

Hold upazila polls before parliament election

Speakers call at Shujan confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Upazila polls should be held before parliament election to make local government more strengthened and infuse more dynamism into its activities, said the speakers at a national conference yesterday.

They said free and fair polls are needed so that people can elect honest and eligible candidates both at parliament and local government elections.

The second national conference of Shujan (Shushashoner Janney Nagorik) (Citizens for Good Governance) was held at the Institute of Diploma Engineers in

the city. It was participated by 600 members of union, upazila and district level committees of Shujan.

Former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan said previous political governments did not hold local government election due to their political interests.

"Upazila election should be held before parliament election in December. Otherwise, upazila election may not be held during the tenure of next elected government," said Shahjahan, also former inspector general of police.

Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the people's interest will not be fulfilled if transparency,

accountability and responsibility are not established in the politics of both central and local governments.

"Reforms in political parties alone are not enough, political leaders will have to change their attitudes as well," he added.

Another former adviser to a caretaker government Hafiz Uddin Khan said local government election is necessary for reaching the development activities to grass-roots level.

Shujan Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar and columnist Syed Abul Maksud also addressed the conference.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at the second national conference of Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan) at the Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city yesterday.

7TH WAGE BOARD AWARD Monitoring team to visit newspaper offices

UNB, Dhaka

A tripartite monitoring team for implementation of the 7th Wage Board Award starts visiting newspaper offices from next week to exchange views with managers and employees.

It was decided yesterday at a meeting with the DG of the Department of Film and Publications (DFP) and the president of the monitoring team, Qamrunnagar, in the chair, said a statement by the Press Information Department.

The meeting also decided that the team members, during their visit, would look into appointment letters, salary statements and other related documents of the journalists, officials and employees.

"Journalists, workers and employees, who are deprived of wage board benefits, can lodge complaints in writing directly to the president of the monitoring team. In this regard, the team will conduct monitoring work keeping names and identities of the complainants secret," the statement said.

The monitoring team has requested all to cooperate with it in implementing the 7th Wage Board Award.

Alamgir Mohiuddin of BSP, Matur Rahman Chowdhury of NOAB, Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Ruhul Amin Gazi of Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad, DFP Director M Akhtaruzzaman and member secretary of the monitoring team and Deputy Director of DFP Zakir Hossain attended the meeting.

Two killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Jhenidah and Pabna yesterday.

Our correspondent in Jhenidah adds: A septuagenarian was killed in a road accident on Jhenidah-Chuadanga highway at Baidanga Bazar yesterday.

The victim was identified as Ranjan Kumar, 70.

The accident occurred at about 11:00am when a Chuadanga-bound truck lost control and hit Ranjan who was making baskets sitting on the roadside.

Our correspondent in Pabna adds: A man was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Pabna highway at village Chinakhora under Sujannagar upazila in the district yesterday.

The accident took place at about 6:00am when a speeding cattle-laden truck knocked him down while he was crossing the road.

The victim is identified Md Abdur Razzak Sheikh, 40, of Sirajganj district.

Joint forces deployed at DGHS office to probe irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of joint forces yesterday took its position at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) office to investigate the issues of corruption and irregularities of the directorate.

The team, comprising members from army, police, NBR and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), held a meeting with Director General of DGHS Prof Muhammad Abul Faiz and high officials.

The team, led by Lt Col Sultanuzzaman Mohammad Salehuddin, will investigate the irregularities of recruitment, posting and promotion-related issues that they have already received and will place reports and recommendations to the ministry.

The joint forces that have taken position on the 2nd floor of

'Bring prices of essentials within buying capacity'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Convener Khalekuzzaman yesterday urged the government to bring the prices of essentials within people's purchasing capacity.

In a press release yesterday he said it is now clear that due to syndicated business the prices of essentials are increasing. But the government is virtually helpless to take action against the syndicate.

He demanded measures to bring the price of essentials within people's purchasing capacity.

Bangladesh-Iceland ties to be strengthened

Says Iftekhar

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said that an important outcome of the visit of Iceland president to Bangladesh was a commitment on the part of both parties to increasing cooperation on a number of issues of common interest.

The foreign adviser said this in a statement after attending the breakfast hosted by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed for Iceland President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson.

Iftekhar said, "Bangladesh and Iceland may appear to be geographically far apart. Yet we are connected by common interests in a number of current issues, including climate change, clean energy, marine fisheries and technology, and desire for a stable and peaceful world with an environment appropriate for development."

"There were substantive discussions on a gamut of subject, including climate change," he said.

He said Bangladesh has always placed a high priority in her relations with all Nordic countries, including Iceland, because of their positive contribution to global peace and development.

Referring to the proposal made by President Grimsson of a Himalayan Council to tackle the problem of climate change, the foreign adviser said, "It is an interesting idea that merits examine. We shall certainly study it in a positive light."

Youth Journalism, Human Rights Camp ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day Youth Journalism and Human Rights Camp ended at TARC at Savar yesterday with an aim to developing journalistic and technological knowledge of rural youth, mostly secondary school students from the country's poor community.

The students from Jessore, Gazipur, Chittagong, Manikganj, Tangail, Comilla and Dhaka received the training on journalism, specially basic journalism, media reporting, information, and communication technologies (ICT) in journalism, human rights and journalism, importance of photography in journalism and editorial policies, a press release said.

RELIEF International Bangladesh in association with European Union organised the programme on 'Youth Journalism and Human Rights Camp' under Media Access and Education for Human Rights: Bangladesh.

Nazrul Islam, country director of RELIEF International, delivered a speech on the promotion and integration of ICT in education and development.

During the camp, the visiting journalists from electronic and print media worked with the students to define various aspects of journalism and its relation with human rights.

Students were encouraged to form journalism or newspaper clubs at their own schools after the camp and those who have internet access were encouraged to participate in the online PEARL project for youth reporters worldwide, the release added.

LABOUR UNREST Minimum wage Tk 4500, DA demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment workers yesterday staged a mass hunger strike demanding minimum wage of Tk 4500, 50 percent dearness allowance, introduction of rationing system and lifting of restrictions on trade unions.

Under the banner of National Alliances for Protection of Garment Workers and Industries, the RMG workers organised the protest programme at Shaheed Asad auditorium at Tophkhana in the city.

Speakers at the programme urged the government to implement the labour law to resolve the labour unrest in the garment industries.

Calling on the workers to forge a united movement to realise their eight-point demand, they said BJMEA president is responsible for labour unrest in garment sector as one of his recent comments have caused resentment among workers.

Expressing solidarity with the alliance, Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon spoke at the programme with its Convener Abul Hossain in the chair.

Women leader Hajera Sultana, labour leaders Shaheeb Ullah, Shahidul Islam Sabuj and advocate Faruq Alam also took part.



Iceland President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson visits the Sundarbans yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASE

8 Huji men asked to appear before court by Sept 21

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A court in Dhaka yesterday directed eight absconding Harkatul Jihad (Huji) members including brothers of detained former BNP lawmaker Abdul Salam Pintu to appear before the court by September 21 in connection with the August 21 grenade attack case.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court re-fixed September 8 for hearing on charge framing against 22 accused including Pintu and Huji Chief Mufti Abdul Hannan in connection with the murder case.

The cases were filed for the grenade attacks on an Awami League (AL) rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004 that left 23 people dead and around 200 others injured.

GRENADE ATTACK CASE Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order and directed the authorities concerned to give advertisement in two national

Bangla dailies asking the absconding accused to appear before the court on the scheduled date.

The accused are Maulana Tajuddin, Maulana Liton, Anisul Mursalin, Mahibul Muttakin, Iqbal, Maulana Abu Bakar alias Selim Howlader, Jahangir Alam Badar and Khalilur Rahman.

During the hearing, Pintu, Mufti Hannan, Mohibullah alias Mafizur Rahman alias Ovi, Sharif Shahidul Islam alias Bipul, Maulana Abu Sayeed alias Dr Abu Zafar, Abul Kalam Azad alias Bulbul, Jahangir Alam, Maulana Abu Taher, Shahadatullah Jewel, Hossain Ahmed Tamim, Mufti Moineuddin Sheikh alias Abu Zandal alias Masum Billah, Arif Hasan Sumon, Rafiqul Islam Sabuj and Mohammad Ujjal alias Ratan were produced before the court.

MURDER CASE Judge KM Rasheduzzaman Raja of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court adjourned the hearing following petitions

submitted by the defence lawyers.

Moving the petition, Pintu's lawyers told the court that their client would not get justice if the two cases originating from one incident are tried by separate courts.

So they appealed to the court for the adjournment of the hearing. The prosecution opposed it and told the court that there was no legal bar to run the cases by two separate courts as one case was filed for murder and the other one for blasting grenades on the rally.

Another lawyer submitted a petition saying that his client Mohammad Ujjal alias Ratan was tortured inhumanly in remand and he had lost his memory. So an adjournment is needed for his treatment.

After hearing both sides, the court granted the petitions filed for the adjournment of the hearing and asked the jail authorities to take necessary steps for Ujjal's proper treatment.

SECURITY MEASURES

3,000 additional cops in city during Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) authorities will deploy around 3,000 additional policemen during the month of Ramadan to ensure public security and smooth vehicular movement.

Addressing a press conference at Rajarbagh Telecom Auditorium following the monthly crime conference, DMP commissioner Naim Ahmed said he has ordered all officers from Assistant Commissioner (AC) upwards

Deputy Commissioners (DC) to supervise activities being present on the field for ensuring smooth vehicular movement.

Besides, 600 additional police will be deployed on the roads to this end while 1,000 community traffic police will be deployed mainly

around market places for controlling movement of rickshaws.

The DMP commissioner said they will beef up security during the Ramadan, on Eid day and the next seven days after the Eid day.

He said during the last 15 days of Ramadan people will go out for shopping at night, something that might inspire muggers, whereas in the next seven days after the Eid day there is possibility of theft and robbery as people will go to their village homes.

The DMP commissioner said both uniformed and plainclothes female policemen will be deployed at markets and shopping malls who will collect information about muggers.

Besides, motorcycle patrol by two armed policemen from the orange team (policemen wearing

orange colour clothes) will patrol different places in the city.

Naim Ahmed said hawkers will not be allowed to sit on the roads, foot over bridge and underpass as it often causes traffic jam. He said the hawkers will be allowed to sit on footpaths, but they will not be allowed to hinder movement of traffic.

The DMP commissioner also gave a statistics on the crime situation of Dhaka city at the press conference.

The statistics shows that crimes like murder, robbery, and theft marked a slight rise in July compared to those of the month of June.

A total of 29 people were murdered in June while it rose to 33 in July. There were reports of 62 incidents of robbery in June, whereas the number stands at 71 in July.



Parkway Cancer Centre and Kurmitola Golf Club organised a seminar on "Advances in Treatment of Cancer" at Kurmitola Golf Club in the city yesterday. From left are Zahid Khan, director of Parkway Hospitals Singapore Pte Ltd Dhaka Liaison Office, Joey Tan, Marketing Specialist Parkway Cancer Centre, Dr Lee Kim Shang, Senior Consultant Radiation Oncology of Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore, Dr Foo Kian Fong, Senior Consultant Medical Oncology of Gleneagles Hospital, Singapore, James Tan, manager of Parkway Cancer Centre, Jessica Sim, Country Manager of Parkway Hospital Singapore Pte Ltd Dhaka Liaison Office and Colonel (Retd) Syed Anwar Hussain, Chief Executive Officer of Kurmitola Golf Club.

Poor countries to be worst sufferers of climate change: Experts

BSS, Cox's Bazar

The poor countries and their poor people will be the worst sufferers of the climate change, experts said at a two-day media workshop on Saturday.

Quoting a recently published report they said there will be serious impact on rice, wheat and potato production, but maize production will be good due to the extreme natural events.

Participating in the workshop IUCN Country Representative Dr Ainun Nishat said there is a possibility of increasing temperature of earth by 0.2 percent in next two decades and sea level rise in from 0.19 metre to 0.59 metre by 2090 to 2099 due to climate change.

He said sea level rise increased by 8cm from 1990 and it will reach 10

percent by 2015. If the present trend of glacial melting continues, the Everest will turn black, Ainun Nishat said.

The extent of tropical cyclone has increased and the salinity in water has raised to a great extent, he said adding that the carbon dioxide is responsible for increased green house gas emission.

Ainun Nishat said there will be unusual increase in rainfall, drought, floods, cyclones, river and coastal erosion by the next 15 years.

"The situation is so critical that if all of the world stop breathing to reduce carbon dioxide, even then it will take 40 years to make a pollution-free world. The climate has changed clearly occurring heavy rainfall in unusual times," he said.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) arranged the workshop on "The climate change

and the millennium development goals' at a local hotel.

Noted economist Dr Atiur Rahman, UNDP Assistant Country Director KAM Morshed, Assistant Country Director (environment) Dr Aminul Islam, UNDP Publicity Adviser Anir Chowdhury and its Programme Manager Kalyan Pandey spoke at the workshop.

The country's food security will be the most affected area by climate change, Ainun Nishat said and called for formulating a long-term action plan for Bangladesh to face the challenges of climate change.

"The country should explore new fund, its own resources and foreign aid to formulate the action plan which will have to be friendly both to environment and the industrialisation for sustainable development, he said.

Hasina flies to US tomorrow for follow-up treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina will arrive in Washington DC tomorrow for the follow-up treatment of her eye and ear, says a press release.

The AL president's aide and AL leader Abdus Sobhan told ANA, a US-based news agency, from Canada over phone yesterday.

Hasina has some appointments with John Hopkins Hospital in Virginia for her treatment on September 3 and 5, he said, adding that Sheikh Hasina will also undergo a heart check-up in the hospital.

After completing the tests and follow-ups and in line with the recommendation of the government, the party chief will return home, the AL leaders said.

It may be mentioned that this would be the third follow-up treatment of Hasina after her release from the jail.

She is now in full rest at the house of her daughter Saima Wazed Putul in Toronto.

Meanwhile, US unit of AL has raised a question over the impartiality of the caretaker government centring the recent bail granted to Tarique Rahman, senior joint secretary general of BNP, who, they called, is a 'great thief' and a 'great terrorist'.

US AL unit Vice President M Fazlur Rahman, Organising Secretary Nizam Chowdhury, New York AL Convener Abd Kasher and Member Secretary Khairuzzaman Khasru said this in a joint statement.

Reshuffle in admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday transferred three secretaries, a member of Planning Commission and rector of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC).

A PID handout yesterday said Establishment Secretary Abdus Salam Khan was made BPATC rector while Land Secretary Mosleh Uddin was transferred to the establishment ministry and AKM Zafarullah Khan, secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, was transferred as member of Planning Commission.

BPATC Rector Abu Mohammad Moniruzzaman Khan was made secretary to the land ministry while AMM Nasir Uddin, member of Planning Commission, was made secretary to health and family welfare ministry.

Georgia warns of 'domino effect' in Caucasus crisis

AFP, Istanbul

Georgian Foreign Minister Eka Tkeshelashvili yesterday warned of a "domino effect" in the Caucasus region and Ukraine after Russia moved troops into Georgia, and ruled out any talks with Moscow in the short term.

"Russia's military hostility against the small state of Georgia could have a domino effect in other countries of the region like Ukraine," Tkeshelashvili said during a press conference with Turkish counterpart Ali Babacan in Istanbul.

Babacan hosted Tkeshelashvili, two days before he is to meet Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in the same city.

"When the weapons fall silent, it is time for diplomacy," the Turkish minister said. But there are no plans for a three-way ministerial meeting, a government official said earlier.

Tkeshelashvili said Tbilisi would not talk to Moscow "for as long as the Russian Federation has not left Georgia and does not fully apply the ceasefire".

Russian troops entered Georgia on August 8 to push back a Georgian offensive to retake South Ossetia, which broke away from Tbilisi in the 1990s with Moscow's backing.

Georgia and Russia accuse each other of having provoked the conflict.

Moscow has pulled out most troops after a French-mediated ceasefire agreement but Tbilisi wants all Russian forces to leave the country.

Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Sukura Khatun, wife of senior president of the Bangladesh Nouran Sramik Federation Golam Mowlah, passed away due to prolonged illness at her residence in Barisal yesterday at the age of 50, says a press release.

She left behind her husband and children to mourn her death.

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise by 1.2 degrees Celsius over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 35.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 22.9 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:16pm today and rises at 5:40am 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	33.5	25.8	81	68
Chittagong	29.6	25.0	89	87
Rajshahi	35.4	25.6	81	73
Khulna	34.6	25.6	87	77
Barisal	33.5	26.4	80	81
Sylhet	30.5	22.9	89	81
Cox's Bazar	29.9	25.0	97	89