

Resist Jamaat

Urges Sammilita Sangskritik Jote

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, an alliance of cultural organisations, yesterday vowed to continue agitation against anti-liberation forces' destructive activities and urged the country's people to resist Jamaat-Shibir's violence to defend the country's independence and maintain communal harmony.

The jote President Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu said Jamaat-Shibir and "nationalist forces" were continuing their vicious activities by attacking the minority communities to defame the Liberation War's spirit.

"Our country is established on the basis of democracy, humanity and secularism. We will ensure the non-communal spirit at any cost," he told a procession.

The jote organised the procession, bearing the national flag, from before Dhaka University's Teacher-Student Centre, stopping at Central Shaheed Minar, to protest Jamaat-Shibir's violence and demanding a ban on Jamaat-Shibir.

Jamaat-Shibir had been carrying out the countrywide violence following the death sentence International Crimes Tribunal-1 handed down to Delawar Hossain Sayedee on February 21.

Nasiruddin announced that the jote would light candles at Central Shaheed Minar tomorrow expressing sympathy towards the minority communities who were being attacked by Jamaat-Shibir. The jote Vice-President Golam Kuddus and General Secretary Hasan Arif, Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad General Secretary Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan and actors and dramatists Mamunur Rashid, Keramot Moula and Shahiduzzaman Selim were present.



President Zillur Rahman confers honorary Doctorate of Law on Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at the 47th convocation of Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

CONTEMPT OF COURT Decision about MK Anwar March 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fixed March 10 to decide whether to initiate contempt of court proceeding against BNP standing committee member MK Anwar for his alleged derogatory comment over the war crimes trial.

The prosecution, through a January 23 petition, presented Anwar's comment published in Prothom Alo and Daily Sangram.

The Sangram quoted Anwar, at a January 20 discussion marking Ziaur Rahman's birth anniversary, as saying, "The government out of political vengeance is staging a farce in the name of war crimes trial."

Anwar, following the tribunal's January 24 order, gave his written explanation on February 26.

February 28 was fixed for the explanation's hearing but it was adjourned till yesterday following a time petition of Anwar's defence for a senior defence counsel could not appear due to hartal.

Yesterday, Prosecutor Turin Afroz said Anwar tried to undermine the tribunal, since it was holding the trial, but "did not say anything" about it in the explanation.

Anwar, in his reply, mentioned speeches of some Awami League ministers but those ministers had sought apology, she said.

The tribunal asked the defence to place arguments on March 10.

HAIDING JAMAAT-SHIBIR

Two Islami bank officials charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police charged two officials of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd (IBBL), Mirpur Branch with provoking Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat backed Islami Chhatra Shibir activists into creating anarchy and carrying out subversive activities in the capital during the hartal on February 14.

The two officials are AKM Shahidul Haque, manager, and Hassan Mahmud Mithu, senior principal officer of the bank.

Police also charged 26 Jamaat-Shibir men with creating anarchy and carrying out subversive activities in the capital during the hartal.

Of them, police arrested 14 Shibir men on February 14 and nine, including the two bank officials, on February 17 in different places of the capital.

The remaining five have been absconding.

Sub-Inspector Masudur Rahman, the investigation officer (IO) of the case, on Sunday submitted the charge sheet against the 28 to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

Earlier on February 17, police in the forwarding report said the two officials were involved in financing Jamaat-Shibir for creating anarchy and carrying out subversive activities in the capital during the hartal.

But in the charge sheet, the IO dropped the charges of financing Jamaat-Shibir against the two officials.

DEATH THREAT TO IMAM Farabi on 3-day fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Shafiur Rahman Farabi on a three-day fresh remand on charge of issuing a death threat to the imam who led the namaz-e-janaza of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haidar at Shahbagh.

Farabi was produced before the court yesterday on the expiry of another five-day remand.

The court granted the remand after detective police sought a seven-day remand for Farabi, a fourth year physics student of Chittagong University.

In the remand prayer, Inspector Mainul Islam, the investigation officer of the case, said Farabi made the threat in a blogpost.

Police picked up Farabi from CU campus on February 24. Rajib, an architect and an activist of Shahbagh movement, was brutally murdered near his house at Mirpur in the capital on February 15.

The imam conducted his namaz-e-janaza on February 16.

India, Bangladesh interlinked Pranab tells DU convocation

BSS, Dhaka

The first Bangalee Indian President Pranab Mukherjee on his maiden visit as a president to Bangladesh said yesterday that India and Bangladesh are interlinked like no other nations on earth.

He said this while speaking as the convocation speaker at the 47th convocation of Dhaka University.

The university conferred the Indian president with honorary Doctorate of Law degree as recognition of his statesmanship at its regular convocation with DU Chancellor President Zillur Rahman in the chair.

Termed his visit as an emotional journey, Pranab said, "I have my roots in the soil of Bangladesh, and

have imbibed its language, traditions and culture as my wife was born in Narail and started her education here."

He said India remains committed to supporting the comprehensive development of Bangladesh within its resources and the aspirations of its people.

India and Bangladesh would sign the Teesta Water Sharing Treaty soon, Pranab said adding that a bill is also going to be placed in the Indian parliament for ratification of the 1974 India-Bangladesh land boundary agreement.

"We are committed to working closely with Bangladesh to avoid any untoward incidents on our border. We can together make it a gateway of

peace and mutually beneficial cooperation," he said.

He said sharing of the waters of common rivers is a high priority for India.

Pranab expressed his confidence that democratic traditions in Bangladesh will grow stronger with time and the country's youth will preserve democracy with their constant vigil.

He said India will also allow flow of 500 MW of power from India to Bangladesh.

The Indian president announced that the Visva Bharati University at Santi Niketan would provide land within its campus to Bangladesh for construction of 'Bangladesh Bhaban'.

Jogotjyoti's muder protested in Sylhet

STAR REPORT

Sylhet district and city units of Jubo League, Awami League's youth wing, yesterday brought out a mourning procession demanding arrest of killers of Jubo League activist Jogotjyoti Talukder who was stabbed to death Saturday night.

Activists of Sylhet city unit of Awami League and AL backed Bangladesh Chhatra League also joined the procession, which started from the city's court-point area.

The demonstrators, wearing black ribbons, paraded the city's main streets and gathered in the area and held a rally there with Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, mayor of Sylhet and also city AL chief, in the chair.

Speakers at the rally alleged Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat backed Islami Chhatra Shibir activists were behind the murder of Jogotjyoti. They gave a 24-hour ultimatum to arrest Jogotjyoti's killers, reports our Sylhet correspondent.

Gonojagoron Mancha also brought out a procession with the same demand and allegation. Jogotjyoti Talukder was also an organiser of Gonojagoron Mancha.

Meanwhile, a daylong programme was organised at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology to protest the killing of Jogotjyoti.

The programme began with a protest rally at Sector Commanders' Forum Chattar, according to our university correspondent.

Several hundred students and teachers of the university participated in the rally where speakers narrated Jogotjyoti's contribution to the university and demanded immediate arrest of his killers.

Later, they brought out a procession and observed a minute's silence in Jogotjyoti's memory.

Prof Elias Uddin Bishwas, acting vice chancellor, among others, addressed the rally. Eminent writer Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal was present.

No case was filed and no one was arrested in connection with the murder at the time of filing this report.

In a separate incident, a schoolteacher and her seven-year-old daughter were injured in a cracker blast at the house of a Jubo League activist at Botertol village in Companiganj upazila early yesterday.



A CNG-run auto-rickshaw burns before Jonaki Cinema Hall in the capital after hartal supporters set it on fire last night.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



MP Hafiz Mazumder with women leaders at the National Policy Forum on Women's Political Empowerment organised by Bangladesh Alliance for Women Leadership (BDWL) at Brac Centre Inn at Mohakhali in the capital on Saturday. Marking the International Women's Day, BDWL organised the policy forum where they adopted a declaration to work towards increasing women's participation in national decision making including in the parliament.

PHOTO: COURTESY

14-party plans to counter Jamaat-Shibir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday announced a series of programmes to raise public awareness to contain Jamaat-Shibir violence.

The programmes include exchanging views with leaders from different social and religion communities and organisations, including Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad, Islamic scholars and Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikyo Parishad, at Awami League president's Dhanmondi office between March 5 and March 8, said a press release.

The alliance will hold a public gathering at Bangabandhu Avenue on March 9. It will also stage protest rallies in all districts and upazilas between today and tomorrow.

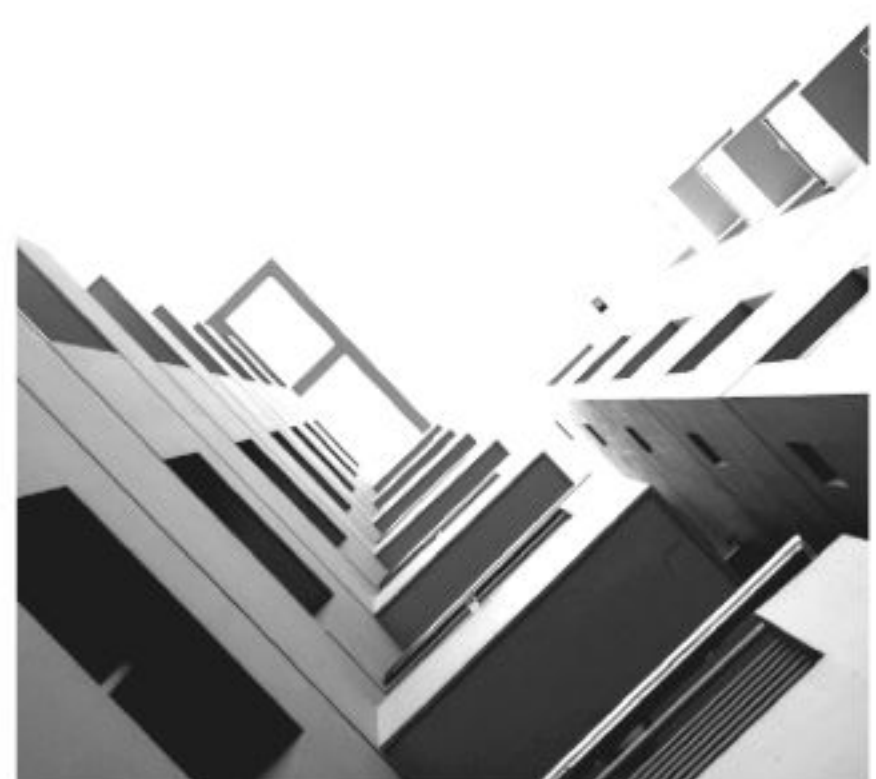
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