

President Zillur Rahman hands over a letter inviting Kuwait Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Bangladesh's next Independence Day celebration programmes as he meets him at Liberation Conference Building in Kuwait City yesterday.



PHOTO:PID

Sylhet BNP demands whereabouts of Ilias Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Lamakazi union unit of BNP yesterday formed a human chain and held a rally on Sylhet-Sunamganj highway demanding that the government finds out the party's missing leader M Ilias Ali soon.

Former BNP lawmaker Ilias Ali and his driver Ansar Ali went missing in the wee hours of April 18 from the capital's Banani area.

Former lawmaker Kolim Uddin Milon, Biswanath union parishad chairman Jalal Uddin, Chhatak upazila parishad vice-chairman Golam Majkur Pavel, and Alonkary union parishad chairman Kabir Hossain, among others, addressed the rally chaired by Lamakazi union unit president of BNP Rais Ali.

Meanwhile, Biswanath upazila unit of BNP arranged a milad mahfil and special prayers at Ilias's village home yesterday.

BNP Sylhet district unit also held a rally and brought out a procession to press home the demand in the Court Point area of Sylhet city.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL  
HRW condemns 'raid' on defence counsel's office

STAR REPORT

A New York-based human rights body yesterday condemned an alleged raid on the office of a defence lawyer in the war crimes trial taking place in Dhaka.

"The raid, without any justification being given, by armed police...is a grave affront to the basic tenets of fair trials," said a statement of Human Rights Watch (HRW).

The Bangladesh government should take action against those who ordered the raid on the office of defence counsel Mohammed Tajul Islam and take steps to ensure that lawyers are not subject to threats and intimidation, it said.

According to the statement, 10-12 police officers who identified themselves as members of the Detective Branch (DB) of police gathered outside the Dhaka law office of Tajul Islam on October 9.

When questioned about their presence by lawyers in the office, they denied any interest in the chambers but afterwards entered the offices, saying they wanted to search the premises, it said.

"Lawyers present at the office demanded that they produce a search warrant, but the officers could not produce one. The officers then started questioning staff and clients who were present in the offices, taking down names and

addresses. The police left of their own accord after about twenty minutes."

The HRW release also said that on October 10, the defence counsel requested both the first and second chambers of the International Crimes Tribunal to investigate the raid. "The second chamber directed them to file a written application and to lodge a general diary."

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), however, downright rejected the allegations of any raid by police on the office of Tajul Islam.

"No policeman, either from DB or from any police station, did go to the office of the lawyer in the afternoon of October 9 or conducted any raid there," said Deputy Commissioner and in-charge of Media and Community Service of DMP Masudur Rahman.

He said anybody could falsely identify them as DB men.

HRW Asia Director Brad Adams said, "A raid by armed intelligence officers on the offices of defence lawyers without a warrant and for no discernible reason marks a very dangerous turn in an already flawed process."

"The Bangladesh government needs to publicly condemn this action or risk the appearance of being responsible for this egregious violation of fair trial standards."

DU Ka unit admission test result published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Result of first year admission test of Ka unit of Dhaka University (DU) was published yesterday.

Results are available at the university website <http://kaunit.univdhaka.edu>.

A total of 20,887 students passed among 62,163 candidates sitting for the examination.

The first 10,000 students will be called for interview to fill the 1,593 seats available, said a DU press release.

Results can also be learned through SMS from mobile phone operators -- Robi, Banglalink, Citycell and Airtel.

MANPOWER EXPORT  
President urges Kuwait to lift ban

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to resume recruitment of skilled and semi-skilled manpower from Bangladesh by lifting the existing ban.

"Bangladesh has a pool of surplus skilled and semi skilled workforce who can offer their skills to Kuwait, especially for its growing IT, engineering and management sectors," he said while holding bilateral talks with Emir of Kuwait on the sidelines of First Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) in Kuwait.

The two-day ACD summit, the largest ever Asian forum comprising 32 countries, began yesterday with a call for encompassing all Asian countries under an umbrella for enhancing cooperation in all sectors.

During the meeting, the Bangladeshi president invited the Kuwaiti Emir to visit Bangladesh to attend the Independence Day celebration on March 26 next year.

President Zillur Rahman urged the Emir of Kuwait to increase Kuwaiti investment in Bangladesh especially in the oil refinery sector.

Mentioning that Kuwait is a major source for Bangladesh's oil, the president requested the Kuwaiti Emir to extend the present three-month deferred payment period of purchasing oil.

President Zillur Rahman urged the Emir to import RMG products and pharmaceuticals from Bangladesh considering their world standard quality.

The president said Bangladesh is keen to strengthen and diversify bilateral cooperation with Kuwait, especially in the field of trade and economy, for mutual benefit.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait Syed Shahed Reza were present among others.

Bangladeshi woman conquers Imja-Tse peak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following in the footsteps of Everest conquerors Nishat Majumdar and Wasfia Nazreen, another Bangladeshi female took an apparently same venture and conquered Himalayas' Imja-Tse peak yesterday.

Sadia Sultana, 31, conquered the 6,187 metre high peak, also known as Island Peak, in Nepal. The peak is considered to be one of the deadliest to conquer.

Plan Bangladesh's Girls Power Project (GPP), a 5-year project to end gender-based violence, sponsored the expedition, said a press release.

Sadia started her adventure from Kathmandu on October 12.

She is the first woman in Bangladesh to have completed basic and advanced training from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Darjeeling.

She led a 7-member women's group to the Everest Base Camp in 2003 and won the Anannya award for her contributions to mountaineering in 2009.

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