## S Asian rights body worried as HC summons to Asif Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR), a voluntary people's organisation, has expressed concern over the High Court's summoning of Dr Asif Nazrul, a law professor at Dhaka University, for his recent comment on a television talk show about Bangladesh politics.

SAHR noted in a statement that the professor's comment in no way suggested that any party would come to power by any means, which might have been considered undemocratic and that the comment should not form the basis for a sedition charge.

Prof Nazrul commented at a live talk show on Bangla Vision on March 12 that if the prime minister and the opposition leader were asked who would come to the power next, they would perhaps reply that a third power would.

On March 15, the HC asked him to appear on March 21 to explain this comment, but could not proceed with the rule as a judge of the two-member bench was on leave, and from March 23 the court went on vacation till April 8.

Prof Asif Nazrul is a constitutional law expert and a bureau member of SAHR from Bangladesh. He writes on legal and political issues in newspapers and journals. SAHR hoped in the state-

ment, signed by its Chairperson Hina Jilani and Co-Chairperson Nimalka Fernando, that the rights to freedom of expression would be respected in this case, and people's constitutional rights would always be defended by the Bangladesh High Court.



Activists of Bangabandhu Projonmo League, a pro-ruling party body, attack a rickshaw carrying a megaphone of Deshnetri Forum, a pro-BNP organisation, before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Pro-AL men foil pro-BNP event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The supporters of a pro-ruling party body foiled the human chain programme of a pro-BNP organisation, Deshnetri Forum, in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Bangabandhu Projonmo League activists and supporters also assaulted the BNP workers and vandalised the loudspeakers and a rickshaw in presence of police. Deshnetri Forum workers ran for safety into the press club.

Around 50 activists of Deshnetri Forum formed the chain around 10:30am, while the pro-Awami League formed its human chain in front of the Forum's, leading to a dispute.

At one point, the pro-AL supporters vandalised a loudspeaker and a rickshaw where the megaphone was kept and assaulted Deshnetri Forum's supporters.

Vehicular movement was halted on the road due to the incident for some time.

Deshnetri Forum chairman Shahid Chowdhury alleged that the pro-AL activists intentionally attacked them in presence of police and the prime minister to take action against the culprits who assaulted BNP men and did vandalism.

Shahid Chowdhury told this to journalists at the press club premises, while Bangabandhu Projonmo League was holding its programme outside.

The pro-AL organisation leaders however claimed in their speeches that their activists did not assault anyone.

Deshnetri Forum organised the human chain demanding clearing BNP leader Tarique Rahman of arms haul charges, while Bangabandhu Projonmo League formed the human chain demanding ban on fundamentalism in politics and immediate trial of war criminals.

State Minister for Law Advocate Quamrul Islam told the pro-AL programme that the ruling party activists had shown enough tolerance compared to that of BNP.

He also said no one could prevent the war crimes trial, and the trial of some war criminals would be completed by this year.

## Architect Muzharul flown abroad for treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent architect and urban planner Muzharul Islam was sent abroad on Thursday for better treatment as his physical condition was critical due to old-age complications.

Muzharul, now 89, was admitted to Bangkok Hospital, Thailand, his daughter Dalia Nausheen said, adding that he had been under treatment for about last 50 days in a city hospital.

Muzharul is considered the "Grand Master" of regional modernism in South Asian architecture. His style and influence dominated the architectural scene in Bangladesh in the 1960s and 1970s.

Muzharul Islam started his career by designing two buildings in 1955--the Dhaka University Central Library and the Institute of Arts and Crafts (Art Institute Dhaka).

For his contribution, Muzharul Islam received a number of awards including Master Jury of the First Aga Khan Award for Architecture in Geneva in 1980.

If we take history as a reference - we'll see that Chittagong has played the kingpin in producing many renowned brands. The Daily Star Brands Expo is an ideal platform which will add value and prospect to highlight all these brands to the widest possible scale.

The time for participation in the Brands Expo has been extended due to the popular brand interests.

For registration please contact: 01841715555, 01841730730 email: odommo-chattagram@thedailystar.net odommo.chattagram@gmail.com

















