

Pro-BNP lawyers' protest begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (BJAF), a body of pro-BNP lawyers, yesterday announced a four-day programme in protest against what they said the government's interference in the work of judiciary and politicisation in all sectors.

The programmes are protest meeting and procession on Dhaka Bar Association premises at 3:00pm today, meetings and processions on different district bar premises tomorrow, human chain at the east gate of the Supreme Court building at 3:30pm on Thursday and meeting at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) auditorium at 9:00am on Sunday.

BJAF President Advocate TH Khan announced the programmes at a press conference at the south hall of the SCBA in the afternoon.

In a written statement, he said the government has been harassing the leaders and workers of opposition BNP by filing false cases and torturing them.

The attorney general has behaved with the Supreme Court judges in such a manner that some of the judges were bound to feel embarrassed, he said.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbub Alam yesterday denied any allegation of influencing the court and creating any pressure on the judges to manipulate any case.

Jamiruddin Sircar, Nazmul Huda, Ziaur Rahman Khan and Nasiruddin Asim were present at the press conference.

Tilted N'ganj bldgs to be demolished in 15 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The district administration has ordered the owner of one of the three five-storied tilted buildings in Narayanganj town to demolish her building at her own initiative within 15 days.

The administration has already sent a letter to Hosne Ara Begum, a teacher of Sastapur Kamar Ali High School at Fatulla, without causing any loss of life or property.

The administration took the decision to demolish the buildings on the basis of a

report of the Rajuk.

Administration sources said after the demolition of Hosne Ara's building the situation would be evaluated again and then the decision regarding other two buildings will be taken.

The three buildings, located in the densely populated area of Hajiganh, tilted on October 10 spreading panic among the local people.

The district administration evacuated the residents of the three buildings to avert any casualties.

An expert team of Rajuk visited the spot on October 11.



A contractor, also a leader of Awami League, is being taken to the hospital after he was injured in a clash between Jubo League men and Awami League activists at Nagar Bhaban in the city yesterday over tender dropping for the lease of a parking space in front of the Shishu Park. (Story on page 16)

BNP programmes to observe Nov 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition party BNP has announced a two-day programme to mark what the party terms 'national revolution and solidarity day' on November 7.

The programmes were taken at a meeting chaired by joint secretary general of the party and convener of the national revolution and solidarity day celebration committee Mirza Abbas at its Naya Paltan office yesterday.

The programmes include a discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh on November 6 and paying tribute at the grave of party founder and former president Ziaur Rahman on November 7, says a press release of the party.

District and upazila units of the party will also observe the day. Posters and pamphlets will be published on the occasion, the party said.

Prof Mansur joins Petrobangla as chairman

METRO DESK

Prof Dr Hossain Mansur of Department of Geology, Dhaka University, joined Petrobangla as its chairman on October 18, says a press release.

Earlier, in 2001 he was also the chairman of the organisation.

33 more Rohingyas arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Police held 33 more Rohingyas from different areas of Bandarban hill district Sunday night for illegally entering Bangladesh.

Of them, 26 were arrested from Roangchhari, three from Bandarban Sadar, two from Naikhhongchhari and two from Ali Kadam. The intruders include some 10 children.

Rohingyas arrested from Roangchhari and Bandarban

Sadar were brought to Bandarban Police Station yesterday morning.

Several of the Rohingyas are holding UNHCR card and enrolled in Kutupalong refugee camp, sources said.

Some of the arrested said timber merchants from different areas had brought them from the refugee camp for working on contract basis.

Police said the BDR would soon push them back to Myanmar through the Naikhhongchhari border.

Contribution of MA Samad to insurance sector recalled

METRO DESK

The 4th death anniversary of MA Samad, founder of Bangladesh General Insurance Co Ltd and one of the pioneers of insurance industry in the country, was observed on October 17.

On the occasion, a discussion on the life and works of MA Samad was held at the Ladies Club in the city, says a press release.

The speakers at the discussion recalled his pioneering role in the field of insurance industry, his contribution to the literary and cultural arena and his role in creating job opportunities and social service.

BGIC officers Abul Hasnat Jaigirdar, Nur-E-Zaman Albani, KM Azimullah and MA Aziz spoke at the discussion.

His only son and Chairman of BGIC Towhid Samad, Managing Director of BGIC AK Azizul Huq Chaudhuri, Additional Managing Director Ahmed Saifuddin Chowdhury and all officers and staff of the company were also present.

Towhid requested everyone present on the occasion to pray for the departed soul.

The function was conducted by Additional Managing Director Ahmed Saifuddin Chowdhury.

Dhaka seeks \$500m in aid to face climate change

Says ICCB bulletin editorial

METRO DESK

To recoup the current climate-change related losses, Bangladesh has sought \$500 million on an urgent basis as financial assistance from the UN and developed countries, said International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICCB), in the editorial of its quarterly news bulletin released on Sunday, says a press release.

"In addition, we have presented the country paper to the UN seeking a further \$5 billion as compensation for the next five years. We praise the timely initiative," read the editorial.

Climate change is having, and will continue to have strong, differential effects on people within and between countries and regions, for the present and future generations. Bangladesh is one of the worst affected among the countries that are facing the early impact of climate change, it said.

"However, Bangladesh must participate effectively and raise the compensation issue in the negotiations leading to the 192-nation UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen during December 09.

The developed countries have the responsibility to cut their emissions to sustainable levels, and at the same time help us overcome the consequences of their actions," added the

editorial.

The United Nations warns that a quarter of Bangladesh's coastline could be inundated, and about 17% of the land mass go under water, if the sea rises 3 feet in the next 50 years; roughly 30 million Bangladeshis will be displaced from their homes and farms, making them "climate refugees".

According to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) after the 2030s, river flows could drop dramatically, turning the great glacier-fed rivers of Asia into seasonal monsoon-fed rivers. As a result, water shortages in Asia could affect more than a billion people by the 2050s. The impact of higher temperatures, more variable precipitation, extreme weather events (including intense floods, droughts, and storms) and sea

level rise are already felt in Bangladesh and will continue to intensify.

Industry fair begins today

DU CORRESPONDENT

A four-day undergraduate project workshop and an industry fair will begin at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) today.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will inaugurate the function, organised by Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering of the university.



PHOTO: COURTESY

A discussion on the life and works of MA Samad was held at the Ladies Club in the city recently.

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