

Either clashes or consensus

Moudud talks of two paths open for govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prime minister and the government, considering the present circumstances, had two paths open -- one towards reaching a mutual understanding with the opposition and the other towards clashes, said BNP Standing Committee Member Moudud Ahmed yesterday.

"If the government does not restore the caretaker government system and prefers the path towards clashes, the ultimate result will be perilous for them. People will pull them down from power through agitation," he stated.

Moudud was addressing a discussion, "Propaganda against the Zia family and reality", organised by Swadesh Jagoron Parishad, a pro-BNP platform, in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

"If the government wants to restore the opposition's trust on it, it should immediately withdraw false cases filed against the opposition leaders and free the press and acting editor Mahmudur Rahman of Amar Desh," he said.

If the ruling party tries to follow anything other than the caretaker government system in holding the next parliament polls, it will lose its existence in mainstream politics, he said.

He said there was no scope for the government to "rectify its mistakes".



The road before the capital's Bangladesh Film Development Corporation caved in while only a branch serves as a warning for oncoming traffic, leaving the risk of an accident anytime. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Govt starts collecting ideas for mobile apps development

BSS, Dhaka

The government has begun collecting ideas regarding public services from its directorates and departments to develop mobile applications (apps) to provide such services to people, official sources said.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has already received 20 ideas about women development issues, including healthcare tips, poultry farming for women and safety issues, from the Department of Women Affairs at a function last week.

"We are impressed getting new ideas from the 50 women employees of the Women Affairs Directorate who generated 20 ideas about livelihood and safety of women," ICT Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan told the news agency yesterday.

He said the ICT ministry will launch, jointly with different directorates and departments of the government, a series of workshops to collect the ideas on various public services, including education, health, banking and financial services, from the officials for developing mobile apps.

Khan said after getting ideas from different government offices, the mobile apps will be developed involving the local apps developers and with the support of World Bank funded "Leveraging ICT: Growth and Employment" and "Learning and Earning" project under the ministry of ICT.

As a part of its move, Bangladesh Computer Council will organise similar workshops with the Department of Social Services by this week to collect ideas from the officials on developing mobile apps, the ICT secretary said.

He said, "The number of smartphone users are increasing in the country and we want to develop mobile apps to provide public services at the hands of the people who are using these smartphones."

Two 'commit suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people allegedly committed suicide by hanging following family feuds in two separate incidents in the capital yesterday.

Monifa Begum, 28, wife of Majedul Begum, was found hanging by the neck from the ceiling of her Matikata residence in Dhaka Cantonment, stated Dhaka Medical College morgue sources.

Shamsul Alam Khokon, 48, a water pump operator of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, was found hanging by the neck from a ceiling fan of his Badda Government Staff Quarters residence, said Badda police.

The bodies were sent to the morgue for autopsy.

RMG workers ransack factory for salary cut as 'income tax'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Garment workers of Unilance Factory Ltd in Sreepur of Gazipur yesterday ransacked the factory protesting deductions from their salary which authorities claimed were for income tax purposes.

The workers also protested extra nighttime duty, unfriendly environment for women workers and threats from their employers of firing them if they protest any irregularity.

An agitated worker told The Daily Star that the factory authorities deducted Tk 500 from their salary under the excuse of income tax.

On the first day of Ramadan, the workers' duty began at 9:00am and was supposed to end at 6:00pm. However, the factory authorities forced the workers to work the whole night, he added.

Amir Hossain, the officer-in-charge of Sreepur Police station, said the situation became normal after the factory authorities held a meeting with workers' representatives.

THURSDAY'S VANDALISM AT DU 500 teachers protest job seekers' act

DU CORRESPONDENT

Some 500 Dhaka University teachers, in a statement last night, protested and condemned the arson attack on structures of Faculty of Fine Arts and vandalism on the vice-chancellor's office and residence on Thursday.

They also demanded that the government hands down exemplary punishment on finding the perpetrators.

The signatories to the statement include professors AJM Shafiqul Alam Bhuyian, Farid Uddin Ahmed, SM Imamul Haque, Zinat Huda, Anwar Hossain and Hasibur Rashid.

Several hundred youths protesting the existing quota provision in public service recruitment exam carried out the arson attack and vandalism.

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