

Countrymen urged to unite to topple govt

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the opposition Awami League, yesterday urged the countrymen to forge a unity under the umbrella of the Liberation War spirit to topple the alliance government by this year.

The BNP-Jamaat government has failed in all aspects, the BCL leaders said at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city. The rally followed by

a candlelight procession was held to mobilise support for today's nationwide dawn-to-dusk shutdown protesting the attack on prominent writer Dr Humayun Azad.

The leaders called on the students to continue their agitation until the government steps down.

They also urged the countrymen to make the hartal a success to register their protest against the deadly attack on Dr Azad.

Speaking as chief guest, Awami League leader Advocate Abdul Hamid said the alliance government has been attacking the opposition leaders and activists since it came to power.

The government has robbed the countrymen of their fundamental rights, he said, adding that it even prevented the opposition leader and the AL chief Sheikh Hasina from visiting the Combined Military Hospital to see the injured writer.

Samillita Sangskritik Jote General Secretary Golam Kuddus, who was the special guest, urged the pro-liberation forces to unite to dislodge the alliance government.

He blamed the anti-liberation and fanatical elements for the attack on Dr Azad and demanded immediate arrest of those involved.

Presided over by the BCL President Liaqat Sikder, the rally was also addressed by its General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu, Delwar Hossain, Hemayet Uddin Khan Himu, Mamunur Rashid Shuvro, Ishaque Miah, Tasbirul Haque Anu and Golam Sarwar Kabir.

The BCL will stage demonstrations at the educational institutions across the country tomorrow demanding immediate arrest of the attackers. It will also protest the Wednesday's attack on general students and journalists by the JCD men and police.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, meanwhile, took out an anti-hartal procession on the Dhaka University campus in the afternoon.

The JCD leaders also vowed to resist the pro-hartal supporters, saying they were destroying the congenial academic atmosphere.

Art exhibition of Qayyum Chy begins today

UNB, Dhaka

A 20-day art exhibition begins at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts at Dhanmondi in the city today.

Recent artworks of eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury will be put on display.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman will inaugurate the exhibition and Dr Anisuzzaman will be present as special guest.

The Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts has organised the exhibition to mark its fifth founding anniversary, said a press release.



PHOTO: STAR

People from 21 southern districts arrive at Shibchar at Mawa to join a rally demanding construction of Padma bridge at Mawa point.

Construct Padma bridge at Mawa

Thousands voice their demand at rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

People of 21 districts in Barisal and Khulna divisions at a huge rally yesterday demanded construction of Padma bridge at Mawa point.

People from some districts of Dhaka division also joined the rally at Char Janajat, south of Mawa, organised by the Committee to Implement Construction of Padma Bridge at Mawa.

Thousands of people from every corner of the southern districts came there by different types of transports and river vessels to join the rally that caused a massive traffic jam on the highways.

The committee leaders said the construction of Padma bridge at Mawa point would reduce the distance between the capital and the southern districts by about 100 km.

It will also help develop Kuakata tourist spot and improve the communi-

cation network with Mongla seaport, they added.

The leaders also threatened to halt all the activities in the southern region for an indefinite period if their demand goes unheeded.

They called on the government to make a clear decision to build the bridge at Mawa point immediately.

Presided over by Abdur Razzak

Molla, UP Chairman of Matubbar Char, the rally was addressed by Barisal city Mayor Majibur Rahman Sarwar M P, Shahjahan Khan M P, Hemayetullah Awranga MP, Delwar Hossain Saidi MP, Nasiruddin Kalu MP, Shariatpur and Shibchar porsava chairmen Yakub Ali and Abdul Latif Molla, former state minister T M Gias Uddin, Khalilur Rahman, Thandhu

Chowdhury and Golam Mawla. The committee will also enforce a one-hour token total strike in 21 districts from 11.am to 12.00noon on March 8 to press home its demand.

Also, token hunger strike, mass contact, procession and other demonstrations will also be organised in the districts.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Chhatra League stages a demonstration on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding immediate arrest of those involved in the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad.

Two shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were shot at Khilgaon and Demra in the city yesterday.

Monir Hossain, 30, son of Abdul Hye Siddique, was shot in his hand by muggers at Khilgaon on his way to his Banasree residence at around 5:00pm.

Two muggers riding on a motorbike intercepted the rickshaw he was travelling in and demanded money from him.

As Monir refused to comply, the muggers scuffled with him and fired at him before fleeing the scene.

Youth killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unknown youth died in a road accident in Zia International Airport area yesterday.

The youth, aged around 25, was crossing the road when a speeding bus knocked him down at Kaula bus stand at around 1:00pm.

He was in brown trousers and printed shirt.

Airport police seized the bus, but the driver managed to escape.

No case was filed till filing of this report at 7:45pm.

Monir is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with a wound in his right hand.

In Demra, Rafiq Miah, a driver of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), was hit by a stray bullet.

The bullet hit him in the chest when Rafiq was eating a pitha (hand-made cake) on the pavement close to Sayedabad bus stand at around 6:45pm.

Khalilur Rahman, a passerby, rushed him to the DMCH.

Rahman told newsmen that a gang from a nearby restaurant fired several shots at will over an extortion-related feud.

Demra police, however, could not provide details about the incident.

Over 1,300 held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,311 people, including a listed criminal, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

They also recovered eight firearms, three other weapons and five bullets. Six cases were filed against nine people under the Arms Act, said a press release of the police headquarters.

DHAKA TODAY

Painting exhibition
The inaugural ceremony of a solo painting exhibition titled 'Abohoman' by noted artist Qaium Chowdhury will be held with Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi. Time: 7.00pm.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Rules of Engagement' (2000). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Foundation laying ceremony
The foundation stone laying ceremony of Azimpur Section of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College will be held with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest. Venue: 101, Peelkhana, Azimpur. Time: 2.30pm.

Award giving ceremony
The award giving ceremony of Shilu Abed Karushilpa Award 2004, organised by National Crafts Council of Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: BRAC Centre auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 6.30pm.

Book Club meet
A meeting of the executive committee of Bangladesh Book Club and its monthly literary meeting will be held. Venue: 83,

Aziz Super Market, Shahbagh. Time: 6.00pm.

Udichi programme
Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi will hold a programme to mark the Jessore Killings Day. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4.00pm.

Cultural resistance
Muktachinta Rakkha O Aganotanrk Shakti Protirodh Humayun Azad Mancha organises a cultural resistance programme to protest the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad. Venue: Raju Mancha, Dhaka University Campus. Time: 5.00pm.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Fearless' (1993). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Road march
Muktachinta Rakkha O Aganotanrk Shakti Protirodh Humayun Azad Mancha organises a road march to protest the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad. Venue: Aparajeo Bangla, Dhaka University Campus. Time: 10.00am.