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PM unveils 'Bhayera Amar'

Book contains 200 speeches
of Bangabandhu

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday unveiled a book containing 200 speeches of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The book titled "Bhayera Amar" was unveiled at the beginning of the cabinet meeting held at the PMO.

The name "Bhayera Amar (My Brothers)" has been given by the prime minister herself, according to a release from PMO Press Wing. She also wrote the introduction of the book.

The main feature of this collection of speeches of the Father of the Nation is that it includes all the speeches available so far. All the speeches have been collected, compiled and edited by PM's speech writer M Nazrul Islam. The book has been published by Genius Publications.

The accuracy and reliability of each speech has been duly verified. The book highlights the important parts of each speech and displays them separately. Besides, the content, year and date of each speech are mentioned in the index.

In the introduction of the book, the prime minister mentioned, "The new generation, especially the leaders, activists and supporters of Awami League, should not only read Bangabandhu's speeches, but also understand their meaning and practice it in their own lives."



Along the Dhaka-Aricha highway, an alarming sight unfolds as garbage is set ablaze, enveloping the surroundings in a cloud of suffocating black smoke. The toxic emissions taint the air, threatening the health of nearby communities, and casts a cloak that reduces visibility -- resulting in an increased risk of road accidents. This photo was taken recently in Savar's Ganda area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Dengue claims two more lives

180 hospitalised
in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more dengue patients died while 180 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new cases, the total number of deaths in dengue rose to 26 this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of dengue cases this year stood at 3,390. Some 650 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment.

A total of 2,714 dengue patients were released from hospitals so far.

The total number of deaths in dengue was 281 last year while the total number of cases was 62,382, of which 23,162 were outside Dhaka.

Experts continue to urge the authorities concerned to conduct extensive drives identifying clusters of Aedes mosquitoes as soon as possible.

'Where's Kalpana Chakma?'

Speakers demand enquiry
commission

DU CORRESPONDENT

Noted citizens demanded the formation of an inquiry commission to investigate the abduction of Kalpana Chakma, a female leader in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, who disappeared 27 years ago.

They raised the demand from a rally in front of National Museum at Shahbagh yesterday, organised under the banner of indigenous women, students and youth organisations.

In the rally, Dr Khairul Chowdhury, a teacher of Dhaka University's sociology department, said it has been 27 years since the abduction of Kalpana Chakma and as many as 39 investigation committees have failed to uncover the truth behind her disappearance.

"The time for setting up an enquiry commission is now. If we can set up a public inquiry commission to prosecute the war criminals of Bangladesh, why cannot we investigate the case of Kalpana Chakma?" he said.

Kalpana, who was the organising secretary of Hill Women's Federation (HWF), was abducted from her

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PHOTO: STAR

Only 5 out of 41 parties in city polls

Elections non-participatory with no major opposition, say experts



BNP and their alliance members are not taking part in the election due to their lack of confidence in the EC. Many political parties do not have the capacity and human resources to participate in the polls, resulting in overall lower participation.

M SAKHAWAT HUSSAIN
Former Election Commissioner

There is no scope for the EC to bring anyone in the electoral race. Participation from every party surely makes it more competitive. If that does not happen, we have to conduct the polls either way. We don't have option to stop working.

RASHIDA SULTANA
Election Commissioner

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Only five out of the total 41 political parties that are registered with the Election Commission are participating in the ongoing five city corporation elections. The opposition parties boycotting the elections made it non-participatory and less competitive, according to political analysts.

The series of city elections started with the Gazipur city polls on May 25.

The Barishal and Khulna city polls have taken place yesterday, while the Sylhet and Rajshahi city polls are scheduled for June 21.

In the Gazipur polls, a total of

eight candidates took part in the elections, of whom, three were independent. The ruling Awami League, the main opposition in parliament Jatiya Party, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jaker Party and Ganafont fielded their candidates in the electoral race.

Sources from the EC said four parties -- Awami League, Jatiya Party, Islami Andolan Bangladesh and Jaker Party -- nominated their candidates in the Barishal, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet polls.

Former Election Commissioner Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said so many political parties deciding not to participate in the polls have made them less

competitive.

"BNP, a major political party, and their alliance members are not taking part in the election due to their lack of confidence in the Election Commission. On the other hand, many political parties do not have the capacity and human resources to participate in the polls, resulting in overall lower participation," he said.

During a meeting held on May 15, the BNP standing committee officially decided to boycott the city polls, saying the five city polls ahead of the national elections are motivated, according to a press release signed by BNP Secretary

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'ATTACK ON IAB CANDIDATE'

Did he die, asks
CEC Awal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Polling in the Barishal and Khulna city corporations were held amid festivities, and in a free and fair manner barring a few incidents, said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday.

He made the remarks while briefing reporters at the EC office.

During the briefing, in response to a question -- when a mayoral candidate is beaten and left in bloodshed, how can the election be called peaceful, CEC said, "the matter is comparative".

"Did he die? No. I did not see him bleeding. But we heard that someone punched him from behind," he said.

Mentionable, Syed Faizul Karim, mayoral candidate of Islami Andolan Bangladesh, came under attack during the city polls in Barishal.

Regarding the incident, the CEC said, "We heard the candidate saying, 'voting is not obstructed. I have been attacked'."

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Multilateralism vital for greater global interest

Momen tells G20 meeting

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday intervened at various sessions of the G20 Development Ministers' Meeting and emphasised upholding the true spirit of multilateralism for greater interest of the global community.

He stressed on the challenges faced by the countries of global south and called for support from developed countries on means of implementation, financing and capacity building, according to a message from Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired the meeting.

Foreign ministers from a number of the G20

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Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen with India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at a meeting yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

OATH TAKING OF MPS SC fixes July 25 for hearing of appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed July 25 for hearing of a four-year-old appeal that challenged the legality of oath taking by 280 Awami League alliance lawmakers.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice M Enayetur Rahim set the date after Senior Advocate AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, lawyer for


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**PRAYER
TIMING**

JUNE 13

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:05	12:45	5:00	6:50	8:15
JAMAA 4:40	1:15	5:15	6:55	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION





Vehicles remain stuck in a long tailback on the Airport road yesterday afternoon. Though traffic congestions have become a norm in the capital, especially on weekdays, the morning rain only exacerbated people's sufferings. This photo was taken near Banani.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Surgeon accused of mistreatment

Patient files complaint
with BMDC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former patient of Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital in Dhaka has complained about an alleged unsuccessful open-heart surgery, which he claimed led to his cardiac arrest approximately three months later.

The physician in charge, however, denied the allegation.

The patient, Kanchan Kumar Dey, 62, underwent open-heart surgery on December 12 after a cardiologist identified five blockages in his heart's blood vessel.

Prof Dr Masum Siraj, head of Cardiac Surgery at the hospital, performed the surgery as the lead surgeon

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