

‘AL can not even tolerate Hero Alam’

Fakhrul reiterates demand for govt resignation at Khulna rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the attack on Hero Alam, an independent candidate in the by-election to Dhaka-17 constituency, was a mockery of democracy.

“It has demonstrated how Awami League has become politically bankrupt. They can’t even tolerate Hero Alam,” he added.

Fakhrul said this while addressing a youth rally in Khulna city’s Sonali Bank Chattar area.

He said the incident has also manifested once again that no fair and impartial election can be held under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government.

Fakhrul said Alam
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BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir addressing a youth rally in Khulna city's Sonali Bank Chattar area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Bring it back to previous standards

Speakers tell event on air quality guidelines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The standard for Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) and Sulphur oxides (SOx) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions has to be restored to their previous indexes, demanded environmentalists at a seminar yesterday.

They made the remarks at a seminar organised by Centre for Atmospheric Pollution Study (CAPS) of Stamford University and Bangladesh Institute of Planners at the BIP auditorium.

According to Ahmed Kamruzzaman Majumder, founding chairman of CAPS under Environmental Science Department at Stamford University, Dhaka ranked as the most polluted city two times in a row in 2019 and 2020.

Around 1.23 lakh people died of air pollution in 2017, shows a Health Effects Institute of US study.

“Earlier, per cubic metre of air would be termed unhealthy if it had over 15 microgrammes of PM 2.5. However, according to the Air Pollution Control Rules-2022, the government has set the standard to 35 microgrammes, more than double of the previous ones. However, WHO has termed the presence of over 5 microgrammes of the substance unhealthy,” he said during his keynote presentation.

He also suggested keeping the standard for sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, which is now 200 microgrammes per cubic metre in line with WHO’s standard (40 microgrammes per cubic metre).

The speakers also blamed the extensive use of fossil fuels as one of the reasons for deteriorating air quality.

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Classify child domestic work as hazardous

Experts urge govt at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children engaged in domestic work face exploitation, oppression, and sexual abuse, and are deprived of their basic needs, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar titled “Progress and legal reality of listing domestic work in the list of vulnerable child labour” was jointly organised by Action for Social Development (ASD), Shapla Nir, and Educo Bangladesh at the seminar room of the National Human Rights Commission.

Speaking as the chief guest, Kamal Uddin Ahmed, chairman of the National Human Rights

Commission, said, “Ninety percent of children engaged in domestic work are subjected to various forms of harassment. Stopping this requires collective action.”

“The Human Rights Commission is strongly committed to taking effective measures in this regard. We will communicate the urgency of listing domestic work as hazardous child labour to the authorities concerned,” he added.

Tomoko Uchiyama, country director of Shapla Nir, said, “Domestic work is not included in the list of hazardous child labour. As a result, children engaged in

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40pc adults still illiterate

Shows BBS survey on literacy rate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 40 percent of adults in Bangladesh are still illiterate, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic’s Literacy Assessment Survey 2023 report.

The survey shows 60.77 percent of people aged 15 years and above are literate. Of them, 62.84 percent are male and 58.24 percent female.

BBS revealed the survey at a programme held yesterday at BBS auditorium in the capital’s Agargon.

Anyone who can read, understand, interpret, communicate, and count verbally and in writing is considered literate, explained BBS officials.

Presenting the survey, project director Mostafa Ashrafuzzaman said the number of such people in urban areas is higher (71.06 percent) than that of rural residents (56.12 percent).

A 100-mark test was conducted to calculate the rate. A person is considered functionally literate if they manage to score a minimum of 50 marks, he mentioned.

The rate is 72.97 percent among the younger citizens, aged 7-14 years. Of them, the literacy rate of girls is 76.42 percent, 6.75 percent higher than that of boys, according to the report.

On the other hand, the number of people with functional literacy aged 11-45 this time increased by a good margin to 73.69 percent

(80.35 in urban areas and 65.6 in rural areas), compared to 53.70 percent in 2011.

The picture is the same for all the age groups, according to the survey report.

However, the rate stands at 62.92 for people aged 7 years and older.

The survey was conducted in all districts between January 1, 2021 and June 30, this year.

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Presenting as the chief guest, Planning Minister MA Mannan said, “We improved by a good margin. The girls have been doing better, which is a good sign for the country. But we need to significantly increase the rate to achieve the SDGs,” he added.

Shahnaz Arefin, secretary to Statistics and Informatics Division; Matiar Rahman, director general of BBS; and Uttam Kumar Das, director of Training Division, Directorate of Primary Education, also spoke at the event.

Korean, Swiss envoys present credentials to the president

UNB, Dhaka

Newly-appointed South Korean and Swiss ambassadors to Bangladesh Park Young Sik and Reto Renggli presented his credentials to President Mohammed Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

President’s Press secretary Joynal Abedin briefed reporters afterwards.

Welcoming the new South Korean envoy, the president said South Korea is one of the major foreign investors in Bangladesh.

He urged South Korean businesses to come with bigger investment in Bangladesh taking advantage of its investment-friendly environment.

The South Korean ambassador said his country is keen to increase bilateral trade and investment with Bangladesh.

He stressed on the exchange of visits by high-level delegations from the public and private sectors of the two countries.

At another ceremony, Swiss envoy Renggli said, “The two countries have cultivated and grown a solid, robust and diversified partnership in a whole range of areas over the last five decades. It will be my privilege to contribute to the further growth of bilateral ties.”

Renggli had previously served as director of the trade office of Swiss industries in Taiwan and as consul general of Switzerland in Hong Kong as well as Edinburgh.

Shahabuddin mentioned about Swiss support and cooperation as a development partner of Bangladesh in the last five years. He said the bi-lateral relations between the two countries will now turn to trade, investment and economic partnership.



PHOTO: STAR



বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়

নং-১৭.০০.০০০০.০২৫.৫০.০০৩.২২ (অংশ-১)-৭১১

তারিখঃ ১৬ জুলাই, ২০২৩ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

রাজনৈতিক দল নিবন্ধন বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এর বিধি ৭ (২) এর অধীন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয়তাবাদী আন্দোলন- বি এন এম কে, ঠিকানাঃ বাড়ী নং এইচ-২৩, শহীদ বীর উত্তম জিয়াউর রহমান সড়ক/নিউ এয়ারপোর্ট রোড, মহাখালী, থানা-বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১২, Representation of the People Order, 1972 (PO No. 155 of 1972) এর Chapter VIA এর আওতায় রাজনৈতিক দল হিসেবে নিবন্ধনের জন্য দলের আহবায়ক, ডঃ আব্দুর রহমান এবং সদস্য সচিব মেজর মুহাঃ হানিফ (অবঃ) নির্বাচন কমিশনের নিকট একটি দরখাস্ত পেশ করিয়াছেন। উহাদের প্রার্থিত প্রতীক “নোঙ্গর”।

উক্ত রাজনৈতিক দলের নিবন্ধনের বিষয়ে কাহারও কোন আপত্তি থাকিলে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদিসহ উহার কারণ উল্লেখপূর্বক ২৬ জুলাই, ২০২৩ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট লিখিতভাবে জানাইবার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।

মোঃ জাহাঙ্গীর আলম

সচিব

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়

জিডি-১১২২



বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়

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জিডি-১১২১