

Enacting law on hartal autocratic move: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Enacting a law on hartal is nothing but the government's autocratic move, said BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday.

"A law cannot stop hartal as it is the democratic right of people," he said while talking to reporters at party founder late president Ziaur Rahman's grave in the city.

Delwar went there to place wreaths and offer fateha at the Zia's grave on the occasion of the release of Jatiyatabadi Motshajibi Dal President Rafiqul Islam Mahtab arrested during the June 27 hartal.

The BNP leader mentioned that everyone speaks against hartal while in power and stands in favor of hartal being in the opposition but a law cannot

keep people from exercising their rights.

"It was Awami League who had called hartal 130 days in 2001-06 and 173 days in 1991-96 during the BNP-led government. Even they promised not to enforce any hartal when they were in power but did not keep the commitment when in opposition," he added.

He also denied the allegation recently raised by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that BNP called hartal to avert the trial of war crimes, saying that BNP is in favour of the trial but the government seeks to gain political advantage in the name of trying war criminals.

Members of Awami League must be tried first for war crimes if the government really wants to try war criminals, he said.

President asks PGR to be loyal to leadership

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday asked the President Guard Regiment (PGR) to perform their duties being fully loyal to the leadership with supreme professional competence and firm determination.

"I hope you'll carry out the responsibility entrusted upon you being completely loyal to the leadership," he said addressing the Darbar of PGR at Shaheed Capt Hafiz Hall at the PGR Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment, marking its 35th founding anniversary.

Zillur said he has a plan to further increase the strength of elite PGR considering the importance and magnitude of their duty.

He said he was impressed to see the integrity, devotion and above all sense of discipline and professional efficiency of PGR members

while discharging their duties by taking risks in their lives.

Terming the duties of PGR as prestigious but risky, he said the range and area of duties of the PGR have increased with the demand of time and the manpower of regiment has been increased accordingly.

He recalled that greatest Bangalee of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who established the PGR on this day in 1975 by recruiting smart officers and soldiers of Bangladesh Army.

President hoped that the PGR would continue its standard in future and also participate in nation-building activities along with their regular duties.

Chief of the three services, the PGR Commandant, and high military and civil officials were present on the occasion.



President Zillur Rahman cuts a cake at the PGR Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, marking the 35th founding anniversary of the President Guard Regiment.



People vent anger on a vessel at Tanbajar Ghat in Narayanganj yesterday morning as their relatives are still missing after an engine boat capsized Sunday night. (Story on Page 16)

Khulna city Jamaat chief, nine others sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

City Ameer of Jamaat Mian Golam Parwar and nine others of the party were sent to Khulna district Jail yesterday.

A team of police officers interrogated them after taking them on remand twice since their arrest on June 30.

The OC of Khulna Sadar Police Station Mamun Khan said that charged sheet against the arrested persons would be pressed to the court on July 11 in a case filed against them on June 30 under the speedy trial tribunal act.

SI Monirul Islam, investigation officer of the case, said they have enough evidence to prove the allegations brought against them.

During the interrogation, the arrested Jamaat and Shibir leaders have given many important information about their plan for carrying out destructive activities in the city, he added.

UNPLANNED URBANISATION Forum to launch research

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of professionals including some real estate businessmen launched a new forum yesterday with the aim of conducting research and making recommendations about unplanned urbanisation, industrialisation, traffic congestion and other social problems.

Their organisation Forum for Physical Development of Bangladesh (FPD) is a non-profit making and non-political platform to enhance the socio-economic, cultural and technological capacity of the city ensuring good governance through advocacy, they said.

"One of the main objectives of the organisation would be to solve various important problems of the country", said Chairman of FPD Toufiq M Seraj, also a former president of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) at the launching programme held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

He said the problems looming over the country right now include earthquake, fire in different buildings, unplanned urbanisation, traffic congestion, unplanned industrialisation, reduced farmland. The FPD will conduct technical research on the issues and present realistic recommendations.

Executive Director of FPD Kazi Anis Uddin Iqbal in his presentation said their other objectives include exploration, verification and review of development programmes, organising discussions, seminars, lectures, conferences and dialogues among professionals, creating awareness among people, organising research on specific subjects through groups of professionals and identifying gaps and potential in technology.

Others on the board of directors of FPD are: member secretary Mahmudul Hassan, director finance, Tanveerul Haque Probal, former president of REHAB, Kutubuddin Ahmed, former BGMFA president, Choudhury Jamal Ashraf and Rabiul Alam.

CONTEMPT OF COURT 4 Amar Desh journos asked to appear before SC today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of Supreme Court (SC) yesterday directed four journalists of recently closed the Bengali daily Amar Desh to appear before it today in a contempt of court petition against them.

The respondents are publisher of the newspaper Hashmat Ali, Deputy Editor Syed Abdal Ahmed, News Editor Mustahid Ahmed and Staff Reporter Aliullah Noman.

SC lawyers Riaz Uddin Khan and Mynul Hassan filed the petition for publishing a report in the Amar Desh with the headline "Chamber manel sarkar pakkhe stay" translated to "Chamber bench means stay order in favour of the government" on April 21.

The four journalists yesterday appeared before the SC in connection with the same petition as per its earlier order.

A six-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Mohammed Fazlul Karim asked them to appear today to have a hearing on the matter.

The SC on June 2 ordered Mahmudur Rahman and four others to appear yesterday in connection with the contempt of court petition. It also issued a rule asking them to explain why they should not be punished on charge of publishing news which commits gross contempt of court.

Barrister Abdur Razzq, counsel for the respondents, told the court that Mahmudur could not appear before the court as he is arrested in other cases.

Teacher shot by robbers in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Masked robbers shot a teacher and looted his house keeping the family members at gunpoint in the capital's Uttara early yesterday.

Injured Khairul Bashar is an assistant professor of Rajuk Model College. He is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Khairul and his family live on the first floor of an apartment building on road-1 in sector-6 of Uttara.

The family claimed that the robbers took 55 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 1.45 lakh and other valuables from the house during the hour-long robbery.

Police arrested Abul Kashem, 22, from Tongi area in this connection yesterday. The victim family identified the man as one of the robbers, said Deputy Commissioner (DC) Nisarul Arif of Uttara division.

Khairul's brother Kamrul Hossain said the gang of six to seven robbers forced them to handover the keys at gunpoint.

"When Khairul cried out for help, the robbers shot at in both his legs and held our one-year-old niece Raya at knife-point snatching the child from her mother's lap," said Kamrul, adding that although Khairul was bleeding profusely they could not take him to hospital as the robbers had threatened them to kill.

After the robbers had left, Khairul was taken to Bangladesh Medical Hospital from where he was later shifted to DMCH.

DC Nisarul said, the robbers first broke the lock on the collapsible gate and got into Khairul's sister's bedroom through a window around 3:00am. They then masked their faces with clothes and gathered all the family members in a room.

World Cup Fest held

METRO DESK

Robi, a mobile phone operator, and Hotel Agrabad, and Chittagong jointly organised the World Cup Fest 2010 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city on Saturday evening.

The event was held to provide a common platform to bring together the corporate clients of Robi and Hotel Agrabad. It also marked the completion of 40 years of Hotel Agrabad, said a press release.

The main attraction of the event was the live telecast of the quarter final match between Argentina and Germany. A cultural programme was also held at the event where band 'Warfage' and singer Elita performed.

Business personalities and senior officials from corporate sector lauded this initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, chief marketing officer of Robi Bidyut Kumar Basu said, "Robi is happy to organise such an event that brings together corporate world and the service sectors."

CEO of Hotel Agrabad Hakim Ali expressed gratitude to Robi for supporting the event.



Chief marketing officer of Robi Bidyut Kumar Basu speaks at the World Cup Fest 2010 evening at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city on Saturday.



Garment workers vandalise some vehicles and blockade Narayanganj-Demra road yesterday protesting closure of the Haylen Sweater Factory in Adamjee EPZ. (Story on Page 16)

Opposite to Grameen Phone Head Office & Jamuna Future Park

bddi
BADAR HEIGHT

@
Bashundhara
Apt size: 1859 - 2125 sqft.

Real opening to the South (150') & to the west (100')

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