



PHOTO: STAR

Left Democratic Front stages a demonstration in Dhaka yesterday demanding steps to reduce prices of essentials and action against the syndicate responsible for the alarming price hike.

NUF ultimatum to CEC to resign in 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of National Unity Front (NUF), a newly formed alliance of several political parties, yesterday issued a seven-day ultimatum to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and three other election commissioners to resign through a road march towards the Election Commission Secretariat.

Several thousand NUF activists, mainly Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB), Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bangladesh Tarikat Federation activists began the road march from Mogbazar wire-

less gate in the city at 11:00am but police intercepted them near Bangla Motor where they staged a demonstration till 12:30pm.

Carrying BDB electoral symbol Kula, poster of BDB President Badruddoza Chowdhury and banners of BDB, Oikya Mancha and Tarikat, activists of NUF chanted slogans against the BNP-led four-party alliance government and CEC MA Aziz.

Leaders of NUF said NUF led by BDB President Badruddoza and Oikya Mancha Convener Dr Kamal Hossain believe in peaceful and progressive politics and it will

continue movement in the streets with the other opposition parties to safeguard the nation from the misrule of the BNP-Jamaat government.

They urged the CEC and other three election commissioners to resign in seven days for the greater interest of country's democracy. Otherwise, they will announce tougher movement to ensure a free and fair election.

"Today's (Tuesday) road march has proved that NUF is not only a factor of election but also a factor in the street movement," said BDB Organising Secretary Mahi B

Chowdhury, while addressing the rally.

"We want a free and fair general election that is acceptable to all, but the government appointed the CEC and ECs considering their political interest," said BDB Secretary General Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan in his speech.

Oikya Mancha leader and former whip Abdur Rauf and BDB Joint Secretary Firoj M Hasan, Office Secretary Sheikh Nadir Ahmed, Joint Organising Secretary Lion Wazed Ali Parvez and Media Chief Jahangir Alam also addressed.

Int'l Confce on Asian Political Parties begins today

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League general secretary Abdul Jalil MP left Dhaka for Seoul yesterday to attend the 4th International Conference on Asian Political Parties (ICAPP).

South Korean Prime Minister Myung Sook Han will inaugurate the four-day 4th ICAPP today at the Lotte Hotel in Seoul.

AL International Affairs Secretary Syed Abul Hossain MP, who left for Seoul on Tuesday, will also attend the 4th ICAPP.

About 300 leaders of different political parties of 35 Asian countries are expected to attend the conference, said a press release.

This year's theme of the conference is 'Peace and Prosperity in Asia'.

The 4th ICAPP will discuss the progress of implementation of the 12-point Beijing Declaration 2004, which was approved by the leaders of Asian political parties at the 3rd ICAPP held in Beijing in September 2004.



PHOTO: STAR

FBCCI President Mir Nasir Hossain presents a crest to US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis at a meeting at the office of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in Dhaka yesterday.

CHARGES OF NEGLIGENCE AGAINST BADHON'S PARENTS Court orders fresh investigation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Parents of Naimul Hassan Badhon, one of the three victims whose throat was slit by his friends, appeared before a Dhaka court yesterday and submitted a written statement in response to the show cause notice issued by the CMM.

On June 15, Jahan Ali, a student of class VII of Monipur Cadet School, and his friends Sohel Rana Rajib and Masud slit the throats of his classmates Badhon, Wadidul

Kabir Tonmoy and Kazi Nibrush Niluv at the residence of Badhon at Madhya Monipur at Mirpur.

In their statement, the parents of Badhon mentioned that the charges of negligence in taking care of their son were false and baseless.

Probation officer of Social Welfare Directorate Mafuza Parveen Chowdhury brought the charges against them on July 19.

Badhon's parents added that the probation officer did not interrogate

them and their son about the facts.

On the other hand, Mafuza's lawyer contradicted the statements of Badhon's parents.

After hearing both the sides, CMM Jalal Ahmed directed Mafuza to interrogate Badhon and his parents again and submit a report by October 1.

On August 23, the chief metropolitan magistrate summoned the Badhon's parents - MA Hamid and Guley Noor Begum - to explain why charges of negligence in taking care of their son would not be brought against them.

The CMM issued the order following a probe report submitted by the probation officer.

The court also directed the investigation officer (IO) Rabiul Islam and the probation officer on June 19 to submit a report about the negligence by the victims' parents.

Following the directive, Mafuza, incharge of Mirpur area, submitted the report saying that she did not find any negligence on part of the parents of Tonmoy and Niluv in taking care of their sons while Badhon's parents did not take care of their son. They were always out of their house for jobs.

Jahan and Rajib confessed to a magistrate on June 18 and 20 that they also looted valuables from Badhon's house on June 15.



Diabetic Association of Bangladesh places a wreath at the graveyard of National Professor Dr Md Ibrahim at Banani in the city yesterday on the occasion of his 17th death anniversary.

'Dr Ibrahim epitome of scientist'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Md Ibrahim was the epitome of a scientist, a visionary leader, humanist social worker and above all a humble and pious man, said speakers at a memorial discussion yesterday to mark the 17th death anniversary of Dr Md Ibrahim, national professor and founder of Bangladesh Diabetic Association (Dab).

The discussion on his life and works was held at Birdem auditorium in the city yesterday.

Speaking at the discussion, Chairman of Bank Asia M Saidduzzaman said Dr Ibrahim proved that any noble initiative survives against all odds.

He also said his biggest contribution is that he left behind a group of dedicated doctors and social workers among whom he will live forever.

Whereas Bangladesh formulated its policy on biotechnology this year, Dr Ibrahim, in 1986, anticipated that no breakthrough in the health sector is possible unless much advancement in biotechnology is attained.

Presided over by Prof Wahid Uddin Ahmed, the programme was also addressed by former chairman of Export Promotion Bureau Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, former MP Sultana Rezawan and Prof AR Khan.

Earlier, Bangladesh Diabetic Association placed wreaths at the graveyard of Dr Ibrahim at Banani in the city at 8:00am. Free diabetes tests were conducted from 8:00am to 11:00am for all in front of the National Museum and a milad mahfil was also held at Birdem outdoor after Maghrib prayers.

One killed in Habiganj clash

UNB, Habiganj

A young man was killed and 10 people were injured in a clash between two groups of residents of Pancharai village in Nabiganj upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Sirajul Haque, 28, of the village.

Local sources said the clash erupted in the morning when Irfanullah and his relatives prevented their neighbour Sirajul from making a water outlet.

At one stage of the feud, rivals attacked Sirajul with sharp weapons, leaving him seriously injured. He died on way to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Ten people, including women, of both the groups were also injured during the clash.

Of the injured, Abdur Rakib, 25, and his wife Lovely Begum, 19, and Renu Begum were admitted to Nabiganj Health Complex.