

Take steps to generate wind, solar energy

JS body urges power ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday asked the power and energy ministry for taking an immediate initiative to generate wind and solar-based electricity as alternative sources of power.

The standing body on power and energy ministry also asked the ministry to assess the 400 megawatt wind-based power generation project at Patenga by Sweden and to take a decision soon.

The parliamentary watchdog body also asked the ministry to finalise the national coal policy as soon as possible for utilisation of coal in production of electricity.



Tajuddin's 84th anniversary of birth today

METRO DESK

Today is the 84th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmad, the first prime minister of Bangladesh, says a press release.

Tajuddin Ahmad was born at Dardaria village under Karpasia upazila in Gazipur on this day.

One of the architects of the country's independence, Tajuddin Ahmad was involved in politics from his student life. He played a key role during all the anti-communism movements after 1947, including the Language Movement in 1952.

He was one of the main initiators in the formation of Awami League in 1949. He was also involved in formulating six-point movement in 1966.

The best achievement of his life was to play a pioneering role against Pakistan by forming the government for Bangladesh in 1971 in absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Tajuddin was brutally killed inside the jail with three other national leaders in 1975.

On the occasion, a week-long photo exhibition on his life and works will begin at Liberation War Museum today.

DEATH OF HENA DAS
CPB observes mourning day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will observe mourning day across the country today to pay tributes to veteran leader of women's rights and leftist movement Hena Das, says a press release.

On the occasion, CPB leaders and activists would wear black badges and black flags would be hoisted and the party flags be kept at half-mast at its offices.

2 BCL leaders released

METRO DESK

Two central leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were released from jail yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested BCL Organising Secretary Ashraful Rahman and International Affairs Secretary Sohel Rana Mithu on April 12 from the city on charge of disrupting academic atmosphere at Dhaka University (DU) and making trouble in BCL.

Ashraf and Mithu were arrested during an internal conflict in the organisation that had prompted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step down from the post of BCL's organising chief.

Several hundred BCL workers received them at the Dhaka central jail gate with flowers and went to the DU campus in a motorcade.

Ashraf and Mithu were sent to jail with a one month detention. Later, their detention was extended.

They told reporters that the charge on which they were arrested was false and it was a conspiracy against them by a vested quarter.

NEW EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS MPO registration to start soon

Says PM's adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policy to bring new educational institutions under monthly payment order (MPO) would be formulated within the first week of September, said Prime Minister's Education, Social Development and Political Affairs Adviser Dr Alaudin Ahmad yesterday.

"The MPO registration of new educational institutions would start soon after the formulation of the policy," he told reporters at the education ministry after a meeting on the issue.

The adviser said the government formed a ten-member committee headed by himself to formulate a concrete policy for MPO allocation and enlistment of new educational institutions on June 11.

The committee in its

second meeting yesterday discussed different inconsistencies and problems of the existing policy and also submitted their primary observations and recommendations on the existing policy for providing MPO to private educational institutions.

After the meeting, Dr Alaudin said there would be no room for corruption and harassment in registering private educational institutions under MPO.

"Those, who will fulfil the criteria, will be registered," he added.

Replying to a question, he said the entire registration process would be kept out of political considerations and influence, a common complaint prevalent so long.

The adviser also said they would formulate a clear, integrated and time-worthy policy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moon sighting body meets today

UNB, Dhaka

The National Moon Sighting Committee will meet today to ascertain sighting of the Shaban Moon and announce date of Lailatul Barat.

The meeting will be held at the Islamic Foundation at 8:30pm. The committee has urged the people to inform if anyone sights the new moon anywhere in the country on telephone numbers 9559493, 9556407, 9555951, 9559643, 9558337, 9555947 or fax-9563397 by 8:20pm.

Citizens Forum on Media floated

METRO DESK

A forum styled 'Citizens Forum on Media' has been formed recently, says a press release.

The forum will act as a bridge among newspaper readers, TV and feature film viewers and radio listeners.

A group of media enthusiasts have formed the forum as the mass media has got strong appeal and enormous popularity in the country, the release added.

Concern over killing of women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari in a statement yesterday expressed deep concern over the killing of a female doctor of a private hospital in South Mugdaphara area in the city by some unknown criminals, says a press release.

Referring to the killings of women across the country, it drew the attention of the government to ensure security to the lives and movement of women.

Certificate handover ceremony

METRO DESK

The certificate handover ceremony of a three-day training on 'Facing the challenges of climate change: Issues, impacts and adaptation strategies for Bangladesh' was held at Buet on Tuesday, says a press release.

Civil Engineering department of Buet and ITN-BUET in association with the British Council jointly organised the seminar. Vice Chancellor Prof AMM Shahidullah as the chief guest awarded the certificate to the participants.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:46pm today and rises at 6:24am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 24.4 degrees at Sathkhira.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	32.7	27.5
Chittagong	30.2	25.5
Rajshahi	32.8	26.6
Khulna	32.0	26.0
Barisal	31.3	25.6
Sylhet	34.6	25.8
Cox's Bazar	31.2	25.4

the national power grid by this year.

He further said that 33,000 illegal electricity lines have been disconnected across the country in a special drive from July 1 to 16.

The meeting also inquired about the progress of the parliamentary subcommittee which is investigating irregularities and corruption that had taken place in power sector during the past BNP-Jamaat regime.

Standing committee members -- State Minister for Power and Energy Shamsul Huq Tuku, Abdul Matin Khasru, M Abdul Kader Khan, Enamul Huq, Mojibur Rahman Fakir and Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh -- were present at the meeting.



German Ambassador Frank Meyke calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Golam Mostafa, administrative officer of Department of Philosophy, Dhaka University, passed away due to cancer at Green Life Hospital in the city on Monday at the age of 59, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His Quirkhwan will be held at his residence in Savar after Juma prayers tomorrow.

Mokbul Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mokbul Ahmed, a social worker and president of Noakhali District Somity, passed away at his residence on Monday at the age of 98, says a press release.

He left behind his three sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Noakhali District Somity expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to his bereaved family members.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 10th death anniversary of journalist Ahmed Humayun, says a press release.

Ahmed Humayun was a pioneer of the movements of the journalists in the country. He also served as the president of the Bangladesh Federal Journalists Union (BFU) from 1978 to 1983.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the destitute.

BFU President Rubul Amin Gazi, Secretary General MA Aziz, DUJ President Abdus Shaheed, General Secretary Md Baker Hossain in a statement prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Chehulum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehulum of Prof Abdur Rashed, former principal of Chittagong Teachers' Training College, will be held at his residence in the city after Juma prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for eternal peace of his departed soul.

Ferdous Ara Chowdhury

METRO DESK

Chehulum of Ferdous Ara Chowdhury, wife of late Syed Ahmed Chowdhury, a politician and social worker of Feni, will be held tomorrow (July 24), says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at her village home at Sonagazi tomorrow and at Fen on July 25.

Relatives and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of her departed soul.

Ferdous Ara passed away due to old age complications at LabAid Cardiac Hospital at Dhanmondi in the city in the early hours of July 14 at the age of 82.

Hasina seeks German help

FROM PAGE 1

"Germany as a big producer of renewable energy with advanced technology and expertise stands in a unique position to support Bangladesh in its dire need of tapping all sources of renewable energy. Bangladesh expects Germany will assist in a big way in the field," Hasina said.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

Hasina also called for more German investment in various development sectors of Bangladesh.

The outgoing ambassador assured the prime minister of continued German support to Bangladesh in attaining sustainable development.

She stated that the people of Bangladesh recall with deep gratitude the invaluable support of the then German government to the provisional government of Bangladesh during the 1971 liberation war and that Germany was the first country in Europe to recognise independent Bangladesh.

Hasina stated that the government's pressing concerns would be to alleviate poverty, address people's basic needs and attain food security.

"Our only aim is to change the fate of the people and offer them a standard lifestyle."

She said the new government has been successful to bring the prices of various essentials within the buying capacity of the common people and has given subsidy for various agricultural inputs to boost agricultural production, particularly food production.

Hasina stated that the government's pressing concerns would be to alleviate poverty, address people's basic needs and attain food security.

The premier thanked the German government and other European development partners for their support and

assistance in holding the last parliamentary polls in free, fair, neutral and acceptable manner.

Ambassador Meyke highly acclaimed the success of the present government in the last six months and hoped that under the visionary and wise leadership of the prime minister, the people of Bangladesh would be able to attain the desired prosperity and development.

Hasina said the present government, which came to power through a massive mandate of the people in the last general election, is doing its best to ensure maximum welfare of the people.

"Our only aim is to change the fate of the people and offer them a standard lifestyle."

He said the AL council would help the country's democracy to get institutional shape through strengthening the democratic foundation.

The ambassador greeted the PM on her election as vice-chair of the Nam for the next three years.

The prime minister and the German envoy hoped that the bilateral friendly relations between the two countries would strengthen further in the coming days.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, PM's Office Secretary Molla Waheeduzzaman and former ambassador Ziauddin were present at the meeting.

Thousands watch long solar eclipse

FROM PAGE 1

yesterday.

Over 50,000 visitors and local enthusiasts cheered frantically as the totality instantly cast a veil of complete darkness at exactly 7:56am. But there were thousands of others who confined themselves in their houses, gripped by the myths about solar eclipses.

The spectacular show of nature lasted for three minutes and 58 seconds in Panchagarh. Scientists had predicted that Madhupara village of Haribhanga union in the district would have the clearest view of the eclipse.

However, clouds created hindrance to the eager viewers-men, women and children who never looked away from the sky.

The eclipse lasted for as much as six minutes and 39 seconds at some places of the world and this duration will not be surpassed until June 13, 2123.

The next total solar eclipse will be visible from Bangladesh on June 3,