

Expedition to CHT hills begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-month expedition of Nature Adventure Club and North Alpine Club Bangladesh begins today.

The clubs will start the expedition in at least 25 hills and lakes of Bandarban and Rangamati measuring at least 3,000 feet in heights.

The clubs have already formed a team consisting 10 members.

The team members are Wadud Mohsin Rubel, Musa Ibrahim, Sazzad Hossain, Nurul Riad Han, Shashanka Saha, Arman Khan, Sakib Ahmed, Mohammad Rafeh Uddin Siraji, Touhid Hossain and Debabrata Das Limon.

The team will measure the actual heights of the hills by global positioning system (GPS) device and altimeter and will set up nameplates in the hills.

The clubs will create a list of the peaks according to the information they have been gathering since 1990.

The expedition will end in October this year.



Members of Bangladesh Awami Sangskritik Forum re-enact a scene of August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally on the road in front of the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. The grenade attack that took place in the same place in 2004 left 24 AL leaders and activists dead and scores injured.

PHOTO: STAR

AL demands proper probe into Aug 21 grenade attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday demanded that the caretaker government carry out proper investigation into the August 21 grenade attack on a party rally in 2004 and ensure exemplary punishment of the attackers.

"Proper probe into the incident and trial of the culprits are yet to take place despite repeated demands at home and abroad," AL acting president Zillur Rahman said in a statement.

He, however, thanked this government for unveiling many mysteries behind the heinous attack through a fresh investigation.

Talking to journalists at his Gulshan residence in the city on the day, Zillur questioned this government's commitment to unmask the godfather behind the grenade attack. People hoped that the godfather would be identified through proper probe but the government has frustrated them, he said.

In his statement, the acting AL president said the then BNP-jamaat coalition government had in a planned way turned investigation into the incident a farce.

They showed no interest in any international probe even in the face of national and international demands, he mentioned.

To observe the day, the AL will place wreaths at a temporary memorial in front of its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue today. The party will also arrange a discussion at the central office, and special prayers for salvation of the departed souls.

On this day in 2004, a barrage of grenade blasts at an anti-terror rally of the AL killed 24 people including party leader Ivy Rahman, and wounded over 500 others. Almost the entire leadership of the party was present at the rally. Party chief Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped the attacks.

Zillur blamed the coalition government for the dreadful attack. Its main objective was to kill Hasina, he said.

He alleged that despite the presence of law enforcement agencies during the attack, no perpetrators were arrested. "Rather, police fired tear gas shells to help the attackers flee the scene. And the then government destroyed evidence of the attack," he claimed.



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