

'Khaleda wants to establish kleptocracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia wants to set her two "corrupt sons" in the state power in the name of younger generation, said Awami League (AL) acting general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif.

Khaleda intends to establish a regime of "kleptocracy" in the country through placing her two sons in power, he told a press briefing at the party's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

AL Deputy Office Secretary Mrinal Kanti Das and other central leaders, among others, were present at the briefing.

The BNP chief on Tuesday at a rally said if her party won the next general elections, the younger generation would take the helm of the country.

Hanif sought BNP's cooperation to establish a neutral and independent EC through discussion in the parliament.

Referring to Khaleda's recent threat to launch "another liberation war", Hanif said she was conspiring to beef up militancy and terrorism through delivering such comments.

On the caretaker government issue, he said if BNP believes in democracy and people's power, it would surely participate in the next polls under the political government.

Around 26,000 AL leaders and activists were killed by the BNP-Jamaat cadres during their tenure, Hanif said with a call to remain united against the Jamaat and militancy.

Despite the party's request, both mayoral candidates for Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) polls Shamim Osman and Selina Hayat Ivy could not reach a compromise, said Hanif.

In the evening, AL organising secretaries Ahmed Hossain, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury and Abu Sayed Al Mahmud Swapan met Shamim Osman at his main campaign office in Narayanganj and conveyed to him the party decision of backing him.



Oblivious of its own restriction to carry garbage during the daytime only after covering it up properly, Dhaka City Corporation transports garbage in an open truck, polluting the surrounding environment. The photo was taken at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

PM reiterates support to public varsities

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured the public university authorities of providing necessary government support for their smooth operation, but suggested that they try to raise their own funds.

"Our government will leave no stone unturned to ensure all necessary facilities for the universities, but only government's efforts aren't enough in this age," she said.

Hasina was talking to a 14-member teachers' delegation of Jahangirnagar University led by its Vice Chancellor Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir at her office at noon.

Pro-VC (Education) Dr M Moniruzzaman, Pro-VC (Admin) Prof Dr Mohammad Farhad, Ahmed Reza and Prof Dr Shahinoor Rahman were present at the meeting.

Talking to the teachers, the premier reiterated that there would be tax rebate on the donations to education and health sectors.

She urged them to maintain the existing congenial atmosphere on the campuses.

The teachers thanked the PM as she had declared that Jagannath, Comilla and Kabi Nazrul Universities would be run with government financing.

The decision was very timely and prudent, they said.

Decentralise Dhaka city Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for decentralisation of Dhaka city to save it from man-made disaster.

Any planning concerning Dhaka would be pointless unless the huge rush of people towards the city was checked, said Dr Khandakar Shawkat Hossain, secretary of the housing and public works ministry, at the seminar held at Cirdap auditorium.

The ministry organised the seminar titled "Urbanisation and climate change: urban disaster and poor habitation" in association with the man-

agement of Coalition For the Urban Poor (CUP), Urban Development Directorate (UDD) and Participatory Development Action Programme (PDAP).

"Urbanisation has a bad effect on nature but we cannot avoid it. Urbanisation will have to be done through a synchronizing the realities involved," he said.

At present estimates, four lakh people reportedly arrive in Dhaka city annually and that has been the trend in recent years, noted Shayer Gafur, professor, architecture department of Buett, in his keynote paper.

Zainal Abedin Bhuiyan, chairman of National Housing Authority, emphasized a national housing policy that would meet the needs of the times.

ASM Ismail, chief architect of the Department of Architecture, said Bangladesh should solve the climate change problem through identifying local perspectives.

Among others, urban planner, AZ Hossain Toufiq, executive director of PDA, Kazi Baby, executive director of PDAP, and Azizul Haque, superintending engineer of the public works department, spoke at the seminar.

Bangladeshi worker injured in Malaysian mall collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi worker was injured when the concrete floor of an under-construction multi-storied mall collapsed in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia on Wednesday, reports a Kuala Lumpur based online newspaper The Star Online.

Details of the victim however, could not be known immediately neither from the news report nor from the labour councillor in the Bangladesh embassy there.

According to the news report, the 35-year-old man was rushed to Universiti Malaya Medical Centre and treated for injuries to his leg. The worker was alone when the floor collapsed around 11:00am (local time).

In a statement, Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad, the company building the mall, said Department of Occupational Health and Safety was informed and the company would extend its full cooperation to investigations.

On contact, the Labour Councillor Montu Kumar Biswas said they came to know about the incident over the news items published in the local media but failed to collect details of the victim till Wednesday evening.

Asked about reports, published in several online newspapers and aired in some television channels in Dhaka yesterday, claiming that seven Bangladeshi workers died in Malaysia, Montu said they did not hear any such report.

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