

Ousting AL govt just a matter of time: Mosharraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ousting the Awami League government is just a matter of time, BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday.

He said this while addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press Club to mark the birth anniversary of party founder Ziaur Rahman. Doctors Association of Bangladesh organised the event. "We want to implement the spirit of the Liberation War, and that's why the 27-point state reform proposal has been placed," the BNP leader said.

"No autocratic government gives up power voluntarily. There is no alternative to a mass uprising against them. The way the autocratic Ershad government was ousted through a mass upsurge, the same way the incumbent government will be ousted..." He alleged that the government is spreading propaganda against Ziaur Rahman to hide its own failure.

There is no democracy in the country at present, he said, adding that more than 600 BNP leaders and activists have become victims of enforced disappearances, while over 1,000 were killed. Khaleda Zia has also been kept in jail with false cases, he said.

Meanwhile at another programme, BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy said the government will not be able to stay in power if people of the country take to the streets. He was speaking at a human chain in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters yesterday. Dhaka district unit BNP organised the rally, demanding the release of the party's senior leaders from jail.

He also alleged that the government has politicised the judiciary, and this is the reason why the opposition men and people in general are not getting justice.

Reduce price of fuel, gas and power
Demands Dr Kamal Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



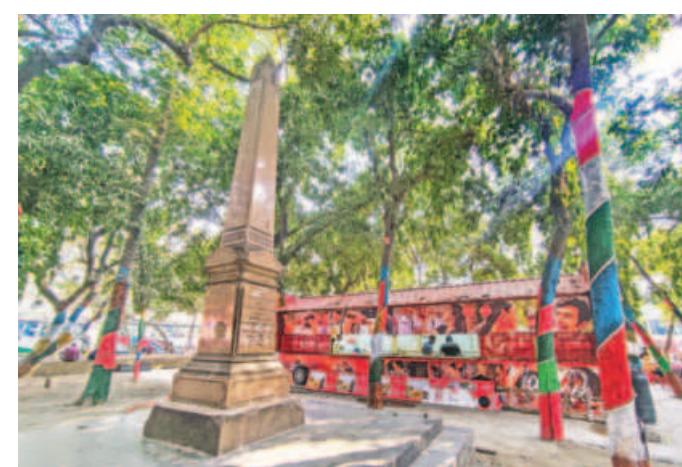
Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday demanded that the government immediately reduce the prices of gas, electricity and fuel.

The unbridled hike in the prices of goods and fuel, including gas and electricity, has caused unlimited sufferings in public life. We strongly protest the abnormal increase and urge the government to immediately reduce it," said Dr Kamal while speaking at a meeting held at the party's office in the capital's Purana Paltan.

Dr Kamal said effective efforts should be taken to ensure a free, fair and neutral election. He also called for building national unity by discussing with like-minded political parties and individuals.

Gono Forum general secretary Mizanur Rahman, treasurer Shah Nuruzzaman, and presidium members Mofizul Islam Khan, SM Altaf Hossain and Moshtak Ahmed also spoke at the event.

Bahadur Shah Park now 'CAFÉ BAHADUR'



HELEMUL ALAM



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

food stall read -- "Café Bahadur".

In a shocking development, Dhaka South City Corporation has allowed a private entity to construct a food court at the historic Bahadur Shah Park -- much to the dismay of locals and eminent citizens.

Following protests from concerned citizens and Old Dhaka dwellers, the authorities have started removing one of the two food courts from Thursday, although "Café Bahadur" is operating in full swing.

"We do not think there is any necessity for such commercial structures in the park. It is not only damaging the sanctity of the historical place but also robbing the locals of a place to breathe fresh air, away from the chaos of the capital."

Over one lakh students of 14 educational institutions in and around Laxmibazar rely on the park for entertainment. Besides, people of all ages use the park for exercise," said Aktaruzzaman Khan, member secretary of Bahadurshah Park and Oitijo Rokkha

Sangram Committee.

He said they have already submitted a memorandum to the DSCC mayor, a local lawmaker of Dhaka-6 constituency and the district commissioner's office by taking mass signatures of locals to take necessary steps in this regard.

"We, along with eminent citizens, met the (DSCC) mayor on November 10, demanding the removal of the cafés, highlighting the history of the park, and setting up boundary walls for security. The mayor agreed with our demands and assured us that he would take the necessary measures," he said.

"However, he did not keep his promise," he added.

Contacted, DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said they have permitted one food court to provide service to the visitors. "It was not set up for commercial purposes," he said.

He said the café has already been shifted to

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Graduates of Asian University for Women toss their caps to celebrate the beginning of a new journey, as students from 18 countries received their certificates at the 10th commencement ceremony yesterday. Education Minister Dipu Moni; Cherie Blair, AUW chancellor and former first lady of the United Kingdom; and AUW Vice Chancellor Rubana Huq were present at the event.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Towards a new beginning

AUW holds 10th commencement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The 10th commencement ceremony of Asian University for Women (AUW) was held on its campus on port city's Bayezid Link Road yesterday.

Education Minister Dipu Moni was present at the ceremony, while Cherie Blair, AUW chancellor and former first lady of the United Kingdom, presided over the programme. John Sexton, president of New York University, delivered the keynote speech as a convocation speaker.

Addressing the programme, the education minister said a certain quarter is spreading misinformation about textbooks on social media.

Thanking those who point out errors in textbooks in a constructive manner, Dipu Moni said,

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BNP now desperate to assume power **Says Quader**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amari League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said that after being repeatedly rejected by the country's people in elections, BNP is now desperate to assume power by unconstitutional means.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, made the remark in a statement issued protesting the speech of BNP leaders, including its secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

In response to the statement of Mirza Fakhrul that "the government will not find an escape route", Quader said such a statement does not go well with BNP, whose leaders are fleeing abroad as fugitives.

He said BNP has hired lobbying firms spending

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No scope to bring back caretaker govt: law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday ruled out the possibility of restoring the caretaker government system in the country.

"The Supreme Court has declared the caretaker government system illegal and unconstitutional, and accordingly, the Constitution has been amended. Therefore, there is no scope for reintroducing the caretaker government system in the country," he said.

He was talking to journalists after attending a meeting on the occasion of inaugurating a training course for the subordinate court judges at Judicial Administration Training Institute in Dhaka.

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'Barring Adarsha against freedom of expression'

Fifty-nine eminent citizens concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-nine eminent citizens of the country have expressed grave concern over publishing house "Adarsha" not being permitted to set up a stall at this year's Ekushey Boi Mela.

They urged authorities concerned to ensure Adarsha's participation in the fair and the freedom of writers and publishers to remain a part of the event.

At a press conference on Thursday at Dhaka

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:40 7:00
JAM'AT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:44 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORshed

Theatre festival "Aly Zaker Notuner Utshob" kicked off at Shilpakala Academy yesterday. The six-day event is being organised by Nagorik Natya Sampradaya and Mangaldeep Foundation. State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid, actor and lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor, Shilpakala Academy DG Liaquat Ali Lucky, thespian and actor Ferdousi Majumdar and theatre personality Sara Zaker were present at the programme. Four renowned theatre personalities were felicitated during the event. Mamunur Rashid received the Syed Shamsul Haque award, Masud Ali Khan the Khaled Shams award, Nasiruddin Yousuff the Aly Zaker award and Syed Jamil Ahmed the Zia Haider award. Inset, dancers performing at the inaugural ceremony.

