

Hasina asks leaders to make party stronger

She was greeted for being party president again

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked Awami League leaders and activists to get ready for the next general election and make the best use of the remaining time of the AL government's tenure.

"We have two years and two months [of our tenure] in hand, the election process will start three months prior to that... we don't have plenty of time. So, I request you to utilise the time properly apart from making the organisation stronger," she said.

Hasina, also the AL chief, said this when top party leaders from different levels came to her Gono Bhaban residence to greet her for being re-elected as the party president.

She asked the party leaders and activists to spread the development activities taken by the AL government.

Stressing that the party should be stronger, the prime minister said AL leaders and activists have to stand beside people.

Hasina vowed afresh to free Bangladesh from poverty and urged the AL leaders and activists to prepare a list of ultra-poor homeless people and those living in great distress.

About terrorism and militancy, she asked the AL followers to remain alert in this regard and involve imams and religious leaders to convey the message that Islam is the religion of peace.



Awami League leaders greeting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the capital's Gono Bhaban yesterday on being re-elected president of the party. Senior leader Obaidul Quader, on her right, was elected AL's general secretary for the first time.

Two get death, two others life term for killing AUST student

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced two people to death and two others to life term imprisonment for killing Subir Chandra Das, a student of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) in 2013.

The condemned convicts are Farhad Hosain Sizu and Mohammad Hasan, two classmates of Subid. They were tried in absentia.

The lifers -- Shafiq Ahmed Robin and Shaol alias Kamrul Hassan -- were also fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer one more month in prison.

Judge SM Kuddus Zaman of the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court, however, acquitted Lutfa Akter Sony, wife of Robin, as the

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Rajshahi safe home 'unsafe'

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

An outbreak of diarrhoea has hit Rajshahi Safe Home, killing one woman and affecting at least 41 others, in the last five days due to unhygienic environment.

It happened because of the mingling of the sewerage and water lines, said an inspection team.

The team, led by Dr Ashish Kumar Saha, director of Rajshahi Divisional Health Office, has found unhealthy condition in the kitchen, toilet, and water supply lines.

The lines were faulty and dangerous for public health, and should be replaced immediately, said an inspection report signed by Dr Saha.



The district administration, assisted by the divisional health directorate, arranged constant monitoring of diarrhoea patients and other inmates by three doctors since the outbreak on October 19.

The team of Dr Saha visited the safe home along with the Rajshahi civil surgeon, health officials, and doctors on Saturday.

"They are living a life of neglect and deprivation. For different reasons... the institute has turned into a death trap instead of being a shelter," he said.

In a one-page report on the safe home, Dr Saha wrote that it had no trained manpower to provide services to the disabled persons under custody.

The divisional health chief recommended immediate replacement of faulty water and sewerage lines, said the report, a copy of which was obtained by The Daily Star.

Two committees -- one of three members, headed by Rajshahi Civil Surgeon Ferdous Nilufar and the other of five members of IEDCR (Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research), led by Dr Ahmed Raihan Sharif -- are investigating the outbreak.

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16TH AMENDMENT Govt to appeal against HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday said the government will file an appeal with the Supreme Court in a month against the High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th constitutional amendment empowering parliament to impeach apex court judges for misconduct or incapacity.

A "constitutional vacuum" has been prevailing in regards to removal of SC judges as there is no system in place for this since the HC's May 5 verdict, the attorney general told reporters at a press briefing at his SC office.

Following a writ petition filed on November 2014, a three-member special HC bench, by majority, declared the 16th amendment to the constitution illegal and unconstitutional.

Mahbubey Alam said the provision of the 1972 constitution about removal of SC judge was restored though the 16th amendment.

The provision of forming a supreme judicial council for removal of an SC judge was first incorporated in the then Pakistan's constitution during the regime of Gen Ayub Khan, he said, adding that if the provision of that regime is restored, the spirit of Liberation War and struggle of independence would go in vain.

Replying to a question, the country's top legal officer said the government would make a decision about the place of holding war crimes trials as it has been asked for relocating the International Crimes Tribunal from the SC premises.

The government would decide about whether the tribunal would remain in the capital or be relocated to any other district. The SC in August sent a letter to the law ministry, asking it to relocate the ICT from the old High Court building and to hand over possession to the SC by October 31.

Unethical promotion raises healthcare cost

Experts tell discussion about pharma companies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pharmaceutical companies of the country are engaged in aggressive promotional activities that are unethical and lead to significant increase in healthcare cost, health experts told a discussion yesterday.

Medical representatives, who are given annual drug sales targets, offer various gifts, from stationary items to sample drugs to air tickets for overseas trips, while using persuasion and supporting family members, even in times of personal emergencies, they added.

"In doing these, they pay little heed to the

laws or ethics. The medical representatives try to develop an intimate relationship with the physicians which they exploit to achieve their "targets", said Senior Research Associate Dr Nahitun Naher of BRAC University.

Acceptance of these gifts, especially the expensive ones, obliges the physicians to return the favour by changing established prescription norms and increasing drug sales, said Nahitun of the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), referring to a research of the university published last year.

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Female teacher found hanging in father's Savar house

Husband detained

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A schoolteacher was found dead at her father's house in Savar outside the capital last evening.

Newly married Asma Afrin Mitu, 29, daughter of Altaf Hossen, was a Bangla teacher of Dhaka Cantonment Public School.

Asma was found hanging in her room after her husband with her had visited his father-in-law's house on Saturday, said Md Kabir Hossain, sub-inspector of Savar Model Police Station.

For interrogation, police detained her husband, said the SI.

Asma got married five months ago following love affairs and the couple was unhappy due to family dispute since their marriage, he quoted the family as saying.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.



Rotary District Organisation brings out a colourful procession in Sylhet city yesterday, marking World Polio Day.

PHOTO: STAR

ALLEGATION OF STEALING CELL PHONE Rajshahi schoolboy beaten mercilessly groaning with pain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three brothers beat a schoolboy up hanging him upside down allegedly for stealing a cell phone in Narayanpur Market of Bagha upazila in Rajshahi yesterday.

With severe pains all over his body, Monirul Islam, a seventh grader and son of Mithu Pramanik of the area, was admitted to Bagha Health Complex, said Ali Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Bagha police.

Police assisted by locals arrested one of the brothers Hafizur Rahman Jilur on the spot, while the other two fled.

Muhibul Alam, a trader, lost his mobile phone in the morning when he went to the market, said the locals, adding that he along with his two brothers Jahangir Hossain and Jilur blamed Monirul for "stealing" the mobile and called him into the market.

They later beat the boy up after hanging him upside down from a wooden structure of a shop, said one of the witnesses.

Locals rescued and sent him to the health complex. Monirul's mother Abeda Begum filed a case against the three.

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Not Just Another Bank

NRB Bank **congratulates** the three Directors of the Bank for winning the "Bangladesh Bank Remittance Award - 2015" and receiving the award from Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Finance Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for their contribution towards persistent growth of Bangladesh economy by sending remittance through banking channel.

Mr. Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman (Nasir)
Chairman, NRB Bank Ltd.
Chairman & Managing Director - Al Haramain Perfumes Group of Companies, UAE.
Award Category: BEST BOND INVESTOR

Mr. Mohammed Idrish Farazy
Chairman, Risk Management Committee, NRB Bank Ltd.
Chairman, National Exchange Company, Italy.
Award Category: BEST NRB OWNED EXCHANGE HOUSE

Engr. Abu Taher Mohammed Amanullah
Director, NRB Bank Ltd.
Chairman and CEO, East West Placement Center, Philippines
Award Category: BEST REMITTER
(Mr. Kalim Sharafi received the award on behalf of Mr. Amanullah)

মেঘনা লাইফ ১৭,৩১৮ জনকে মৃত্যুদাবী ও ৩,৬০,৫৭৭ জনকে মেয়াদোত্তীর্ণ দাবী বাবদ প্রায় ১,৪০০ কোটি টাকা পরিশোধ করেছে

- মেঘনা লাইফ সূচনালগ্ন থেকেই গ্রাহকের স্বার্থকে সর্বোচ্চ গুরুত্ব দিয়ে আসছে।
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- মেঘনা লাইফ এর বর্তমান লাইফ ফাউ প্রায় ১,৫০০ কোটি এবং পরিসম্পদ প্রায় ১,৬০০ কোটি টাকা।

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