

Suranjit hospitalised for chest pain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta was admitted to Labaid Hospital with chest pain last night.

Hospital sources said he was being treated at the Coronary Care Unit and his condition was improving.

An advisory council member of the ruling AL, the 69-year-old was taken there around 10:00pm.

He was present at the interview of the aspirants of the party's reserved seat lawmakers in the afternoon.

He returned to his Jigatola residence after feeling unwell around 8:30pm, following which his family members took him to the hospital.

18-party

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the opposition demand for holding the election under a nonparty caretaker government.

Today's rally is part of the opposition alliance's series of "peaceful" programmes that Khaleda announced on January 15.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police has given permission to hold the rally.

Similar rallies are expected to take place across the country today to "thank people for boycotting" the January 5 polls.

Meanwhile, the BNP observed the 78th birth anniversary of its founder Ziaur Rahman.

Khaleda, flanked by senior party leaders and activists, placed wreaths at Zia's grave at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital around 10:45am.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told journalists there that his party men were committed to restore people's voting rights by ousting the government, which grabbed power by holding "a farcical election".

Law minister

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Movement Duty of Government and Civil Society" organised by Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, a pro-liberation civilian platform, at the Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium of the National Museum to mark the 22nd founding anniversary of the committee.

On January 19, 1992, the Nirmul Committee started its journey under the leadership of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam with the aim to exterminate killers and collaborators of 1971 Liberation War.

A d d r e s s i n g t h e programme, Anisul Huq asked the committee to raise awareness among people to boycott Jamaat and its organisations.

Professor Anisuzzaman echoed the law minister and said the committee should work to raise the awareness especially among the rural people, who were more vulnerable to be duped by Jamaat-Shibir propaganda.

Anisuzzaman also asked

the prosecutors of the international crimes tribunals to stay cautious so that the lawyers of the war crimes accused could not prolong the trials using different tactics.

The law minister said the tribunals would continue until the war crimes trials were completed.

The Nirmul Committee and the Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad had long been requesting the government to publish the probe report of Sahabuddin Commission, a judicial commission that probed the 2001 post-polls violence on the minorities.

The law minister said he would look into the matter and take steps to publish the report.

Acting president of the committee Shahriar Kabir said should the Awami League allow Jamaat men to infiltrate in the party, it would be a big defeat for all the pro-liberation forces.

He also said their movement would continue till Jamaat was banned from politics and the 1972 Constitution was restored.

Historian Professor Muntassir Mamoon and vice president of the committee Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury also spoke in the programme.

TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

Japan PM calls for 'frank' talks with neighbours

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday called for "frank" summit talks with China and South Korea to help solve historical and territorial disputes that have soured relations between the neighbours.

A year of heated arguments have prevented the three from holding any top-level meetings, with Beijing and Seoul accusing Abe of showing a lack of remorse for World War II wrongs.

"We should hold a summit meeting and have a frank discussion," Abe said in an interview on public broadcaster NHK, two

days after Japan's foreign minister called for similar talks.

Abe, China's President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Park Geun-Hye all came to power around a year ago, but entrenched positions and growing nationalism in the three countries have prevented them from getting together.

Seoul and Beijing were angered by Abe's visit last month to a shrine in Tokyo that counts 14 senior war criminals among the 2.5 million souls it commemorates.

China and South Korea see the Yasukuni shrine as a symbol of Japan's wartime aggression in Asia.

Tarique asked

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after he surrenders.

The bench of Justice Md Nizamul Huq and Justice Md Jahangir Hossain also asked the lower court to send the case records to it [HC] as early as possible.

ACC's counsel Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the HC did not mention any specific date when Tarique, who is now staying abroad, would show up before the trial court.

A notice will now be served on Tarique, informing him about the appeal filed by the ACC against his acquittal, so that he can challenge the appeal through his lawyers.

The HC would hold the hearing on the appeal after getting the case records, he added.

In October 2009, the ACC filed the case against Tarique and Mamun for laundering Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

The charges were pressed in July 2010, and the trial began in September 2011.

On November 17 last year, a Dhaka court acquitted Tarique in the moneylaundering case.

But his friend and business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun was sentenced to seven years in prison and fined Tk 40 crore.

It was the first judgement in one of the 16 cases, including the August 21 grenade attack cases, against Tarique. He was arrested on March 7, 2007 during a crackdown by the military-backed caretaker government.

After securing parole, he went to London in September 2008 for treatment, and later obtained bail in other cases as well.

The ACC on December 5 last year filed an appeal with the HC, challenging the acquittal of Tarique in the case.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder appeared for the government.

petitions filed by the detained BNP leaders last week.

In the petitions, the leaders sought directives from the HC on the government not to harass or show them arrested in any new cases without due process of law.

After hearing both the sides, the bench passed the order.

Meanwhile, two Dhaka courts yesterday rejected the bail petitions of former BNP lawmakers Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Shammi Akhter in four separate cases.

Detectives, in separate drives, arrested Khokon and Shammi from the capital in December last year.

On January 14, the HC directed the government not to show the detained BNP leaders Abdul Awal Mintoo and Khokon arrested in any case "without the due process of law".

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Stop showing

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Chairperson Khaleda Zia, three former BNP MPs and four BNP central committee members.

Moudud Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam Mia and MK Anwar were accused in five cases each so far while another standing committee member ASM Hannan Shah was accused in seven cases.

BNP Vice-chairman Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed was accused in three cases.

The HC in its order said police cannot implicate or show Anwar, Moudud, Rafiqul, Shimul and Bakul arrested in any other cases if their names are not in the first information report and if there is no specific allegation or arrest order against them, said the counsel of five leaders.

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