

11-party's protest from Sept 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The left-leaning 11-party alliance will go on a country-wide week-long agitation from September 24 to protest growing violence, price spirals of essentials, anarchy in educational institutions, violation

of democratic rights, and move to export gas and to hand over ports to foreign companies.

They will stage demonstrations in district and thana headquarters also to press home their seven-point demand during the period.

The alliance announced the action programmes at a press conference at the office of the Communist Party of Bangladesh in the city yesterday.

Alliance co-ordinator Dilip Barua read out the written text. Rashed Khan Menon, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Azizul Islam Khan, Abdullah Sarker, AFM Mahabubul Haq, Bimal Biswas, Rubin Hossen Prince and Bazul Rashid Firoj were also present at the press conference.

The leaders said the countrymen are facing a tough time due to price hike of essentials, increasing violence, gross irregularities in different sectors and tariff hike.

The government is also trying to establish autocracy in the country by imposing restrictions on meeting and processions, and resorting to repression on agitating people, and thus violating democratic rights of the people, they said.

The alliance also demanded immediate release of those arrested with political motives.

Denouncing the closure of Adamjee Jute Mills, the leaders demanded an immediate end to the trend in closures and privatisation of industries in the name of reforms.

They also condemned the recent attacks by the police and JCD and Shibir cadres on the students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka University and Rajshahi University.



Expatriate Bangladeshis residing in the USA formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday to commemorate the September 11.

Truck owners blast govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of Bangladesh Truck Malik Samity (BTMS) in a statement yesterday blasted the government for introducing new rules for the transport sector one after another without consulting the association.

"The government is imposing new rules which have created serious resentment among the owners and employees of this sector".

The BTMS, association of the owners, said the government not only increased registration fees and taxes manifold but also ordered not to use bumpers and side angles in goods carriers. "But we use these for the safety of the vehicles," it added.

The BTMS leaders also expressed resentment over what it said "illogical and unfair" increase of toll for truck in the Bhairab-Ashuganj ferry ghat. They alleged that the ghat fee for each truck was

Tk 175 but it was recently increased to Tk 400.

They demanded of the government to reduce the fee to the previous level. Otherwise, they would launch tougher programmes, the statement said.

The signatories to the statement included BTMS President Haji Sayedul Haq, Vice-President Haji Lokman Hossain Miji, General Secretary M Rustam Ali and Organising Secretary Mahub Chowdhury Shantu.

9 arms seized

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered nine firearms, three other weapons, one explosive and nine bullets during their ongoing countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

Police also arrested 1303 people, including two identified criminals during the period.

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Silent procession protesting closure of ETV today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of cultural activists will bring out a silent procession at 4:00pm today protesting closure of the ETV.

The cultural activists in a statement on Thursday expressed concern over the closure of popular television station Ekushey Television (ETV) following a recent court verdict.

They said the closure of the ETV has made thousands of artists, production house workers and others employed in creative industry unemployed.

They said the non-transparent licensing process could be made lawful through an acceptable process.

The signatories to the statement are filmmaker Morshedul Islam, photographer Nasir Ali Mamun, litterateur Nasrin Jahan, poet Sajjad Sharif, human rights activist Sanjib Drong and teacher Zahid Hassan Chowdhury.

Tribal language as medium of edn demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tribal students yesterday demanded of the government to introduce their mother languages at primary school level as medium of education in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

They also demanded inclusion of cultural and political history of the indigenous people of the country in the textbooks at school and college level and make it compulsory in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The demands also include cancellation of Hill Tracts quota and introduction of tribal quota.

Leaders of Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students Council (GCHTSC) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moni Swapon Dewan in this regard.

A seven-member delegation including General Secretary Mithun Chakma, Superjyoti Chakma, Rupon Chakma, among others, went to the minister's office to submit the memorandum.

The delegation discussed on various issues relating to the CHT. The minister assured them of taking necessary steps in this connection.

The hill students will bring out a procession on September 17 on the occasion of the Education Day and will submit another memorandum to the Education Minister.

Seminar on E-Commerce in Ctg tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on 'Internet Access Technologies and E-Commerce for Bangladesh' will be held at the Institution of Engineers of Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong centre at 5:00 pm tomorrow.

IEB, Chittagong centre and Internet Service Provider Association Bangladesh (ISPAB) will jointly organise the seminar. Two papers will be presented at the seminar.

One paper on 'Internet Access Technologies in Bangladesh' will be presented by Irshad Shafi Chowdhury, secretary general of ISPAB and another on 'E-Commerce for Bangladesh' by Syed Faruq Ahmed.

Zafur Islam Chowdhury, State Minister for Forest and Environment will be present as chief guest while Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury, president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and Engineer M Shahajahan, Chairman of IEB, Chittagong centre as special guests.

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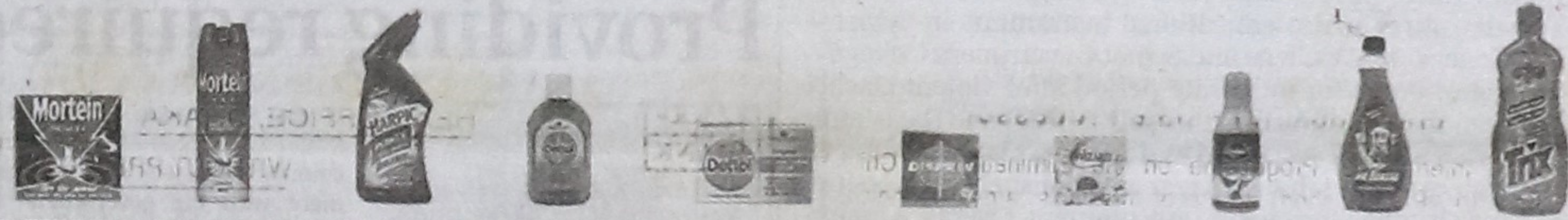
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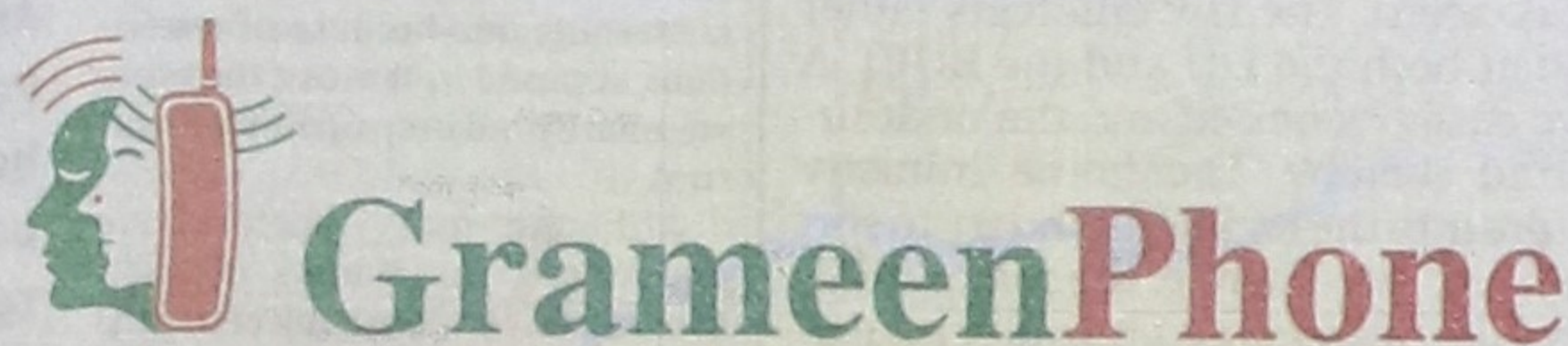
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