



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON AND ANISUR RAHMAN

**JCD president on two-day remand**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed President of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Sultan Salahuddin Tuku on a two-day remand, hours after his arrest from the city's Gulshan area in a case of pre-hartal arson that killed a taxicab passenger last year.

Detective Branch (DB) of police produced Tuku before the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court seeking a 10-day remand for grilling him. Magistrate Harun-Or-Rashid granted remand for two days.

Tuku is one of the brothers of former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, a detainee in the August 21 grenade attack cases. His two other fugitive brothers -- Maulana Tajuddin and Ratul Babu -- are also accused in the cases.

Detectives picked him up from one of his brother's house in Gulshan around 3:00am for his involvement in the arson that killed taxicab passenger Faruk Hossain at Moghbazar on June 26 night last year, Md Monirul Islam, deputy commissioner of DB (south), told The Daily Star.

Hartal supporters allegedly set a taxicab fire near Moghbazar level crossing and Faruk was burnt alive as he could not get out of the car.

"Police arrested me to harass politically," claimed the JCD chief at the DB office premises.

**30-HOUR HARTAL Religion-based parties' showdown July 8**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The alliance of 12 political parties, most of them religion-based, yesterday announced to stage rally and demonstration across the country Friday (July 8) in support of the 30-hour hartal the alliance has called for July 10-11.

At a press briefing, the alliance leaders vowed they will "go tough" if the government does not reinstate the phrase "absolute faith and trust in the almighty Allah" in the constitution.

"We will mount tough movement across the country against the present anti-Islamic government for deleting absolute trust and full faith in Allah from the constitution", Abdur Rob Yusuf, vice-president of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, said during the briefing at its headquarters in the city's Purana Paltan.



**Drive against illegal realtors**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two teams of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday pulled down around 115 billboards and signboards of eight illegal housing projects in Tongi, Kaliganj, Gazipur, and Khilkhet.

Rajuk Executive Magistrate Rokon-ud-Doula led one team at Isapura, Patira, Bariya, and Chani in Khilkhet on the river Balu and knocked down 62 billboards and signboards of two illegal housing projects.

"We have... also demolished a 150-foot long wall of Bhuluwa Royal City," said Rokon.

Also knocked down were 29 structures of Bhuluwa Royal City and 32 hoardings of Baridhara River View City.

AKM Maruf Hasan and Shahidul Islam Bhuiyan, executive magistrates of Rajuk, led the other team that pulled down 51 billboards and signboards of six illegal housing projects in

Tongi, Gazipur, and Kaliganj.

The demolished structures include 40 billboards of Tepantor Housing Society, one billboard of Purbachal Rizen Town, five signboards of Shahjalal City, three signboards of Green City, one billboard of Sikadar City, and two hoardings of Rupantor City.

Rajuk has been in action since June 22 following the High Court's directives on June 8, asking the government to stop the development of 77 unauthorised housing projects in and around Dhaka within 30 days.

According to Rajuk, the action is taken as the realtors have been implementing projects violating the Wetland Protection Act, 2000 and the rules for land development.

The Rajuk, during its drive, also pulled down hoardings in front of Ruposhi Bangla Hotel at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city.



**Raise awareness to ease traffic jam: PM**

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to raise mass awareness on obeying traffic rules to avoid road accident and reducing traffic congestion.

"You have to take steps to raise mass awareness on traffic rules through media as well as educational institutions to prevent road accident and traffic jam," she said at a function while handing over the keys of BRTC buses to the heads of different educational institutions at her office.

"We have to maintain check and balance between public and private transports through raising number of BRTC buses so that people could avail the service in affordable fares," she added.

Expressing her desire for expansion of BRTC, she said every country, poor or rich, has public sector transportation system to maintain check and balance with the private sector.

On introduction of special buses for the women passengers by her government in the country, Hasina asked the authorities concerned to change colour of those buses so that everybody could easily identify those.

She asked the authorities concerned to impart the drivers adequate training to reduce road accident.

Later, the PM handed over keys of the buses to the heads of different educational institutions, including Dhaka University, Chittagong University, Jahangirnagar University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University and Begum Rokeya University.

**LDP's moral support to hartal**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extending moral support to today's hartal, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Oli Ahmad yesterday said the opposition should go for a non-stop hartal against the government considering the country's present situation.

"We won't participate in the 48-hour hartal, though we support it morally. I think the opposition should go for an indefinite hartal as this is the only option to realise demands," he told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium at Segunbagicha in the city.

The opposition should call hartal for a month before the Ramadan instead for a day or two to match with what Awami League did when in opposition, noted the lone LDP lawmaker adding, people want caretaker government system as the political parties have no trust in each other.

On Indian prime minister's recent remark that 25 percent Bangladeshis are anti-Indian, Oli insisted it is more than 90 percent and Bangladesh did not get anything from India.

**Prof Saleh died due to docs' negligence Speakers tell human chain**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Speakers at a human chain yesterday protested the death of Prof Abu Nasser M Saleh, a professor of Physiology department of Rajshahi University, following doctors' negligence at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

They formed the huge human chain at Shaheb Bazar Zero Point in the city.

They placed nine-point demand at the event and urged the authorities concerned to implement the demand immediately for ensuring proper health services at the hospital.

Different professional bodies, businessmen, teachers and social, cultural and development activities joined the event organised under the banner of Rajshahi Writers' Council.

The demands include punishment of those doctors who are responsible for Prof Saleh's death, establishment of incentive care unit near the emergency unit of RMCH, setting up cardiology unit on its ground floor instead of its present position.

The speakers alleged that Prof Saleh died almost without treatment due to negligence of the doctors.

Saleh was "wrongly diagnosed" at the emergency department of the hospital where he was taken with chest pain and referred him to the respiratory unit instead of cardiology department.

"If a university teacher has to die without treatment at the government hospital, the condition of common people can be easily presumed," said Prof Ruhul Amin Pramanik, president of the council.

Mir Iqbal, Liakat Ali Liku, Abdullah Al Masud Shibli, freedom fighter Abdul Mannan, Prof Fazlul Haque, Selim Sabrin, Jamaat Khan, Kolpona Roy, Jalal Uddin and Kamarullah Sarker also spoke.

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