

They knock on foreigners' doors for everything

Hasan Mahmud on BNP

UNB, Dhaka



BNP's greatest political weakness is to knock on foreigners' doors for everything, said Foreign Minister and Joint General Secretary of Awami League Hashan Mahmud yesterday.

"Instead of going to the source of power in Bangladesh, if they go to the foreigners, the foreigners will not put the BNP in power," he said.

Awami League believes in the power of the people, Hasan said.

"The people voted and elected Awami League and gave them the responsibility of running the country. As a result, the speech of BNP leaders seems like a circus," he said.

He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a book launching ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He unveiled the book "Bhubanjora Sheikh Hasinar Asankhani" written by journalist and Director General of Press Institute Bangladesh (PIB) Zafar Wazed, who was awarded the Ekushey Padak.

During the exchange of views with the journalists, the foreign minister said 285 members of Myanmar's border guard police and army who have recently taken shelter in Bangladesh have been given clearance to return via sea by a Myanmar ship.

PM is afraid of BNP: Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka



The prime minister is behind the imprisonment of BNP leaders as she is afraid of the party, said BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday.

Rizvi said it in a sit-in programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club organised by Zia Projanmo Dal demanding the release of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and other imprisoned leaders.

The jails have turned into permanent residences for many BNP leaders and activists as they have been imprisoned for months without any reason, he said.

"Top BNP leaders like the secretary general, standing committee members, vice chairman, and joint secretary general have suffered prison terms for three-four month before their release recently," he alleged.



Various youth and social organisations protested in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding stricter actions against climate change and emphasising the importance of combating rising temperatures to save the world.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BAGERHAT 250-BED HOSPITAL

Biochemistry analyser machine left unused for a year

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY,
Bagerhat

An automatic biochemistry analyser machine procured at the Bagerhat 250-bed Hospital has been lying unused for over a year. No allocation has yet been made to procure the reagents for conducting diagnostic tests using the machine.

As such, patients are deprived of diagnostic facilities at the hospital and are compelled to spend a lot more to get their necessary tests done from private centres.

Noor Jahan Begum of Charkathi village under Kachua upazila was one such patient.

"I came to the hospital with pain in my legs, spine and back. The doctor prescribed a number of tests. A few could be done here but most had to be done from outside, which cost me Tk 2,500," she told this correspondent.

"If all the tests could have

been done here, it would benefit poor people like us a lot," said Mizan Sheikh, another patient.

The automatic biochemistry analyser machine was procured for the hospital on

then remained boxed and is collecting dust at the hospital's pathology department as it cannot conduct diagnostic tests without necessary reagents.

Although the hospital

producing results for more than 50 biochemical tests including serum electrolytes, TSH, and immunochromatography, among others, said Manik, lab attendant at the pathology department.

Dr Sadia Tasnim Munmun, resident medical officer at the hospital, said, "As the machine continues to remain unused, the risk of having it getting damaged rises over time. Also, over 6,000 patients, who come at the hospital from different areas every month, are being deprived."

Dr Asim Kumar Samaddar, superintendent of the hospital, said, "A letter has been sent to the health department for allocation of fund to procure reagents for the auto-analyser machine.

The supplier organisation has also been contacted to this end.

"If the fund is allocated, the machine will be brought to use soon."



March 7, 2023 at a cost of Tk 38,28,120. An organisation called Bangladesh Science House supplied the machine.

However, the high-capacity machine has since

authorities wrote to the health department for fund allocation to procure the reagents, they are yet to get any response to this end.

The machine is capable of

Climate migration from coastal areas on rise: speakers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A workshop on responses to address climate change-induced loss and damage was held yesterday at ADAMS Integrated Training Centre in Khulna.

ADAMS organised the event with assistance of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, and Germanwatch.

The coastal districts in the southwestern region have been witnessing myriad of adverse impacts of climate change, leaving hundreds of people without livelihoods and compelled to migrate elsewhere, speakers said.

Many are now living at 625 slums in Khulna city amid lack of proper sanitation and livable environment.

They also urged government and private institutions to collect data on climate victims.

Sufia Rahman Shunu, KCC panel mayor; Laura Maria Schaler, senior adviser, Climate Risk Management; and Vera Teresa Kunzel, policy adviser, Climate Loss and Damage of Germanwatch spoke among others.

Eidgah ground

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They demanded the authorities to evict the kitchen market and recover the playground for mental and physical well-being of children in the locality. Yet, no step has been taken to this end.

Contacted, Gias Uddin Bepari said he started serving as general secretary of the mosque recently.

When questioned about obtaining permission from the NHA to convert the Eidgah field into a kitchen market, he stated that it had been repurposed long ago to support the orphanage.

Asked why they did not feel it was necessary to get permission from the NHA,

he said, "You all know how it was turned into a kitchen market."

Joarder Tabeedun Nabi, an executive engineer of the NHA Dhaka Division-I, Mirpur, said they neither leased the land to anyone nor did the mosque committee seek permission from them to turn the Eidgah into a kitchen market.

"We have written two letters proposing eviction of the kitchen market since January 2023," he also said.

"If the NHA chairman approves the eviction proposal, it will be sent to the deputy commissioner of Dhaka. Once the DC appoints a magistrate, we will go for the eviction drive," Nabi added.

A Mughal

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In the original design, there was a central mihrab on the western wall and six mihrabs on either side of the central mihrab, the book reads, adding that the mihrabs had quadrangular arches and that the frames of the arches were folded over themselves to give it an ornamental touch. These features are visible in the structure now as well.

While visiting the Eidgah on the 28th day of Ramadan, this correspondent found that it was getting ready to host the Eid-ul-Fitr jamaat.

People who have been offering Eid prayers here for years said that the experience of offering prayers at an ancient Eidgah fills them with happiness.

Rafiqul Alam, a banker living in Dhanmondi, said he used to come to offer Eid prayers here with his father when he was a child.

"Now I come to offer Eid prayers along with my sons, and the feeling remains the same," he added.

Changing class

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change of its class. This is the meaning of Article 42(l) of the Constitution. So, it can be said unequivocally that acquisition, holding, transfer of property and its distribution in any way and change of its class is a fundamental right given by the constitution to every citizen of Bangladesh. In no way, the acquisition, holding, transfer and distribution of land and change of its class can be hindered," the HC bench said.

Farmers enjoy uninterrupted

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to eight hours of outages a day due to power shortage, city residents and officials said.

"I'm surviving on IPS batteries for power, but it increases my cost of living," said Rezwanul Haque, a resident of Boaliapara in Rajshahi city.

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) is expecting a

A 500-year-old heritage site

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sanctuary where villagers visit to this day to say their daily prayers.

Golam Mostafa, another local, told The Daily Star that they pray in this mosque every day.

While many go to other mosques to pray due to a lack of space here, prayers are regularly offered here without issue, he said.

"Even though we require more space to accommodate more people, we can't demolish this one to build a new mosque or renovate it ourselves due to the mosque's historic value. This historic mosque needs to be preserved," he added.

"We are grateful to our forefathers, as they did not destroy the mosque despite not knowing its historical significance. We also want to keep this historical establishment alive so that future generations can also witness it like we and our forefathers did," said Nuruzzaman Ahmed, another resident of the village.

bountiful harvest of 37,01,564 tons of paddy from 8,31,337 hectares of land in the eight districts.

For irrigation, the REB is responsible for providing power and is getting 388 MW power supply against a daily demand of 581 MW in the division. REB is witnessing a daily shortage of 193 MW.

On the other hand,

While the mosque is not in a bad shape, authorities need to take measures to

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NURUZZAMAN AHMED
A resident

preserve the structure, he added.

Firoz Quader, president of the mosque management committee, said due to the archaeological importance of 'Ek Katar Masjid', no renovation work was ever undertaken.

"We will contact the Department of Archaeology to preserve

NESCO that supplies power to homes and businesses is witnessing a 40 percent deficit against a daily demand of 400MW.

"REB and NESCO is coordinating to ensure uninterrupted power supply to REB," said the divisional commissioner.

Hospitals, and religious institutions in the towns will also receive consistent power supply, he said.

No casualties

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Electricity supply was suspended in the entire building, which caused suffering among patients, she added.

While visiting, this correspondent found that the attendants were using hand fans to cool their patients.

Abdul Hakim, public relations officer of the hospital, said all activities on the fourth floor have been suspended, as the fire has destroyed all of the equipment, alongside the ICU and HDU.

Electricity lines were provided on several floors from adjacent buildings to alleviate the situation, he added.

"Due to prompt action, no casualties were reported, and all patients on the affected floor were safely evacuated and are now stable," he added.

He also said they primarily suspected the fire originated from the AC.

Health Minister Samanta Lal Sen visited the

scene and confirmed that all patients were evacuated safely and alternative treatment arrangements were made.

The full extent of the fire's damage could not be known immediately, he added.

Meanwhile, Md Fakhruddin, senior station officer of Mohammadpur Fire Station, said the fire safety measures at the hospital were not adequate.

"The hospital had some fire extinguishers, with which they tried to control the fire before we got there. But at a hospital like this, they need to be a lot more prepared to deal with fire incidents," he told The Daily Star.

"They didn't have a separate water line for fire accidents, which is a must for establishments of this sort. We had to bring water from the nearby staff quarters of National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital to douse the fire," he added.

961 nurses get training on palliative care

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total 961 nurses have been provided training on palliative care at Kumudini Women's Medical College in Tangail's Mirzapur.

Palliative Care Society of Bangladesh (PCSB), in collaboration with Kumudini Welfare Trust of Bengal Limited, provided training to the nurses in two phases held on April 2-4 and April 18-19.

Nurses from diverse educational backgrounds, including diploma, B.Sc., and post-graduate levels, participated in this initiative.

It was the first instance of training on palliative care in Bangladesh, aimed at raising large-scale awareness.

Globally, only 14 percent people receive palliative care, a crucial service, which encompasses the holistic care of patients with incurable life-limiting diseases, addressing their physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being.

At present, approximately 800,000 people across Bangladesh, including more than 70,000 children, are in need of palliative care.

Unfortunately, the available palliative care services are predominantly based in Dhaka, that too inadequately.

PCSB advisor Dr Nezamuddin Ahmed, also former chairperson of palliative medicine department at BSMMU, stressed for making palliative care services more available to those in need.

"Neglecting this issue risks crippling the society, not only due to the growing elderly population but also the lack of essential healthcare services," he said.

Dr Nezamuddin Ahmed, Professor Dr Sanjida Shahria, Dr Noorjahan Begum, Dr Sarah Ahmed, senior staff nurses Mousmita Roy and Rahima Akter, and volunteer Saki Farnaz conducted the training.

Principal Sister Rina Cruz and her fellow nurses were present at the session.

PREVENTING DENGUE

DNCC to launch month-long campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka North City Corporation is gearing up to launch a comprehensive month-long campaign aimed at preventing dengue outbreak.

Starting from April 22, the initiative will target all 54 wards under the DNCC.

DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam highlighted the urgency of this campaign, especially with the impending breeding season of Aedes mosquitoes, the primary vector for dengue transmission.

Mayor Atiqul also offered cash rewards to residents in exchange for items that serve as breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes, including discarded polythene bags and packets, green coconut shells, and other objects.

Residents can exchange these items for cash at their respective ward councillor's office. The ward councillors have been instructed to purchase these wastes at set prices, which will facilitate a streamlined process for residents.

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