

President lauds PM for success

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for running the country successfully for the last two years after assuming the state power on January 6 in 2009.

President made the appreciation when the prime minister called on him on the eve of the completion of two years of the present government at Bangabhaban in the city.

During the meeting, Zillur hoped that the country would advance towards progress and prosperity speedily under the leadership of Hasina.

Hasina apprised the president of her recent visit to Russia, Belgium and Japan.

The prime minister informed the president that her visit to three countries were successful as Russia gave its consent to extend cooperation to Bangladesh in setting up of a nuclear power plant.

Russia and European Union gave commitment to disburse fund to Bangladesh for adaptation with the adverse impacts of climate change, she said.

The prime minister further apprised the president of Japan's assurance of providing additional fund for construction of the Padma Bridge.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents bouquet to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. PHOTO: PMO

JOB CONTRACT EXPIRES Malaysia likely to send back 3.5 lakh Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Instead of extending work visas, Malaysia may send back 3.5 lakh Bangladeshis whose job contracts have already expired, said Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain yesterday.

"The Malaysian authorities have said this to [the ministry]. But, we have requested them to renew their visas, because these workers spent too high to go there and may not earn the amount they spent," he told The Daily Star last evening.

According to statistics, there are around five lakh Bangladeshis there. Nearly four lakh went there since late 2006. Malaysia is not recruiting from Bangladesh now. However, sources in the government said that country is planning to reopen the market soon.

Asked why Malaysia is not renewing the workers' visas when they need workers and is planning to reopen the market, Mosharrif Hossain said, "You have to ask this question to the Malaysian authorities."

COL TAHER'S TRIAL Reply to HC today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is likely to place a reply to the High Court (HC) rule over the martial law trial and execution of Col Abu Taher before HC today, terming those illegal and unconstitutional.

An HC bench comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain will hold final hearing on the writ petition challenging Martial Law Regulation No-13 of 1976.

Col Taher and 12 others were tried for sedition under this regulation and executed on different dates in 1976 and 1977.

On August 23 last year, it issued a rule asking the government to explain why the regulation and execution of Col Taher should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman yesterday told The Daily Star that they would submit the reply saying all martial law, rules and regulations are illegal and unconstitutional as per the Supreme Court verdicts on the constitution's fifth and seventh amendments.

The trials and executions were also without lawful authority and against the constitution, he said.

Col Taher's wife Lutfa Taher, his brother Anwar Hossain and Fatema Yusuf, wife of Yusuf Ali Khan who was sentenced to life, jointly filed the petition on August 22.

SC clears way for Saidpur pouro polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for holding municipal elections to Saidpur in Nilphamari scheduled for January 12.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice SK Sinha yesterday stayed for four weeks a High Court order that halted the process of holding the polls to the municipality.

The judge passed the order following a petition filed by Md Amzad Hossain Sarker, a mayoral candidate for the pauroshava election, seeking stay on the HC order.

He also asked Amzad to file a regular leave to appeal petition with the SC against the HC order within a four-week period.

Prove JS sovereignty Moudud asks government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accusing the government of making the parliament ineffective and inactive, former law minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday asked the government to prove that parliament is sovereign.

"Supreme Court judges said parliament is not sovereign while ruling party leader Suranjit Sengupta claims the opposite. Which is true?" he questioned, asking Suranjit to explain.

Suranjit, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on law affairs ministry, on Tuesday said parliament is sovereign, a day after Supreme Court judges in a meeting commented that it was not.

While speaking at a discussion meeting, Moudud, also a BNP standing committee member, said, "The remarks of the Supreme Court judges have logic and it is now a challenge for the government."

Swadhinata Forum, a pro-BNP and

Jamaat organisation, organised the discussion meeting at city's National Press Club titled "Two years of grand alliance government: Pledges and reality".

Moudud said though honeymoon period of the government was over, they found no similarity between reality and electoral pledges of the ruling party.

"The government broke all records of corruption. Human Rights Commission, Anti-corruption Commission and Law Commission exist only in paper, resulting in government's new record in violating human rights," he said.

Taking part in the discussion, BNP's Senior Joint General Secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir criticised the government for taking stance against Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

"The government has disgraced the country's respected person and is creating an unstable situation by destroying all institutions," he said.

ANDHA SANGSTHA SECRETARY MURDER Police to seek remand for three

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police will seek fresh remand for three visually impaired people today, held in connection with the murder of the general secretary of Jatiya Andha Sangstha, an organisation for the visually impaired, after a two-day remand.

Hasina Akhter, wife of murdered Khalilur Rahman, filed a case with Mirpur Police Station against eight visually impaired people. Hasina alleged that the three were allegedly present in a meeting, which resolved to kill Khalilur using hired criminals.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kazi Wazed Ali of Mirpur Police Station yesterday said the three, claiming to be innocent, alleged that Ayub Ali, defeated by Khalilur in the organisation's general secretary election, might know something.

The three said Khalilur embezzled huge amounts of money, received as foreign grant and proceedings of the organisation's lottery ticket sale, creating serious resentment among the common visually impaired people, said the OC.

Minhaz, one of the three, was defeated in the organisation's president post election, said the OC, adding that police are raiding different places to nab Ayub who is on the run.

Khalilur was shot dead allegedly by his rivals at a house in city's Mirpur on Saturday night.

