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BNP urges AL MPs to revolt against govt

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on Saturday said they will take counter measures against the government if the two seats of BNP MPs inducted as ministers are not vacated, reports UNB. Speaking at a discussion meeting, organised by the party on the occasion of immortal Ekushey, at Ramna Batamool in the afternoon, he urged the Awami League MPs to protest the unhealthy practices of the government. "Revolt against the government, we will support you... we may make 50 AL MPs as ministers," Bhuiyan said.

Biman's ATP

Flights, served by the only ATP of the domestic fleet. Flights resumed yesterday after Biman engineers repaired the aircraft, cannibalising another ATP, which is undergoing repairs at Chittagong. The latter had skidded off the runway in June last, damaging its nose wheel.

A 'tork link board' of the right landing gear broke when the plane landed at ZIA at 10:15 am on Saturday with the full load of 67 passengers and four crew, a Biman official said. The captain ordered evacuation of passengers to lessen the load so that the aircraft could be towed to the hangar.

Meanwhile, a F-28-4000 aircraft from an Indonesian airlines arrived at ZIA yesterday.

Indian polls

It was not immediately clear whether the sacking of the government by the state governor Saturday worked for or against the BJP, but opponents claimed it was a severe blow for the party. BJP's candidate for prime minister, Lal Bahari Shastri, declared an indefinite hunger strike in protest, alleging the dismissal was a coup aimed at seizing the state machinery to influence the voting.

Ramendu assaulted

Majumder was attacked on the road in front of the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University after visiting the Central Shaheed Minar with his wife Ferdousi Majumder and daughter Trapa Majumder. The attackers tore the punjabi of Majumder and snatched his mobile telephone set. The assailants also hurled abusive words at him and his family members.

Khaleda condemns attack on Amir Khosru MP

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday condemned Friday's assault on Amir Khosru Mahmud Choudhury, a BNP MP from Chittagong, and blamed the ruling party-backed Chhatra League activists for the incident. In a statement last night, Begum Zia also demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the attackers.

The local unit of BNP continued its protests against the attack until yesterday, he informed. Begum Zia in her statement further said that the attack was designed to push the helpless family of a Juba League activist, Ali Hossain, who was killed in a gun attack on an Awami League rally in Chittagong on November 11 last year, towards death.

Arrest Major Muzaffar: Mannan Bhuiyan

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday urged the government to immediately arrest Maj (dismissed) Muzaffar who was convicted for the murder of President Ziaur Rahman in 1981, reports UNB. Muzaffar has been absconding for the last 17 years to escape the capital punishment awarded to him. He has now surfaced in Siraganj.

Off-loading

Representatives of British companies like Rolls-Royce, Mott MacDonald, Ampco Engineering, Donkin Valves, Pensepen, Technology and UGI Meters, it was also addressed by Energy Minister Nur Uddin Khan as chief guest, British High Commissioner David C Walker and Petrobangla Chairman Mosharraf Hossain.

Trafficked boys

Many formalities before the children are finally restored to their families. Ali told the Daily Star. This process involves police and law. Tracking down the parents of eight other boys remains an uphill task. Ali is also worried because these poor children might be sold in the hands of traffickers.

Rowdyism at Shaheed Minar

BNP chairperson. From the previous midnight, people in their thousands wearing black badges and carrying wreaths proceeded towards the minar in solemn silence through prescribed routes. They waited in patience for hours together standing in long queues, honouring the fine arrangements ensured by 'Amar Ekushey Uddjan Committee' comprising teachers of Dhaka University and cultural figures.

Barapukuria power project okayed

The ECNEC approved one project for distribution of text books for the primary schools of Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions to be implemented at a cost of Tk 179.87 crore, including a foreign exchange amount of Tk 74.72 crore. A cyclone rehabilitation project for the entire coastal belt of the country involving Tk 142.34 crore was also approved in the meeting.

The other projects approved yesterday are: Production of vaccine for cattle heads at a cost of Tk 60.09 crore, repairing, renovation and construction of nine CSD and one ISD go-down in Eastern and Western regions of the country at a cost of Tk 23.96 crore and construction of floating unloader and modernisation of weigh-machine for sallo, CSO, LSD and port-gahats at a cost of Tk 58.94 crore.

German parliamentary team tells newsmen Cooperation between govt, Opposition must for democracy

The leader of a German parliamentary delegation on Saturday observed that the parliamentary system in Bangladesh can function effectively through active cooperation between the government and the opposition parties, reports UNB. "Democracy can survive only when the government and the opposition work together," said Wolfgang Krause, who is the Chairman of South Asia Group of German Parliament.

Krause, who led a six-member team and had talks with the leaders of both ruling Awami League and Opposition BNP during his four-day stay, said they replied put forward by the opposition for their abstention from Parliament did not appear convincing to us.

In reply to a question, he hoped that the opposition would come back to the House to play their role in Parliament actively. "We won't like to see the repeat of the 1996 situation," he said.

Trade fair opens

cooperation for the success of the private entrepreneurs through creation of investment-friendly atmosphere, expansion of export and development of infrastructure. The Prime Minister said Bangladesh had faced an embargo on export of frozen foods, especially the shrimps to the EU countries, because of the wrong policies and procedures pursued by the BNP government, endangering the industry.

Hasina said the economic diplomacy of the present government has paved the way for the country's products to enter the international markets, including India.

Parliament in a procession became unruly and trampled the wreaths. They advanced towards the foot of the Minar with their shoes on, damaging its sanctity. They broke through the cordon set up to maintain order by police and BNCC Rover Scouts, said a DU press release.

Manzur murder case Maj Emdad gets ad-interim bail

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Major (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Haq, an accused in the Gen Manzur Murder Case. With the release of Major (ret'd) Emdadul Haq, none of the five accused persons in the murder case are in jail. A division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haq and Justice Mohammad Awlad Ali yesterday granted the ad-interim bail.

Former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, Major General (ret'd) MA Latif and two others were granted bail earlier. Following the killing of President Ziaur Rahman, Major General Manzur was killed on June 6, 1981.

2 sweepers die while cleaning septic tank

Two sweepers of Dhaka City Corporation drowned while cleaning a septic tank at Mirpur in the city Saturday. Police and Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said the dead were identified as Abdul Kashem, 50, and his son-in-law Zafar Ali, 25, resident of Road No 8, Mirpur.

BNP

The BNP secretary general also termed the hurriedly-issued statements by the ruling party, its front organisations and other pro-government organisations condemning the Shaheed Minar incidents as pre-announced. Mannan Bhuiyan also strongly condemned what he said the violent conduct of the ruling party-backed terrorists when Begum Zia and other leaders of BNP and its front organisations went to the Shaheed Minar to lay wreaths there and demanded exemplary punishment to the 'real culprits'.

Describing Saturday's incidents, he said the running commentary at the Shaheed Minar made it clear that the activists of the ruling party and its front organisations remained gathered there prior to the BNP leader's arrival. As soon as the BNP chief participated in the programme, he added, a group of people climbed the alter and created a situation making it difficult for Begum Zia and other BNP leaders to proceed.

He also condemned what he said the government's 'naked and indecent' propaganda through the state machinery, directly blaming Begum Zia for the untoward incident which had surpassed the record of telling lies by Goyebles.

The culprits could be projected before the nation if the Shaheed Minar incidents would have been broadcast in full, he viewed and criticised deployment of the party activists, instead of the DUCSU, to take control over the Shaheed Minar premises.

A three-member probe committee was also formed to investigate the incidents of hurling abusive words at the teachers and marring sanctity of the Shaheed Minar and identify the people responsible. The probe committee, headed by Prof Shahadat Ali, has two other members, Advocate Syed Ahmed and Dr Shahid Akhter Hussain.

Different organisations issued statements yesterday condemning the incident at Central Shaheed Minar and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for marring the sanctity of the Minar.

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Homage to martyrs

heed Minar in the city to show respect to the martyrs of Language Movement. All roads led to Shaheed Minar as people in their thousands converged from every directions, lined up in long queues with their shoes off and offered wreaths to the tune of famous song - 'Amar bhaier rakthe rangano Ekushey February, amri ki bhulite pari.' On this day, 46 years ago, many brave sons of this soil including Rafiq, Jabbar and Salam embraced martyrdom protesting the then Pakistan regime's decision to make Urdu the state language. Their supreme sacrifices gave the nation a sense of dignity following which Bangla found its rightful place by becoming a state language of erstwhile Pakistan.

The Shaheed Dibash programmes began with President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed placing the wreaths at one minute past zero hour. He was followed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. On behalf of Bangladesh Awami League, party president member and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, general secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, President members Abdul Jalil and party central leaders Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Bir Bikram, Mukul Bose and Nurul Fazal Bulbul placed wreaths.

Awami League was followed by its front organisations Bangladesh Krishak League, Sramik League, Awami Jubo League, Sheshchasebak League and Mahila Awami League. Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia along with his senior party colleagues Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Maudud Ahmed, MK Anwar and Dr Khondokar Mosharraf Hossain placed wreaths at around 11:30 am.

Later, different front organisations like Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Jubo Dal, Krishak Dal followed Begum Zia for placing wreaths. Among other political organisations, BAM Ganatantrik Front, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (BAKSAL), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Workers Party of Bangladesh, Gano Forum, Ganotantri Party, Gano Azadi League, Communist

Association, National University, Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh Krishi University at Gazipur, North-South University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Jahangirnagar University, Teachers Associations of the Universities also placed wreaths.

Press Institute of Bangladesh, Dhaka Reporters Unity, National Press Club, Bangladesh Police, Biman Bangladesh Airlines and many other organisations also paid homage to the martyrs.

Kofi Annan

limits on the duration and number of inspections. Eckhard declined to say if that problem still remained after Annan met with Saddam.

Iraq has proposed that the presidential compounds be opened for no more than 60 days, saying that is enough for UN inspectors to satisfy themselves that the compounds do not contain banned weapons.

But the Security Council has insisted on open-ended inspections. The United States has vowed to hit Iraq with its military might if Annan fails to persuade Saddam to open all sites without conditions. The US military has deployed 25,000 troops in the Gulf region.

Arms surrender

Shantibahini surrendered their arms as per a peace accord signed with Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) on December 2 last year.

The fourth batch of Shantibahini is scheduled to surrender their arms on March 5 at Dudukchhari border village as per the new schedule, officials said.

Case filed

Charges of illegal gathering and trampling of flowers and snatching of mikes were brought against the accused. However, none was arrested till last night.

Earlier, on Saturday afternoon a meeting of Dhaka University Syndicate had requested the Registrar to file the case.

WE MOURN

Engr. Khurshid Anwar Director of Confidence Cement Ltd, died of a heart attack at 2:30 am on February 21 (Innalillahi... Raziun). He was 50. He is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, his father and a host of relations and friends.

Late Anwar was a freedom fighter who was trained in Dehradun. He was involved with a number of social organisations including the Rotary Club. We are deeply shocked at his sudden death. We pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Members of Board of Directors and Staffs of Confidence Cement Ltd

Advertisement for 'Bijoy' (বিজয়) brand cement. Text includes: 'বালোদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রত্নাীকারক সমিতি (বিজয়এমইএ)', 'বিজয়এমইএ নির্বাচন '৯৮', 'প্রার্থীদের যৌথ পরিচিতি সভা', 'বি জি এম ই এ নির্বাচন, ১৯৯৮- এর প্রার্থীদের যৌথ পরিচিতি সভা আজ ২৩শে ফেব্রুয়ারী '৯৮ বিকাল ৪ ঘটিকায় ঢাকা সোনারগাঁও হোটেল (বলরুম)- এ অনুষ্ঠিত হ'বে। সম্মানিত ভোটার সদস্যগণকে নিজ নিজ ভোটার ID Card সহ উক্ত পরিচিতি সভায় যোগদানের জন্য আমন্ত্রণ জানানো যাচ্ছে। সচিব', 'Editor: Mahfuz Anam', 'Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net.'