



The members of National Cadet Corps of India and Sri Lanka called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

CCC POLLS

Mass rally today, tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The two main contenders for the mayoral post in the Chittagong City Corporation polls will hold mass rallies at the Laidighi Maidan in the port city today and tomorrow in a major showdown.

The Nagorik Committee will hold a mass rally for its candidate Awami League leader ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, the incumbent mayor, today.

"With this rally, we are going to start our campaign for Mohiuddin Chowdhury officially," said Jamsheer Alam Chowdhury, city AL leader and a commissioner candidate.

The BNP-led four-party alliance, on the other hand, will hold another mass rally tomorrow to gear up election campaign for its candidate Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, state minister for civil aviation and tourism.

Health Minister Dr Khondkar Mosharraf and several BNP central leaders and ministers will address the rally, said Aminul Islam, political secretary to Mir Nasir, also a former mayor.

Meanwhile, two more aspirants for the mayoral post, 37 ward commissioner posts and seven for the reserved seats collected nomination forms from the deputy election commissioner's office here yesterday.

With this, a total of eight people

collected nomination forms for the mayoral posts.

They are Dilip Bhadra, Shahidul Islam Chowdhury, Saifuddin Ahmed, Quazi Nazmul Ahsan Selim, Mizanur Rahman, Md Ataulah Khan, engineer Azimul Haque and MA Salam.

AZIM MOLLA MURDER

8 get life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A court here on Sunday sentenced eight people to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing one Azim Molla in December, 2001.

The convicts are Shabe Qadar, Badal, Masudur Rahman, Azim Molla, Waliur Rahman, Shafiqul Islam, Ali Ahsan and Dablu.

Three out of eight convicts are still absconding while five were present in the Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal when Judge Abdus Samad pronounced the verdict.

The court acquitted Kamrul and Shimul.

The prosecution story in brief is that Daulatpur thana police recovered a bullet-riddled body from behind the Nazrul Islam Hall of Govt BL College on December 14, 2001. The body was later identified as Azim Molla of Shiromoni under Khanjahan Ali thana in the city.

2 Rab men shot in accidental firing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) sustained bullet wounds in an accidental firing of a submachine gun yesterday morning.

Shamim and Abul Bashar, who received five bullets, were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

The incident took place when Constable Shamim of Rab was cleaning the weapon at Haji Mohsin road in Daulatpur at around 8:00am, police said.

A general diary was filed with Daulatpur police station.

Force govt to quit power: Amu

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League leaders yesterday demanded resignation of the government for its "total failure" in running the country.

"There would be no development in the country if this failed government stayed in power for long," said AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu at the 3rd annual conference of Bangladesh Krishak League (BKL) Dhaka district unit.

He called upon the countrymen to join the opposition movement to compel the government to quit power.

BKL Dhaka district unit President Montaz Uddain Ahmed presided over the conference held at the Mohanagar Natya Mancha at Gulistan. BKL President Mirza MA Jalil inaugurated the conference.

Amu said "The government in power was against the War of Liberation and now they are trying to make the country dysfunctional because they think the birth of Bangladesh was wrong."

He said that this "anti-people BNP-Jamaat coalition" was trying to shift responsibility of its failure to the state.

Amu told the conference that international human rights organisations "identified Bangladesh as a country of violation of human rights, terrorists and the corrupt because of the present government's activities".

He said if this government continued to stay in power, "Nizami will tell people 'we fought for the independence and Awami League was against it'."

Party leader Adv. Rahmat Ali MP blamed the government for rendering parliament ineffective, for price-hike of essentials, repression on farmers and lack of food security.

Rahmat Ali said the government destroyed the country in a planned way, making it friendless.

BKL president Mirza Jalil said the coalition government is trying to "cling to power annihilating AL leaders and workers".

Bangla Bhai victims

FROM PAGE 1 refusing to pay a toll to JMJB cadres.

Amir was one of many villagers who came to Rajshahi escorting 40 torture victims who were to attend a magistrate court over the Wasimul Osman Babu murder case.

JMJB operations against the said outlaws begin with the open murder of Osman on March 31 of last year. Police accused the 40 of the murder at Bangla Bhai's direction, but later submitted a final report on September 9 saying the allegations could not be proved.

The villagers said JMJB cadres tortured the victims either for belonging to the Awami League or for denying them tolls not for any real outlawed activities. "Most of JMJB victims are common people, and they hardly caught any outlaws," said Asir Uddin, a Union council member at Jugjipara.

Fifty-year-old Nasir said he was tortured at Shikdari camp after refusing to pay a toll. "I cannot use my left hand, and blood comes out when I cough. They beat up me with a hockey stick and iron rods after hanging me upside down."

Abdul Malek, a class nine student of Hamirkutsa High School, had a similar story to tell. "Bangla Bhai himself beat me on the bone-joints of my hands and legs at my school gate after JMJB cadres dragged me out of the classroom. I could count 30 blows from an iron rod until I fainted. My father sold land to pay for my treatment," he said.

Professor Lutfar Rahman, Mahtab Khamaru, Atabor, and Yasin are some of the names the villagers uttered many times to identify the JMJB leaders, who they say col-

lected large sums of money from the villagers with threats and are still roaming freely in villages.

Brokers Omar and Kamal are often seen even at the Bagmara police station, one villager said, while others alleged that local JMJB cadres hold regular meetings.

Abdus Sattar of Sakoa, Montu of Kalupara, Mamunur Rashid Mamun of Palashey, who could hardly manage three meals a day a year ago, have since built brick-houses, bought land and gold ornaments after Bangla Bhai went into hiding, they said.

Golam Kibria, officer-in-charge of the Bagmara PS denied the allegations that JMJB cadres are moving about freely, telling The Daily Star, "We are now working without influence. If one comes with any complaint, we must investigate it properly."

Trial of war criminals demanded

JU CORRESPONDENT

General students, activists of different student and cultural organisations, and journalists of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday brought out a silent procession on the campus demanding immediate trial of the war criminals, and ban on religion-based politics.

A forum under the banner of 'Students' unity against fundamentalism' organised the procession that paraded throughout the cam-

pus. Later, a rally was held in front of the old arts faculty building.

Speakers at the rally said JU students would launching an agitation to uproot the fundamentalists from the campus.

They also renewed their vow to resist any conspiracy to establish the dominance of Islami bigots on the campus.

Rakibul Alam Rusho, Tonmoy, Mamun and Taimur Reza spoke at the rally.

Indian, Lankan cadets call on president

BSS, Dhaka

National Cadet Corps (NCC) members of India and Sri Lanka called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban here yesterday.

The President greeted the cadets and said their visit will help strengthen relations between Bangladesh and their countries.

He called upon the cadets to inspire others to become good citizens and play their role for world peace.

The cadets apprised the president of the activities of the Corps.

The Indian National Cadet Crop delegation included Lt Col Madan Gugung, Saurabh Rajpurohit, Mote Amol Bajirao, Joti Shekawat, Urvija Priyadarshini, Suyam Prakash Priya Darshini, Swati Suman, Kakul Mohanty, Sibani Murmu, Vandana Sharma and Sandeep Nair.

Sri Lankan delegation included DS Abeygunasekara, Edirisingha ELP and Randeniya CA.

Director of Bangladesh National Cadet Crop (BNCC) Brigadier General M Ahsan Habib, BNCC official Major Iqbal Shahriyar, Mostafa Al Masud and Akhikun Nahar Rupa were present.



A delegation of Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) visited Bangladesh Institute of Communication Studies and Public Relations (BICSPR) recently. BICSPR Executive Director Mirza Tarequl Qader, third from right, hands over a book on public relations published by the institute to PRSI President Samir Goswami, second from left. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University PRO Dilip Kumar Ghosh, PRSI Secretary General Biswajit Matilal, PRSI Kolkata Chapter Treasurer Dipankar Sanyal and Alpana Goswami are also seen.

47 bullets recovered in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police recovered an earthen jar containing 47 rifle bullets from the bank of a pond at Bagerhat Sadar upazila on Sunday evening.

The pond belongs to one Hakim Howlader of Gotapara union, police said. A general diary was filed in this connection.