

Tk 19cr Japanese scholarship grant
BSS, Dhaka

Japan will provide a grant of Tk 19.30 crore this year to Bangladesh under its Human Resources Development Scholarship project.

Economic Relations Division Secretary M Aminul Islam Bhuiyan and Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Masayuki Inoue signed an exchange of note to this effect at the Planning Commission yesterday.

Under the Japanese Grant Assistance, 20 Bangladeshis are being awarded scholarships every year to do master's in economics, public administration and environment in Japanese universities since 2001.

Hold general election before local govt polls

Speakers urge govt at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'Election: National or Local' was organised by the Coalition for Good Governance at the National Press Club in the capital.

Awami League (AL) leader Advocate Rahmat Ali said it would be a wrong decision if the CG delays general election in the name of holding local government election.

"Election of local government should be held under the new elected government and for this reason, the CG should give priority to holding general election free and fairly by December," said another AL leader Abdur Razzak.

At a discussion meeting, they also alleged that there are some persons inside the CG to delay the general election in the name of holding local government election.

The discussion meeting titled

Jatiya Party leader GM Kader said the principal task of the present CG is to hold general election and not local government election.

Former lawmaker ASM Abdur Rab said the countrymen will not accept the present CG if next general election is delayed in the name of local government election.

Liberal Democratic Party leader Didar Bakht, Communist Party leader Moshed Ali, Democracy Watch Executive Director Taleya Rehman and Sammilita Sangskritik Jote General Secretary Golam Kuddus also spoke.



PHOTO STAR

US Ambassador James F Moriarty speaks at a press briefing after his visit to the Chittagong port yesterday. The envoy attended a programme marking the arrival of Liberty Eagle Food Aid that transported 45,700 metric tons of wheat to Bangladesh, which will be used to assist the Sidr-affected people. (Story on Page 16)

Gazette of 7th Wage Board Award published
UNB, Dhaka

The gazette of the 7th Wage Board Award 2008 for journalists, press workers and employees of newspapers and news agencies has been published.

Official sources said the gazette notification was published on May 22, 2008 and the award comes into effect on May 21, 2008.

On May 7, the Seventh Wage Board submitted its report to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, recommending new scales of wages, allowances and other welfare benefits for journalists, press workers and employees of the newspapers and news agencies.

The government in a notification had formed the wage board on February 26, 2008, giving it two months' time to make its recommendations.

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