

'Sonar Bangla' for all

PM reaffirms her determination

Bss, London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reaffirmed her determination to build a hunger-and-poverty-free Sonar Bangla as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"I've nothing to gain... My only aim is to materialise the ideals of Bangabandhu, based on which he liberated the country," she said.

The PM was addressing a community gathering, organised at Central Hall in London's Westminster on Saturday afternoon (local time).

Hasina said she will work till her last breath to realise the dream of Bangabandhu. "I don't fear death for working to make Bangladesh a prosperous country as Bangabandhu once dreamt of," she said.

Marking the 44th martyrdom anniversary of the Father of the Nation and National Mourning Day, the UK Awami League organised the event, attended by Bangladeshi expatriates from different European countries.

Amid pin-drop silence in the packed auditorium, a teary-eyed Sheikh Hasina started her speech, recalling the August 15 carnage.

She said killers of Bangabandhu were not brought to justice, instead they were rewarded by Ziaur Rahman. Zia not only gave them indemnity, but also inducted them into the foreign ministry and sent them out to represent Bangladesh as diplomats.

In her speech, the premier recalled the contributions of expatriate Bangladeshis to the country's economic development as well as their role in different democratic movements.



PM Sheikh Hasina stands in solemn silence in front of a portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at an event in London on Saturday.

PHOTO: BSS

She urged the expatriates to invest more to help establish a developed and prosperous nation.

"We are establishing 100 economic zones in the country for more industrialisation and employment... you can set up mills and factories there by taking advantage of our investment-friendly environment," she said.

Highlighting her government's various steps, Hasina said they have already brought down poverty rate to 21 percent from 41. "We want to cut the rate further. We don't want anyone to remain homeless, hungry and without healthcare," she said.

The country is marching towards development

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This regime worse than 'Hirak Rajar Desh'

Says Mirza Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

Criticising the government's actions centring the recent dengue outbreak, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday quipped that the government is worse than 'Hirak Rajar Deshe' -- the regime in Satyajit Ray's dystopian classic.

Speaking at a discussion organised by Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB), he further said, "Newspapers have reported that they're now going to import two types of (mosquito-killing) insecticide that were completely banned in Thailand. They also don't know about the effectiveness of those."

"Insecticides are not working as they (govt) imported it through corruption. They will now procure new insecticides and indulge in corruption further," said Fakhrul.

DAB, a pro-BNP physicians' body, arranged the programme marking its 30th founding anniversary.

Fakhrul came down hard on Health Minister Zahid Maleque for his "irresponsible" attitude and remarks. "He (Maleque) said he has no idea

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Won't tolerate extortion in Karwan Bazar

Warns home minister

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday warned that the government will not tolerate any kind of extortion at the city's Karwan Bazar.

The minister issued the warning while addressing a cleanliness drive in the country's biggest kitchen market.

"I clearly said if you (extortionists) don't stop extortion then leave Karwan Bazar... No one involved in criminal activities and extortion will be allowed

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PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE 1,000 DU students to receive free copies of Star for a year

DU CORRESPONDENT

The eighth edition of "Promoting Knowledge" contest was launched yesterday through a ceremony at the auditorium of Institute of Modern Languages (IML) of Dhaka University.

Through this initiative, 1,000 resident students of Dhaka University will get free copies of The Daily Star at their dormitories regularly for one year, starting today.

Some 100 winners of the contest attended the programme.

Since 2012, The Daily Star with support of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd has been providing free copies the English daily to DU resident students, chosen every year on the basis of merit and economic background.

The service will be provided under a MoU signed between The Daily Star and Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.

'Withdraw false cases against us'

Road safety campaigners demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of youths who took to the streets last year for safe roads yesterday demanded that all cases against students be withdrawn immediately, and that culprits who had carried out attacks on protesters and journalists during the demonstrations be brought to book.

The protesters, under the platform "Nirapod Shorok Andolon", organised a human chain yesterday in the city's Science Lab area to press home their demands.

Terming the cases against them false, they said the cases are affecting their studies and work as well, as the accused don't know when the investigations will be complete.

During and after the protest, more than 100 people -- mostly students of private universities and colleges -- were rounded up in some 60 cases filed in the capital alone over "causing violence and spreading rumours", according to Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The cases were filed against several thousand unidentified students and youths for assaulting police, damaging government property and obstructing law enforcers from discharging duties.

However, the alleged ruling party men who attacked the protesters, journalists and beat them up on the streets were never brought to justice.

In many cases, such attacks happened in front of the police, as seen in videos and photos published in the media.

Enzamul Haque, joint-convenor of the platform, said it is frustrating that a year into the incident, the attackers are still roaming freely even if media outlets identified them. Such picture is worrying to any citizen, he added.

TV journalist goes missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A television journalist has been missing since Saturday evening from the city's Gulshan area, days after receiving a threat.

Family members said they could not establish contact with FM Mushfiqur Rahman, a staff reporter of private Channel Mohona TV, as they found his cell phone found switched off.

Mushfiqur received a life-threatening phone call on July 21, and filed a general diary with Pallabi police station next day.

"Mushfiqur came out of his workplace around 5pm and went to meet his uncle at Gulshan-1 in the evening. His phone found switched off since 9pm," said Sohidul Alam Emran, joint news editor of the TV channel.

"I talked to my husband at 7:03pm over the phone. He spoke normally," the victim's wife Salma Rahman said.

Police said they are analysing CCTV footage to know what happened to the journalist. A general diary was filed with Gulshan Police Station in this regard.



DU students holding free copies of The Daily Star at Institute of Modern Languages.

PHOTO: STAR

REGISTRATION OF RIDESHARING SERVICES

2 out of 12 companies certified so far

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Although 12 ride-sharing service providing companies got approval of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) till yesterday, only two of them received enlistment certificate after fulfilling necessary conditions.

The rest, including some top companies, are yet to submit necessary documents of at least 100 vehicles -- a mandatory clause to get certificate -- although registration process started a month ago, said BRTA officials.

As per information the companies shared with BRTA, all but one have more than 100 listed vehicles while several of them have more than 20,000 listed vehicles.

A BRTA official said companies are taking time to provide documents of at least 100 vehicles as many of them are facing problems to collect updated documents of vehicles and riders.

As per rules, a company must submit updated documents including fitness clearance, licence and tax token to BRTA.

However, service providers said they are taking time as they have to collect money from drivers and

submit those to BRTA.

BRTA started registering ride-sharing service providers on July 1, 18 months after formulation of guidelines to regulate the growing sector.

However, the mandatory provision for getting the licence -- the ability to dial 999, the national emergency helpline, using the ride-sharing apps -- was made optional, as police were not ready to deliver the service.

Till yesterday, Pickme Limited and Computer Network System Limited received enlistment certificates.

Ten other companies are: Obhai Solution Ltd, Chaldal Ltd, Pathao Ltd, Ezzyr Technologies Ltd, Akash Technology Ltd, Segesta Ltd, Shohoz Ltd, Uber Bangladesh Ltd, Badi Limited and Akij Online Ltd.

According to latest documents shared by companies with BRTA, 22,000 vehicles are running under Pathao, 32,475 under Shohoz, 20,637 under Uber and 27,271 under Obhai.

Sayed Nabila Mahbub, senior manager (marketing) of Pathao, said they have already sent documents of 100 vehicles and riders to BRTA. "As

BRTA has added some new conditions, no member of Bangladesh Ride Sharing Association got enlistment certificate."

"We are working towards complying with the requirements of the Ridesharing Service Policy and expect to fulfil this specific requirement soon," an Uber spokesperson said last night.

Maliha M Quadir, spokesperson of Bangladesh Ride Sharing Association, a platform of 16 service providing companies, said they have submitted documents of minimum 100 vehicles and drivers. "It's taking time as they have to collect money form drivers. There's no other problem now," said Maliha, also founder and managing director of Shohoz.

Lokman Hossain Mollah, director (engineering) of BRTA, said they did not add any new conditions. "We've given them approval but they could not print the certificate as they could not fulfill the condition of 100 vehicles."

Lokman said they will give some more time to the companies to submit documents. "After that, we will go for action if any vehicle does not have enlistment certificate," he added.

DENGUE OUTBREAK

FBCCI asks member bodies to assist local govt officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid the recent outbreak of dengue, members of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday said it will take some measures to help prevent the spread of the mosquito-borne disease.

The announcement came at a discussion held at FBCCI's conference room in the capital's Motijheel.

FBCCI President Sheikh Fazle Fahim said they would sit and discuss with members who are importers if there was a need to import kits used for early detection of the disease.

He said as the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab) is a member body of FBCCI, it would ask Rehab to take measures to ensure clean environment at their under-construction building sites.

"The aim is to stand beside patients who are already suffering and to protect those who haven't contracted the disease yet," he said, adding they can further contribute in creating public awareness and setting up a blood bank.

Fahim said they have asked their member bodies across the country to assist local government officials in fighting the disease.

Addressing the discussion, Mubin Khan, president of Bangladesh Private Medical College Association, said they

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Hyacinth bean and its little-known benefits

Hyacinth bean, commonly known as sheem in Bangladesh, is a very common item in Bengali cuisine. It is a regular choice of vegetable in Bengali meals. Starting from *begun sheem er chorchori* to *posto bata aar sheem*, hyacinth bean stimulates our taste buds when used with a dash of mustard and every other vegetable.

Hyacinth beans are a powerhouse of nutrients, vitamins, minerals and lipids that help prevent a number of diseases and deficiencies in our bodies. The antioxidants present in this vegetable help slow down the ageing process, and prevent neuro-degenerative diseases and cancer. The presence of Vitamin B1 in hyacinth beans helps maintain a healthy ventricular function and prevent heart failure. Whilst insoluble fibre in hyacinth beans provides bulk to stool and helps prevent bloating, indigestion and constipation, the soluble fibre in it helps improve digestion. Vitamin D, calcium and phosphorus in hyacinth beans are useful for maintaining bone health as they support jaw-bone mineral density and tooth enamel. Hyacinth beans contain a sufficient quantity of potassium which strengthens muscles and lessens muscle cramps. Minerals such as selenium, manganese and zinc also help tackle lung and respiratory diseases. This vegetable is a great mood booster as it contains amino acids which help to balance hormones.

Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, a hyacinth bean farmer from Kollapara, Jhenaidah, shares his experience of growing this vegetable. Hyacinth beans can be grown in a wide variety of soils but loam soils are ideal for its cultivation. Initially, the land is prepared with four to five plows. Then the field is surrounded with soil as a barricade to prevent water from clogging the field. Cow dung manure is decomposed and applied to the field. Organic fertiliser is then applied to the field. The seedlings are then planted. Inorganic fertilisers such as TSP, potash, urea are applied



around the roots of the tree when the saplings grow to a certain extent. When the tree tops start showing, they absorb the fertilisers which help the growth of hyacinth beans. Pesticides such as Dursban and Noklem leaves are also applied. Tree weeds are cut every day to keep insects at bay. Irrigation is carried out at weekly intervals during the summer and during two-week intervals during the winter. Hyacinth beans are ready to be harvested two months after sowing the seedlings.

Rafiqul, along with many farmers of the area, provides vegetables for Shwapno under the Shuddho project. According to Rafiqul, this initiative has helped him adopt the right agricultural practices for growing hyacinth bean, in terms of learning about how much fertiliser or pesticide should be used. Farmers also have an opportunity to learn about the interval period between pesticide application and harvesting, known as the Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI).

Hyacinth beans are a great source of nutrients. They are good for our health and wellbeing. So, the next time you see hyacinth beans in the vegetable section in the market, make sure you include it in your basket!

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



DHAKA TODAY

DISCUSSION
One year of road safety movement
Organiser: Bangladesh Chattria Union
Venue: TSC, University of Dhaka
Time: 5pm

COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME
Remembering freedom fighter Supriyo Chakraborty
Organiser: WE CAN Alliance to End Domestic Violence, Bangladesh
Venue: Chhayanaut, Dhanmondi
Time: 6:30pm

ACADEMIC SESSION
Under Graduate Basic Group Advising
Venue: Education USA Bangladesh, Baridhara
Time: 3pm

SEMINAR
Global immigration Crisis: Religion, Society & State
Organiser: Centre for Interreligious

& Intercultural Dialogue
Venue: RC Majumder Auditorium, University of Dhaka
Time: 3:30pm

FAIR
Bangabandhu Book Fair
Venue: Pathak Shamabesh
Time: 10am

CELEBRATION
International Indigenous Day
Organiser: Bangladesh Adivasi Forum
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Time: 10am

স্বাধীনতা, রাষ্ট্র ও আত্মতত্ত্ব পর্যালোচনা

১৫ আগস্ট ১৯৬১

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