

Jatiya Party preparing for next national election

Says Ershad
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Jatiya Party (JP) will start campaigning on October 1 for the next national election by offering prayers at the Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA) Mazar in Sylhet, said the party Chairman HM Ershad in Rangpur yesterday.

Ershad went for a five-day visit to celebrate Eid in his ancestral home at Darshana in Rangpur City Corporation.

Talking to journalists, Ershad, also Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's special envoy, hoped to go in power again if things go well ahead for his party.

The former president demanded that the government launch a high-level probe to find out who and what had caused the Tongi fire on Saturday. He offered his condolences to the bereaved family members.

About the recent incident of removing the Swadhinata Padak of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman from the National Museum, Ershad only said it is a government decision.



With red and black flags in their hands, workers at a rally, staged by Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra, raise demands for justice for those responsible for Saturday's deadly inferno at Gazipur's Tampaco Foils Ltd factory, compensation for the victims and workplace safety. Samajtantrik Sramik Front also forms a human chain there with the same demands.

Kidnapped student rescued in Rajshahi, seven arrested

BSS, Rajshahi

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rescued a kidnapped student from T-embankment area in Rajpara of Rajshahi city Saturday, six days after he had been kidnapped by some miscreants.

Arafatul Islam Zishad, 16, a tenth grader, used to live in Mollah Students Mess in Saheb Bazar area in the city, Rab sources said today.

The sources added that some miscreants forcefully picked up Zishad on September 3. After the abduction, they phoned his parents of Halidagachhi village in Charghat upazila and demanded ransom of Tk 2 lakh.

On a tip-off, a Rab team raided the area and rescued Zishad and arrested Sohag Khandaker, Imam Mehedi, Faisalur Jaman, Bristy Akter, Ali Hossain, Sohel Rana, and Suman Ali in this connection.

A case was filed. The arrestees were handed over to police.

PHOTO: STAR

Modernise madrasa education

Experts want an education commission

UNB, Dhaka

Even though the Alia madrasa education system has been "modernised" with its integration into the mainstream education, educationists and analysts feel that it could not reach the desired goal of producing required skilled human resources due to faulty and imprudent plans.

Talking to UNB, Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, Prof Abul Barakat, and Dhaka Alia Madrasah Principal Prof Siraj Uddin Ahmad said students can neither properly learn science nor English not even Arabic as the so-called modernisation of the Alia education has largely failed to attract students and ease their study load.

The educationists observe that formation of a madrasa education commission is imperative to bring the madrasa education under a single platform with a holistic approach combining science, English and Arabic education to turn madrasas into effective educational institutions.

There are now two types of madrasa education systems -- one Alia system regulated by the government under the Madrasa Education Board and another Qawmi system financed by donors and run independently.

According to Bangladesh Madrasa Education

Board, there are now 9,389 madrasas under it across the country with around 35 lakh students.

About the modernisation, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said madrasa students suffer from isolation due to their faulty curriculum which has no focus on mother language, history, culture and science.

"We've long been talking about modernisation of madrasa education. We should introduce a real, unified education system merging the existing Bangla, English and Madrasa system. The unified education should be based on the mother language," he said.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University's English department said there should not be two types of madrasah education. "We should bring the madrasa education under a single platform with its proper modernisation. We can follow Kolkata madrasa modernisation model which has turned very effective to produce very skilled human resources."

In the Kolkata model madrasa system, he said students from any religion can study in madrasahs, and they are nicely picking up modern education and becoming doctors, engineers and IT experts and getting good jobs.

The noted educationist observed that although a small number of madrasah students

here can get admitted to different public universities, very few of them are getting chance in Buet, medical and science-based subjects as they are not getting quality science education.

He said the government should form a commission immediately to streamline the madrasah education through discussion and dialogue with different stake holders.

According to the findings of their research on madrasa education that was updated in 2015, Dhaka University Prof Abul Barakat said 50 percent of the Alia madrasa students opined that their education system is almost ineffective to get good jobs while 70 percent said their textbooks should be modernised further and 73 percent said their teachers are not well-trained.

He said they also found the degrees of both Fazil and Kamil not comparable to university ones as the curricula at the two levels place high emphasis on religious aspects.

Dhaka Alia Principal Prof Siraj Uddin Ahmad said textbooks should be redesigned with an approach of load-management as there is a huge unnecessary study pressure on madrasah students.

He bemoaned that most madrasah students

Olympiad whips up students' talents

Speakers tell prize giving ceremony of Math Olympiad 2016 titled "Mathematics: Surrounding World"

BSS, Rajshahi

Arranging Olympiad is being adjudged as vital means of flourishing latent talents of grassroots students as it is a great means of enriching their thinking power and confidence.

So, there is need of arranging more Olympiads for the students so that they could transform themselves into competent and worthy citizens. Government and non-governmental development organisations concerned should come forward and work together to this end.

The observations came in the closing and prize-giving ceremony of a Math Olympiad-2016 titled 'Mathematics: Surrounding World' held at Charghat Pilot High School playground under Charghat upazila in the district on Saturday.

The Hunger Project Bangladesh (THPB) organised the programme in association with its "Youth Ending

Hunger" and "Peoples against Violence (PAV)" Programmes.

More than 500 students from the upazila participated in the contest in two groups.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdus Samad addressed the discussion as chief guest with PAV Ambassador Saiful Islam in the chair. THPB Area Coordinator Subrata Kumar Paul moderated the discussion.

The discussants said the world is moving forward with advancement of science which is closely related with mathematics. The Math Olympiad would help explore latent talents of students and take Bangladesh further ahead.

A discussion and question-answer session conducted by Subrata Kumar Paul was also held.

Three students from junior section and three other secondary branch students were awarded for their brilliant performance.

British high commissioner expresses shock at Tongi fire

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Alison Blake has expressed deep shock at the loss of lives in the fire that broke out at a packaging factory run by Tampaco Foils Ltd in Tongi, Gazipur.

"Shocked and saddened by the tragic factory fire at Tongi, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their loved ones," Blake tweeted yesterday.

At least 29 workers were killed and 74 others injured as fire broke out across the five-storey building of Tampaco Foils Ltd factory after a boiler exploded early in the morning. And countless more are missing.



Desperate to go home before Eid, people including women and children travel on the roof of an overcrowded bus yesterday. Even though this way of travelling is perilous, the allure of a family reunion seemed to have made all the trouble and hassle worth it for the holidaymakers. The photo was taken near the capital's Abdullahpur in Uttara.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

It all comes down to today

FROM PAGE 3
What is so great about this Rajshahi breed of cattle raised specially for the Eid cattle market?

Firstly, its meat is extra tender and has a distinct flavour. Secondly, you will not find a bull among the cattle being sold. The cows are all white in colour with a reddish tint. Their eyebrows and horns are also white, which makes them stand out.

Our Munishganj correspondent reports: Around 150 Mirkadim cows were taken to the Rahmatganj cattle market this year like the previous year.

Even around 10 years back around 1,000 cows were being brought to the market, said farmers.

Kamal Uddin, a farmer, said low price and high cost of cattle fodders and lack of cowboy to rear the cows are some of the causes behind the reducing of the numbers.

Munishganj District Administrator Md Saiful Hasan Badol said Mirkadim cows are part of their tradition and local administration is supporting the farm-

ers in this regard.

EXTRA TOLL
Our Patuakhali correspondent reports: Leasers of around 150 cattle markets in the district are charging extra toll money, neglecting the fixed rate.

Leasers are collecting Tk 500 to 1,000 for each goat and sheep, Tk 1,000 to Tk 2,000 for each bull/cow or buffalo though district administration has set the toll to be under Tk 200 for all the sacrificial animals.

Rezaul Karim of Bahalgachia paid Tk 42,000 for a cow but the leasers realised Tk 1,500 from him, he said.

It was decided that the leasers would display the rate-chart for the animals at every cattle markets but they are not following the instruction, alleged the buyers.

Contacted, AKM Shamimul Haque Siddique, DC of Patuakhali, said, "If found, steps will be taken against the leasers who are realising extra money in the name of toll."

(Our Munishganj and Patuakhali correspondents contributed to this report.)

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The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.
Gazipur
Amendment of Tender No. 07/2016-17 for Supply of 69,000 Kgs UV Curing Varnish for Bank Note
This is to inform that the captioned tender has been amended as follows:
Closing date and time: 25.09.2016 up to 11.00am instead of existing.
Opening date and time: 25.09.2016 at 11.15am instead of existing.
All other terms and conditions of the tender schedule shall remain unchanged.
Md. Kalimulla
General Manager
Phone: 9205116
GD-1830

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