

PRICE HIKE OF BABY FOODS

Children observe token hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some three hundreds children and their parents yesterday observed a token hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar protesting the price hike of baby foods.

Under the banner of Banglar Ma O Shishu (Mother and Children of Bangladesh), the protesters demanded of the government to take immediate steps to bring down the prices of baby foods.

Speaking at the programme, Shyamoli Nasreen Chowdhury blamed the government for its failure to control the price of baby foods.

"Not only the price of baby foods but also the price of all essentials have increased beyond the purchasing power of the common people. But the government is totally indifferent to

the matter," she added.

Shyamoli urged the government to take immediate steps to curb the price spiral of essentials considering the sufferings of the people.

Afroza Banu, a cultural activist, said those who are running the government are responsible for the price hike.

"We want to see a bright future for our children but the government has no interest in their welfare," she added.

Falguni Hameed, another cultural activist, said the price hike of essentials has made the lives of common people miserable.

"If proper steps are not taken to bring down the price, we will launch greater movement," she threatened.

Eminent actress Ferdousi Mazumder moderated the hunger strike programme.

Show cause on B Chowdhury over party name

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A declaratory suit was filed against former president and convenor of Bikalpa Dhara AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday seeking a temporary injunction on forming his new political party name "Bangladesh Party" (BDP).

Nazim Habib Uzzaman, president of Bangladesh Democratic Party (BDP) filed the suit along with a petition for a temporary injunction with the Fourth Assistant Judge's Court, Dhaka.

In the suit, Nazim Habib mentioned that he formed his party as "Bangladesh Democratic Party" on January 1, 1999 and established it as a popular party. But he came to know on March 26 through newspapers that Badruddoza decided to name his political party as "Bangladesh Party" (BDP). So he prayed for a temporary injunction on forming his (Badruddoza) new political party name "Bangladesh Party".

After hearing Judge Anisur Rahman issued a show cause notice upon Badruddoza to explain within 15 days from the date of receipt of the notice why he should not be restrained by an order of temporary injunction to form Bangladesh Party (BDP).

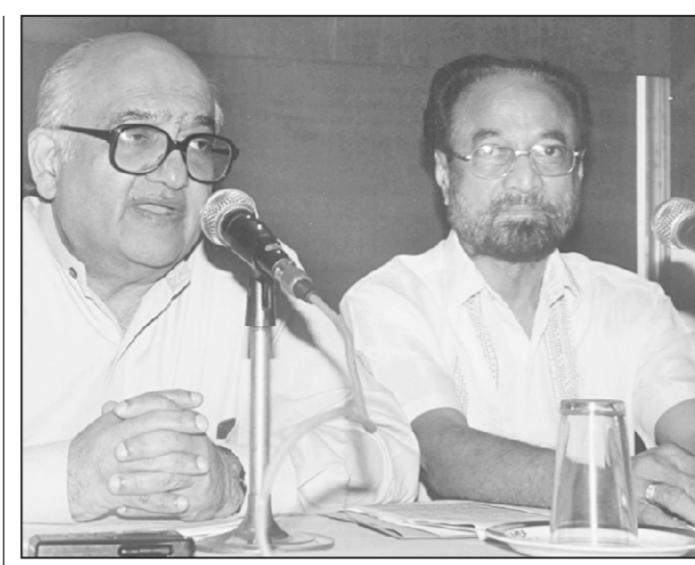


PHOTO: STAR

Prof. Rehman Sobhan, chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, speaks at a discussion on 'Amendment to Constitution' at the Liberation War Museum, while Barrister Amir-ul Islam, vice-chairman of the Bangladesh Bar Council, looks on. Ain O Shalishi Kendra organised the discussion.

2 die in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two rickshaw pullers were killed and several others injured in a road accident at Nababganj upazila in Dhaka yesterday.

The victims were identified as Halud Meah, 28, and Monirul Islam, 20.

Police sent the bodies to Dhaka Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

The accident occurred when driver of the bus lost control of the steering and drove it into a roadside shop near the Ticketpur bus stand.

The angry mob set fire to Gulistan-bound bus coming from Bandura.

Truck helper shot, driver mugged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A truck helper was shot and its driver mugged in the city yesterday.

A gang of eight muggers put up a barricade by placing stones on the road near Basila in Mohammadpur to stop two trucks laden with fruits at around 3:00am.

The driver of one truck managed to avoid the barricade, but the other had to park his truck.

The muggers boarded the truck and looted Tk 2,500 from driver Bellal and shot helper Abul Kalam in his neck and fled the spot.

Kalam was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he is undergoing treatment.

Both Mirpur and Mohammadpur Police Stations said they knew the incident but it did not take place in their jurisdiction.

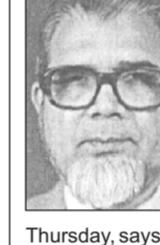
JCD leaders beat DU student

DU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Dhaka University was beaten by two leaders of ruling party backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the campus yesterday.

Mamun and Hiron assaulted Sheikh Abdul Wahab, a fourth year student of history department, alleging that he (Wahab) had been collecting tolls in the name of JCD from different organisations, sources said. Wahab is the general secretary of Itihas Sangha, an organisation of the students of history department.

Obituary



Alhaj Farid Uddin Ahmed, former General Manager of Agrani Bank and Managing Director of NCC Bank and Standard Bank Ltd, died at Shamarita Hospital On Thursday, says a press release.

He was laid to rest at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Kazipara Mosque on Friday.

Farid left behind his three daughters and one son. His quirkhwanai will be held at his 302 East Kazipara residence after Asr prayers on April 16.

Najma Ahmed



Najma Ahmed, wife of Brig Gen (Retd) Sham-suddin Ahmed, former military secretary to president, died of cardiac arrest at Dhaka Combined Military Hospital on Friday at the age of 58, says a press release.

She is survived by her husband, two sons and two daughters.

Najma was buried at the Banani Cantonment Graveyard the same day.

A doa mahfil will be held for the deceased at the Banani DOHS Jame Mosque after Asr prayers tomorrow.

DHAKA TODAY

Photography exhibition

Bangladesh Mountaineering and Trekking Club organises an exhibition of photographs and a slide show on mountaineering training. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Andrzej Wajda retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two films in a retrospective to Andrzej Wajda, the world renowned filmmaker of Poland. The films are 'Landscape After the Battle' (1970) and 'The Birch-Wood' (1970). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Anger Management' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6:30pm.

Drama festival

As part of the weeklong drama festival of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Natyabangla of Laxmipur will stage a drama titled 'Shesh Prahar'. Venue: Theatre hall of the academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6:00pm.

Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of Dhaka-Rajshahi Customs, Excise and VAT Executive Officers Association will be held with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. Time: 5:00pm.

JSD rally

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) (Inu) will hold a rally to express solidarity with the resistance of the Iraqi people against the occupation forces. Venue: In front of the GPO, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 4:00pm.