

Take revenge for cop action on opposition men

14-party leaders urge people

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of the 14-party opposition combine yesterday called upon the people to take revenge for Tuesday's police action on the protesters during the opposition's programme to lay siege to the Prime Minister's Office.

They said the government should know that no autocrat in the past could escape public wrath and people would certainly take revenge of police atrocities on opposition workers.

The 14-party leaders were addressing a protest rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the afternoon.

Presided over by city 14-party convenor Mufazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, the rally was also addressed by AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP, presidium members Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Workers Party President Rashed

Khan Menon, JSD General Secretary Syed Jafar Sajjad, Ganatantri Party President Nurul Islam and NAP General Secretary Enamul Haq.

Jalil described the police action on opposition leaders and activists, including former home minister Mohammad Nasim and AL lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor as unprecedented and brutal.

He called upon the people to get ready to take revenge of oppression on the opposition demonstrators by the police.

"This is not the time to condemn the heinous attacks only. Protests are also not enough. We will have to retaliate such barbaric attacks," he said.

Jalil said the government is out to divert the opposition's democratic movement on reform proposals by letting loose police atrocities on the innocent opposition workers.

Urging the police department to

behave as servants of the people, he warned those police personnel who launched unprovoked attacks on people of severe consequences in future.

Tofail said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is dreaming to win the next election by implementing her blueprint through a loyal caretaker government.

"But she must know that her evil dream will not come true. No election will be held on the soil of Bangladesh under KM Hasan and MA Aziz. The system of caretaker government and the Election Commission must be changed," he said.

Tofail said if the government hands over power to the caretaker government without implementing reform proposals, the opposition will paralyse the country through non-stop hartal.



Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. 14-party opposition combine staged the demonstration in protest against the police atrocities on its leaders and workers during the PMO siege programme on Tuesday.

Govt urged to vote for arms trade control treaty at UN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to sensitising the government in support for the control of arms business and arms terrorism, Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC) and Bangladesh Network on Small Arms (BANSA) organised a press conference at the Reporters Unity in the city yesterday.

The leaders and members of BDPC and BANSA urged the government to conduct serious negotiation to control arms trade across the world.

BDPC Director Sharif A Kafi in his keynote speech said, "The government should vote for control of arms trade treaty in the upcoming United Nations (UN) general meeting to stop arms terrorism."

At least 20 countries around the world are observing the day with different programmes demanding support of the governments for the 'Arms Trade (Control) Treaty' (ATT) and as part of the programme we organised the press conference, Kafi said.

The ATT issue will be raised at the UN general meeting in October, he added.

Explaining the background of ATT, BDPC director said the UN found that the production and supply of arms to be controlled while implementing its 'Arms Control Act 2001'.

Leaders of BDPC and BANSA said they came to know that about 55 member countries among 192

would vote in support of the treaty. Altafur Rahman, project director, Motleb Uddin, project officer and Benjira Shahin, support service

officer of BDPC were also present at the press conference.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at one or two places during the period. Met Office said predicting slight rise in day temperature over the country.

Country's highest temperature 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.0 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:04pm today and rises at 5:45am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.8	24.0	67	64
Chittagong	31.0	26.0	74	74
Rajshahi	33.5	25.2	83	91
Khulna	34.2	26.2	78	78
Barisal	33.7	25.5	71	78
Sylhet	31.0	24.5	91	80
Cox's Bazar	33.3	25.0	73	76



Director of Channel-S Mir Nur-us-Shams Shantanu speaks at a press conference on Bangla Idol at National Press Club in the city recently.

Criminal killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man with criminal records was killed in a 'shootout' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his accomplices at Khilgaon in the capital in early hours yesterday.

The dead is Nannu Miah, 28, an accused in at least 20 cases for murder and mugging.

According to a Rab-3 press release, being tipped off, a team of Rab-3 raided a house at Mirpur section 1 on Tuesday morning where a group of muggers and carjackers were staying. The team captured one Mohammad Hanif, 32, with a pistol and four bullets from there.

The anti-crime forces recovered a hijacked private car in front of his house as well.

Later, Hanif's information led the Rab team to arrest Nannu from Ashulia in Savar at 1:00pm.

During quizzing, Nannu admitted that his group gathered in Banasree area in Khilgaon, stated the press release.

The Rab team then went to Banasree area along with Nannu at around 3:45am yesterday, where Nannu's cohorts attacked the team that initiated the gunfight, Rab claimed.

Nannu got shot during the shootout, claimed Rab.

The doctors at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital declared Nannu dead after Rab with the help of local police took him there at 6:20am.

The team recovered a foreign-made pistol with six bullets and a chapatti, added the press release.

Nannu's wife Selina Begum said her husband left their Bhuiyanpara house in Khilgaon on Tuesday at 10:00am after someone made a phone call to him.

Nannu, owner of a small business, went missing ever since, said his wife.

She came to know about Nannu yesterday after the locals informed her that he had been killed in 'crossfire' with Rab.

She also claimed ignorance of any cases filed against Nannu.

Field level health workers suspend hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Field level employees of the health sector have suspended their hunger strike programme till September 21 after the health secretary assured them of realising their demands within a week.

But they will continue their indefinite work abstention programme at the 1.1 lakh immunisation centres across the country, they declared at a press conference at Crime Reporters' Association in the city yesterday.

Bangladesh Association for the Field Level Employees of Health Sector, an organisation of 26,600 health workers, had been observing the hunger strike since last Friday and abstaining from the immunisation programme since Sunday, to press home their five-point demand.

While reading a written statement at the press conference, Central Secretary General of the association M Harun Or Rashid said around 2.40 lakh mothers and children are being deprived of the service everyday since the immunisation programme is stopped.

"But we are forced to stop the programme" he said, "We had been pressing home the five-point for the last eleven years, yet the government did not pay any heed to our demands."

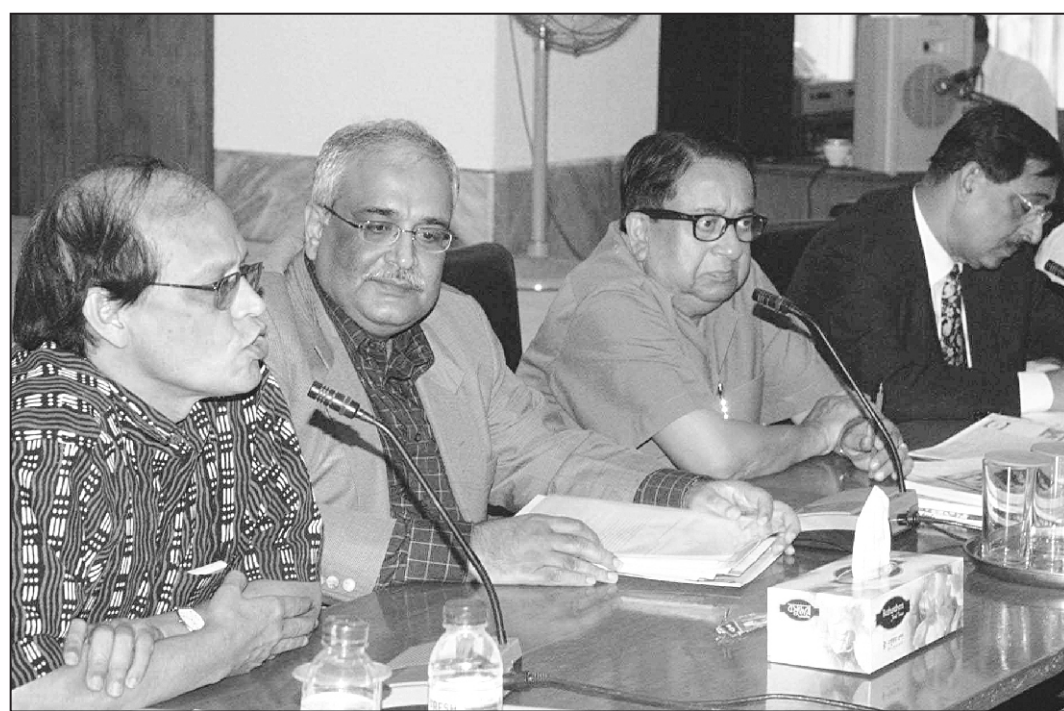
Thanking Health Secretary Chowdhury Zafrullah Khan, he said that the meeting with the secretary on Monday was quite satisfactory and they had suspended their hunger strike on his assurance.

"But if the demands are not met within September 21, we would go for indefinite hunger strike and all the domiciliary programmes would be closed down," Harun added.

The demands of the field level health workers include amendment in pay scale, increased travel allowance, status change in designations of the health workers such as health visitors should be designated as health supervisor, assistant health visitors as assistant health supervisors and health assistants as health technologists.

They also demanded for training courses for the health workers in every district hospitals for better performance.

Mohammad Toslim Uddin, Jobed Ali, Habibur Rahman, Shah Emran, Sultan Ahmed Bhuiyan, Abul Kashem Azad and other district correspondents were present at the press conference.



Dr Atiur Rahman speaks at a dialogue on crisis and prospects of ship breaking industry in Bangladesh at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, LK Siddiqui and Abu Alam Chowdhury. The daily Prothom Alo and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) organised the dialogue in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation.

REFUSAL TO PAY EXTORTION

Two traders murdered in Meherpur, Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Criminals allegedly belonging to outlawed party killed two traders in two separate incidents in Meherpur and Chuadanga for non-payment of extortion on Tuesday night.

Trader Addaf Ali, 42, was killed in Meherpur and hotelier Shamsul Islam, 37, was killed in Chuadanga.

According to Meherpur police, a gang of criminals picked up Addaf from his business chamber at Akabpur in Gangni upazila at about 8:30pm.

They took Addaf to nearby field and mercilessly beat him leaving him in severe condition.

Local people recovered him and sent to Meherpur General Hospital.

Later he was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he died yesterday.

According to family members of the victim, a gang of extortionists demanded Tk 1 lakh to Addaf several days ago and threatened for dire consequences if the money is not paid.

In Chuadanga, criminals gunned down Shamsul Islam, owner of Gulmohor Hotel at Bhalaiapur crossing in Alamdanga upazila at about 9:30pm.

One hotel staff was also injured in the incident.

Sources including the hotel staff said a gang of the area demanded an extortion of Tk 50,000 to Shamsul some days ago. They

threatened Shamsul for dire consequence when he denied paying them any money.

Police said the gang stormed into the hotel on Tuesday night and charged Shamsul why he did not pay the money.

They shot Shamsul at point blank when he again denied paying them the money. He died on the spot.

The criminals also chopped Tapan Karmakar, an employee of the hotel, when he came to rescue his master. Tapan is now under treatment at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

Separate cases were filed with the concerned police stations.

SIX-HR RESTRICTION ON ENTRY TO CMCH

Attendants of patients suffer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Hundreds of attendants of patients faced untold suffering following a restriction on their entry to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday.

The hospital authorities imposed the restriction for a period of over six hours as of 2:15pm as a team of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) was due to visit the hospital at that time.

But the team finally did not turn

up, sources said.

The five-member team led by Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) President Dr MA Hadi, however, visited the Chittagong Medical College at 12:00 noon to inspect the standards of education at postgraduate level.

The east and west gates of the hospital was locked and a number of security guards were deployed at the main gate to prevent anybody from entering the hospital and its premises.

A large number of attendants had

to wait outside the hospital premises until 2:15pm when it was confirmed that the team would not be visiting the hospital, sources said.

CMCH Director Brigadier General Abedur Rahman told The Daily Star that a BMDC team during its visit a few years ago had expressed dissatisfaction over the presence of a large number of attendants and visitors at the hospital and its premises.

So, the restriction on the entry of visitors was imposed this time, he added.



Members of a delegation of National Defence College of India pose for photograph with President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Domestic help dies in rooftop fall in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help died after falling from a six-storey building at Shantinagar in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Jahanara Begum, 24, of Banshkhali in Chittagong.

Jahanara slipped and fell from the roof of the Property State Apartment around 11:45am while hanging clothes on a line, said her employer Tuhin Begum.

She was immediately rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

An unnatural death case has been filed with Ramna police station.



Discussion

Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladesh Employees will hold a discussion on migration and development. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

Award giving ceremony

The award giving ceremony of 'Asian City-DCRU Showbiz Award 2006' will be held. Venue: Jatiya Natyashala. Time: 5:00pm.

Workshop

Mass-line Media Centre organises a validation workshop to disseminate the findings of surveys on business journalism. Venue: Conference room, Hotel La Vinci. Time: 10:30am.

Blue for peace

Family members of slain former finance

minister Shah AMS Kibria and civil society members will form a human chain as part of their Blue for Peace programme. Venue: In front of Mohakhali Titumir College. Time: 5:00pm.

Roundtable

A roundtable on 'Planned urbanisation and realisation of Dhaka Metropolitan Building Construction Code 2006' will be held. Venue: Ballroom, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

Documentary film

Documentary films 'Meeting a milestone' and 'Shadhinatun Tumi', based on the lives of Ustad Bismillah Khan and poet Shamsur Rahman respectively, will be screened. Venue: Steps Towards Development, 3/4, Block-D, Lalmitia. Time: 5:00pm.

Anomalies found in Patuakhali Tech University

BSS, Dhaka

A four-member team of University Grants Commission (UGC) led by its Chairman Professor Dr M Asaduzzaman during a recent visit to Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) in Patuakhali found a grim picture of the university.

The team found anomalies in spending in different sectors of the university activities as they went through ongoing development projects, and it also looked into all the files of the corruption cases, a press release said yesterday.

Later, the UGC chairman advised students to utilise the facilities offered and study hard to become the worthy citizen of the country.

Professor Asaduzzaman asked the teachers to play role of a guide, philosopher and friend of the students. He urged them (teachers) to do more research on the realities of life of the coastal area.

The UGC chairman also advised the university authorities to open new disciplines like social forestry, genetic engineering, oceanography etc in the PSTU.

The team members who also spoke during visit included Professor Dr M Mahub Ulah, Professor Dr Tareque Shamsur Rahman and Ibrahim Kabir, director, Finance and Accounts of the commission.

Independent inspectors to review state of sanitation

BSS, Dhaka

The local government ministry yesterday decided to appoint independent inspectors to review the country's sanitation situation as officials said 78.62 percent population already came under its coverage of intensified sanitation campaign.

It was decided at a meeting of the National Sanitation Task Force chaired by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who asked the officials concerned to involve local stakeholders in the campaign to attain the goal of cent percent sanitation coverage by 2010 against the UN's Millennium Development Goal (MDG).

The meeting was told that until June this year four districts, 46 municipalities, 75 upazilas, one circle and 1041 unions came under 100 percent coverage.

Bhuiyan asked the officials concerned to take initiative to install sanitation facilities in ferries, buses and trains and keep an eye so the organisations engaged in supplying water to slums could not realise excessive money.

RU admission test Dec 3

BSS, Rajshahi

The first year honours admission test of Rajshahi University (RU) for 2006-2007 sessions will begin on December 3.

The distribution of admission forms will start on November 4 and continue till November 20.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the admission test sub-committee today with RU Vice-Chancellor Professor M Altaf Hossain in the chair.

RU sources said the admission forms of RU will be available on RU website www.ru.ac.bd.

Obituary

Alhaj Mahi-uddin Hossein, a social worker of Feni, passed away on September 11 at the age of 84, says a press release.

He left behind his six sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

His qulqhani will be held at his Feni residence after Juma prayers tomorrow.

Khorsheed Alam

Khorsheed Alam, an employee of the Daily Ittefaq, passed away at a city hospital due to a cardiac arrest on Tuesday night at the age of 65, says a press release.

Khorsheed, also a member of Daily Ittefaq Workers' Union, left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Dhaka Union of Journalist Ittefaq unit Chief Syed Shahjahan and Deputy Unit Chief Khandker Abul Hossain, Daily Ittefaq Workers' Union President Fazl Imam and General Secretary Alamgir Hossein and Daily Ittefaq Employees' Union President Quazi Bazur Rahman and General Secretary Jahanara Begum expressed deep shock at his death. They also prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.