



Jatiya Bhokta Mancha forms a human chain in front of National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting price hike of essentials and use of toxic substances in food items on the occasion of the Consumer Rights Day.

## 3 Huji men on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed three Harkatul Jihad (Huji) members on a three-day remand in a case filed against them for their alleged involvement in anti-state activities across the country.

Metropolitan Magistrate Kamrunahar remanded three Huji men after Mohammadpur police produced Idris Ali, Abdul Latif and Shakhawat Hossain Dulal before it with a seven-day remand prayer.

In the forwarding report, Sub-Inspector Afzal Hossain, also the IO of the case, said the three accused are directly involved in anti-state activities across the country. So, they need to be remanded to find out vital clues about their activities and to know whereabouts of their accomplices.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested them from Mohammadpur area on Sunday.

## CASE AGAINST MOEEN Hearing on Tuku's petition adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing till April 24 on the petition filed by former state minister for energy Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku seeking attachment of properties of former army chief General Moeen U Ahmed before judgment.

Judge SM Saiful Islam of the Third Joint District Judge's Court passed the order following a time petition submitted by Moeen's lawyers seeking adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition, lawyers said their client had earlier appealed to the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the lower court's rejection order seeking dismissal of Tuku's Tk 100 crore defamation case.

But the HC upheld the lower court order saying that Tuku's case would continue. Their client would file an appeal with the Supreme Court against rejection order of the HC. So, they prayed for adjournment of the hearing, lawyers said.

## BCL FACTIONAL CLASH AT EDEN COLLEGE

# 4 expelled for protesting admission trade

DU CORRESPONDENT

Four leaders of Eden Girls' College BCL were expelled from the organisation on Saturday as they protested 'admission trade' and 'torture' of fellow activists by president and general secretary of the college unit.

BCL central president Mahmud Hasan Ripon took the unilateral decision to expel the four following clashes between two factions of BCL on the college campus on Friday, sources said.

Ripon violated the constitution of the BCL by expelling the four leaders, they said, adding that but he did not take any organisational action against two top leaders of the college unit who are involved in torturing fellow leaders and 'allocating dormitory seats and managing admissions of first year honours students in exchange for handsome amount of money'.

According to the BCL constitution, only central executive committee can

expel members of any unit after investigations. But in this case, Ripon took the decision unilateral.

He even threatened to oust the four from the college dormitory and hand over them to the police if they again protest the misdeeds of the two leaders -- college unit president Selina Shamima Nijhum and general secretary Farzana Yasmin Tania, the sources said.

The two leaders have also given Ripon a handsome share of the admission and seat trade since the AL-led grand alliance government assumed office, the sources added.

Different sources said the two female leaders managed admission of about 900 students in exchange for Tk 30,000 or Tk 50,000 from each student.

The four expelled leaders -- vice president Champa Khatun, organising secretary Sharmin Sultana Sharmi and Tania Sultana Happy and assistant secretary Kaniz Fatema -- revolted against the two top leaders on Friday.

"We have registered our protest since Nijhum had been torturing us over the years," Sharmi said.

Sources said Ripon had a meeting with Nijhum and Tania only few days before the start of admission process.

The college unit of BCL was formed on December 15 in 2006 and its tenure expired two years ago, but no new committee has been formed as yet. Nijhum and Tania got admission in the college under session 1996-97, the expelled leaders said.

When contacted, Ripon dismissed the allegation of taking money from the two leaders as false and baseless.

The four leaders were expelled for their anti-organisational activities, he said.

When asked for comment, Vice Principal of the college Ayesha Begum said, "As far as I know, there were no irregularities in the admission process and everything has been done in accordance with the National University rules."

## Reunion of Kanthashilon Mar 18-20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The reunion of Kanthashilon, a cultural organisation, will be held at the Public Library auditorium in the city on March 18-20, celebrating the birth anniversary of its principal Wahidul Haque today.

The organisers said this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday.

As part of the celebration, different programmes have been chalked out.

On the first day, a discussion will be held along with poetry recitation and performance by child artistes.

Ramendu Majumdar, former president of Sammilita Sanskritik Jote, Asaduzzaman Nur, president of Bangladesh Abritti Samannaya Parishad, Liaquat Ali, president Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, and Habibullah Straji, president of Bangladesh Kabita Parishad, will be present on the occasion.

Kanthashilon President Artists Quayyum Chowdhury and Convener Golam Sarwar also spoke at the press conference.

## Call to protect consumers' rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumer Rights Day 2010 was observed yesterday with a call for making the National Consumer Rights Protection Directorate truly effective, which commenced its operation the same day.

Different organisations marked the day with the rest of the world with processions, human chains and meetings demanding proper implementation of the Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009.

Consumer rights campaigners urged the law enforcers to take tough action against the use of toxic substances in food product, pilferage, overpricing and hoarding by unscrupulous traders and businessmen.

They also urged the consumers to unite against malpractice and become more active in upholding their rights.

Bangladesh Consumer Rights Society brought out a procession and formed a human chain near the

National Press Club in the capital.

Md Samsul Haque, chairman of the society, said, "The government should make sure that the newly established directorate does not turn into another ineffective body. There is an urgent need to expand its work in all districts and upazilas in order to implement the consumers' rights law more effectively."

Save the Rural Development Association also formed a human chain near the National Press Club.

While addressing the human chain, Arifur Rahman Murad, executive director of the association, said, "Those who are maximising profit by using toxic substances in food are actually slow poisoning people to death. Many big names are guilty of such crimes."

They should be termed wanted criminals for what they had done, he added.

SRDA demanded awarding culprits up to 10 years from the current penalty of 2 years.

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