

Arrest of AL activists condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political organisations yesterday condemned Wednesday's attack and arrest of the Awami League (AL) activists by police when the party attempted to lay siege to Hawa Bhaban.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil in a statement blasted police attack on the AL and its front organisations leaders and workers and demanded immediate release of the arrested.

He said the government on losing confidence in the general public has become desperate to use police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to escape public wrath.

The national committee of the Alternative Political Stream in a

press statement signed by party's Secretary General major (rtd) Abdul Mannan criticised the government for harassing the public while resisting the AL siege programme.

Mannan termed the harassment and arrangement of a 'funny' game of cricket at Hawa Bhaban at the same time 'immoral activity'.

The Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, left-leaning 11-party alliance and Bangladesh Awami Olama League, among others, criticised the government move.

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) in a press release yesterday condemned police obstacle to its procession to the Prime Minister's Office Wednesday.

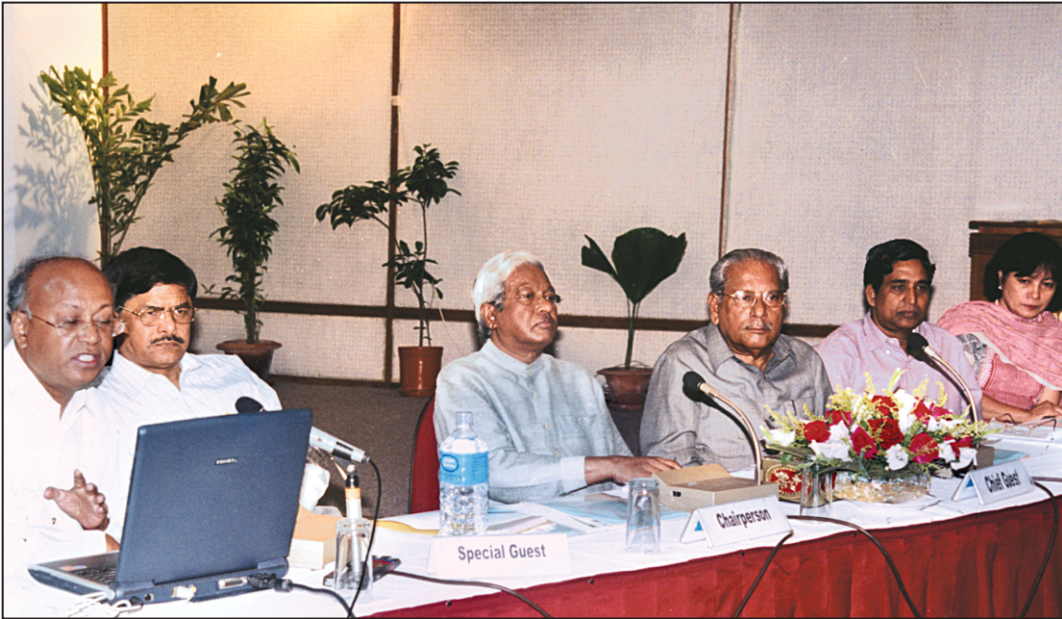


PHOTO: STAR

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised a dialogue on 'Women's Contribution to Rural Economic Activities: Making the Invisible Visible,' at Brac Centre Inn yesterday. From left are IRRRI Social Science Division Head Dr Mahabub Hossain, State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Brac Chairman Fazle Hasan Abed, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Awami League's Agriculture Secretary Mohammad Abdur Razzaque MP and IRRRI Gender Specialist Dr Thelma R Paris.

'Set up permanent pay commission'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Civil Service Coordination Committee has urged the government to set up a permanent Pay Commission before the budget session.

At a meeting on Wednesday, the committee also expressed

concern over so many contractual appointment and said it would create a long term negative impact on the administration.

The committee also demanded cancellation of present quota system for promotion of officials at deputy secretary level in the secretariat for the sake of

active public administration.

Chaired by President of the committee M A Hashem, the meeting was also addressed by Vice President Alauddin Chowdhury, Secretary General Chowdhury, Secretary General Engineer Md Nurul Huda, Agriculturist Nazrul Islam and Sultan Ahmed Talukdar.

Father says he surrendered 3-yr-old child fearing arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The father of Iman Ali, the child who made a sensation by surrendering to the chief metropolitan magistrate's court of Dhaka on April 13, yesterday said fear of arrest compelled him to take his baby-boy to the court. The three and a half years old child was incriminated in an attempted murder case.

"I've only two sons - Iman and Ramzan. As both of them were implicated in the attempted murder case, I got scared and surrendered to the court," Anwar Ali told a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium in the city.

He said a dispute erupted between him and Ali Hossain over a katha of land at Sayedabad in 1994. Since then Hossain has filed nine criminal cases against him, his son Ramzan and other relatives just to harass their lives, Anwar claimed.

"Ali Hossain tried to grab my land by making forged documents. In 1994, I agreed to sell a one-katha plot to him for Tk 1.5 lakh. But he paid me only Tk 50,000 and registered 1.5 katha instead of one katha in his name," Anwar alleged.

He said, as he filed a lawsuit with a court against the forgery, Hossain retaliated by implicating him and his family members in 'false cases' one after another to tire and force him into relinquishing his right over the land.

Anwar claimed Hossain is a police informant: "Being a police informant, it was easy for him to file as many as nine cases against me to break my backbone."

Anwar's sons and wife were present with him at the press conference.