

AL rejects PM's proposal, plans tough programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League has rejected the prime minister's proposal for joint display of portraits of Bangabandhu and Ziaur Rahman at government offices.

The party presidium at a meeting yesterday also decided to announce a "tough movement programme" during the party's "mass hunger strike" at Osman Uddyan in the city tomorrow, senior party leader Abdus Samad Azad said.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina will lead the party lawmakers in staging the hunger strike protesting repeal of the law providing for display of Bangabandhu's portrait. She is scheduled to return tonight after a weeklong tour of southwestern districts.

Immediately after passage of the repeal bill, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia proposed enactment of a new law for joint display of the portraits of Bangabandhu, late president Ziaur Rahman and head of the government.

The presidium termed the prime minister's proposal a "hoax", meant to "deceive" the people, and a step towards further distorting the

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Hasina questions PM's sincerity

Why not hang portraits of others without scrapping the law?

UNB, Khulna

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that had there been any good intention and honesty of the Prime Minister, she would not have passed the bill to remove the portrait of Bangabandhu.

"She (PM) has created the controversy over the issue by scrapping the portrait law passed by the last parliament," Hasina said questioning the motive of the Prime Minister's proposal to display the portraits of

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Ziaur Rahman along with the elected head of government.

Exchanging views with the local journalists at Khulna Press Club, the opposition leader said that the Prime Minister could hang the portrait of others without scrapping the law. Why the existing law should be changed, she questioned.

Referring to the effort of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to place another person (President Zia) parallel to Bangabandhu, she said

even Zia did not try to do so. He (Zia) had recognised Bangabandhu as father of the nation, she said mentioning an article of Zia published in Dainik Bangla in 1973 and in weekly Bichitra in 1974.

Responding to a volley of questions from local press, Hasina said the government party has a two-thirds majority. So they can do and undo anything. People do not believe them, as they (people) know very well what they say and how much they can do. "We have no expectation from them and we have no comment."

She said it was the thinking of the Pakistani juntas to remove and erase the name of Bangabandhu. Yahya had tried to make Bangabandhu controversial and the same thing was being done by the present government.

Replying to a question about the decision of Awami League to resign from the parliament, the opposition leader said her party decided on principle to quit the parliament in protest against atrocities perpetrated by the ruling party and decision to remove the portrait of Bangabandhu from government

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Bangabandhu's portrait at BSMMU damaged

UNB, Dhaka

A small group of people damaged the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the entrance of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University within hours of the passage of a bill in parliament Thursday night providing for removal of such portraits from government offices.

They huge portrait framed with glass was pulled down, broken and torn into pieces, witnesses said.

In another incident, a group carrying the portrait of Sheikh Mujib damaged a vehicle at Magbazar crossing. They raised slogan against the passage of the bill in parliament.

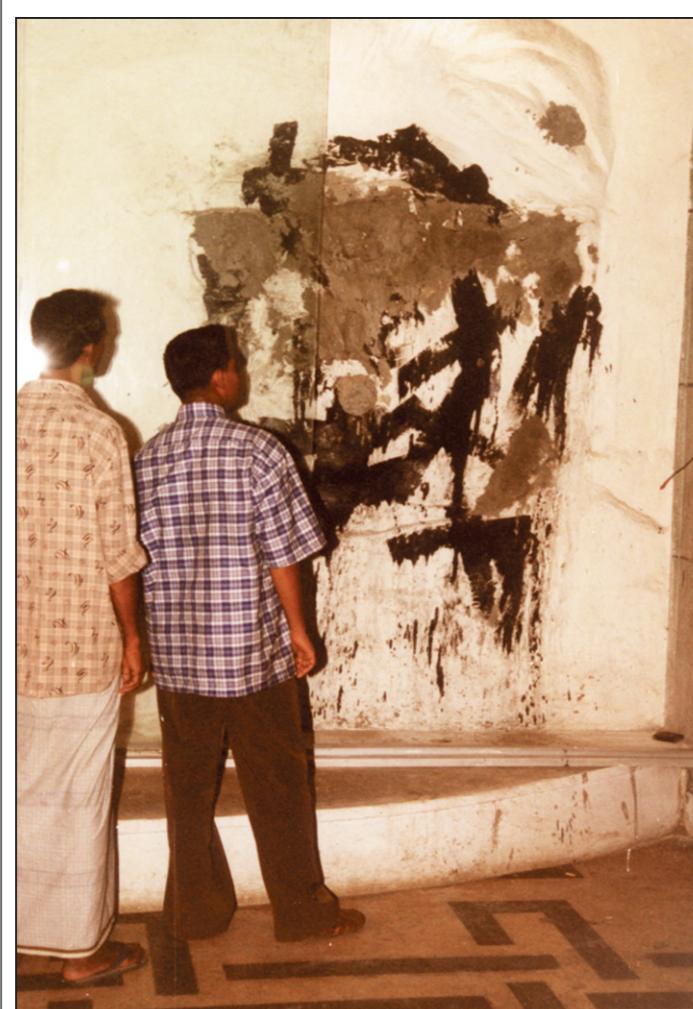


PHOTO: STAR

Unidentified people damaged and removed the portrait of Bangabandhu from the entrance to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on Thursday night immediately after passage of the law for removal of his portraits from government offices.

Border talks begin in Dhaka today

UNB, Dhaka

Director General level Border Coordination Conference between BDR and BSF begins at the BDR Headquarters in Dhaka today.

A 12-member Indian delegation led by Border Security Force DG Sree Gurbachan Jagot reached here yesterday to discuss various border-related issues.

Frontier IGs, staff officers of the BSF headquarters and high officials of Indian Home and Foreign Affairs Ministries are in the Indian delegation.

BDR DG Major General Rezakul Haider NDC, PSC, will lead the 20-member Bangladesh delegation.

BDR Deputy DG, sector commanders, director and staff officers of BDR headquarters and representatives from Home and Foreign Ministries, Bangladesh Land Records and Survey, and Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission will also include in the Bangladesh delegation, said a press release.

3 injured as terrorists attack Christian Para in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

Armed terrorists attacked the Christian-dominated area at Kashipur on the outskirts of the town yesterday, leaving three people injured, one critically.

Witnesses said the hoodlums numbering around 10 swooped on the Christian Para at Ichchakati at about 11 am and ransacked a house belonging to Badal Baidya.

During the half an hour raid, they also stabbed three people, including Liton Sadhu, when they tried to resist them. Liton was admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital "in critical condition."

Later, police arrested two youths Sujan and Jalil in connection with the vandalism.

The arrested youths now in jail hajat identified themselves as activists of ruling party's student front JCD.

Earlier, terrorists attacked the same area on Tuesday leaving two youths Sajal and Sabuj injured.

Local people alleged that some terrorists frequently enter the area, unleashing terrorists acts and engaging in anti-social activities.

Installation of private port in Ctg

Meeting today to finalise vital issues in draft accord

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

A high-powered committee of secretaries holds a crucial meeting today on the draft agreement over installation of the SSA-proposed private port and terminal at the estuary of the Karnaphuli River.

The meeting of the six-member committee to be held at the shipping ministry likely to finalise two vital conditions of the draft agreement – land dispute and annual royalty issue. If the issues are solved, the committee will prepare the draft agreement for signing.

The final report will be submitted to the shipping ministry to be put forward at the ECNEC meeting. And if the agreement is approved by the ECNEC, all impediments to the

installation of the controversial private port will be removed.

Meanwhile, the agitating 22 trade unions of the Chittagong Port at an emergency meeting on Wednesday threatened once again that they would suspend all port activities if the agreement was signed. They also announced staging of a rally and demonstration on March 31 in protest against the move.

Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in a statement on Tuesday urged the authority not to sign the agreement. The mayor termed the move destructive to the future developments and prospects of the port.

Today's meeting to be presided over by Commerce Secretary Sohel

Ahmed, also convener of the committee, will be the first one on the draft agreement at the shipping ministry. The previous five meetings were held at the commerce ministry.

Sources in the CPA said the land dispute arises from disagreement over its possession. The CPA and the government want to keep the 204 acres of land required for the project in CPA's possession, while the SSA (Stevedoring Services of America) insists on acquiring the land in the name of the company.

Another point of discord is that the draft agreement proposes to pay the CPA only two per cent of annual royalty in the first 12 years and four per cent in the following years, while the CPA proposed at least ten to 12

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Road accident in Sierra Leone Bangladeshi officer, 3 jawans killed

BSS, Dhaka

Four Bangladeshi army personnel, including an officer, belonging to the Bangladesh Artillery Regiment (BANARTY) in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) died in a road accident at Waterloo, Sierra Leone, on Thursday.

The victims were identified as Captain M Quamruzzaman (Demra, Dhaka) Corporal M Mizanur Rahman (Baufal, Patakhali) Lance Corporal M Mokaddes Hossain (Daulatpur, Kushtia) and Sainik M Aminur Islam (Lalmorirhat), an ISPR press release said here yesterday.

The accident occurred on the Freetown-Lunsar Road when the brake of a jeep of BANARTY-1 carrying five Bangladeshi army personnel failed. Corporal Mizanur Rahman and Sainik Aminur Islam died on the spot.

Lance Corporal Mokaddes Hossain succumbed to his injuries at a Freetown hospital. Captain Quamruzzaman died on the way to Dakar, the capital of Senegal where he was being sent for treatment. Lieutenant Colonel

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Road accidents kill 2 in city, 4 in Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six people were killed and 32 others injured in separate road accidents in the capital and Cox's Bazaar yesterday.

Of the deceased, two were killed in the city and the rest four in Cox's Bazaar.

Two road construction workers were killed while a minor boy and a young man injured in a road accident when they were run over by a private car at Tikatuli in the city yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Monju Islam and Alamgir.

Sources said a speeding ash colour private car (Dhaka Metro-11-2502) crushed the two men to death while they were repairing the road divider in front of Modhumita Cinema Hall at Tikatuli at 8am yesterday.

The killer driver then made a U-turn and as he tried to speed away toward Demra, again hit another young man named Apu and shortly afterwards another five-year-old boy at Tikatuli crossing.

Other construction workers chased the car in a bid to catch the driver but he managed to escape and sped away towards Demra.

The bodies of the deceased were sent to the Dhaka Medical College

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INSIDE TODAY

Article 4

Do we have a role in Afghanistan?

Column: Accord And Discard

M Anwarul Haq

Supplements 18 & 20

A two page supplement on the '12th BATEXPO' and one page supplement on 'Pakistan Day'

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Mar 23		6-11 pm
Mar 24	5-59 am	

Prayer Timings

Mar 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-15	6-20
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation