



Nagorik Odhikar Songrakhan Forum forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding water, gas and electric-ity connections to residences.

PHOTO: STAR

Call to prepare people's participatory budget

Bss, Rajshahi

Speakers underlined the need for preparing people's participatory national budget for reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people in general.

They said making the budgeting process decentralised could be the effective means of attaining the goal of a democratic budget.

They were addressing a regional workshop titled "Budget decentralisation" jointly organised by Democratic Budget Movement (DBM) and ActionAid Bangladesh at the conference hall of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

DBM member Foyzullah Chowdhury gave an overview of the workshop highlighting various aspects of the democratic budget while DBM activist Monwar Mostafa presented a concept paper on the budgeting process and its implementation.

Lawmaker Omar Faruque Chowdhury addressing the programme as the chief guest emphasised the need for identifying the local needs through proper assessment everywhere in the region and brings those under budgetary allocation for the sake of reducing its disparity.

He said some vital sectors of the region like setting up an agro-based export processing zone, the proposed North Rajshahi Irrigation Project and natural gas supply should be brought under the budgetary allocation.

Besides, he called for giving top priority to

infrastructure development, creation of investment-friendly atmosphere and availability of business related support in the forthcoming national budget to support different industries in the region.

In this regard, he said the budget should be pro-people and welfare-oriented to bring economic solvency of the people.

Faruque said enhanced priority to trade and industrial sector could be the effective way toward accelerating the region's economic growth.

With Editor of the Daily Sonar Desh Prof Fazlul Haque in the chair,

Prof Noman of Economics Department of Rajshahi University, Additional Chief Medical Officer of RU Dr FMA Zahid, political leaders Abul Kalam Azad, Shafiqur Rahman and Mosaddeque Hossain and businessman Sekendar Ali spoke as panel discussants.

Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh Farah Kabir moderated the discussion.

Taking part in the open discussion most of the speakers underscored the need for strengthening the local government institutions for the sake of bringing the grassroots people under all the nation-building process.

They also stressed ensuring transparency and accountability in the budget implementation sector so that the people could derive total benefits of the development budget.



Nagorik Sanghati forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday protesting the increase in bus fare. (Story on Page 3)

PHOTO: STAR

Road crashes kill 7, injure 58

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and 58 others injured in road accidents in Dhaka, Dinajpur, Sirajganj, and Narayanganj yesterday and Monday night.

Our staff correspondent reports: An activist of Hawkers' League, wing of ruling Awami League (AL), was killed after being run over by a bus at Kakrail in the city last evening.

Dead is Lat Mia, 30, publicity secretary of 18 No. Ward Hawkers' League of Shahjadpur, Gulshan.

Lat Mia was returning home after participating in a rally held in celebration of Sheikh Hasina's Homecoming Day yesterday.

At the city's Manda, a teenage boy was killed after a truck knocked him down last night. Deceased is Md Sohel, 14, of Manda. He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The boy used to serve an office in Motijheel.

At the city's Mohammadpur, a man was killed and a woman and her child injured as a truck ran over the man and hit a rickshaw on Monday night.

Deceased is Saidul Mondal, 30, a private car driver and a resident of Basila, Mohammadpur.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds: A motorcyclist was killed and another man injured as the motorcycle collided head-on with a truck on Birampur-Katra road at Chakdurgapur of Birampur upazila on Monday night.

Dead is Umar Ali, 40, of Polashbari village of Birampur upazila. The injured was admitted to Birampur Upazila Health Complex in critical condition.

Our Sirajganj correspondent says: A

Three die in city

man was killed as a Dhaka-bound bus ran him over on Nagarbari-Bogra highway at Tetiarkanda of Shahjadpur upazila yesterday.

Abdullah, 30, the deceased, lived at Tetiarkanda.

Our Narayanganj correspondent adds: At least 30 workers of a garment factory were injured as a bus carrying them crashed into a roadside tree at Shibpur in Araihazar upazila yesterday morning.

The injured were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Araihazar

Upazila Health Complex, and different clinics of the upazila.

Agitating workers beat up the driver of the bus Abdul Halim, 35, and handed him over to police.

The injured workers also demonstrated and attacked residences of upazila health and family planning officer and residential medical officer for negligence of their duty.

UNB from Rajbari says: A young woman was killed and 25 others wounded as a Barisal-bound bus fell into a roadside ditch at Padma crossing in Goalanda upazila yesterday.

Identity of the deceased aged about 25 could not be known immediately. The injured were admitted to Goalanda Hospital.

A three-year-old boy of the woman, who was traveling with his mother, miraculously remained unhurt in the accident.

UNB from Manikganj adds: A man was killed as a speedy motorcycle knocked him down on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Tora bus stand yesterday.

Subhash Chandra Roy, 52, the deceased, was a deputy assistant agriculture officer of Daulatpur upazila.



State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt (retd) AB Tajul Islam, right, along with other guests at the unveiling ceremony of a photography collection titled "Alokchitre Bangabandhu" organised by Bangladesh Enterprise for Development and Security Studies at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

War history to be destroyed if AL not in power

Says state minister

Bss, Dhaka

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Captain (Retd) Tajul Islam yesterday said if Awami League does not come to power, the history of Liberation War would be destroyed.

"Every government after killing of Bangabandhu distorted the history of the War of Liberation," he said, adding 'The nation is now enjoying the benefit of the War of Liberation after 40 years of independence as Awami League is in power'.

Tajul said this while addressing a discussion organised by Bangladesh Enterprise for Development and Security Studies (BEDSS) on the occasion of Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Homecoming Day at Dhaka Reporter's Unity (DRU) in the city.

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Central

Command Council Chairman Major General (Retd) Helal Morshed Khan Bir Bikram and Awami League Organising Secretary Ahmed Hossain spoke at the function with Dr Quamrul Islam in the chair.

Reiterating the present government's commitment to preserve the history and spirit of the Liberation War, Tajul said the government would take all measures to protect the country's history.

He said the government is working for changing the lots of toiling masses. But, BNP has started hatching conspiracy to create anarchy in the country when people are living in peace.

He urged the people to remain careful about the conspiracy of the opposition and said 'The freedom fighters will resist every conspiracy against the country'.

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