



Supreme Court Bar Association took out a procession in the city yesterday protesting mass arrests and police action on the opposition political activists.

Mass arrests, police action protested

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different social, political, professional and human rights organisations yesterday protested mass arrest and attack by police on rallies of the opposition parties.

In a joint statement, leaders of these organisations demanded immediate resignation of the government for its failure to run the administration of the country.

They said the government has lost all moral rights to stay in power as it has completely failed to ensure security and constitutional rights of the people by foiling the programmes of the opposition parties.

The leaders said the government has turned the country into a mass-prison misusing the section 54 and violating the court order.

The police have been collecting money forcibly from the arrested innocent people, they added.

The leaders said an anarchic situation has been prevailing in the country due to killing, looting, abduction, toll collection and price-hike of essentials.

They said the fall of the government is now a matter of time and a midterm election could only save the country from the gruesome situation.

The signatories to the statement included Vice President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association (BSCBA) Md Sirajul Haque, Secretary Bashir Ahmed, former president of the bar Abdul Baset Majumder, former vice-chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and Prof Mostofa Chowdhury of Dhaka University, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Altaf Mahmud and Shah Alamgir of Dhaka Union of Journalists, and Ramendu Majumder and Golam Kuddus of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote.

The BSCBA will hold a protest rally at the premises of samity tomorrow demanding an end to this dreadful situation.

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) has demanded immediate release of all arrestees and implementation of the high court order.

In a statement, the ASK said the government did not pay any heed to the court orders for

arresting people on suspicion.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) condemned the attack and arrest of female activists during the recent agitation.

Expressing deep concern over the situation, the BNWLA said both the government and the opposition were responsible for the present situation.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) said the government has unveiled its despotic character by arresting general public from bus stops, launch terminals and railway stations.

In a statement, Duta President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and General Secretary Prof Akhteruzzaman urged the government to put an end to mass arrest and torture of opposition activists.

Jatiya Mukti Council President Badruddin Umar and General Secretary Faizul Hakim, in a statement, protested the mass arrest to resist the movement of the opposition parties to dislodge the BNP-led coalition government.

JABBARER BOL I KHELA

Marma, Didar joint champion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Defending Champion Marma Singha Tripura, 26, shared the title with the defending runner-up Didarul Alam Didar, 26, in an exciting final bout of Abdul Jabbar Memorial Wrestling Competition, locally known as Jabbarer Boli Khela, at Lalidighi Maidan in the port city yesterday.

Marma is a cop from the hill district of Khagrachhari while Didar is a wrestler from Cox's Bazar district.

Marma reached the final bout after defeating Abdul Malek of Banshkhali while Didar entered the final by beating Siddique.

A total of 57 wrestlers from different parts of the Chittagong Division participated in the competition.

Both the champions received crest, gold medal and Tk 1500 each.

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman distributed the prizes among the winners as chief guest at a ceremony with Vice-president of Abdul Jabbar Memorial Wrestling Competition Committee Md Shahjahan in the chair.

Earlier, Additional Commissioner Sheikh Amzad Hossain of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) inaugurated the competition.

Sources said the poor management of the organisers and their treatment not only marred the attraction of the competition but also generated resentment among the wrestlers and the spectators.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show

The Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Harold and Maude' (1971). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

discussion on two books written by Roushan Saleha. Venue: Prabartana, 2/8 Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 4.00pm.

Launching ceremony

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organises the launching ceremony of the report on 'The study of e-government in Bangladesh'. Venue: BEI conference room, Gulshan-1. Time: 4.00pm.

Japanese film show

Dhaka University Film Society will screen two Japanese films titled 'Kagemusha (1961) and 'Ran' (1985). Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm and 5.00pm.

Indian film show

The High Commission of India will screen a film titled 'Hungama'. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Gulshan-2.

Workshop

The opening ceremony of a three-day workshop on 'Computer aided analysis and design of reinforced concrete, prestressed and steel high rise building system' will be held. Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. Time: 9.00am.

Discussion

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal organises a discussion to mark its silver jubilee celebration with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Natyamancha, Gulistan. Time: 3.00pm.

Meeting

A meeting of INCIDIN Bangladesh will be held. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 10.00am.

Prabartana discussion

Narigrantha Prabartana organises a

The inaugural ceremony of 'The project for identification of Arsenicosis patients and the management' will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.30am.



11-Party Alliance stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding arrest of the persons responsible for the recent arms haul in Chittagong.

JICA to expand activities

BSS, Dhaka

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in principle has decided to expand its activities here with special emphasis on community development and capacity building at local levels.

Vice-President Kunimitsu Yoshinaga said JICA would strengthen its cooperation in some new areas including institutional development for human security promotion, empowerment of communities and advance investment climates.

"Bangladesh has made a remarkable success in rural development, rice production and urbanisation during the last one decade. But still there are many challenges to be addressed," Kunitsu told journalists at a press briefing at JICA Dhaka office yesterday.

Kunimitsu, who leaves Dhaka yesterday after a five-day visit, said he had extensive visits to some of the urban and rural areas, where he found a 'touch of positive changes.'

"I was impressed with the progress both at rural and urban areas as well as the energy people have in Bangladesh," he said. The changes could faster if issues of good governance were added to that, he added.

Expressing his satisfaction with the performance of JICA Dhaka office, he said it has built a bridge between the two sides. He also expressed the hope that more Japanese official development assistance (ODA) would be provided to Bangladesh based on the reputation made by JICA Dhaka office.

JICA Dhaka office has become one of the eight model operation centres in the world. Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, China, Indonesia, Kenya and Senegal are seven other model JICA operation centres.

Kunimitsu said Bangladesh deserves further assistance as it is in the good book of the Japanese taxpayers. He said JICA in phases would take new projects for faster economic growth in Bangladesh, which require a flow of foreign direct investments (FDI).

Countries in the central Asia and Balkan region have been trying to attract more FDI from Japan and other countries solving their problems, which are also existed in Bangladesh. So Bangladesh should immediately look into the problems and create a more friendly investment atmosphere here, he said.

JICA Resident Representative Takashi Sakamoto, Additional Resident Representative Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki and Deputy Resident Representative Taro Naotsuka were present at the briefing.



Commonwealth Press Union (CPU) Bangladesh chapter held a meeting at its office in the city yesterday.

CPU BANGLADESH CHAPTER

Shafik Rehman elected president

UNB, Dhaka

Shafik Rehman, editor of the Jai Jai Din, and Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, have been unanimously elected president and secretary of the Commonwealth Press Union (CPU), Bangladesh chapter, for one year.

Amanullah Khan, chairman of the UNB, has been elected treasurer.

The election was held at a meeting at its office in the city yesterday. Outgoing Secretary Enayetullah Khan, editor of the Dhaka Courier, presided over the meeting. Mahbubul Alam, editor of The Independent, and Nabil Ahmed of Ajker Kagoj were also present.

The meeting condoned the death of the section's President Ahmedul Kabir of the Daily Sangbad and observed one minute's silence in his memory.

Describing Ahmedul Kabir as an iconic figure who was in the vanguard of the movement to find a new role for the print media in Bangladesh, the members recalled his unique contribution to the development of the CPU Bangladesh chapter.

The meeting also decided to take necessary steps to make the CPU a more dynamic, effective and relevant institution.



London Metropolitan University launches its liaison office in the city on April 24. Minister for Science, Communications and Information Technology Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan, fourth from left, was present as chief guest.

Discussion on new year

The managing committee of the Sri Sri Gouranga Mahaprabhu Zew Bigra Mandir organised a religious discussion in the city's Sutrapur area on Saturday to mark the Pahela Boishakh, the first day of Bangla year 1411, says a press release.

State Minister for Water Resources Goutam Chakrabarty laid the foundation of a new temple there before the discussion.

Presided over by Justice Gour Gopal Saha, the discussion was addressed by Golam Mohammad, Sarika Sarkar Bina, Omananda Shaha and Mongal Chandra Chand.

Sarojini Naidu Council team meets president

BSS, Dhaka

A delegation of Poet Sarojini Naidu National Memorial Council called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban here yesterday.

Chairman of the council and advisor of the former caretaker government Kafil Udin Mahmud led the delegation.

The delegation briefed the president about its activities taken for acquainting Poet Sarojini Naidu, a pioneer of women consciousness, with the new generation properly.

They said the council has introduced a memorial gold medal after the name of Sarojini Naidu who was also an organiser of anti-British movement and a pioneer of communal harmony in the region.

The president praised the activities of the council and assured them of giving his all supports.

2998 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 2,998 people, including three listed criminals during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, the law enforcers also recovered 16 firearms and seven other weapons and 69 bullets and filed four cases against 12 people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.