

NEWS IN *brief*

Resolve caretaker issue soon: Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday urged government to resolve the caretaker government issue and bilateral problems with India immediately to weaken the "nexus of conspirators".

"We want to return to power again with people's verdict in our favour. Therefore, we do not want to keep pending the caretaker government issue, and dialogue is imperative to resolve this", said Inu, speaking on the thanksgiving motion of the president's address.

Inu, however, did not elaborate on the conspirators, but said it was BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia who was engaged in conspiracy against the country in the name of anti-government movement on caretaker government issue.

Also a key leader in the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance, Inu blasted the government for its failure to control price hike of essentials, maintain law and order, stabilise share market, and criminal activities of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Nat'l Health Policy placed in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Health Policy 2011, aiming to ensure 'good health for all', was placed in parliament yesterday.

Health and Family Affairs Minister AFM Ruhul Haque placed it in the House, long after the cabinet approved the policy, which was formulated in line with the ruling Awami League's electoral pledge, on May 30 last year.

German expats for fair probe into journo couple murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi expatriates in Germany yesterday formed a human chain on the United Nations (UN) premises at Bonn in Germany, demanding a fair investigation into the murder of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

They also submitted a memorandum to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon demanding transparency in the investigation of the case and immediate arrest of the killers, says a press release.

Dozens of Bangladeshi expatriates and citizens of other countries, including Sagar's former colleagues in Germany, joined the programme from 9:00am to 9:30am, expressing doubts whether the killers of the couple will ever be punished.

Sagar worked for Bangla Service of Deutsche Welle from June 2008 to May 2011, after which he joined private TV station Maasranga in Bangladesh as a news editor.

Sagar along with his wife Runi, senior reporter of another TV channel ATN Bangla, were murdered at their apartment in the city's West Rajabazar on February 11.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Captain (retd) Hazi Abdul Alim Bhuiyan, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and recitation from the holy Quran will be held at Muradnagar of Comilla.



Railways Minister Suranjit Sengupta inaugurates a new train on Dhaka-Narayanganj route at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet division.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:04pm today and rises at 6:14am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 15.3 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.6	22.8	72	48
Chittagong	28.6	22.4	81	85
Rajshahi	34.0	17.3	76	47
Rangpur	29.7	15.8	66	58
Khulna	35.2	22.5	72	50
Barisal	34.3	23.0	81	59
Sylhet	32.0	21.0	83	58
Cox's Bazar	30.0	21.0	82	82



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni poses with the award winner female freedom fighters at a reception accorded to the latter on the occasion of the 20th founding anniversary of Muktijoddha Jubo Command at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Pay commission, PSC for teachers on cards: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government was contemplating to set up separate pay commission and public service commission for the teachers to ensure their welfare.

"There should be separate pay commission and public service commission for the teachers and you (teachers) have to wait for that," she said while inaugurating the online application management of Non-government Teachers and Employees Welfare Trust and Retirement Benefit Board at her office (PMO).

Hasina said without education a nation cannot attain the desired development and teachers are the architect of building an educated nation.

She said the present government was working sincerely to ensure overall welfare of the teachers, who are engaged in the noble task of enlightening the nation.

Besides, the government will decentralise

the education administration system to lessen the sufferings of the teachers and also for rapid flourishing of education across the country.

The premier asked the authorities concerned to broadcast the classroom activities of some renowned schools and colleges of the capital for the teachers and students across the country, using the terrestrial television channel Sangsad TV.

She also made a fervent appeal to the teachers and employees across the country not to ignore the physically challenged children and ensure appropriate education for them.

Chaired by National Project Director of A2I and Private Secretary to the Prime Minister NI Khan, the function was also addressed by Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Alauddin Ahmed, Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and Member Secretary of the Welfare Trust Principal Shahjahan Alam Saju.

Govt has no right to stay in power

Says Khaleda, terming govt 'deaf, dumb and blind'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance government has become "deaf, dumb and blind" and such government, which has failed to run the country, has no right to stay in power.

She said there is no justice anywhere in the country rather exists double standard of justice [one] for Awami League (AL) and [another] for BNP.

"Awami League is now frequently saying that BNP will create anarchy in the name of rally. In fact, they [AL] will create anarchy to blame the opposition," she said while addressing a reception programme of the newly elected office bearers of Dhaka Bar Association at Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the city.

She said no safety and security exists anywhere, including bedrooms, business and educational organisations and even, the foreigners are not safe in the country.

Khaleda asked the pro-BNP lawyers to ensure victory in the upcoming Supreme Court Bar Association election. "If anyone goes against our panel will be expelled from the party," she warned.

Claiming BNP's founder Ziaur Rahman as proclaimer of the country's independence, Khaleda said Ziaur Rahman had revolted on March 26 and declared independence of Bangladesh on March 27, 1971.

It is mentionable that the High Court in a verdict said that it was Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman not Ziaur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh on March 26, 1971.

Meanwhile, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir alleged that police were mounting pressures on the hotel owners for not providing rooms to opposition activists thronging the city to join March 12 rally.

Mirza Fakhrul said this at a discussion at Institution of Diploma Engineers Association auditorium in the city marking the 5th anniversary of the day of arrest of BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman.

Save Dumni canal

Green activists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists yesterday urged the government to take necessary steps to stop filling up of the canal Dumni in the city's Khilkhet.

They have said a real estate company has taken initiatives to build structures on the canal after filling it up, which will adversely affect the lives of the people of that area.

Activists of Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Paba) have made the urge at a press conference held in Jatiya Press Club in the city.

The canal plays an important role in reducing waterlog and preventing flood, said an official of the organisation.

If the canal is filled up, livelihood of several hundred people will be affected badly, as they cultivate crops like rice and jute on the adjacent land of the canal, he added.

Historic March 7 today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation observes the historic March 7 today in a befitting manner.

On this day in 1971, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his forceful, inspiring speech at the Race Course Maidan, now Suhrawardy Udyan.

In a thunderous voice, Bangabandhu declared "Ebarer Sangram Amader Muktir Sangram, Ebarer Sangram Swadhinatar Sangram" (The struggle this time is for our emancipation, the struggle this time is for independence), oration which inspired the people in achieving the long-cherished independence.

The Awami League and its various associated organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day. The day will begin with the hoisting of the national and party flags at Bangabandhu Bhaban and central office of the party at 6:30am. It will be followed by placing wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation before Bangabandhu Bhaban at 7:00am.

The ruling Awami League (AL) will hold a rally at Shikha Chirantan in Suhrawardy Udyan at 3:00pm today. Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina will address the rally.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate messages, have stressed the need for upholding true spirit of the country's independence and sovereignty.

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television and private TV channels and radio stations will air special programmes, while national dailies will publish articles highlighting the significance of the day.

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