

BNP hatching conspiracy again against Padma bridge

Alleges Nanak

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League Joint General Secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak yesterday alleged that the main opposition BNP has indulged in conspiracy again against the Padma bridge project following the World Bank's return to the deal.

"The main opposition hatched conspiracy when the government had launched the Padma bridge project. They're again conspiring when the World Bank staged a comeback," he said.

Nanak, also state minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, was talking to reporters after a programme organised by Shyamoli Ideal Polytechnic Institute at Mohammadpur in the capital.

He alleged that BNP is now talking tall talks about the Padma bridge project. "It's the previous Awami League government that had completed the feasibility study on the project... BNP did nothing in its last tenure," he added.

Nanak termed the World Bank's reengagement in Padma bridge project a rare example in its history.

"The World Bank has decided to reengage in the project as it has become clear to it after investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission that there had been no corruption in the project. This is unprecedented in the World Bank's history," he said.

Nanak urged the BNP leadership to refrain from misguiding the people in the interest of the country, and work for welfare of the people.



CLASH OVER ANTI-ISLAM FILM

Top, a flaming motorcycle on Jatiya Press Club premises in the capital, which was set alight by demonstrators protesting screening of a film and publication of a cartoon demeaning Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) abroad. **Bottom right**, a protester about to hurl a huge chunk of concrete at a police van, which was also set on fire. **Bottom left**, a policeman grabs one of the protesters at the scene where they clashed with cops yesterday, leaving at least 100 people, including 30 law enforcers, injured, burning five vehicles, and vandalising more than 15 others. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Judges' power shrinks during military rule

Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The powers of judges become restricted during the martial law regimes since the constitution remains either suspended or abrogated during these periods, Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain said yesterday.

It is difficult for judges to deliver justice to litigants if the constitutional continuity and the rule of law remain absent, he told a meeting organised on the occasion of the launching of KDIN (Kamal Uddin Hossain, a former chief justice) Foundation for Legal Aid and Social Advancement at the capital's Westin Hotel.

Citing examples of Pakistan's judicial trends, Justice Muzammel said the judgments delivered during military regimes and democratic rule were different, as the constitution was suspended during the martial law periods.

He said a change had come into the judicial system of the country because lawyers now placed long arguments during hearing at the Supreme Court. The future will tell whether this is good or bad, he added.

The chief justice said judges were now trying to uphold the constitution and ensure justice for people.

He also noted that cases were disposed of quickly in court in the past.

The chief justice stressed the need for proper legal advices to litigants by their lawyers so that people do not need to move to court. If disputes are solved socially and through compromises and discussions, people do not need to resort to court, and they will not suffer, he added.

Noting that Justice Kemal Uddin had to discharge duties as chief justice from 1978 to 1982 amid a turbulent situation in the country, former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque said those who were in the judiciary were perhaps losing their mental strength and values on a large scale.

ROHINGYA ISSUE

Int'l community lacks interest, response

NHRC seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The international community is not as interested to protect the rights of Rohingyas as they are in the case of people in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Arabian Peninsula and African crescent, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

So far the international community's support is limited to humanitarian assistance and resettlement of a small number of Rohingyas, they said.

The whole Asian region should provide assistance as the region's peace and tranquillity is affected by the Rohingya issue and Bangladesh and Myanmar can hardly resolve the issue on their own, they added.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) organised the seminar, "Journey towards a solution of Rohingya refugee crisis: A national consultation", in collaboration with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at Dhaka University's senate building.

NHRC Chairman Mizanur Rahman said the Rohingya refugee crisis should be given due importance considering related facts.

"NHRC is conducting a research on unregistered Rohingyas in Bangladesh. We are also communicating with Myanmar's human rights commission. We hope to find a solution by working together," he added.

Prof Md Zakir Hossain of Chittagong

University suggested immediately convening an international summit among neighbouring Asian countries, including China, the donor community, Myanmar's opposition parties and representatives of Rohingya Muslims and Rakhaine Buddhists.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Benazir Ahmed said Rohingyas refugees were adversely affecting the law and order situation by involving in illegal drug trade, prostitution, human trafficking and counterfeit passport production.

Pakistan, Afghanistan and Kashmir-based international militant outfits are active in areas populated by Rohingyas while police also found Al-Qaeda's links with Rohingyas, he said.

UNHCR Country Representative Craig Sanders said, "All criminal activities in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban are not carried out by Rohingyas."

"We should keep in mind that the Rohingyas people are not a cancer. They are human beings and productive elements."

Bangladeshis can understand the situation the Rohingyas are in as they had that experience during the 1971 Liberation War, he said.

Former ambassador Ashfaqur Rahman, Information Commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim, Home Ministry Additional Secretary (political) Kamal Uddin Ahmed and NHRC Full Time Member Kazi Reazul Hoque also

Seized oil tanker handed over to customs in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Coast Guard yesterday handed over the oil tanker, which was seized on Friday with more than six lakh litres of furnace oil and 700 litres of diesel worth around Tk 4 crore, to Chittagong customs authorities.

Members of the coast guard seized the vessel OT MIC MAHI on the estuary of the Karnaphuli around 3:00am on Friday, when it was carrying the furnace oil and diesel allegedly for the black market.

The coast guard also detained the vessel's 15 crews on board without any document from Chittagong Port or customs department, said Lt Commander Mohiuddin of the coast guard.

Mahmudul Hassan, deputy commissioner of Chittagong customs, said they would call in the owner of the vessel and oil, and then take legal actions.

"If they can submit the papers of legal ownership of the oil, we would hand over those to them after realising fine for not keeping customs approval documents," he said.

Huge quantity of yaba seized, 5 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police recovered 12,600 pieces of yaba tablets from the capital's Mohammadpur Dam area yesterday and arrested five persons along with a truck and a motorbike in this connection.

The arrestees were Rafiqul Islam Palash, 25, Ibrahim Khalil, 29, Md Delwar Hossain, 19, Emadur Rahman, 20, Md Amin, 19, and Abu Taher, 30.

On information, a team of DB police, led by Assistant Commissioner (North) Gobinda Chandra Pal, chased a truck heading for the old

part of the city from Gabtoli around 2:30am.

On searching the vehicle, police recovered the yaba tablets from beneath the driver's seat and nabbed Rafiqul, Ibrahim, Delwar, Emadur and driver Amin from the truck, said Gazi Rabiul Islam, assistant commissioner at media and community centre.

Taher was arrested as he escorting the truck by a motorbike, he added.

Meanwhile, DB police arrested two persons along with 100 yaba tablets in their possession at Bijoy Nagar in Paltan on Friday.

The arrestees were Sanwar Hossain, 23,

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 15th death anniversary of veteran politician and social worker Firozer Rahman (Firoz Master).

A milad mahfil and qurankhwani will be arranged after Zohr prayers at Zhiltuly Jame Mosque in Faridpur today. Besides, milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will also be organised at Muslim Mission and Autism School in Faridpur.

Firozer Rahman was a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, member of National Executive Committee of Awami League and vice president of Faridpur district Awami League.

He was also president of Faridpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries and founder president of Autism School in Faridpur.

APARTMENTS

1000-3000 sft

gulsan
dhanmondi
baridhara
banani
dohs
lalmatia
uttara
mirpur
west dhanmondi
elephant road
tejkunipara
nayapaltan
rampura
eskaton
shahidbag

Any Prime Location

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DOM-INNO

House_36, Road_13, Banani, Dhaka_1213
8829797, 9893827, 9851026, 9857067
01817-031197, 01811-445349, 01819-230946
01817-143325, 01819-261011, 01817-146233
sales@dommino-bd.com, www.dominno-bd.com

1 sq. ft. = 0.093 sq. meter

لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله

The sword still stands erect
for Peace, Brotherhood and Divinity

Warmest felicitation to the custodian of the two Holy Mosques
King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz al-Saud and
heartiest congratulations to the brotherly people of
the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on their National Day.