

No polls without electoral reforms

14-party leaders tell Bogra road march

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The first day of district level road march programme of Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine passed off peacefully in the district headquarters yesterday amid unprecedented security measures.

Opposition workers waving banners, festoons and placards began to gather at Altafunnesa Playground in the town from 3:30pm before the march started towards Matidal at 6:00pm.

Several thousand people also walked down spontaneously to join the march while a number of curious people stood on both sides of the road to see the march.

The marchers walked about six kilometres in one and a half hours.

The demonstrators also chanted slogans in favour of a number of nomination aspirants including AL Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna, district AL President Mamtaz Uddin and Ansar Ali Miridha.

They virtually sought votes in favour of their leaders for upcoming parliamentary election.

Prior to the march, a rally was held there.

A number of senior opposition leaders including 14-party Coordinator Abdul Jalil, Motia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, Prof Abu Sayeed, Abdul Mannan, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Dilip Barua, Mofidul Islam Khan Kamal and Rezaul Karim Tansen addressed the rally

presided over by district AL President Mamtaz Uddin.

Addressing the rally, the opposition leaders alleged that the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government has been conspiring to foil the upcoming election fearing that they would not be elected due to their wide corruption and misrule.

They said there would be no election in the country without the proposed reforms in electoral process.

Jalil, also general secretary of AL, demanded reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC) after ousting the chief election commissioner (CEC) and two other "politically appointed" commissioners.

After the rally, senior leaders led the march that ended at Matidal. Sources said around 500 law

enforcers were deployed to maintain law and order.

The main thoroughfare of the town Kabi Nazrul Islam Road was sealed off during the march.

The opposition combine announced the road march programmes at eight districts aiming to involve thousands of people in the street agitation to compel the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government to accept reforms in the caretaker government and the Election Commission.

They will organise road marches in Kushtia tomorrow, Barisal on August 19, Jessore on August 20, Rajbari on August 24, Rangpur on August 26, Chittagong on August 28 and Sylhet on August 30.



The Nagorik Committee 2006 organises the fourth expert group consultation meeting on 'Vision 2021 for Bangladesh: Goal 4: To have a health-endowed nation' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. Sitting from right are National Prof Brig Gen Abdul Malik, former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Mahmuda Islam and CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya.

Criminals demand tolls from N'ganj minority family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two people identifying themselves as members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) allegedly ransacked the house of a minority family and looted Tk 7,500 at Amlapara in Narayanganj on Wednesday night.

Shipra Ghosh, wife of Shibu Ghosh, submitted a written complaint in this regard to Police Super Shahabuddin Khan yesterday.

In the complaint, she said the raiders also threatened to kill her husband and two sons in 'crossfire' if they do not pay Tk 60,000 by August 13.

The family has been being harassed by a gang of criminals for the last few days, who are demanding the money from Shibu Ghosh, saying that his eldest son Sanjay owes the money to them. But Sanjay who left the house two and a half years ago does not keep in contact with the family.

The gang raided the house on August 7 and demanded the money.

On August 8 midnight, some people identifying themselves as policemen also ransacked Shibu's house.

On receiving the complaint, Police Super Shahabuddin Khan has asked the detective police to investigate the incident.

Officer-in-charge of DB Police Shafiqullah said the investigation is under way and that they are trying to identify the persons responsible.



Sumaira Rahman Shumi, daughter of poet Shamsur Rahman, calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

7 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed in separate road accidents the city and Savar yesterday.

Three people died in separate road accidents in the city and in the suburbs yesterday.

Momtaz Begum, 35, of Eakaton at Ramna area was hit by a truck near Tongi Monno truck stand at Tongi at around 10:30pm.

Momtaz was rushed to Tongi Hospital from where she was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) as her condition deteriorated. She succumbed to her injuries at around 1:30am.

An unidentified man aged about 35 was run over by a vehicle at around 11:00pm while he was crossing the road at Balliapur area near Amin Bazar Madhumati Model Town in Savar.

The identity of the victim could not be known immediately.

Another unidentified person aged about 20 was critically injured when a train hit him at around 7:45pm at Khitkhel rail crossing in the city.

One Rafiqul Islam brought him to DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries.

All the bodies have been sent to DMC morgue for autopsy.

Our JU Correspondent reports:

Three people were killed when a speeding bus knocked them down at Hemayetpur in Savar on Wednesday night.

The dead were identified as Selim, 30, Robiul, 25, and Kalam,

25. The Manikganj-bound bus ran over the three pedestrians near Shima Pharmacy at Hemayetpur at around 10:00pm, sources said. They died on the spot.

AL plots against polls

Minister says at Jubo Dal rally

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday said Awami League (AL) has been hatching conspiracy against the next general election sensing its defeat.

On the other hand, the information minister said the BNP-led four-party alliance would again come to power as it has implemented many massive development programmes in the country during its tenure.

Speaking at a rally organised by Jatiyatubadi Jubo Dal at Muktangan in the city in protest against the ongoing terrorism, anarchy and conspiracy by the AL, Shamsul Islam said that party had destroyed the economy of the country during its rule.

He said now the economy reached a vibrant position following various effective measures taken by

the government.

About changing power, Shamsul Islam said the election is the only way to change power. "People would decide which party would come to power and which one would remain in the opposition," he further said.

He, therefore, said people would resist any conspiracy in this respect.

Shamsul Islam also called upon the leaders and the workers of Jubo Dal to be alert to foil any conspiracy by the AL.

Jubo Dal President Barkat Ullah Bulu chaired the function while Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Salahuddin Ahmed, MP, Jubo Dal general secretary Advocate Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, MP, Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu, MP, and BNP Joint Secretary General Babu Goyeshwar Chandra Roy also spoke at the rally.

Auto-rickshaw owners asked to renew route permit

UNB, Dhaka

Owners of CNG-run auto-rickshaws have been asked to renew the route permit of their vehicles up to 2007.

The government decided to distribute route permit sticker inscribed with '2007' in favour of the CNG-run auto rickshaw that ply on hire with legal route permit in the Dhaka Metropolitan area, said a handout.

The owners who have not renewed the route permit up to 2007 have been asked to renew it in advance. They have been requested to contact the concerned BRTA office in this connection.

Stolen car recovered in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered a private car from Pahartali area in the port city yesterday.

On information, a team of Rab-7 raided CDA Market area under Pahartali PS at around 2:30 pm where the car-thieves gathered to sell a stolen car.

Rab members recovered the Toyota Corolla but the thieves managed to flee away.

Rab sources said that the gang was involved in stealing cars and selling them after making a few changes.

25 more dengue patients hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With another 25 dengue-infected people admitted in different hospitals and clinics in the capital yesterday, the number of dengue patients reached to 1,125, said the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) sources.

The Dengue Control Room (DCR) of the Directorate General of

Health Services however spotted 24 dengue patients in different hospitals yesterday. According to a survey by DCR since June 7, the total number of dengue patients now stands at 1,353.

Dengue fever is spread by Aedes mosquito usually in the rainy season in the country.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:35pm today and rises at 5:32am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

'Take steps to ensure votes of non-resident Bangladeshis'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mayor of Tower Hamlets Shafiqul Haque urged the government, opposition parties and Election Commission to take measures so that the non-resident Bangladeshis can cast vote in the next general election.

Exchanging views with journalists yesterday the Bangladesh-born mayor said thousands of Bangladeshis are living abroad and they hold Bangladeshi passports but they do not have the right to cast vote at home which is very regrettable.

Editor-in-chief of Bangla Mirror M A Aziz and President of Dhaka Reporters' Unity Shafiqul Karim were present during the discussion at DRU auditorium.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Abdul Quddus Molla, son of late Nawab Ali Molla of Molla Bari at Dohar in Dhaka, will be held at his village home after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

He died at his village home on June 13.

He left behind his wife, three sons and eight daughters.

Doa mahfil

A doa mahfil for late SM Moazzem Hossain, a renowned journalist, jute exporter and social worker and his wife Farida Banu will be held today after Asr prayers at their residence, says a press release.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the mahfil to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

1,218 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,218 people from across the country on various charges in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also seized six firearms, 12 other weapons and 12 bullets, says a police headquarters press release.



Jatiyatubadi Jubo Dal stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting what it said anarchy across the country by the 14-party opposition combine.

Six injured as BCL, Shibir men clash in Lalmonirhat

UNB, Lalmonirhat

At least six were injured during a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) at Lalmonirhat Govt College here yesterday.

The injured include BCL Lalmonirhat College unit President Sajjad Hossain Saju, General Secretary Mehedi Hasan, activists Ershad and Samrat, and Shibir workers Firoz and Ruby.

Shibir activists Firoz and Ruby were sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Witnesses said the clash began when Shibir activists allegedly tried to erase the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the college campus at about 2:00pm.

Shibir activists attacked BCL workers when they tried to resist them (Shibir men). Six activists from both the sides were injured when chased each others.

At one stage BCL workers chased the Shibir workers to Jamaat office, 1 km off the campus.

Later, BCL brought out a protest procession on the campus and paraded different roads in the town.



Tribute

Agamee Prakashani organises a ceremony to pay tribute to Humayun Azad on his 2nd death anniversary. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:30pm.

Art competition

'Somoy....' will organise an art competition for children. Venue: Somoy..., Plaza AR. Time: 3:30pm.

Seminar

Transboundary Rivers Group, Bangladesh Porbesh Andolon (Bapa) and Civil Engineering Division of the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) will jointly organise a seminar titled 'Poor people, poor rivers: Growth paradox in South Asia'. Venue: IEB seminar hall. Time: 10:00am.

Film award

The award giving ceremony of Bangladesh Film Producers Distributors Association's annual film award for 1999-2003 will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 4:30pm.

Officers' schooling

Club Officers' Schooling 2006 of Lions Clubs International will be held. Venue: LGED auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Candlelight vigil

Juno Adhikar Andolon Bangladesh will hold a candlelight vigil in memory of the

children who died in Israeli invasion on Lebanon. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises. Time: 6:30pm.

Seminar

Cool Exposure will organise a seminar on 'Regulation and performance of Islamic banking'. Venue: Brac Inn auditorium. Time: 6:00pm.

Seminar

'Shikkha Andolon Mancha' and 'Muktomana' will jointly organise a daylong seminar on 'Secularism: State, society and education'. Venue: RC Mazumdar auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 9:30pm.

Film appreciation course

A eight day long film appreciation course organised by Bishwa Sahitya Kendra will conclude. Venue: Kendra auditorium. Time: 6:00pm.

Founding anniversary

Baraca, a rehabilitation and assistance centre for addicts, will mark its 18th founding anniversary. Venue: Baraca, Savar. Time: 4:00pm.

Book launch

Romanir, a cultural and literary organisation, will launch Banchoit Abdar, a collection of poems by expatriate poet Hasan Imam. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Noted scientist and former director of the Institute of Food Science and Technology Dr Kazi AKM Nurul Haq died of kidney ailments at his Mirpur residence on August 8 at the age of 72.

He is survived by his wife, four daughters, a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Dr Nurul Haq was buried at his family graveyard at Rahmatpur village in Muktagachha of Mymensingh district.

Syeda Aliza Mamtaz

CU CORRESPONDENT

Syeda Aliza Mamtaz, wife of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) General Secretary Kalim Sarwar, passed away due to kidney diseases at a clinic in the port city yesterday at the age of 35.

She left behind her husband, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at the Noor Nagar graveyard at Bakalia area.

Leaders of the CPC and Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) in separate statements expressed profound shock at her death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the CPC auditorium after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the mahfil.

Rafia Rasul



Rafia Rasul, wife of Chowdhury Ataul Shafru of 26/B Tophkhana Road in the city, passed away due to cancer on August 9 at the

age of 48, says a press release.

She was under treatment at Mumbai.

She left behind her husband, son and daughter.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Segun Bagicha Kacha Bazar Mosque after Juma prayers today.

Death anniversary



Today is the 6th death anniversary of M Wazed Ali Mianzi, an international sports personality, organiser and social worker, says a

press release. To observe the day, his family and some other sports organisations will hold separate reminiscing meeting and Doa Mahfils at different places in the city today.

Jatiya Krira Parishad, Bangladesh Football Federation, Sonali Oit Club, Dhaka Samiti and Dhaka Jubo Sangstha are among the organisations that will arrange the programmes.

All the relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join the programmes to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Matiur Rahman

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 29th death anniversary of Matiur Rahman, former chief reporter of now defunct the Bangladesh Times & the Holiday.

He died of cancer at the age of 37.

Before liberation, Matiur Rahman joined the then Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) as public relations chief.

Matiur Rahman worked as a stringer of the New York Times. He was also related with Sandhani Prakashani.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held today after Asr prayers at the residence of his sister at House No-7, Block-F, Section-2, Mirpur on the occasion.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Rabeya Hashem



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Rabeya Hashem, wife of Abul Hashem Mia, former chief engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board,

says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at her residence at Flat-1, Ramna Estate Complex, Maghbazar in the city after Asr prayers.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the mahfil.

Monir Uddin



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Monir Uddin, a freedom fighter, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.



Campaign for Good Governance forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday protesting arrest warrants against five eminent citizens.