

January 11, 2007

Hasina declares tougher actions

Indefinite Bangabhaban siege from Jan 14; blockade on Jan 14, 15, 17, 18; hartal threatened on Jan 21, 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vowing to resist the 'one-sided' January 22 polls at any cost, Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced fresh agitation programmes that include non-stop siege of the Bangabhaban, four-day blockade and two-day hartal.

"The Bangabhaban will be besieged for an indefinite period from January 14 and countrywide blockade will be enforced on January 14-15 and 17-18. If the processes of holding the one-sided election on January 22 is not



stopped despite these programmes, hartal will be enforced on January 21 and 22," Hasina said at a grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the capital.

The AL chief, flanked by former presidents HM Ershad and AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and key leaders of the grand alliance, also warned of continuing the hartal if the 'one-sided' election is held.

Ershad, Badruddoza, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Mostafa Amir Faisal and other top leaders of the alliance also spoke at the rally, asking their party workers

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Khaleda has not submitted tax papers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 25 other contestants of the upcoming election from seven Barisal constituencies did not submit the statements of their wealth, income and expenditure, and income tax returns yesterday although it was the last date for it.

According to election office sources, only four out of 30 contestants from the Barisal constituencies submitted their documents.

In accordance with the Representation of People Order 1972, the returning officer sent a letter to all the contestants on January 4, asking them to submit several documents within seven days from the last date for withdrawal of candidature (January 3).

The documents include statements for the sources of income for election expenditures, wealth and loans, details of yearly income and

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10 RMG units ransacked over rumour of worker's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Employees of around 20 garment factories in Tejgaon vandalised 10 factories and set fire to several vehicles yesterday following sudden shutdown of a factory and rumours of an employee being killed.

The vandals also took valuables including computers, garment items, furniture and even construction materials from the factories during their rampage.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) formed a 12-member committee to investigate the vandalism.

Sources said the incident took place a day after goons, led by one Mobarak, beat up workers of Padma Poly Cotton Knit Fabrics Ltd and confined five injured workers inside the factory, allegedly on the owner's directive.

They said workers of Padma factory became agitated around 7:30am yesterday when they found a notice hung on the main gate that said the factory has been closed sine die. The workers had been on strike on Tuesday following rumours of workers' leader Sayeed being killed by the owner's hired goons. The workers believed the body of Sayeed was hidden inside the Padma factory, sources said.

The agitating employees went to other factories in Tejgaon industrial area to demonstrate. As the protesters were urging workers of other factories to join their demonstration, owners of those factories reportedly stopped their workers from joining. Infuriated by this, the Padma workers attacked adjacent Nassa Group head office on the Tejgaon-Gulshan link road around 9:45am and smashed its windowpanes. Vehicular movement on the road was disrupted for about

four hours.

The agitators—numbering about 2,500—set fire to over 20 tyres kept in front of the nearby Hamim Garments factory.

"When we were asking the workers to come out and join us, the security guards swooped on us," claimed an agitating employee of Padma factory. However, Nassa officials said, "The demonstrators started throwing brickbats as our employees took some time to join them."

The demonstrators set fire to nine vehicles parked in front of

Nassa Group office and its security guards' room. They stormed into the building and ransacked the offices. They were also seen taking away garments, furniture, computers and other valuables from the office.

Officials of the Nassa Group head office claimed 35 of its employees were injured as they tried to stop the agitating workers from ransacking the offices.

Police arrived in the area and the workers left the spot an hour later. Witnesses claimed police did not take any actions against the dem-

onstrators.

They demonstrators later went to an under-construction building of Padma factory and took construction materials and parts of four covered vans and three cars. They later set fire to a machine in the Padma factory.

Police fired teargas canisters to disperse the agitators during the vandalism.

Meanwhile, the demonstrators tried to resist fire fighters from doing their jobs at Nassa, Padma and Hamim.

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PHOTO: STAR

Angry workers of a garment factory in Tejgaon torch several vehicles parked in front of an office on Gulshan-Tejgaon Link Road in the capital yesterday.

Workers turn the golden goose

Overseas employment doubles in 5 years; remittance flow goes up by 150pc

PORIMOL PALMA

The flow of remittance increased by about 150 per cent in last five years while overseas manpower employment doubled, with a record amount of remittance earned and the highest number of people migrated last year.

From January to November in 2006, Bangladeshi abroad sent around

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REMITTANCE SCENARIO 2001-06

Year	Amount of remittance (in millions)	Number of migrants
2001	\$ 2,071.03	1,88,965
2002	\$ 2,847.79	2,25,256
2003	\$ 3,177.63	2,54,190
2004	\$ 3,561.45	2,72,985
2005	\$ 4,249.87	2,52,702
2006	\$ 4,929.04 (till Nov)	3,81,516

Sources: Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET)

SEPARATION OF JUDICIARY SC gives govt 7 days to publish rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday ordered the government to publish various rules on separation of the judiciary through gazette notification within a week and remove major hurdles for the separation.

This order came when the attorney general (AG) said it will take more time to make effective various amendments of the rules for separation of the judiciary as the amended rules would be made effective through promulgation of an ordinance.

Visibly angered by the AG's submission, the court asked why the government would amend them anew when the court had already amended all the necessary rules.

The government has already

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CA seeks time on poll deferment proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President and Chief Adviser (CA) Iajuddin Ahmed sought time to give his decision on election deferment proposal when two advisers yesterday apprised him about the views of two rival political alliances on the January 22 election.

Sources said Advisers Mahbubul Alam and Yasmeen Mursheed met the CA at Bangabhaban and discussed the outcomes of the advisers' latest

meetings with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil.

After getting a 'go-ahead' signal from BNP, three advisers met Jalil on Tuesday and proposed to defer the election for over a month. But the AL side rejected the idea unless all their demands are met that included resignation of Iajuddin from the post of CA and correction of the voter roll.

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Khaleda asks people to resist bid to foil election

UNB, Chandina, Comilla

Taking a swipe at the Awami League-led alliance for its anti-election campaign, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged people to resist the alliance's move to foil the January 22 polls.

"Give the poll-boycott parties a befitting reply so that they never come to you to seek votes," she told a roadside public meeting at Chandina Bazar during her daylong electioneering in a number of places in the district.

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