

Kejriwal launches Aam Admi Party in India

PTI, New Delhi

Arvind Kejriwal yesterday formally launched his 'Aam Admi Party', saying now the fight will be between leaders and the common man who has been suffering for the past 65 years since Independence.

Addressing an impressive gathering at Parliament Street here, Kejriwal said the new party was the result of the struggle against corruption.

"We have named this party Aam Admi Party. Hope you support it," he told the people who kept waving the tricolour and shouting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai.'

Before the official launch of the party, Kejriwal and some of his supporters visited Rajghat and then B.R. Ambedkar Memorial in Civil Lines.

He chose November 26 for the launch as it was on this day in 1949 when the country's Constitution was adopted.



At the function, Kejriwal and others also paid rich tributes to those NSG commandos who fought valiantly against terrorists in Mumbai on the same day four years ago.

A former NSG commando Surinder Singh, who came out in open alleging that he was not given pension, was honoured by Admiral (Retd) L. Ramdas.

"Now it will be neta (politician) versus aam admi (common man). The common man, suffering for the last 65 years, is going to establish own party and sit in Parliament," Mr. Kejriwal told reporters.

Asked about his experience in politics, he said, "Indeed I don't have experience of corruption and crime record like they (politicians) have and I don't even wish to have such experiences."

He said inflation is due to rising corruption and if graft can be controlled, then a lot can be done to control price rise.



PHOTO: AFP

Egyptian protesters hurl stones at Egyptian riot police during clashes at Tahrir square on Sunday in Cairo. Egypt's powerful Muslim Brotherhood called nationwide demonstrations yesterday in support of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi in his showdown with judges over the path to a new constitution.

Morsi, judges to hold Egypt crisis talks

AFP, Cairo

Egypt's Islamist President Mohamed Morsi was to meet with senior judges on Monday in a bid to defuse a crisis that erupted after he assumed sweeping new powers, sparking strikes and deadly protests.

The crisis talks, on the eve of rival rallies which threaten to deepen the country's divisions, come a day after a member of his party was killed in clashes outside its offices in the Nile Delta town of Damanhour.

Several offices belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) have been torched since Morsi's announcement on Thursday of his enhanced powers.

CAUVERY RIVER ROW Indian SC asks states' CMs to meet

IANS, New Delhi

The Supreme Court yesterday asked Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa and Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar to meet and find an amicable solution to the Cauvery river water dispute.

The apex court bench of Justice D K Jain and Justice Madan B Lokur said both the Chief Ministers should give top priority to the interests of farmers while finding an amicable solution.

HC stays

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national dailies on November 13 for recruiting its chief executive.

The petition said the bank's selection board has no power to appoint the MD as per the Grameen Bank Ordinance, 1983.

She prayed to the court to stay the operation of the advertisement.

Petitioner's counsels Sara Hossain and Mustafizur Rahman Khan told The Daily Star that the selection board published the advertisement without mentioning the name of Grameen Bank. Its chief executive is the managing director.

Though there is no

provision in the law about hiring recruitment consultants for the bank, the circular mentioned that the decision for selecting the applicants rests on recruitment consultants, noted the petitioner.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif came up with the rule and order after holding the hearing on the petition.

The post of the MD fell vacant after Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus stepped down on May 12 last year "to prevent undue disruption in the activities of the microfinance institution."

Pak journo Hamid Mir escapes assassination

AFP, Islamabad

A high-profile Pakistani journalist and television anchor escaped an assassination bid yesterday when police defused a bomb planted under his car in Islamabad, police and his channel said.

The device in a metal box was found stuck under the front passenger seat of Hamid Mir's car, city police chief Bani Amin said.

Mir, who hosts the Capital Talk evening show on Geo television and writes a column for the biggest-selling newspaper Jang, was criticised by the Taliban last month in the wake of the shooting of teenage activist Malala Yousafzai.

"It was in a tin box, there was half a kilo of explosives fitted with detonator," Amin told Geo News.

He said officers have defused the bomb and are gathering evidence at the scene.



Mir was on his way to his office and the bomb was apparently planted when he stopped at a market, said Geo's Islamabad bureau chief Rana Jawad.

"It's a message to me as well as Geo and the journalist community in Pakistan," Mir told the television channel.

"They want to stop us from speaking the truth but I want to tell them that we will not be deterred."

Intelligence officials said last month that an intercepted Taliban message suggested suicide bombers had been assigned to attack journalists, with Geo at the top of the list of targets because of their coverage of the Malala attack.

Taliban hitmen shot Malala on her school bus in Pakistan's northwestern Swat Valley because she had campaigned for girls' rights to go to school. The 15-year-old survived.

Taliban rejects peace talks with Pak govt

DAWN ONLINE

The Pakistani Taliban has ruled out any possibility of peace negotiations with the Pakistani government, a spokesman for the banned militant group said Monday, vowing to continue fighting until the ouster of the country's 'secular rulers'.

Reacting to a statement by Federal Interior Minister issued Sunday, a spokesman for the banned Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Ehsanullah Ehsan rejected any prospects of peace talks with the government, accusing the interior minister Malik of being "a foreign agent not worthy of granting forgiveness to the Taliban".

The TTP spokesman further said that the organisation would continue their fighting until "the ouster of secular rulers imposed by foreign forces to rule an Islamic country", adding that the TTP was striving for the creation of "an independent state governed by Islamic Sharia law, upon which the foundations of Pakistan were laid".

In another incident, a bomb exploded near a security checkpoint at Achini Cross in Peshawar's suburban area of Sarband.

The blast targeting a police vehicle was carried out using a remote-controlled improvised explosive device (IED), security sources confirmed.

Negligence

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engaged in the flyover project -- Project Director Habibur Rahman and engineers Tanjib Hossain and Salahuddin Ahmed Chowdhury -- had been sent on temporary suspension.

Meanwhile, members of the Fire Service and Civil Defence and the army continued till yesterday rescue operations that began on the night of the incident.

A 12th body was recovered from the debris at around 11:45am and was identified as that of Chan Mia, 24, said Shahidullah, additional deputy commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police. He added that there was confusion over the death toll as some bodies were found in pieces.

Another nine deceased were identified as Nasu Mia, 40, Sirajul Islam, 50, Enamul Haque, 22, Sajjad Hossain, 20, Ilias Mia, 70, Kaji Kanti Dey, 42, Mosharraf Hossain Rassel, 32, Sahabuddin, 20, and Monir Hossain, 20. The two others were beyond recognition, said Shahidullah.

At least 50 people were also injured when the three concrete girders of the under-construction flyover fell on a kitchen market.

The accident occurred when workers were shifting the girders on the flyover, said Hasanul Islam, a student of the Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, who observed the whole thing from a close distance.

At one stage, he saw one girder which was in the middle go off balance and push the other two to the roadside and adjacent pond.

joint venture company, has been constructing the flyover since March 2010, CDA sources said.

Engineer Subhas Barua, a communication expert, told The Daily Star that there were faults in the construction and safety measures in the project. And the CDA had failed to ensure security at the site.

After the June 29 incident, the CDA formed a probe body comprising its department officials, Subhas said, but people never came to know of the findings of that probe.

Delwar Hossain, former chairman of the Institute of Engineers, Chittagong, said that before shifting anything, the authorities should fence in the construction site. But the CDA and the construction company had not done so in Bahaddar Pukur Par where the accident took place.

No one from the construction company could be reached for comments yesterday.

Local people alleged that police had set up the kitchen market under the flyover and used to take money from shopkeepers.

But Babul Chandra Banik, officer-in-charge of Chandgaon Police Station, denied the allegation and accused the CDA of not putting up barricades around the construction site.

Sub-inspector of the police station Abul Kalam Azad filed a case last night against 25 identified people, including Project Director Habibur Rahman and the managing director of the construction company, and 10-15 others in connection with Saturday's incident, the OC said.

Smoking 'rots' brain, says study

BBC ONLINE

Smoking "rots" the brain by damaging memory, learning and reasoning, according to researchers at King's College London.

A study of 8,800 people over 50 showed high blood pressure and being overweight also seemed to affect the brain, but to a lesser extent.

Scientists involved said people needed to be aware that lifestyles could damage the mind as well as the body.

Their study was published in the journal Age and Ageing.

Researchers at King's were investigating links between the likelihood of a heart attack or stroke and the state of the brain.

Data about the health and lifestyle of a group of over-50s was collected and brain tests, such as making participants learn new words or name as many animals as they could in a minute, were also performed.

Agonising wait outside

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As far as Akram, 30-year-old husband of Lipi, got from the phone conversation that evening, she was trapped on the 5th floor of eight-storey Tazreen Fashions Ltd. Since the call, Akram ceaselessly tried Lipi on her mobile phone until it went dead around 9:00am.

He also ran to the factory soon as he could, but only to find horrible screams and clouds of smoke coming out of the burning building.

Started on the ground floor, which was used for storing goods, the flame lasted till dawn.

The whole night Akram ran from one hospital to another with a hope to find his wife among the wounded and rescued. But Lipi was nowhere.

Akram finally got to get into the factory Sunday

afternoon. He found ashes, charred flesh, broken tiles, burnt sewing machines, electric wires and unused fire extinguishers, but no trace of his wife.

Still determined to find her, he looked for his wife among scattered sandals, scarves, shirts and lunch boxes uttering, "Oh God, where do I look for her now."

Akram, however, found an attendance card of one Ms Zaida near a broken window on the third floor. Panicked workers had broken the grills of the window trying to escape the fire.

A total of 59 bodies, which could not be identified and remained unclaimed, were handed over to voluntary organisation Anjuman-E-Mafiudul Islam for funeral.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers

and Exporters Association (BGMEA) announced Tk 1 lakh as compensation for each deceased's family.

But that was no news to Akram. "It is not possible for me to claim a random body as my wife only for money. What good is money if I don't get her back," he said.

Like Akram, Saidur Rahman, Mohammad Hanif and many others returned home disappointed after a bitter search in the burnt facility.

"There is no dead body, no one's here," Mohammad Hanif told the waiting crowd at the main entrance of the factory. He had also come looking for his two relatives who used to work there.

Hanif's wife is one of the fortunate workers who had escaped the inferno by jumping from the third floor window and sur-

vived. She broke a leg and a few ribs, and injured the head. She is now resting at home after medical attention.

Another worker Mamata escaped the fire with the help of one male colleague. "When the fire alarm went crazy, our manager told that nothing had happened," she said.

Although the building had three staircases inside, it had no fire or emergency exit. So rushing down the stairs had not helped the panicked workers as flame was dancing up from the ground floor, added Mamata.

The workers on the first four floors were the worst victims of the fire, said Md Obaidul, a survivor who escaped through a window.

Soon as the fire alarm rang the power went off, said Shiria, another sur-

ivor of the fire. "In no time the room got filled with hot smoke and we started scrambling to find a way in the dark," she said, adding that most of the victims died of suffocation.

Shiria is now worried if the workers would get their salary this month. Like many she had also joined the factory for a wage of around \$ 40 per month.

"How about those who lost their identity cards in the incident, would they be paid?" she asked on Sunday evening standing in front of the burnt building.

Meanwhile, expressing solidarity with Tazreen employees workers of other factories in Ashulia and Savar areas brought out a procession in Nischintapur village. The procession ended at the gate of Tazreen Fashions.

KL lifts ban

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Convention Centre in Malaysia, Md Nurul Islam, joint secretary of the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry, told The Daily Star.

The countries also signed two more MoUs on human trafficking prevention and inter-state crimes prevention as per the conditions of the Malaysian government, sources at the ministry said.

Bangladesh Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Malaysian Home Minister Hishammuddin bin Tun Hussein signed the MoUs on behalf of their respective governments.

The Malaysian government unofficially stopped

hiring Bangladeshi workers from 2009 following allegations of corruptions and irregularities in the recruitment process.

In September this year, the Bangladesh government held detailed talks with the Malaysian human resource minister in Dhaka so that they could resume recruitment under state arrangements.

Though no official date for the start of recruitment of Bangladeshi workers has been fixed, the expatriates' welfare ministry officials hope that the first batch of workers could be sent out as early as January next year.

Initially, the workers would be sent to Malaysia

under the tree plantation category, they added.

The Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), Dhaka's regulatory authority for overseas labour affairs, would manage the entire recruitment process aimed at checking malpractices rampant in the sector.

The BMET had already formed seven cells to facilitate selection of workers, their training, collecting visas, ticketing, etc, said Md Salim Reza, additional director general of the bureau, yesterday.

The workers would be selected maintaining district quotas based on the requirements of the recruiters, he added.

The workers interested to go to Malaysia would have to register their names through online, and complete other processes required to be selected for the recruitment after the announcement.

"After completing the online registration process, the workers will be called up in the 13 BMET Technical Training Centres set up across the country for an inspection on their applications," said Salim Reza.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain would brief the media about the MoU at a press conference on Sunday, sources at the ministry added.

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