

'Jamaat chief's remark hurtful'

Says BNP leader Nazrul Islam; still hopes for united movement

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday said they were hurt by the comments of the Jamaat-e-Islami chief, who claimed that the army and his party are the only tested patriotic forces in Bangladesh.

Speaking to reporters at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office after a meeting with a delegation of Jatiyatabdhi Samamona Jote, he, however, expressed hope that Jamaat would join the movement for the restoration of democracy alongside other democratic parties in the future.

The BNP leader hoped that no politician would make such remarks in the future.

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A farmer spreads paddy grains under the sun, following a traditional post-harvest method to ensure they are properly dried for storage and preservation. This photo was taken in Surjanagar, Rajbari recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Need collective efforts for societal challenges

Says Rizwana

UNB, Dhaka

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has stressed the critical role of women alongside men in promoting environmental conservation and climate resilience.

"We must commit to collective efforts to address societal challenges and uplift communities. By securing equity and sharing responsibility, we can create a better world where everyone can progress," she said.

She made the remarks at an event organised to mark the 40th anniversary of Inner Wheel District 328 yesterday at a city hotel.

The adviser urged all to work tirelessly for positive change and extend support to disadvantaged individuals.

She highlighted the importance of stepping out of comfort zones to advocate for justice and dignity as central to all human endeavours, whether by the state or private individuals.

She also encouraged organisations like the Inner Wheel to continue inspiring others through service and friendship, setting impactful examples for society to follow.

Political parties slam VAT, tax hikes

Say it's an 'authoritarian policy', will disproportionately impact the poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties have criticised the government for increasing value-added tax (VAT) and supplementary duty (SD) on nearly 100 goods and services, saying such measures would disproportionately burden marginalised and low-to-middle-income groups.

BNP standing committee members Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku criticised the government for what they described as regressive policies.

These measures will worsen public hardship, especially for marginalised groups, fixed-income earners, and low-to-middle-income families.

Communist Party of Bangladesh

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The National Board of Revenue on Thursday issued a notification raising VAT and SD rates on products such as mobile phone usage, internet, tissue, fruit, readymade garments, LP gas, spectacles, and hotel services. The new rates came into effect yesterday.

Consumers now face VAT rates of up to 15 percent on items like restaurant food, biscuits, cakes, pickles, tomato sauce, tailoring services, toilet tissue, towels, sweets, driving licences, non-AC hotels, motor workshops, and lubricant oil.

Previously, VAT rates for these items ranged as low as 5 percent.

Additionally, VAT on electric transformers, poles, and steel products such as cold-rolled coils, limestone, and dolomite was raised to 15 percent from 5 percent.

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