

RUPPUR NUKE POWER PLANT JS adopts resolution to implement project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament yesterday adopted a resolution for implementation of Ruppur Nuclear Power Plant Project to resolve country's power crisis.

Taking part in the discussion on the motion, Awami League lawmakers said there is no alternative to going for nuclear power to meet the country's growing demand.

They said the conventional power plants are based on gas, diesel and furnace oil which are very expensive. Besides, there is not enough reserve of gas in the country, they added.

Piloted by Mohammad Shahriar Alam, 11 lawmakers took part in the one-and-a-half-hour long discussion.

"It will take at least seven to eight years to complete the entire process. Although it involves huge amount of money, it can generate massive amount of power," said Commerce Minister Faruk Khan.

He added a country should have the image that it will use nuclear power peacefully and there will be no threat of capturing the plant by militants.

In his winding up speech to the seventh session, HM Ershad, chief of Jatiya Party, said the nation became hopeful about the nuclear plant following signing of a memorandum of understanding with Russia.

"It was our dream which will be imple-

mented now. Thus the dream of Bangabandhu for setting up a nuclear power plant will be materialised," Ershad said.

Taking part in the discussion, AL lawmaker Shubid Ali Bhuiyan said there is no reason for being worried about nuclear waste management as Russia has already agreed to take back all waste.

Enamul Haque, another ruling party lawmaker, said 33 countries have 475 nuclear plants and are producing 3.55 lakh megawatt of electricity.

"Many problems will be resolved once we are able to address power crisis by setting up nuclear power plant," AL MP Imajuddin Pramanik observed.

In 1964 Bangladesh planned to install nuclear power station. About 259.9 acres of land was acquired for the project in Ruppur, while a draft was also signed with Canada at that time.

International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) in 2007 allowed Bangladesh and seven other developing nations to install nuclear power plants. Russia, France, South Korea, China and Pakistan offered help to develop the infrastructure.

Under the current plan, two nuclear units with a capacity of 1,000 megawatt will be installed at Ruppur in Pabna against the backdrop of dwindling reserve of natural gas, which now accounts for 90 per cent of electricity generated in the country.



Rain throughout Wednesday night due to the depression over the country caused waterlogging in many areas of the city yesterday. The photo was taken from in front of Sheraton hotel.

MUNICIPALITY POLLS NOMINATION AL to ask ministers, MPs to exclude relatives

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The Awami League yesterday decided to urge all its ministers and lawmakers not to pick their relatives for contesting the upcoming municipality elections scheduled for January next year.

It also decided that the AL-led grand alliance will support a single candidate for each post.

The high command of the ruling party took the decisions at a meeting with its organising secretaries at party General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam's Jatiya Sangshad Bhaban office last night.

"We'll urge the ministers, state ministers, lawmakers and other leaders not to nominate their close relatives in the municipality polls," Mahbul Alam Hanif, party joint general secretary, told The Daily Star after the meeting.

He said there is a trend to nominate relatives of the ministers, lawmakers and local leaders in local elections depriving dedicated leaders, but his party wants to come out of it.

Presidents and general secretaries of the party's district, upazila and municipality unit committee, pro-AL upazila chairmen and vice-chairmen of all upazilas and all party lawmakers will sit to select suitable candidates, party sources said.

All the seven organising secretaries, deputy office secretary Mrinal Kanti Das, party leaders Hanif and Ashraf were present at the meeting.

Talking to The Daily Star, Hanif, also a special assistant to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, they have finalised the strategy to give support to the candidate of their choice.

BNP RULE HC asks govt to reinstate 24 cops soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to reinstate 24 sub-inspectors (SIs) of police immediately who were sent to forced retirement during the last BNP-led four-party alliance government.

An HC bench of Justice Md Abdul Awal and Justice FRM Nazmul Ahsan gave the verdict declaring the then government's order illegal.

As per the court's directive, the government has to reinstate the SIs with appropriate salaries and other facilities from their date of retirement.

A writ petition was filed by the petitioners with the HC on August 22 this year challenging the legality of the then government's decision against them.

The sub-inspectors, who were appointed between 1972 and 1975, were sent to forced retirement in 2003.

Build up social resistance to stop stalking: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon all to build strong social resistance against repression on women.

"It is not possible to stop the social crime only by promulgating law...rather people from all walks of life have to come forward to prevent stalking and repression on women," she said while addressing a function marking the Begum Rokeya Day at Osmani Memorial Auditorium here yesterday morning.

Mentioning her government's action against stalkers, Hasina said all have to be united for taking stern actions against the stalkers shunning the path of suicide.

Paying rich tribute to the memory of Begum Rokeya, the PM said this legendary lady had shown the path of light to the women when the society was under the dark of illiteracy and superstition.

Hasina said establishing rights of women is a prerequisite for removing repression and disparity on women, and only education can remove this disparities.

She also laid emphasis on economic freedom of women to achieve their rights.

In this context, the PM said "We have recruited women officers in different



Ayesha Jafar receives "Begum Rokeya Award-2010" from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

BIJOY UTSAB Liberation war museum event begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War Museum will hold different programmes in observance of Bijoy Utsab today and tomorrow on the museum premises.

Former secretary general of Amnesty International Irene Khan will deliver a lecture on human rights in education system at 5:00pm today, which will be followed by a cultural programme.

Students of Bangla Bazar Government Girls High School and BCIC College will perform at the function.

On December 11, a speech on fund collection for the new building of the liberation war museum and presentation of the design of the proposed building will be held at 5:00pm.

Students of Meherunnesa Girls School will perform at cultural programmes that day.

Sirajuddin's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 39th death anniversary of renowned journalist Sirajuddin Hossain.

A milad mahfil and a discussion will be held at 3/11 Asad Avenue in Mohammadpur after Maghrib prayers today, said a press release.

A qurankhwani and a milad mahfil will also be held at his village home at Sorusuna in Shalikhah of Magura district.

Pakistani military and their local collaborators took Sirajuddin to an unknown place from his Chamelbagh residence on December 10, 1971 and he could not be traced out later. He was the executive editor and news editor of the daily Ittefaq.



Transparency International Bangladesh forms a human chain in front of the Institute of Fine Arts at Dhaka University on the occasion of International Anti-corruption Day yesterday. (Related story on Page 3)

5 BCL men hurt in clash at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Five activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Jagannath Hall unit were injured in a factional clash at Dhaka University last night.

The injured are BCL leader Utpal Saha, his younger brother Uday Saha, Subeer of history department, and Arup and Mithun Biswas of Management Information System. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Two groups led by Pronab Dash Bablu and Utpal Saha clashed over reserving a room to give accommodation to loyal activists of respective factions. The injured, Arup and Mithun, belong to Bablu and Utpal group.

Students of the dormitory said tension has been prevailing over Room No 213 of South Building since Wednesday. Ajoy Kumar Das, the hall provost, said he did not know anything about the incident.

DRIVE AT ST MARTIN'S ISLAND Hotel, trawler, three people fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined Tk 14.44 lakh to a hotel, a trawler and three individuals for disturbing the ecological balance on the Saint Martin's Island.

A team of DoE fined Hotel Prince Heaven Tk 6 lakh for setting up unauthorised establishments in nearly 60 per cent area of the island, said a press release.

The owner of hotel was also directed to remove all illegal structures from there within December 31.

A trawler MV Arafat was fined Tk 1 lakh for polluting water by disposing burnt oil on the beach.

The team also fined Tk 7.44 lakh to three individuals--for erecting boundaries adjacent to the beach area and for illegal extraction of coral stones from the shore.

Syed Nazmul Huq METRO DESK

Today is the 39th death anniversary of martyred journalist Syed Nazmul Huq, says a press release.

On the occasion, Syed Nazmul Huq Smriti Sangsad will hold a qurankhwani and milad mahfil.

Huq was killed by the collaborators in Rayerbazar Baidyabhumii in 1971.

EU team lauds HR defenders

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union (EU) Delegation and Swedish Embassy praised activities of human rights defenders in Bangladesh, who are seeking to end discrimination.

"Non-discrimination and its complement, equality, are cross-cutting principles of human rights law, said the EU Delegation's Charge d' Affaires Milko van Gool on the eve of Human Rights Day today.

"Regarding international work on human rights, we're very happy that in 2010 Bangladesh's Ambassador to the EU Ismat Jahan was elected as member of the UN's Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women with a record number of votes," said Sweden's Ambassador Lindahl Kenny.

Earlier this week, the EU Delegation and Swedish Embassy marked Human Rights Day with a seminar for human rights defenders in Khulna, says a press release.

"It's important that we get around the country to meet human rights defenders in other regions as well as in Dhaka," noted Andrew Barnard, head of the EU Delegation's political, trade and information section.

UN decided the theme for this year's Human Rights Day as "Human rights defenders who act to end discrimination", with the motto "Speak up, stop discrimination".

Meanwhile, the UN Information Centre in Dhaka and Daffodil International University yesterday organised a seminar in the capital marking the day.

Addressing the function as the chief guest, Law Commission Chairman Prof M Shah Alam said poverty is the main constraints in protecting human rights. The young people can play a vital role for improving human rights situation, he added.

DHAKA TODAY

Award giving ceremony
Manusher Jonno will organise an award giving ceremony and human rights music festival. Venue: Mall Chatter, Dhaka University, Time: 3:00pm.

Human chain
Online Knowledge Centre will form a human chain. Venue: In front of the National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Acid Survivors Foundation will arrange a discussion. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Time: 9:30am.

Human chain
Deshpremkir Jonogoner Mancha will form a human chain. Venue: In front of the National Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Meeting
National Front of Teachers and Employees will hold a meeting. Venue: 112, Green Road, Time: 11:00am.

Symposium
United Nations Association of Bangladesh will arrange a symposium. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Time: 10:00am.

Meeting
Samajtantrik Mahila Forum will arrange a meeting. Venue: Moni Sing-Farhad Trust building, Purana Paltan, Time: 3:30pm.

Marketing conference
An international conference on Marketing will be held. Venue: Sonargaon hotel, Time: 4:00pm.

Rally
Bangladesh Human Rights Commission will organise a rally. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar, Time: 10:30am.

Convention
Bangladesh Society for Total Quality Management will organise a convention. Venue: LGED auditorium, Time: 9:00am.

Human chain
Jatiya Adivashi Parishad will form a human chain. Venue: In front of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Time: 10:00am.

ABM Fazle Rashid METRO DESK

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Al-Hajj Advocate ABM Fazle Rashid Chowdhury Huru, a politician and social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Dhaka, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and ancestral village Gohira, Razoan.

Moktar Ahmed STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Moktar Ahmed Chowdhury, a former president of Satkania Ainjibi Samity and father of Mainuddin Hasan Chowdhury, a former president of Bangladesh Chhatra League and neurosurgeon Lt Col Rokonuddin Chowdhury, passed away at the city's Combined Military Hospital early yesterday at about 3:30am at the age of 76, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, seven sons and four daughters.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at Satkania in Chittagong today after two namaz-e-janaza firstly at Satkania Adalat Maidan after Juma prayers and at Satkania Mirzakhil High School after Asr prayers.