

# AL for reforms in caretaker govt system before polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leaders yesterday demanded that reforms be brought to the caretaker government system before the next general election.

They also warned that they would resist any election under the present system.

"We will not only boycott the next parliament election under the faulty caretaker government system but also prevent the government from holding any election under such system," AL presidium member Zillur Rahman said at a discussion.

Bangladesh Krishak League organised the discussion to mark the 'Farmer killing day'. A total of 18 farmers were killed across the country on this day in 1995 while they were agitating to press for their demand for supply of fertiliser.

Zillur said the nation is now united on the question of reforming the caretaker government system.

"The AL leaders and workers along with the mass people estab-

lished the caretaker government system for a free and fair election, but the present four-party alliance government has destroyed the system in a bid to capture the power again," he observed.

The AL leader also said the government has raised the prices of diesel and kerosene several times, causing much suffering to the poor farmers.

"The farmers will have to pay an extra amount of Tk 551 crore in the current season alone due to increasing prices of fuel oil," said AL Organising Secretary Abdul Mannan.

Although the agriculture forms the base of the country's economy, the government never stands beside the poor farmers, he added.

AL leader Rahmat Ali MP, Krishak League General Secretary Motahar Hossain Molla, Vice-President Harunur Rashid Howlader, MA Wadud and Chhabi Biswas also spoke at the discussion, chaired by Krishak League President Dr Mirza Jalil.



PHOTO: STAR

Citizen's Rights Movement stages a demonstration in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday demanding reduction in cellphone call charge.

# Three Shibir activists assaulted at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Three Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists and the Dhaka University (DU) Correspondent of the Daily Sangram were assaulted on the campus yesterday.

Islami Chhatra Shibir is the student wing of ruling Jamaat-e-Islam.

The injured Sirajul Islam, Fazlul Haque and Mamunur Rashid, second year students of Islamic Studies Department and residents of Jahurul Haque Hall and Salimullah Hall, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The combine organisations led by the opposition Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) staged a demonstration protesting the Shibir activities in different educational institutions across the country with a vow to resist them.

The Shibir activists were beaten up in front of the Arts Building where the pro-opposition student organisations were holding a rally. The student leaders found ICS books and documents from the bags of Shibir activists and began to beat them up, witnesses said.

The Shibir men led by their DU

unit organising secretary Mohammad Akhter Hossain lodged complaint to Proctor Prof. AKA Firoz Ahmed demanding punishment to the persons responsible for the incident.

Meanwhile, the six combine organisations demanded ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics in the educational institutions across the country.

Addressing the rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla, the combine leaders said that Jamaat and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir have been destroying the congenial educational atmosphere of the public universities and colleges. The Jamaat and Shibir were on mission to turn secular Bangladesh into a fundamentalist state, they added.

BCL President Liaqat Sikder said the Shibir men have been attacking their leaders and activists in different educational institutions across the country and planing to destroy the congenial atmosphere of DU. He denied the allegation of assaulting of a reporter.

Balaram Poddar, Shariful Kabir Swapan, Gaffer Dewan Rajib, Delwar Hossain, among others, spoke at the rally.

# 'Nat'l Children's Day' tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Main opposition Awami League will observe the 'National Children's Day' tomorrow marking the 86th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On the occasion, national and party flags will be hoisted at party offices across the country at 6.00am and wreaths will be placed at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the city at 7.00am.

The party will also arrange milad mahfil, discussion meeting and cultural programmes to mark the day.

An Awami League delegation from the city will visit Tungipara and place wreath on the grave of Bangabandhu there on the day.

Acting AL General Secretary Obaidul Kader has requested all party workers to make the day's programme a success.

# 1,424 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,424 people, including two listed criminals, on various charges their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

# Nine poura polls on April 30

BSS, Dhaka

Election to nine pourasabhas will be held on April 30, according to a gazette notification issued by the Election yesterday.

The pourasabhas are: Feni, Hakimpur, Domar, Taherpur, Singra, Darshana, Nagarkanda, Kendua and Chakuria, a PID handout said quoting the gazette notification.

According to the schedule, the last date for submission of nomination papers to the returning officers is April 6, scrutiny will be held on April 7 and the last date for withdrawal is April 13.

Additional District Magistrate and District Election Officer have been appointed returning officer and assistant returning officer for conducting the Feni district sadar pourasabha election.

At the upazila level, the concerned Nirbahi Officers and Election Officers have been appointed returning officers and assistant returning officers respectively for conducting the pourasabha elections.

# President assents to three bills

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday assented to three bills passed in the current session of the 8th parliament.

The bills are the Smoking and Tobacco Product Usage (Control) Bill, 2005, the National Computer Training and Research Academy Bill, 2005 and the Inland Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2005, according to an official release.

# Adivasi Festival begins tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

A three-day Adivasi Festival will begin at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city tomorrow.

Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) has organised the festival with assistance from 21 Adivasi cultural groups and non-government organisations, says a press release.

The programmes include a colourful procession, cultural programmes and seminar.