

BWP 'demand day' May 25 BNP, AL have same goal, says Menon

The newly floated Bangladesh Workers Party will observe 'demand week' beginning May 25 to press its 14-point demand, reports UNB.

The BWP leaders launched the countrywide programme in a press conference yesterday, urging all the left-wing organisations including the Five-Party Alliance and democratic-progressive forces to build issue-based united movement towards establishing 'people's democracy.'

BWP will organise rallies and processions and distribute leaflets throughout the country as part of the week-long programme.

Its major demands are holding trial of Golam Azam in a special tribunal and withdrawal of cases against the 24 sponsors of the 'people's court,' autonomy to Radio and TV, measures to free the country from the interference of IMF and World Bank, early solution of the Myanmar refugee, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Farakka issues.

In a written statement in the news conference at the party office, BWP General

Secretary Rashed Khan Menon blamed the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League equally for the current state of terrorism, deteriorating law and order situation and hampering democratic atmosphere in the country.

The interest of both is same, as reflected in the new economic programme of Awami League, he said.

Both the parties have given indulgence to those involved in the financial scandals, he told reporters in reply to a question about indiscipline in the banking sector.

"If the large political parties continue to do so and try to avoid the issues like BCI, it will harm the country," he added.

Karami govt resigns

BEIRUT, May 6: Lebanese Prime Minister Omar Karami and his government resigned today in the face of violent protests against its handling of the economy, reports AFP.

Success in garments

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sector in the country, Begum Zia said that the success achieved by Bangladesh in a brief period of fifteen years had earned "us acclaim throughout the world." Quoting a number of renowned economists, she said Bangladesh would soon turn into the economic power house in South Asia if it could reflect similar success in other sectors.

She said garment sector fetches about 44 per cent of Bangladesh's total export earnings. She said the garment sector was contributing remarkably to the social uplift by generating employment to women who comprised 85 per cent of the total workforce employed in the sector.

Begum Zia said the garments sector had imbued the women with the spirit of self-confidence. "We want to ensure our national development through equal participation of men and women," she said.

The Prime Minister said although readymade garments sector is contributing remarkably to the economy, the textile sector is yet to find a sound footing. She said the extensive use of locally available fabrics in exportable readymade garments would hasten the process of growth of the textile sector.

She said her government would welcome any acceptable proposal for increased use of local fabrics in exportable readymade garments.

Referring to the restriction imposed by some importing countries, she said this had af-

fecting Bangladesh's export. She said efforts were underway to integrate to textile trade under GATT.

She said despite constraints in the international market Bangladesh succeeded in expanding export trade. "We have consolidated our position in the markets of the USA and EEC countries," she said.

Code of conduct

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Ministers of State and the Deputy Ministers will have to submit statements of their movable and immovable assets to the Prime Minister's secretariat after assuming offices. Similar statement will also be required after changing portfolios.

The code will prohibit Cabinet Members leaving the capital city and attending any function — private or official — outside the city without prior permission of the Prime Minister.

It will also suggest the Ministers to refrain from personal publicity and to concentrate more on government policies in their public speeches, wherever delivered.

The code will advise the Cabinet Members to discourage their followers and well-wishers in according them reception and erecting arches in their honour.

The code will not require approval of the parliament unless the government wants it as a law, a Law Ministry official viewed.



Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting in city, yesterday. —Star photo

Ceasefire in Kabul

KABUL, May 6: A ceasefire was in effect in Kabul today after almost two weeks of heavy fighting among rival Mujahideen groups which, according to unofficial estimates, left about 300 dead and up to 3,000 injured, reports AFP.

"A ceasefire was signed today. It is in force," acting Information Minister Mohammad Siddique Chakri told AFP shortly after Kabul Radio announced that a delegation from holdout Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, headed by Qadir Karyab, was in the Afghan capital.

Israel boycotts Mideast talks

WASHINGTON, May 6: Israel on Wednesday officially informed the United States and Russia it would boycott Middle East peace talks next week on refugees and economic development, Israeli officials said, reports Reuters.

Rohingya influx: Dhaka in touch with Yangon

Bangladesh has taken up the matter of continuous inflow of Myanmar refugees with Yangon authorities, according to a Foreign Office spokesman here Wednesday, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman has already made telephonic discussions with his Myanmar counterpart U Oh N Gyaon on the matter, the spokesman said.

Hasina: Khaleda

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It without beating around the bush."

Reacting to the Prime Minister's reference to the allegation of receiving foreign fund by a political party before the last parliamentary elections, Hasina said Begum Zia should first look at her own face in the mirror before trying to accuse others.

She said that to reveal the actual picture of expenditure, the Election Commission should publish the report of expenditures incurred by each candidate who contested the last parliamentary elections.

Publication of the report, she added, would reveal the truth which party had spent Tk 300 crore and about the sources of this huge amount.

Hasina said the Election Commission had fixed the ceiling of election expenses but a particular party had spent crores of taka by violating the election rule.

"Let the Election Commission make the account public and let the people judge which party had sold the nation and to whom in a bid to capture power," the Awami League chief said.

The rally was organised in commemoration of death of Demra Thana Chhatra League leader Naofel who was killed during last Ramadan, allegedly by BNP activists.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, and the party's city leaders

Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Akhtarul Alam, Habibur Alam, Habibur Rahman Molla and Safar Ali also addressed the meeting.

Different Ward units of the party and its front organisations joined the rally held at the Commissioner's Maidan.

Hasina criticised Prime Minister Begum Zia's threat to stage street agitation, saying "we have seen people staging movement against the government but cannot understand against whom Begum Zia will wage the movement, being in the government herself."

Questioning the honesty of the Zia government and his "autocratic" rule, she said broken suitcase and torn vest of Ziaur Rahman were shown to make the people believe in his honesty.

"If that story is true, then how the Zia family has now become owners of a huge fortune and crores of taka... How they have become owners of ships and oil tankers. Are we to believe that American georgette and French chiffon sarrees came out of the broken suitcase," asked Hasina.

The Opposition Leader alleged that it was Ziaur Rahman who came to power by using the army and killed 600 officers and 2,500 jawans to consolidate his power.

"Zia gave lip service to democracy but ruled the country by curfew... He also killed many freedom fighters and political opponents under the cover of curfew," she further alleged.

BCI, NCL

From Page 1 Col 7
The Bangladesh Bank on Wednesday convened a meeting of the Managing Directors (MDs) of different public and private sector banks. MDs from 10 private sector and four public sector banks were present in the meeting.

The meeting viewed that some misreporting in a section of the press had marred the banking situation recently.

The bank representatives asked the central bank to request the press not to publish reports that are not true.

The meeting also referred to the report about Al-Baraka Bank and said that such misreporting affected the bank. They viewed that if this continued, the confidence of the depositors would be shattered.

They also stated that despite the situation, there were no rush withdrawals of deposits from any of the banks. The meeting viewed that the deposit of the private banks was Taka 6600 crore on April 24 at the time of the BCI scandal. The amount did not fall after a week on April 30. During the time, the liquidity of the banks stood at about 25 per cent, higher than the recommended 21 per cent. The banks had Taka 233 crore in excess liquidity.

The meeting also observed that the deposits of all the banks was Taka 26000 crore as on December 31, 1991. During the four months time, the amount decreased by about Taka 300 crore. However, the deposits in the private banks increased during the same period.

"The trends in the banking sector are now the normal ups and downs", an MD of a private bank told The Daily Star while commenting on the present banking activities.

The depositors of the BCI in a meeting on Wednesday held the Bangladesh Bank responsible for the current situation in the BCI. They said despite provisions for the central bank to take legal actions against any irregularities of any bank or financial institution, the authorities did not act earlier.

They alleged that the Bank silently witnessed the irregularities in the BCI for a long time.

The depositors also wanted the government to sell off the property of the BCI and its directors to pay off the depositors.

Our Khulna office adds: The budget cum-accounts officer of Khulna Municipal Corporation Sheikh Jalal Uddin Ahmed was suspended Wednesday for his involvement in depositing Taka 80 lakh at the Khulna branch of the BCI.

The Midnight File

10 killed as boat collides with ferry in Croatia

BELOGRADE, May 6: At least 10 people were killed and 26 injured when a boat loaded with passengers collided with a ferry Wednesday near the entrance to the Croatian port of Dubrovnikgruk, local sources said. The Aurora, with 86 passengers aboard, rapidly sank after the collision, a Radio Dubrovnik journalist said by telephone, reports AFP.

Bid to end Germany's public sector strike

STUTTGART, Germany, May 6: Unions and employers began talks today in an effort to end Germany's longest public sector strike since World War two, an employers' spokesman said. Unions had kept up their pressure as the strike entered its 10th day, with the Oetv Union calling 300,000 workers out on strike today, reports Reuter.

Arab missions condemn attack on diplomats

NEW DELHI, May 6: Arab diplomatic missions on Wednesday strongly condemned as criminal and dastardly a failed attack by gunmen on two Arab diplomats in the Indian capital Tuesday. The League of Arab States Missions, after an emergency meeting on the incident, said it collectively denounced and strongly condemned this criminal and dastardly attack, reports AFP.

Milam : Rohingya issue

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ment would have contributed to the voluntary repatriation.

The ambassador, who had been to Cox's Bazar 'two days ago' and found 'quite a moving sight to witness' at the refugee camps, emphasised an early return of the refugees.

He called for continuing the 'wise and patient approach' on the part of Bangladesh so that regional stability was not threatened.

In response to a question, he said that the US would monitor the situation and in case of Myanmar's reluctance to implement the agreement the issue should go back to the UN.

On the possible US role in such a situation, Milam said "when it goes to the UN... to the Security Council... as a permanent member the US will certainly have a role."

He termed the Myanmar dispensation an 'outcast government' for its 'human rights abuses.'

Referring to the plight of the refugees, the ambassador observed that 'diligent and strenuous' efforts on the part of the Bangladesh government, the UNHCR and the NGOs were needed to prevent disease.

Ambassador Milam described the US-Bangladesh re-

lations 'very good' which he said were 'enhanced' by the recent visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

He outlined several factors — (1) development and strengthening of democracy, (2) economic development of Bangladesh, (3) Bangladesh's contribution to the stability of the region — on which the relations between the two countries were based.

Asked if victory of the Democrat nominee in the forthcoming US elections would affect the existing bilateral relations, he replied in the negative and added that either party would follow the same ways.

On the sustenance of democracy in Bangladesh, the ambassador said, "There are instances of roll-back of democracy especially in those countries that have an autocratic past." In this connection, he referred to Peru where he said the democratically elected government was pursuing an undemocratic line.

On the increase of the quota of garments exports, he remarked, "Quotas, that Bangladesh has, are quite generous" but added "requests for further relaxation are under examination."

The unguarded treasure trove

From Page 1 Col 5
tana' in which oarsmen pull a country boat.

The art-looters reportedly tied the guard with a rope, gagged him and threatened to stab him before leaving with the pieces of art.

The two-storey museum building with its spacious premises looked almost desolate Tuesday when this correspondent arrived in the Shaheb Quarter area of the town.

Two policemen were found dozing in a sea of tranquillity. To the north was the once-mighty old Brahmaputra, the residence of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of the district on the south, and the District Judge and the Forest Officer residing in the neighbourhood of the museum on the west and the east respectively.

Two dampened galleries with its remaining 50 pieces of art of the Shilpacharya were on the first floor of the building, now under lock and key.

When the caretaker of the museum switched on the lights of the galleries, loosely-hanging cords severed from the robbed works formed uneven gaps in a line pen and pencil sketches, charcoal works, water and oil paintings, tempera and litho frames.

"The Shilpacharya will never be back to fill in," said Muhammad Shawkat Hossain, the caretaker of the gallery of the museum for 17 years. Hossain had collected the shattered glass-covers and broken frames of the lost works as mementos.

The museum, set up under personal initiative of Zainul Abedin, was opened by the then Vice President Syed Nazrul Islam on April 14, 1975.

The Shilpacharya died on May 28 a year later. The lost works included the best of those done between 1934 and 1970.

"It is a well-planned robbery," said Altaf Hossain Mollah, the Superintendent of Police of Mymensingh district. "Circumstantial evidence shows that the robbers decamped with those for the big-money market."

He said that all exit points across the country were put on alert immediately after the incident to avert a possible smuggling out of the art pieces.

An SP of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from Dhaka was due in the town Wednesday to take up the matter, Mollah informed.

The watchman of the museum was brought into custody as a suspect for interrogation, the SP said adding "But the mystery-knot is yet to be untied."

"We are still bewildered," the ADC (General) of Mymensingh Md Abu Taher told The

Robbed pieces of art at a glance

Title	Medium	Year
1. Sketch	Water colour	1.11.34
2. Portrait (Anwar)	Pen-ink	1942
3. Famline Series-1	Brushline	1943
4. Famline Series-3	Brushline	1943
5. Protikkhaye (Ghate)	Water colour	1951
6. Verandah (In Toledo, Spain)	Pen and colour	1951
7. Japanese Girl	Pen-ink	1956
8. Sketch	Water colour	1956
9. Face of a Japanese Girl	Pen	1956
10. Arch Gate (Japan)	Water colour	1956
11. Hamberto	Pen	17.12.56
12. Near the Niagra Falls	Water colour	1957
13. Japanese girl	Pen	9.10.56
14. Study for Painting (Goontana)	Water colour	1956
15. Portrait (Mostafa)	Pen	31.12.56
16. Sketch (Jordan)	Brush	31.5.70
17. Steamer Ghat	Water colour	UNDATED

Source: Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Museum, Mymensingh.

Daily Star, "there are many things on earth you can replace with others... but not the ones we've lost." The ADC lives adjacent to the museum. The Shaheb Quarter of Mymensingh town is the residential area for the 'shahebs' in the district administration.

Each of the houses in this swanky zone employs three to four guards to ensure security to the district executives.

Almost all the district officials interviewed by this correspondent cited 'hopeless' security arrangements as the cause of the robbery. Eight policemen were posted in the Sangrahasala but they were withdrawn in 1985 for unknown reasons, officials said.

Since then the treasure trove remained virtually unguarded apart of having a single night guard. The watchman had no weapon, not even a stick but only a torch. The nearly 1.5 acre premises plunges into darkness at night. A low-power bulb barely lights a corner outside the building.

The area is infested with venomous snakes and even more with venomous muggers in the

river-side park. The district officials held each other responsible for the inadequate security of the museum.

Poor maintenance of the Sangrahasala was yet another point that invited such incidents. Officials said that there was no independent fund to maintain the museum. The three employees of the museum — a caretaker, a watchman and a gardener — have had no

not implemented, official sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mainul Abedin, the youngest son of the Shilpacharya, appealed to the countrymen to help police recover the art pieces. He requested anyone having information of the robbed works to call telephone numbers 414557, 400588 and 403919.

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in a statement Tuesday expressed her grave concern over the robbery. She demanded proper maintenance and security of this national asset.

The price of the lost works of the Shilpacharya quoted in the case filed with Mymensingh Police was estimated at about Taka 17 lakh. Relatives of Zainul Abedin, however, put the figure at more than Taka 50 lakh.

Whatever may be the price, this single incident points towards a more serious problem growing within the general psyche. People have little time to be interested in the finer things of life. They seemed to be least bothered about the lack of maintenance of the exiled works of Bangladesh's master painter and the quasi-seriousness of the administration about the national assets. The general feeling is almost like "Why so much fuss over the loss of a onion-thin piece of paper?"

Science confce begins

The 17th annual Bangladesh Science Conference began Wednesday at the Institute of Post Graduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) at Shalna, about 45 kilometres north of the capital, reports BSS.

Twenty representatives from Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Canada, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the Netherlands as well as the International center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR'B), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and Crop Diversification Programme of Bangladesh-Canada-Netherlands are participating.

(Details on Page 2)

বাংলাদেশ তৈল গ্যাস ও খনিজ সম্পদ করপোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)

প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ইউনিট
বি. এল. বি ভবন (১৬ ও ১৭ তলা)
৮, রাস্তাটক এডমিনিস্ট্রি, ঢাকা

গ্যাস সংক্রান্ত সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ইউনিট, পেট্রোবাংলার আওতাধীন নব নির্মিত উত্তর-দক্ষিণ পাইপলাইনে উচ্চ চাপ বিশিষ্ট গ্যাস সম্বলন করার লক্ষ্যে ইহার সুরক্ষামূলক কার্যক্রম হিসাবে ১২ই মে, ১৯৯২ ইং তারিখ হইতে পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে গ্যাস চালু হইবে। তদনুযায়ী সিলেট জেলাধীন গোলাপগঞ্জ ও ফেঞ্চগঞ্জ উপজেলা; মৌলভীবাজার জেলাধীন রাজনগর, মৌলভীবাজার ও শ্রীমঙ্গল উপজেলা; হবিগঞ্জ জেলাধীন বাহুবল, চুনারাঘাট, হবিগঞ্জ ও মাধবপুর উপজেলা এবং রাঙ্গামাড়িয়া জেলার রাঙ্গামাড়িয়া ও আতপাড়া উপজেলা পর্যন্ত স্থাপিত পাইপলাইন পথের ও সর্বশেষ স্থাপনা ও তার স্টেশন সমূহের জন্য অধিহস্তকৃত ভূমিকে ইতিমধ্যেই সীমানা খুঁটি ঘারা চিহ্নিত করা হইয়াছে।

বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস নিরাপত্তা বিধি অনুযায়ী উক্ত গ্যাস সম্বলন কার্যক্রম চালু হাকা অবস্থায় তাল স্টেশন ও অন্যান্য স্থাপনা সহ গ্যাস পাইপলাইনের উত্তর পার্শ্ব ৫০ ফুট পরিমাণ এলাকায় কোন ঘরবাড়ি বা যে কোন স্থাপনা নির্মাণ নিষিদ্ধ।

এমতাবস্থায় উপরোক্ত এলাকার সর্বস্তরের জনসাধারণকে নিরাপত্তামূলক ব্যবস্থা হিসাবে কোনদূর দূরত্বনা এড়ানোর উদ্দেশ্যে বর্ষিত উচ্চ চাপ বিশিষ্ট গ্যাস পাইপলাইন ও স্থাপনাসমূহ হইতে গ্যাস নিরাপত্তা বিধি মোতাবেক নিরাপদ দূরত্বে থাকিবার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

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2. The following persons are the directors of the company:

1. Mr. A B Siddique
2. Mrs. S Siddique

3. Tender schedule containing the details of the assets and properties (along with) the list of machinery may be obtained from the Assets Disposal Department BSB, Head Office, Dhaka on cash payment of Tk. 250/- (Taka two hundred fifty) only (Non-refundable).

4. Intending tenderers/buyers may drop their tenders/offers in sealed cover along with earnest money (refundable) 5% of the quoted value in Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank in the tender box kept at the BSB Head Office on 02-06-1992 at 12-00 Noon.

5. On acceptance of offer, the successful bidders/tenderers shall have to deposit 50% of the bid or tendered money within 7 (seven) days and the balance within 30 (thirty) days from the date of acceptance of tender. In case of failure in making payment of the bid amount within stipulated time, the earnest money or the tender money (as the case may be) shall be forfeited and the mortgaged property may be resold. The project assets will be handed over to the successful bidder (s) by the bank on fulfilment of the conditions.

6. Tenders will be opened on 02-06-1992 at 12-30 PM at the Assets Disposal Department, BSB, Head Office in presence of the tenderers (if any). For further information, if any, the undersigned may be contacted. Bidders may purchase the above mentioned movable and immovable property in a lot or separately.

7. The BSB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender/offer without showing any reason.

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