, Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) has come to the aid of HIV/AIDS patients.

The bank, as part of its corporate social responsibility, has initiated a programme titled 'Caring patients living with AIDS' under which the HIV-positive people receive medical support and food supplements.

At a programme held at a city hotel yesterday, the bank distributed treatment cards to 27 patients, raising the number of card holders to 50. Last year, 23 HIV positives received the cards.

The bank provides the card holders with medicines, clinical support and food supplements, said the DBBL authorities.

Addressing the programme, DBBL Managing Director Yeasin Ali said everybody has a duty to serve society and the bank has been doing this through various social programmes.

The HIV positives are the most distressed group in society, he said, adding that everyone should come forward to help them live a normal life.

He stressed the need for improving the diagnostic system to easily detect the virus.

Yeasin Ali called on the people to extend support to HIV/AIDS patients so that they do not feel ostracised.

He also reiterated the bank's continuous support for the HIV positives.

Maj. Gen. (ret'd.) Dr ASM Motiur Rahman, chairman of Technical Sub-Committee of National AIDS Committee, distributed the cards as the chief guest.

Dr Motiur said the HIV/AIDS patients suffer from social deprivation. So, they need not only treatment but also sympathy, cooperation, mental support and care, he added.

Lauding the bank's initiatives, he called on the well-off people and other organisations to come forward to help such patients.

Referring to official and NGO statistics, he said the number of HIV positives in the country is much smaller compared to other South Asian countries and it is time to take steps to prevent spread of the deadly disease.

Dr Motiur also called for raising awareness about HIV/AIDS among the people.

Habiba Akhter, an NGO representative, Dr Mozammel Hossain Khan, medical consultant of DBBL, KS Tabrez, deputy managing director of DBBL, and Brother Ronald were also present at the programme.

Fix minimum wage at Tk 3,000 for RMG workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday reiterated the need to fix the minimum wage at Tk 3,000 for the workers of garment factories immediately.

The concept of minimum wage should be clear to everybody, they said, adding that fixing of minimum wage does not mean that it would raise the wages in all factories.

"We should also think about the implementation mechanism so that it could be activated soon and the review of remuneration should be made compulsory through amendment to related laws," said Sultan Ahmed of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS).

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) organised the roundtable on 'Fixing the minimum wage for garment industries and our duties' at a city hotel. Representatives of factory owners and workers and government officials took part in the discussion.

The objective of the roundtable is to place recommendations in order to help the wage commission fix the minimum wage and implement it without any delay, said BNWLA Executive Director Salma Ali.

The speakers also called for reforms of the wage commission.

"Though the productivity rate in the country's garment industry is the highest in the region, the wage is the lowest in the world. The members of the commission should consider market price, inflation and dollar exchange rate while fixing the minimum wage," said Abul Ehsan, president of Textile Garment Sramik Federation.

SM Fazlul Haque, a director of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA), said a delegation of the association would soon visit Indonesia, Cambodia, India, Sri

Lanka, Thailand and Nepal to see their wage award systems.

Presenting the recommendations prepared by the BNWLA in consultation with different groups, Fawzia Karim Firoz called for a review of the existing grade system and reformed structure. A tripartite monitoring committee should also be formed to review the situation of garment factories.

Independent member of the wage commission Prof Iqbal Ahmed, GM Kader MP, Chairman of 3rd labour court Abdul Mannan, and Secretary to the labour and employment ministry Sujauddin Ahmed also spoke.

Girl commits suicide as she fails SSC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A girl student, who appeared in the SSC examination this year, committed suicide at her house at North Goran in the city yesterday as she could not pass the exam.

The victim was identified as Rabeya Akhter Sathi, 16, daughter of Police Inspector Abdul Bares. She was found hanging from overhead shower stand at her bathroom at about 4.00pm.

Her family members rushed Sathi to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

Her sister Lucky Akhter told reporters that Sathi went to her school at around noon to check her results, but when she returned home, she looked very upset.

Sathi, a student of Khilgaon Model School, appeared in the SSC examination under humanities group.

Bill on nat'l accreditation board placed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bill was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday proposing to form a national accreditation board, which would accredit laboratories, license issuing bodies and training institutions.

Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami piloted the bill titled "Bangladesh Accreditation Act, 2006." Nizami said, "If the accreditation system introduces for different testing, assessment and quality certificates it will help ensure quality of products and services."

The bill proposed to form a 12-member national accreditation board that would work following guidelines of different internally standard bodies like the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and the International Electro Technical Commission (IEC).



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet and a few places over Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, said Met Office, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Comilla and lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:12am 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	32.5	24.8	76	89
Chittagong	33.4	25.5	82	76
Rajshahi	33.8	25.5	89	77
Khulna	33.2	26.0	77	78
Barisal	31.4	26.5	78	75
Sylhet	32.9	24.5	96	67
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.5	69	79

Currencies worth Tk 2.45cr seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign currencies worth over Tk 2.45 crore were seized from a passenger at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Wednesday night.

Two people were arrested in this connection. Police said they first arrested Nurul Haq who was bound for Singapore in a Singapore Airlines flight at around 11:45pm.

CHILD KILLING Ashim on 2-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Anshur Ashim Gomez, accused of killing a child, on a two-day remand.

Ashim was arrested from his Monipuri Para at Tejgaon in the early hours of Wednesday after the mother of victim Emon, filed a case against him. The mother of the three-and-a-half-year-old boy worked at Ashim's house as a domestic help.

During the interrogation, Ashim, a masters student of Tejgaon College, told police yesterday that he only slapped Emon because he did not prepare his lessons.

Anwara, however, told The Daily Star that Ashim never taught her son.

CTG BOARD SSC EXAMS 3725 get GPA-5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The pass rate and the number of GPA-5 achievers in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examination held under Chittagong Education Board (CEB) this year are the highest in last five years.

The pass rate is 63.87 per cent this year whereas last year it was 60.92 per cent. The number of GPA-5 holders has increased to 3725 this year from 2265 last year.

Twenty-one schools have achieved cent per cent pass rate while the number of hundred per cent pass rate achievers in the examination last year was twelve.

Out of total of 60974 examinees appeared, 38942 came out successfully in this year's exam.

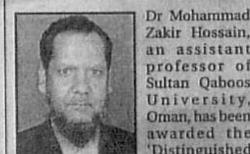
Faujdarhat Cadet College recorded the best result in the board with 93.75 per cent of its candidates obtaining GPA-5. From this institution 48 examinees sat for the exam with 45 students obtaining the feat.

Ispahani Public School and College is second in this regard with 88.88 per cent candidates (104 out of 117) getting GPA-5. The institution recorded cent per cent success with another 20 institutions.

As far as the number of GPA-5 holders is concerned, Chittagong Collegiate School tops the list with 287 students. Dr. Khastagir Girls High School stands second with 240 of its examinees getting GPA-5. The pass rates of these two schools are 98.95 and 98.68 per cent respectively.

The other successful schools are... Chittagong Government High School - 122, Bangladesh Women Association (Bawa) School - 119, Nasirabad Govt. Boys High School - 114, Naval Academy School - 105, Ispahani Public School and College - 104, Govt. Muslim High School - 104, Nasirabad Girls High School - 95 and Chittagong

Dr Zakir receives Oman university Research Award



Dr. Zakir Hossain, an assistant professor of Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, has been awarded the 'Distinguished Research Award' by the university recently, says a press release.

He has been working at this university since January 2002.

Dr Hossain has published about 30 research papers in the field of econometrics, financial econometrics and business statistics in prestigious international journals.

His research work mainly focuses on the estimation of true relationships and growth pattern of the parameters of econometric, financial and many other quantitative models. He also authored a book on financial econometrics published in the UK.

DHAKA TODAY

Muktangan. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar
World University organises a seminar on "Prospects and Application of Mechatronics Engineering in Bangladesh". Venue: RDEC Auditorium, LGED Bhaban. Time: 3:00pm.

Painting competition
The prize giving ceremony of "Grammen Phone Zainul-Quamrul International Children's Painting Competition 2006" will be held. Venue: Shaheed Zia auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Open discussion
Health and Social Voluntary Centre will hold an open discussion on "The necessity of maintaining a drug-free workplace". Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

Public meeting
Communist Party of Bangladesh organises a public meeting. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 3:00pm.

Fruit fair
Drishti organises a fruit fair. Venue: TSC of Dhaka University. Time: 10:30am.

Orientation programme
National Polytechnic Institute will hold its Orientation Programme '06. Venue: Glass and Ceramic Institute auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Extended meeting
An extended meeting of the central body of Jubo Gono Forum will be held. Venue: Jubo Gono Forum Central Office. Time: 10:00am.

Human chain
Save Environment Movement and Bangladesh Photojournalist Association will form a human chain demanding the recovery of all playgrounds in old Dhaka. Venue: Armanitola playground. Time: 10:00am.