

'Absconding' Jamaat leader addresses 18-party rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Hamidur Rahman Azad, who is "absconding" according to police reports, addressed a rally of the 18-party opposition alliance in the capital yesterday in presence of hundreds of law enforcers.

Azad, an MP from Cox's Bazar-2, faces an arrest warrant along with two other Jamaat leaders for "deliberately avoiding" appearance in court in connection with a contempt of court ruling. International Crimes Tribunal-2 issued the arrest orders on March 6.

Earlier the trio were asked to appear in the tribunal and explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them for making "provocative and derogatory remarks" about the tribunal during a public rally on February 4 but they never appeared in court.

As per the tribunal order, police submitted two reports to it over execution of the arrest warrants on April 10 and 21, citing Azad and Jamaat Acting Secretary General Rafiqul Islam Khan as "absconders". The other Jamaat leader Selim Uddin, however, was arrested and produced in court on March 10.

At the Motijheel rally yesterday, Azad spoke after People's Party Chairman Garibe Newaz.

Asked about the incident, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandaker said, "I have to tell you after checking it out." On April 21, the court initiated contempt proceedings against Azad and the two others. Meanwhile, the daily Sangram, mouthpiece of the Jamaat, published the statements of the other "absconding" Jamaat leader Rafiqul almost regularly last month.



Rickshaw-pullers wade through knee-deep water in Probaratk area after torrential rain flooded parts of Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

2 Dhaka College students hurt in clash with shop employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two students of Dhaka College were injured in a clash with the employees of a shop at Chandrima market in the capital last night.

The injured are Nibas, a second year student of sociology department; and Kiran, of second year of philosophy department.

College sources said Nibas along with Kiran went to the Market near the college around 8:00 pm to collect "his money" from the shop there.

At one stage of talking, they locked in a clash and shop staff beat them up leaving them injured seriously.

The injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Later, a group of staff of the market attacked statistics building of the collage, said the source.

Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of New Market Police Station, confirming the clash said they had no further details about the incident.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the third death anniversary of Rowshan Ara Begum, a retired assistant professor of University Laboratory School and College in the capital.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani will be held and food will be distributed among the orphans of Korail orphanage in Banani.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



India committed to helping Bangladesh

Says Meira Kumar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India is committed to extending all assistance and cooperation to help ensure a progressive, stable, secured and prosperous Bangladesh, Parliament Speaker Meira Kumar told an eight-member delegation of parliamentarians from Bangladesh on Friday.

She said the common ideals and values that bound the countries would remain with them forever.

"There is a national consensus on this priority in India, cutting across party divisions or political affiliations," Kumar said. She stressed that "a stable, prosperous, secure and progressive Bangladesh is not only in India's interest but also of the entire region and, most importantly, for the people of Bangladesh".

Observing that India appreciated Bangladesh's honouring of Indian friends for their contribution to the 1971 Liberation War, Kumar said "the two countries are witnessing an extraordinary period of mutual trust, cooperation and friendship" in their relations.

Mohd Fazle Rabbi, who headed the Bangladeshi delegation, urged Kumar to help expedite the introduction and passage of a constitutional amendment bill in Indian Parliament in order to implement the Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh. The bill envisages swapping of enclaves, among others.

Disparities mar redrawing of constituencies

Says SHUJAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission's latest draft for re-delineating constituencies has created disparities in terms of numbers of voters among different constituencies, leaders of Sushasoner Jonno Nagorik (SHUJAN) said yesterday.

They also demanded an amendment to the constitution for establishing an independent commission to demarcate constituencies accurately and impartially.

They were speaking at a press conference, "Delimitation of parliamentary constituencies", at Dhaka Reporters' Unity. The EC on February 6 published a draft of re-delineation of 88 constituencies.

According to the latest draft, the highest number of voters is 8,02,164 in the Dhaka-19 constituency, while the lowest number of voters is 1,30,416 in the Tangail-4 constituency. The difference of voters' numbers is more than 6.5 lakh, said SHUJAN Secretary Dr Badiul Alam

Majumdar.

"Similar disparities can be noticed in many other constituencies. This is unfair. Now, question has been raised about EC's accuracy and neutrality in redrawing the boundaries of the constituencies," he said. "Even, some ruling party lawmakers have raised allegations of partiality against the Election Commission."

Referring to a newspaper report, Majumdar said the EC had redraw the Dhaka-2 constituency boundary following the "verbal request" of a state minister, which led to re-delineation of 15 more constituencies in Dhaka. But it was opposed by eight Dhaka lawmakers, he added.

"According to the existing law, there is no provision for challenging the EC's decision regarding delimitation of constituencies. That is why an independent commission should be in place to redraw the constituency boundaries in transparent way," said SHUJAN President M Hafizuddin Khan.

Juta demands VC's resignation in 24 hrs

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (Juta) yesterday gave a 24-hour ultimatum to Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain to resign as he did not meet Juta's demand for expulsion of a BCL leader who had assaulted a teacher a month ago.

The teachers also extended their work abstention, which began on April 27, to Monday. They will announce the next course of action on May 7 if their demands have been still unmet.

Juta took the decision at an emergency meeting yesterday where it also slammed Prof Anwar for allegedly calling a professor "a man with brain disorder" and cited this comment as another reason for which he should resign.

JU unit Bangladesh Chhatra League General Secretary Razib Ahmed Rasel allegedly assaulted a lecturer of economics on April 6 when the teacher with some colleagues was trying to dissuade some JU Gonojagoron Mancha activists from attacking Hefazat-e Islam men, who were returning from a long march in Dhaka, on the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Juta began the work abstention on April 27, demanding Razib's expulsion and resignation of the proctorial team. No classes or examinations were held since then.

Road crashes kill eight, injure nine

METRO DESK

Eight people were killed and nine others injured in separate road accidents in the country yesterday.

Our Patuakhali correspondent reports, a motorcyclist was killed and his two co-riders were injured when a motorised three-wheeler hit their motorbike on Patuakhali-Baufal road in Muradia village.

The deceased is Zakir Hossain, 27, of Dumki upazila. Injured Abul Hossain and Abdur Razzak were rushed to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent adds, two people were killed and two others injured when an oncoming truck hit the car carrying them near Rampur bridge in Bijoy Nagar upazila.

The dead are Ismail, 25, of

Habiganj, and an unidentified woman, aged around 26, of Sylhet. The injured were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar hospital.

In another accident, Manik Chandra Mandal, 55, hanging on to the door of a running bus died after falling from the vehicle in the upazila's Satbarga village.

The three bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for autopsies.

Meanwhile in Ashugnaj upazila, an unidentified man, aged around 26, was killed as a tractor hit the CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying him at Shuhagpur village.

Our Chittagong correspondent adds, an unidentified man, aged around 60, was killed when a truck hit him on Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Kashem Shipyard in Sitakunda upazila.

The body was sent to Chittagong

Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Our Pabna correspondent reports, a person was killed and five others were injured as a motorised three-wheeler carrying them fell into a roadside ditch in Sechania village of Santhia upazila.

The deceased is Azar Ali, 45, of the upazila. The injured are undergoing treatment at Santhia Upazila Health Complex.

Our Jhalokathi correspondent reports, a banker died after his motorbike hit a tree beside Jhalokathi-Nabogram road due to his reckless riding and fell into a canal near the new stadium of Jhalokathi.

Pintu Majhi, 35, of Jhalokathi, worked at Dutch Bangla Bank Limited, Khulna Branch.

The body was sent to Jhalokathi Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.



Activists of Chittagong-based Islamist organisation Hefajat-e Islam board Dhaka-bound buses in the port city's Outer Stadium area yesterday to enforce their programme of laying siege to Dhaka today demanding implementation of their 13-point demand.

PHOTO: STAR



Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni meets her Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al-Faisal at the latter's office yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Office Space for Rent for BANKS or FINANCIAL institutions at

The Daily Star Centre

ground floor [4000 sq.ft (approx)] and first floor [4700 sq.ft (approx)]

Additional features:

- Automatic backup generators
- Centrally air conditioned
- 3 Basement car parking

Total 8700 sq.ft (approx) of The Daily Star Centre. Situated in prime location and state-of-the-art building with all modern amenities at 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka, is available for lease. Interested parties may inspect the site/floors after contacting the General Manager (Administration), The Daily Star, on phone 9144330 between 11am-4pm on all working days (except Friday) and between 2:30-4:30pm on Saturdays. Sealed offers may be submitted to the General Manager (Administration), The Daily Star, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1215, so as to reach him by 12 May, 2013. Envelopes must be marked "Offer for Lease" on top. Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

