



PM addresses UN assembly in Bangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in mother tongue Bangla.

Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, addressed the UNGA session in Bangla after 35 years.

In 1974, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressed the UNGA session in Bangla that was highly acclaimed by the world leaders.

In 1992, former prime minister Khaleda Zia also addressed a special UN session on children in mother tongue.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina raised the global issues relating to the adverse effects of climate change, economic recession, food security, trade concession for developing nations and terrorism.

Hasina as the 8th speaker of the plenary of the UNGA sought a united approach by global leaders to resolve these

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An elderly woman falls asleep in front of her stock of bitter gourd she brought to Karwan Bazar yesterday to sell. The city kitchen markets are yet to wake up from the Eid holiday slumber. PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Bomb hoaxes up security

Rab, police swing into action, arrest 418

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) launched special drives in the capital Friday night to ensure foolproof security of the devotees at the Puja mandaps in the wake of bomb hoaxes in Dhaka and Sylhet.

The law enforcers detained 418 alleged criminals from different parts of the capital, especially from residential hotels, crime prone zones and drug spots, in the last 24 hours.

The Rab recovered a bomb-like object from the Gulshan mandap in Banani Friday night while another similar object was recovered from the Ramkrishna mandap in Sylhet yesterday. This caused panic among the devotees and interrupted activities in the mandaps for several hours.

Sources in Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) have said the bomb-like object recovered from Gulshan mandap contained no explosives.

Following the bomb hoax Rab in its drive detained 155 alleged criminals, while DMP picked up the rest.

Commander AK Azad, director of Rab Legal and Media Wing, said they launched the special drive to ensure foolproof security during the Durga Puja.

Most of the arrestees are muggers, snatchers and addicts, he said, adding they will continue the drive till the end of the Durga Puja.

On the other hand, DMP deployed an additional 2,604-strong police force and 1,048 Ansar members in the capital to ensure security in and around the mandaps.

Rab officials say they will keep vigilance with the help of their

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AL targets tender-mongers

Prepares to go after party men involved in tender manipulation, extortion

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Ruling Awami League will go for a purge of its leaders and workers involved in extortion and tender manipulation.

AL Presidium Member Obaidul Quader said those who are tainting the image of the government and the party by indulging in unlawful activities will soon be identified and disciplined.

Lately, several AL lawmakers have told The Daily Star that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is annoyed over party men's links to extortion and tender manipulation across the country.

At the AL Parliamentary Party meeting on September 17, she warned the lawmakers against patronising extortionists and other criminals, said sources.

Besides, AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam has already cautioned many leaders that disciplinary measures would be taken against them if they don't desist from misdeeds taking advantage of the party being in power.

Talking to The Daily Star last week, Obaidul Quader said the grassroots-level councils planned to begin in December will take actions against the party leaders involved in extortion, tender manipulation and other crimes.

He said the administration must follow the prime minister's instructions to be tough on the wrongdoers irrespective of their party affiliations and positions.

Insiders say the party is struggling to check tender manipulation and extortion mainly because of infighting and an

absence of chain of command at almost all units.

Feud over supremacy between ministers and state ministers, lawmakers, party leaders and upazila chairmen began to dent the organisational coherence soon after AL assumed power in January.

"Who'll take initiative to stop tender manipulation and extortion, and who's going to listen to whom when there's no chain of command?" wonders a senior leader preferring not to be named.

He said except the prime minister no one bothers doing anything to buck the extortion trend.

AL Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim however said they have been talking to leaders at different levels

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1 killed, 20 hurt as AL, Jubo men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An Awami League (AL) activist was killed and 20 others were injured in a clash between AL and Jubo League factions at Chhoto Paina village under Bera municipality area of the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Azizul Haque, 36, son of Nayeemuddin hailed from Chhoto Paina.

The clash took place at a time when State Minister Shamsul Haque Tuku was on a daylong visit to mandaps (worship pavilion) in Bera, Santhia and Sujanagar

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Rice price spirals

Dealers blame millers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The price of rice, especially of the fine varieties, has gone up once again as the millers increased the price at the mill gates in Kushtia and northern districts.

Traders said the price might go even higher if the government does not make immediate market interventions.

Asked about the reason behind the price hike, Convener of Bangladesh Rice Mills Association Layek Ali said it is almost six months since the Boro harvest in March-April and Aman will be harvested in November. Farmers' stock of Boro is over and they are now coming to market creating more demand of rice. At the same time, traders' stock of rice is almost finished, which is obvious before the Aman harvest, he added.

"The traders who could not make good profits because of government monitoring earlier are now trying to make up for the lost opportunity," Layek Ali told the daily star over phone from Joypurhat.

Wholesaler at Karwan Bazar and Mohammadpur Krishi Market yesterday sold coarse varieties of rice, including BR-28 and pajam, at Tk 22-26 a kilogram, which was Tk 20-24 before the Eid.

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Climate role hailed

UNB, New York

World leaders have hailed role of Bangladesh in identifying the risks and the way out of global warming as well as in establishing peace across the globe.

The appreciation came when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended bilateral meetings with prime ministers of Sri Lanka and Kenya, and secretaries general of Commonwealth and OIC on

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Notice

Today's issue of The Daily Star does not include Star Campus as it could not be printed because of Eid holidays.

Terrorism born after killing of Bangabandhu

Says Sahara

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the rulers of the country gave birth to militancy and terrorism after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We are trying hard to curb militancy and terrorism... law enforcers have been engaged in uprooting terrorism taking risk of their lives," she told reporters after visiting a puja mandap at Uttara Sector-11 in the evening.

The minister sought cooperation from all sections of the people to eliminate militancy

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Three killed in 'shootouts'

Three cops 'bullet-hit'

STAR REPORT

Three criminals were killed in 'shootouts' with law enforcers yesterday in the capital, Kushtia and Bagerhat.

They are Johnny, 32, Mohon Malitha, 45, a leader of Purbo Banglar Communist Party and Fashir Rahman Shanu, 45, ringleader of pirates' gang 'Shanu Bahini' in the Sundarbans.

Police said a patrol team of police signalled a private car to stop in Mirpur area around 3:00am. The team chased the car as the passengers tried to escape defying them. The criminals opened fire on police prompting them to fire back that triggered a gunfight near Kalyanpur Balur Math, said Officer in-charge of Mirpur Police Station Mizanur Rahman.

After the incident, Johnny was left with bullet injury on the spot and sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctor on duty declared him dead.

Al-Amin, 30, a member of the gang, was arrested while others fled the scene.

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Bangla Phone finally starts ringing

BTRC withdraws its 'hostile' restriction

SHARIER KHAN

Private telecom company Bangla Phone resumes operation after more than two years of hibernation as Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has recently withdrawn its restriction on letting the company sub-lease and share its optical fibre lines.

The phone company run by a non-resident Bangladeshi invested Tk 135 crore and began commercial operation in 2006. In the first year it made Tk 14 crore operating profit and paid the government Tk 2.53 crore in VAT, tax and duties.

But from then on the company's business almost died down due to BTRC's 'irrational

hostility'.

Consequently, the company retrenched half of its expert manpower and drastically slashed staff salary to stay alive.

But now BTRC has ended the 'hostility' by issuing the company with a permit for leasing or sharing of its network, which remained suspended from January last year.

Bangla Phone is one of the dozen Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) companies licensed by BTRC to provide telecom services in different zones of the country. The company focussed on developing optical fibre network to provide backend service to leading telecom operators.

But from early 2007, BTRC singled out

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