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Member REHAB



Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971, a platform of 116 organisations, forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday demanding reinstatement of the four fundamental principles of the 1972 constitution. PHOTO: STAR

Restore four principles of '72 constitution

116 organisations urge govt at human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of 116 socio-cultural organisations at a human chain yesterday urged the government to restore the four basic principles of 1972 constitution to build a secular and non-communal Bangladesh.

They also demanded exclusion of "Bismillah," from the constitution and said no religion should be declared as the state religion in it.

The original 1972 constitution had four basic principles: Secularity, Nationalism, Democracy and Socialism (meaning economic and social justice for all). However, later amendments replaced Secularity with "Absolute trust and faith in the Almighty Allah shall be the basis of all actions."

The 116 organisations jointly organised the mega programme from Mritika Babhan at Farmgate to Asad Gate in the city at 9:30am

yesterday.

The organisations include Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, Sector Commanders' Forum, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Jano Sanghati Samiti, Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Bangladesh Muktiyuddah Sangsad.

Hundreds of people from all walks of life joined the one-kilometer long human chain.

Lawmakers Rashed Khan Menon and Moinuddin Khan Badal, former Army chief KM Shafiullah, Shahriar Kabir, freedom fighter CR Datta, Sector Commanders' Forum Vice President Abu Osman Chowdhury, former chairman of Muktiyuddha Sangsad Central Command Council Abdul Ahad Chowdhury and its present chairman Helal Morshed Khan, among others, joined the human chain.

Brazil wants deals with Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Brazil has proposed signing an umbrella agreement with Bangladesh for cooperation in various potential sectors, including agriculture, health, education and sports.

Ambassador Maria Edileuza Fontenele Reis, Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs II of Brazilian Ministry of External Relations told diplomatic correspondents at Brazil Embassy in the city yesterday.

She also expressed willingness to strengthen political and economic cooperation with Bangladesh, saying that Bangladesh is a good destination for overseas investment.

Reis arrived here on June 12 on a three-day visit.

Reis said cooperation can take place in transport sector in making buses and trucks and in civil engineering for construction of infrastructure as they do it in China, Russia, India, Middle East, EU and USA.

She said Brazil can import pharmaceutical products from Bangladesh. A trade mission will visit Bangladesh to explore the new avenues of trade and investment to reduce the trade gap between the two countries, she added.

She hoped that Bangladesh would also establish its mission in Brazil shortly. Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes will visit Brazil at end of July or early August in this respect.

Three commit suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two female domestic helps and a housewife allegedly committed suicide in the city's Mohammadpur, Kamrangir Char and Hazaribagh yesterday.

Police recovered hanging body of domestic help Nargis Akhter, 15, from her employer's house at Bizli Mahalla of Mohammadpur in the morning.

Nargis worked at Anwar Hossain's house in the area. Victim's relatives termed the incident a murder.

Meanwhile, police recovered the body of a female domestic help from her employer's house at Ashrafabad of Kamrangirchar.

Rezina Akhter, 18, daughter of Suruj Miah, worked at Samsul Kabir's house in the area.

Police said Rezina committed suicide hanging her from an iron rod with scarf in the rooftop around 8:00am.

A housewife allegedly committed suicide following a quarrel with her husband at their house in the Staff Quarter area of Jigatola of Hazaribagh.

Victim Nadira Zerine Ivy, 23, used to stay at a flat with her husband Shahdat Hossain.

KALPANA CHAKMA 'Make public report on her abduction'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday demanded immediate disclosure of the enquiry report on the kidnapping of Kalpana Chakma and punishment of the abductors.

At a human chain in front of the National Museum, they also demanded constitutional recognition of the Adivasis.

Hill Women's Federation (HWF) and Pahari Chhatra Parishad jointly organised it on the 15th anniversary of Kalpana's disappearance.

Kalpana Chakma, the then organising secretary of HWF, was kidnapped from her residence at New Lallahona in Bhaghaichhari upazila, Rangamati on June 12, 1996.

MISSING BOY

PM's help sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of Janala Nandi Palin, 16, who went missing a week ago, yesterday urged for prime minister's intervention to seek out their son and ensure security for the family.

They made the request holding a press conference at Crimes Reporters Association of Bangladesh Office in the city.

Vivek Nandi, father of Palin, alleged that their neighbour Mahabbat Ali along with some others abducted Palin from New Circular Road for ransom on June 8.

"Although we filed a case with Ramna Police Station seven days ago, neither police nor Rab did anything to find out Palin or to arrest the accused," said Nandi.

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