

# AL countrywide protest tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition Awami League (AL) will stage demonstrations across the country tomorrow to protest the filing of "false" corruption case against the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and party President Sheikh Hasina and another leader.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee

(ALCWC) at Dhanmondi office with acting president Abdus Samad Azad in the chair.

The meeting observed that the government was trying to harass AL leaders through filing false cases.

Demanding withdrawal of the case, the meeting urged the government to declare Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's grave complex at Tungipara in Gopalganj as national heritage.



Brotee Chief Executive Parvin Murshid presents a report on Dhaka-10 by-election at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday. Brotee and Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) jointly organised the press conference.

PHOTO: STAR

## Housewife allegedly killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was allegedly killed by her in-laws who claimed it a suicide at Sutrapur in the city yesterday.

Faiza Islam Bithi, 24, wife of Motilul Islam, was found dead at her bedroom at 75, Nasiruddin Sardar Lane with a scarf tied around her neck early in the morning.

"One of her in-laws phoned us at 2:00am saying she had committed suicide but we found the body lying on the bed," said Mizanur Rahman, Bithi's brother.

## Either repatriate or rehabilitate us

Stranded Pakistani leader says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee yesterday called for resolving their long-standing humanitarian problem either through repatriation to Pakistan or rehabilitation in Bangladesh.

"The governments of Bangladesh and Pakistan should come forward

to resolve their problem permanently," said the committee leader M Nasim Khan at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

"We did not want repatriation after the liberation war, rather it was imposed on us through 1973 Delhi Agreement which Pakistan never fulfilled," he said.

Nasim said they do not want an uncertain life any more as both Pakistan and Bangladesh are still reluctant to give them citizenship.

He also criticised the recent comments of Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka on the problem of stranded Pakistanis that it was a problem of Bangladesh.

"Legally and morally Pakistan cannot avoid its responsibilities in solving the problem of stranded Pakistanis," he asserted.

Asked about the desire of a section of stranded Pakistanis who want to live in Bangladesh, Nasim replied that they are a small detached group patronised by some vested quarters.

He also demanded of the government to provide them civic facilities including residence, employment and security.

Over 2,50,000 stranded

Pakistanis, better known as Biharis, are still living in different camps at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur, Syedpur and other places.

## Harris rebuts Saber's statement

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury yesterday rebutted the statement of Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to the Leader of the Opposition, over Dhaka-10 by-election saying that BNP is not interested in taking any sermon regarding freedom of press.

Harris said he did not raise any question regarding trustworthiness, honesty and objectivity of newspapers during his interview with BBC.

"The main substance of my statement is that one or two pictures are not sufficient to prove allegation of irregularities in election. Because a picture can be portrayed in different ways," Harris said.

He further contended that it was not clarified of which party were those shown in newspaper photographs as being involved in irregularities during voting in the Dhaka-10 by-election.

Besides, he said, in the present day of modern technology it is possible to superimpose various kinds of images in a picture.

Harris, in his statement said the political secretary to the opposition leader is a successful businessman but new in politics.

"We welcome him in politics. But Saber Hossain Chowdhury again proved that, without gaining experience, it is not possible to properly realise the real meaning of a political statement just by assuming important position," said Harris, also joint secretary general of the ruling BNP.

"I am sorry to say that he (Saber) has tried to respond to my statement misinterpreting it, without understanding it properly," Harris added.

He said that in this country person like Saber Hossain Chowdhury being the owner of a newspaper tried to dictate terms and influence the great profession of journalism in various ways.

"We believe in the freedom of press. But the party of Saber Hossain Chowdhury is the architect of creating a dismal history of snatching away press freedom in a heinous manner," he said.

So their "shedding crocodile tears" for the freedom of press was tantamount to "the devil listening to the Scripture," he said, adding: "We are not interested to take any sermons about freedom of press from them."

"As workers of BNP the organisation of this soil and people, which has ensured the freedom of press and speech, we will always remain active to protect the freedom of press as well as of journalism," Harris said.

## BTV earns Tk 86.92 cr from ads, JS told

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Television (BTV) has earned revenue of Tk 86.92 crore from advertisement during the 2002-03 fiscal.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday in reply to a question from Jatiya Party lawmaker Mohammad Ali Sarkar.

Mentioning that BTV is not a commercial entity, he said the main objective of BTV is to formulate various social programmes and their broadcasting aiming at publicising the government development

activities and increasing mass awareness about those.

He also presented a list of top-ten advertisers of BTV. According to the list Bangladesh Lever Brothers Limited was named at the top of the list while Kohinoor Chemical Company scored the second position and Square Group third.

The other companies who were named on the list are Keya Cosmetic Limited, Pran Group, Bombay Sweets and Company Limited, Partex Group, Abul Khaer and Company, Reckit Benckiser (Bangladesh) Limited and J&J Essential Products Limited.

## Water Quality Surveillance confce begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day national conference on Water Quality Surveillance began in the city yesterday to ensure the quality of drinking water.

Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) has organised the conference in collaboration with World Health Organisation (WHO).

Inaugurating the conference, AHM Abul Qasem, secretary of Local Government Division of LGED and Cooperative ministry, said arsenic contamination of water has emerged as a threat to the rural people.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Mango fair

The inaugural ceremony of a five-day long Mango Fair, organised by Rajshahi Mango Product Limited, will be held. Venue: Guide House Premises, Bailey Road. Time: 10.15am.

### IPSSL seminar

A seminar on 'Upgrading the quality and hygiene of food industries of Bangladesh: With emphasis on frozen shrimps', organised by IPSSL Group of Bangladesh, will be held with Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 3.00pm.

### AI seminar

A seminar on Amnesty International (AI) Report 'The Rohingya minority: Fundamental rights denied' will be held with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

### Blood donation

Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Teachers Students Centre of Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am to 5.00pm.

### Rally

Anti Imperialistic Democratic Unity organises a rally to protest the price hike of daily essentials. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 4.30pm.

## DHAKA TOMORROW

### Poetry evening

Pathik, a literary group, organises an evening of poetry. Besides recitation, a discussion on poetry will mark the event. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 5.00pm.

### Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of the Website of the Society for the Welfare of Autistic Children will be held. Venue: 7/1 A, Block-C, Lalmitia. Time: 5.30pm.

### Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony of 27th National Science, Information and Communication Technology Week will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

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- Time line and Outputs

Interested firms/individuals are requested to collect "Scope of Work (SOW)" from CARE-Bangladesh, Pragati RPR Center (8th Floor), 20-21, Kauran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 from 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. or through E-mail shahed@carebangladesh.org. Proposals must be submitted within July 15, 2004 the General Manager, Human Resources Development & Management (HRD&M). CARE-Bangladesh reserves the right to cancel the consultancy work without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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