

## Govt not giving power connections for grand rally: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the government is not giving temporary electricity connections for its Dhaka divisional grand rally scheduled for May 19 at Paltan Maidan.

"We've requested Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) for electricity supply for few hours. But the government organisation said it cannot provide sufficient wire needed for that," Nazrul Islam Khan, a standing committee member of the party, said at a press briefing at BNP's city unit office at Nayapaltan.

He also alleged that Dhaka Metropolitan Police did not entertain their request allowing them to make publicity prior to the rally. "We will hold a peaceful rally in Dhaka. Our supporters from every area across the capital will join the rally."

Party leaders said they sought 100KV power connections for using 250 microphones as well as for digital display at the Paltan rally.

On Thursday, DPDC informed BNP through a letter that the power, energy and mineral resources ministry on March 29 put an embargo on new connections for three months. So, it is not possible for them to give temporary power connection to operate mechanical equipment at the rally.

About DPDC decision, the BNP leader said they applied for electricity connections for few hours not for a mill or industry.

Khan, also coordinator of Dhaka grand rally, urged the authorities to give the electricity connections shunning any lame excuse.

Earlier, BNP Chairperson Khaleda declared from her Rajshahi rally on May 5 that she would announce party's anti-government programmes from the fifth divisional 'grand rally' in Dhaka.

Replying a question about government's plan to hike of electricity price, Khan said BNP cannot appreciate the decision as the government has failed to supply adequate power.

BNP leaders Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Abdus Salam, Shirin Sultana, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annee MP, among others, were present at the briefing.

## Enforce laws to stop use of chemicals in fruit

Environmentalists urge govt

DU CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday demanded strong monitoring and execution of laws to stop use of toxic chemicals for ripening and preserving seasonal fruits.

They feared that a section of businessmen might use chemicals to ripen fruits including mango, litchi and jackfruit at the beginning of their arrival in markets.

The environmentalists made the demands from a human chain jointly organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) and Green Mind Society on the Dhaka University campus.

They said despite drives by mobile courts and

directives from the High Court to stop use of the chemicals, every year poison-mixed fruits arrive in the markets.

The speakers demanded the government increase the amount of fine for using the chemicals and ensure exemplary punishment to culprits who use poisonous materials in the fruits.

A good number of students from different educational institutions took part in the hour-long human chain from 10:30am.

Among others, Bapa Chairman Abu Naser Khan, its Vice-president Syed Sagiruzzaman Saki and President of Green Mind Society Amir Hasan spoke in the protest programme.



Save the Environment Movement, an environmental organisation, stages a demonstration at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding steps to stop use of toxic chemicals in fruit.

## Regional climate change confce begins May 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day conference of 'Global Climate Change Alliance of Asia Region' will begin in Dhaka on May 30.

With the assistance of European Union, Bangladesh will host the conference. Representatives from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Yemen will attend the conference.

Stefan Frowein, ambassador of the European Union, met State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud at his office on Thursday and discussed several issues relating to the conference.



Children engrossed in drawing pictures at an art competition organised by Kendriya Khelaghar Asar on the Fine Arts faculty premises at Dhaka University yesterday.

## PROMINENT HOUSING Flat owners accuse developer of frauds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 200 flat owners of the Prominent Housing yesterday accused the housing authorities of not providing all the facilities they promised in their prospectus.

The flat owners also said they have made all payments to the housing authorities, Mahanagari Traders Ltd., but still did not get the flat registration documents.

They brought the allegations of fraud against the Mahanagari Traders Ltd. at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

Reading out a written statement, Molla Bashir Ahmed, a flat owner, said they are living in the flats at Adabar in the city for the last one and a half decade, but the authorities still did not provide many facilities they promised during purchase of flats.

He also called for withdrawal of cases filed against the flat owners, including the president of Prominent Housing Flat Malik Kalyan Samity.

He also demanded that the housing authorities give registration documents to the flat owners, provide all facilities they promised in the prospectus, complete all the unfinished construction work and refrain from selling any part of the buildings.

Flat owners Abdul Hamid Mia, Khurshid Rahman Nayna, Bashir Ahmed Panna, Rafiqul Alam Khan and Mizanur Rahman also spoke at the press conference.



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## 'AL to unveil info about Khaleda's legalised money'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League will not let the main opposition BNP create anarchy and increase public suffering in the name of anti-government movement.

The ruling party will also unveil information about the undisclosed money of Khaleda Zia after enquiry and take legal action in this regard, said AL spokesperson at a press conference yesterday.

"People demand unveiling the information about sources of the money that Khaleda Zia legalised. There should be a probe into the matter and legal action should be taken so that none can commit such crime sitting at the helm of state power," said AL acting General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif.

The AL leader said legalisation of undisclosed money is a tactic to evade tax. Tax evasion by such a person holding the highest position of power is unacceptable for the nation, he added.

Hanif read out a written speech and answered the questions journalists asked at the conference at AL president's

political office in Dhanmondi.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has threatened to announce an anti-government movement at a rally on May 19 in the capital.

"We will face the opposition's movements through establishing peace," said Hanif, also a special assistant to the prime minister.

About BNP's allegation of obstructing their programmes, he said neither the government nor the ruling party created obstacles to any opposition programmes in last 16 months of the government.

He alleged that the BNP was trying to destabilise the country by giving false statements on many issues.

The main Opposition Leader Khaleda even wants to destroy sanctity of the courts by giving false and fabricated statements over judiciary, appointment of judges and normal functioning of courts, added the AL leader.

AL leaders AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Mrinal Kanti Das, Afzal Hossain, Sujit Roy Nandi, Aminul Islam, among others, were present at the press conference.

## Suo moto rule on four SC lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench on Thursday issued a suo moto rule upon four Supreme Court lawyers and their two clients to explain within three weeks why contempt of court proceedings should not be drawn against them for concealing information of a writ petition filed earlier.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Delwar Hossain passed the order as they moved a writ petition challenging the formation of the governing body of a school in Chapainawabganj district,

although a similar petition was rejected earlier by another HC bench.

The bench also directed them to appear before it on May 24 in this connection, and asked them to explain why they should not be punished under the penal code on charge of cheating with the bench.

The lawyers are Dr Jamilur Akhter, Abdur Rouf, Md Abdul Hamid and Md Abdul Khaleque and their clients are Sarwar Jahan, former principal of Shahpara Girls High School and College at Shibganj in Chapainawabganj district, and its former headmaster Afsar Hossain.

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