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Human chain at Osmani Udyan today

By Staff Correspondent
A human chain will be held at Osmani Udyan premises at 5 pm today in protest against the government's decision to construct a conference centre there by felling trees.

Movement for Saving Osmani Udyan's 11,000 Trees has organised the programme.

Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, convenor of the movement committee yesterday called upon all to participate in the rally for saving the greenery of the capital.

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of Sylhet Division Development Council (SDDC) brought out a procession in the city demanding cancellation of the decision to construct conference centre at Osmani Udyan.

Abed Raja, president of the SDC at a rally urged the government to shift the proposed conference centre site from the Udyan within May 30.

"Otherwise we will launch a greater movement," he announced.

Justice A Hasib, Advocate M Bodul Alam Khokon, Syed Khalilul Rahman, Smita Wahid and Advocate M A Khan also addressed the rally.

Jubo League, BCL postpone hartal in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, May 22: The ruling party youth front Awami League and student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) called off their hartal programme after assurance from AL leaders that the arrested three Jubo League leaders would be released within two days.

BCL and the Jubo League leaders at a rally at the Indara Patti here this evening warned of fresh programmes if the arrested leaders were not released within the stipulated time.

They also expressed sorrow at the rally for Friday's violence in the town following the arrests of 3 leaders.

Earlier, the Jubo League and BCL jointly called the hartal protesting arrest of district Jubo League general secretary Golam Faruque Prince, Organising Secretary Kamal Hossain and Social Welfare Secretary Sayeed Hasan. They were arrested on charges of terrorism and extortion early hours of Friday.

Meanwhile, Pabna SP told The Daily Star today that the three leaders have been detained under the Special Powers Act. Police also said two separate cases were lodged against several BCL and Jubo League leaders for their involvement in Friday's rampage.

Alleged terrorist of Dhaka city arrested in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 22: An alleged terrorist of Dhaka city and an accused in the sensational Khokon murder case with Ramna Thana, Shafayet Kamal alias Upol, was arrested here on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Upol from Dampara area under Kotwali thana.

Upol, an accomplice of terrorist Zishan of Dhaka city is an absconding accused in a number of criminal cases.

Ershad Shikder

From Page 1
by leaders of district and city units of Awami League including State Minister for Disaster Management Talukdar Abdul Khaleque and Whip Mostapha Rashid Shuja.

The AL leaders in a press release stated that 'Ershad Shikder was given the last chance to come to right path.' But ignoring the party's advice he continued to create law and order situation by committing murders and terrorism. The press release further said that not only Ershad Shikder, but all his associates with whom he joined Awami League on December 26, 1997, have also been expelled from the party.

The expelled AL leader and his associates have been absconding since May 16 after allegedly committing the fifth murder in Khulna.

3 robbers

From Page 1
while the dacoits were fleeing jumping from the train. Two of the dacoits died on the spot and three others, including the gang leader Shamim, received bullet injuries.

Police arrested the injured dacoits and recovered a pistol from Shamim. Shamim later died at the Moulvibazar Hospital.

However, the other dacoits managed to escape.

Police said all the members of the gang are from Brahmanbaria district.

The injured passengers were given first aid in Srimongal Thana Health Complex.

Police also recovered hand bombs and daggers from the spot. GRP lodged a case with Srimongal Thana.

Rain follows Pak cyclone 200 bodies recovered from sea, hundreds still missing

KETI BANDER, May 22: Villagers and rescue workers, braved lashing rain and gusting winds, to recover 200 bodies from the sea and rescue thousands of survivors of a deadly cyclone that devastated hundreds of villages, officials and witnesses said today. Many were stranded in remote villages, he said.

On Saturday 50 bodies were recovered from several islands off the coast and another 150 in neighbouring Badin district, said residents of Keti Bander, a Sindh provincial government official.

After the cyclone struck on Thursday the government said at least 700 people were missing, many presumed drowned. Scores of villages and islands have been submerged in

water. Apart from human losses and damage to property, a large number of cattle have also been killed," said Baloch.

Rescue workers moved thousands of trapped people to safe areas in southern Sindh province, but many more still were stranded in remote villages, he said.

On Saturday 50 bodies were recovered from several islands off the coast and another 150 in neighbouring Badin district, said residents of Keti Bander, a Sindh provincial government official.

Officials hold out little hope that bodies will be recovered quickly. Many bodies they fear already have been swept out to sea.

Demonstration programme

From Page 1
within such a short time," said a senior BNP leader. "But our party has decided not to further shift the programmes."

Replies to a question on JP's latest stance, he said, "BNP will carry out its programme as well as to convey BNP's decision on tomorrow's programme."

Liaison committee sources said the meeting was called hurriedly to resolve the conflict among the alliance parties. The meeting was continuing till filing this report at 10 pm.

Presided over by Jamaat-Secretary General Matiur Rahman Nizami, the meeting was attended by, among others, Jamaat leaders Mohammad Karimuzzaman, Abdul Qader Molah and ATM Azharul Islam; JP leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Islamic Oikya Jote leader Principal Masud Khan.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a press statement last night asked all party MPs to attend tomorrow's programme and to report to 29 Minto Road by this (Sunday) evening.

Another leader who was present at the meeting said many leaders strongly criticised JP Presidium member Kazi Firoz Rashid's press interview published yesterday.

Some BNP leaders reacted sharply to Firoz Rashid's "free style" comment against BNP.

But Mannan Bhuiyan who presided over the meeting refrained from making any comment on the issue.

The meeting was called mainly to chalk out programmes to observe the death anniversary of

President M. Ziaur Rahman.

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