

Ex-BNP ministers, MPs hit out at 4-party leadership

'Failed politicians must quit politics'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several former ministers and lawmakers of BNP yesterday came down heavily on the BNP-led four-party alliance leadership for resorting to massive corruption and terrorism, saying that failed politicians must quit politics.

They also demanded that the corrupt leaders be brought to justice.

There is no alternative for the present military-backed caretaker government but to achieve success, the BNP leaders said at a roundtable at the National Press Club.

'The Quest for New Leadership' organised the roundtable, with BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman as the chief guest.

Former minister and BNP Vice-President Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, former state ministers Alamgir Kabir and Anwarul Kabir Talukdar, former ambassador and adviser to the BNP chairperson Mofazzal Karim, former lawmaker Shamsuzzaman Dudu and Krishok Dal leader Mujibur Rahman took part in the roundtable moderated by Ehsanul Kabir, infor-

mation and research secretary of BNP central committee.

Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman said the present government must succeed in bringing about a positive change, as the nation does not want to go back to the previous situation.

The government has already brought changes to several institutions, he said, adding that reforms now should be brought to the political parties for a qualitative change in this area.

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said old leadership as well as the system have to be changed. "Let us have a new system and new leadership, which would run the country properly," he added.

Alamgir Kabir said the 'Hawa Bhaban' group is responsible for corruption and terrorism. The group even ran a 'parallel government' from that controversial Bhaban, he added.

"The Hawa Bhaban group has ruined all the institutions. They have even appointed judges and bureaucrats," he alleged. Those who plundered public property cannot be forgiven, he added.

Strongly criticising the Khaleda

Zia's government, Anwarul Kabir Talukdar said all corrupt people must be brought to justice.

"The dual governments' destroyed everything in the last five years and the corrupt leaders have grabbed 28 or 29 government buildings in the city," he said.

Calling for a political revolution, Mofazzal Karim said some politicians are responsible for the present political crises. "It has now been proved that the allegation of siphoning of money is true, although I earlier thought it was propaganda," he said.

Criticising BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for her recent comment about the party's Secretary General Mannan Bhuiyan, he said it would be difficult to keep the party intact if she continues to make such comments.

Shamsuzzaman Dudu said the corrupt political leaders must be removed from politics.

Mujibur Rahman said that the four-party alliance leadership is responsible for the present situation and that the decision to make the president the chief adviser was completely wrong.



(Left) Furniture and other office materials being removed from the office on the 5th floor of Rangs Bhaban in the city yesterday as Rajuk workers continue to demolish internal structures on the 16 upper floors of the building. (Right) Ratna Roy, an employee of Rangs Group, speaks at a press conference on the Rangs Bhaban at a city hotel yesterday. Officials and employees of the Rangs Group organised the press conference. (Story on Page 16)



PHOTO: STAR



Artists perform Tagore song at Shaukat Osman auditorium at Central Public Library in the city yesterday. Bishwabéena organised the function.

225 DU teachers demand release of Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 225 teachers of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday demanded immediate release of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and declaration of August 15 as the 'National Mourning Day'.

They also demanded immediate execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case.

"In accordance with the government's assurance of showing proper respect to Bangabandhu, we are demanding declaration of August 15 as the national mourning day, and immediate execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case," they said in a statement.

The signatories to the statement included former DU vice-chancellor AK Azad Chowdhury, Muntasir Mamun, AAMS Arefin Siddique, Kazi Shahidullah, Moshbuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Mizanur Rahman and Badrul Imam.

YLC cultural programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Young Learners' Centre (YLC) of The British Council organised a daylong cultural programme for the children yesterday.

Over 250 children aged from four to 12 years took part in the colourful event held at the British Council auditorium at Fuller Road in the city.

British Council Bangladesh Director Dr June Rollinson inaugurated the function as the chief guest.

The programme is organised to showcase the inherent creative talents of the children through spontaneous participation of children and to enhance their interactive thoughts and interpersonal skills, said the organisers.

The major attractions of the function were Sisimpur Puppet show, magic and game shows.

Obituary

Syeda Jahanara Haq, a renowned social worker and former general secretary of Kalabagan Mothers' Association, passed away in the early hours of yesterday, says a press release. She was buried at Azimpur Graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at the Bashiruddin Road Mosque after Zohr prayers yesterday.

MASS PSYCHOGENIC ILLNESS 14 more fall sick

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Some 14 students fell sick during outbreaks of mass psychogenic illness (MPI), also known as mass hysteria, at a school in Hathazari in the district yesterday.

Sources said Md Mohiuddin, a student of class VIII of Jafarabad High School, felt headache at around 10:30am.

When he was brought to the room of the headmaster, he felt nausea and fainted soon afterwards, said Md Akhter Hossain, headmaster of the school.

As the news spread, other students at different classes started to fall sick, sources said.

Among the students who fell sick,

One killed in road accident

UNB, Dhaka

An unidentified man was crushed to death under the wheels of a minibus at Khilkhet in the city yesterday.

Local people said the accident took place near Lotus Kamal Bhaban at about 1:00pm, killing the man, aged about 25, on the spot.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and lowest 24.9 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:39pm today and rises at 5:29am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in			
	in celsius	Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	34.5	27.4	72	56		
Chittagong	34.0	25.4	66	92		
Rajshahi	34.4	26.3	82	70		
Khulna	33.0	27.5	83	76		
Barisal	34.0	26.6	76	67		
Sylhet	34.1	26.2	95	69		
Cox's Bazar	33.2	25.5	67	73		

Injured woman falls sick due to starvation

RU CORRESPONDENT

An injured woman fell sick as she had been unfed for last four days at Darshana para village under Mohonpur upazila in Rajshahi district.

She was identified as Hasna Hena, 70, and admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) in semi-conscious condition.

Hasna was hurt in a clash between the villagers and the police on July 30 in which at least 30 people including women and children were injured.

Following the clash, five cases were filed with Mohonpur Police Station against hundreds of villagers including Keshorhati Pourasabha Chairman Shahiduzzaman Shahid.

The female members of about 165 families are now passing their days in misery as most of the male members fled homes for fearing of police arrest.

Sources said most family members are leading an inhuman life with their dependents and passing days ill-fed or half-fed in absence of their male earning members.

Police everyday raid the village to arrest the accused persons.

Rabeya, a housewife, said many women are becoming sick day by day due to food crises.

Villagers have urged human rights activists and NGOs to extend their hand and supply foods and medicines to affected people.

When contacted, Officer-in-charge of Mohonpur Police Station Afzal Hossain said only the accused are absconding, general people are staying at their homes.

DHAKA TODAY

SMRC Seminar

Saarc Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC) organises a seminar on 'Application of weather and climate forecasts in the socio-economic development and disaster mitigation'. Venue: SMRC seminar hall, Agargaon. Time: 8:30am.

Reception

Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka will accord a reception to Editor of the weekly 'Begin' Nororjan Begum. Venue: Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Barrister Korban Ali Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion on the 2nd death anniversary of Barrister Korban Ali. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

Shujon View exchange meeting

Shushonner Jonney Nagorik (Shujon) organises a view exchange meeting on the current flood situation. Venue: Shujon secretariat, 3/7 Asad Avenue. Time: 3:00pm.

CJFD Seminar

Chittagong Journalists Forum Dhaka (CJFD) organises a seminar on the development of Chittagong and our duties to mark its 8th founding anniversary. Venue: Chittagong Bhaban, Topkhana Road. Time: 3:00pm.

DCC View exchange meeting

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) organises a view exchange meeting on dengue. Venue: DCC auditorium. Time: 11:00pm.

NDP View exchange meeting

National Democratic Party (NDP) organises a view exchange meeting on reforms. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

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Call to conduct extensive research on road safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at the third national convention of 'Nirapad Sarak Chai', a campaign for road safety, have underscored the need for extensive research on road safety issues and causes of accidents.

Expressing solidarity with the campaign, former adviser to the caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan called for addressing a number of issues, including the existing law and its application, training of all stakeholders and launch of highway patrol.

Without adequate information and documents, it is not possible to take effective measures to ensure road safety, he added.

He also laid emphasis on freeing the transport sector from criminalisation. "A vested quarter has grabbed the transport sector...The road safety movement has to forge resistance against these enemies," he said.

Mohammad Yasin Ali, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd, called on the affluent people to join the movement and also insisted on raising awareness about the issue.

BSF guns down Bangladeshi cattle trader

UNB, Jhenidah

Members of Border Security Force of India shot dead Bangladeshi cattle trader on Jolali frontier in Moheshpur upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Asadul Bhai, 35, son of Moniruddin Bhai of Matina village in the upazila.

BSF sources said when Asadul went to his field near the border to bring his cattle back home at about 6:00am, BSF members of Ronoghat camp fired on him, leaving him dead on the spot.

The body was dragged away across the frontier by the Indian border guards.

Skeleton of dead whale taken to Nat'l Science, Tech Museum in Dhaka

CU CORRESPONDENT