

Release of Qazi Faruque demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Trinamul Jana Sangathan yesterday demanded immediate release of Qazi Faruque Ahmed, president of Proshika, a leading NGO, saying that about two crore beneficiaries of its programmes have been suffering for the government's action against the NGO.

The chief of Proshika fell victim to political vengeance, they said, adding that while police could not capture Bangla Bhai, dreaded operation commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, they arrested and tortured Faruque, an internationally renowned person.

Police also arrested Vice-President of Proshika David William Biswas, they said at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

Both Faruque and Biswas fell sick and they need special medical care but the police are not allowing their family members to meet them, the leaders said.

Anawara Begum, convenor of the Trinamul Jana Sangathan, read out a written statement at the press conference.

Md Abdul Hamid, Tofazzal Hossain, Zaitun Begum, Nurul Islam and Azhar Ali were also present.

Meanwhile, the governing body of Proshika has sought people's cooperation and support in carrying out its poverty alleviation programmes.

Any obstacle to its development programmes will not only affect lakhs of poor people badly but also have an impact on the NGO sector, the governing body said in a resolution adopted at its meeting on May 25.

Creating such obstacles will also tarnish image of the country abroad, it said.

Meanwhile, 70 cultural personalities in a statement demanded immediate release of Qazi Faruque.

A vested quarter is hatching conspiracy against the Proshika as it is working for empowerment of women and grassroots people, they said.

Signatories to the statement included Ramendu Majumder, Nasiruddin Yusuf, Panna Kaiser, Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed, Golam Kuddus, Liakat Ali Laki, artist Rafiqun Nabi and Asaduzzaman Noor.



PHOTO: STAR

Kuldip Nayar, Indian journalist and columnist, speaks at a seminar on "People's initiative for transboundary river basins management" at Spectra Convention Centre yesterday. Centre for Water, Environment and Energy (CWEE) organised the seminar. Sitting from left are DWASA MD ANH Akhtar Hossain, Dutch Ambassador Sjeff Ijzermans, Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed and UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner.

CTG ARMS HAUL 6 more suspects held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

CID police yesterday arrested six more suspects in connection with the April 2 arms haul after raiding their hideout near the jetty of

Obituary

Shahnur Islam Shanu, executive committee member of the Chittagong Zila Kira Sangstha died at a hospital in India on May 28, says a press release.

Bangladesh Cricket Board expressed deep shock at the death of Shanu and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. The Board also prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL).

The arrestees are Sheikh Ahmad, Md Jahangir, Akhtar Hossain, MAAziz, Mujibur Rahman and Bashar Meah.

Acting on a tip-off, CID police raided the hideout after midnight and arrested them after a brief scuffle.

The arrestees were involved in the offloading of weapons, police said. They will be produced before the court today.

CID police are yet to trace the whereabouts of the prime suspects including Hafizur Rahman, Din Mohammad, Abul Kasem Modhu, Haji Sobhan and Burmaiya Jahur.

SKOP supports June 5 hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Kamachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) extended its support to a 24-hour hartal called by Awami League (AL) on June 5.

The support came at a meeting between the SKOP and AL leaders yesterday with Tofail Ahmed in the chair.

The AL called the hartal to protest the killing of its lawmaker Ahsanullah Master, bomb attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury and price hike of essentials.

Jatiya Sramik League also called a 24-hour hartal and strike at mills and factories on June 5.

Communist Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) have extended their support to the programme.