

Withdraw blockade, hartal, stop violence

Physician MPs of AL issue 24hr ultimatum on BNP chief Khaleda; her media staff tells them to ask Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to stop 'repressing' 20-party men

A group of ruling Awami League lawmakers who are also physicians yesterday issued a 24-hour ultimatum on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to withdraw the ongoing blockade, and hartals and stop violence during those times, threatening to "resist it democratically".

"It has been destroying humanity," said Dr Yunus Ali Sarker, one of the 10 who handed over a memorandum in this regard to Sayrul Kabir Khan, a staff of the BNP chief's media wing, at the gate of Khaleda's Gulshan office in the capital around 12:45pm. Sayrul loudly stated that the group was staging a temporary drama and asked them to provide Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina another to "stop oppression on the party's members".

In a similar tone, Dr Muhammad Habibe Millat responded that Khaleda would be held responsible for the violence's consequences.

Turning to journalists, he said it was no drama, only an effort to show



Activists of Bigyan Andolon Mancha face a police barricade at Jatiya Press Club, while heading towards Bangladesh Secretariat to submit a memorandum to the home ministry, demanding immediate arrest of the people who killed secular writer Avijit Roy on February 26.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

SCBA polls start on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day annual election to Supreme Court Bar Association's (SCBA) 14 executive posts, including those of president and secretary, will begin in the bar building in the capital on Sunday.

The polling will start at 10:00am and continue till 5:00pm with a one-hour lunch break. Some 4,362 lawyers are enlisted to exercise their voting rights.

The main contestants are the panels of ruling Awami League backed Sammiliti Ainjibi Shomonnoy Parishad (SASP) and BNP Jamaat-e-Islami backed Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikhya Panel (JAOP), said SCBA sources.

AL presidium member Yusuf Hossain of SASP, BNP chairperson's adviser and incumbent SCBA President Khandker Mahbub Hossain of JAOP, and independent candidates Obaidul Haque Pirjada and Eunus Ali Akond are contesting for the post of president.

Former SCBA secretary Momtazuddin Ahmed Mehedi of SASP and incumbent SCBA Secretary AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon of JAOP are vying for the secretary post.

Manna to run for Dhaka mayor

Nagorik Oikya adviser announces from rally demanding his release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, who is facing sedition charges and is in detention now, will contest as a mayoral candidate in the upcoming Dhaka North City Corporation election, an adviser of the organisation announced yesterday.

"...Manna will run in the polls, even if he remains in prison," SM Akram told a rally at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, demanding Manna's release. "The election may be stopped, if the government senses its defeat. If it takes place, Manna will be a candidate... We hope he would win."

The Election Commission is preparing for holding the long overdue polls to the bifurcated Dhaka city corporations but is yet to announce the schedule.

Akram demanded immediate release of Manna in bail and a transparent and fair trial for him.

A day after the leak of his controversial telephone

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Missing man's family seeks PM's intervention

Majedur Rashid Majed went missing after intervening in Fakirapul mosque management; got threats from four men affiliated with AL, BNP and JP; cops initially refused to record case, claims family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Requested by journalists, 15-year-old Meghla Mehnaz moved from the podium and joined her relatives in the audience to pose for photographs.

She held a poster, containing a man's photo, accompanied by the request: "Find him".

Though it was all conspicuous, a photo-journalist asked her who the man was.

"Father," replied Meghla, who has grown accustomed to such questions recently.

Clad in a black dress, she walked back to the podium and sat beside her 12-year-old

brother Shahi Fardin and their mother Ambia Khatun.

With her children, Ambia came to Jatiya Press Club to seek prime minister's intervention in finding her husband who disappeared from Paltan around 5:20pm on February 18.

Ambia cited threats consistently made by Nasirul Islam Mallik alias Pintu, Abdus Salam, Abdur Rahim and Rani Babu against her husband Majedur Rashid Majed, a businessman, who had recently intervened in the committee to manage the Fakirapul mosque.

Reports published in the newspapers the

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SC denies Momen Anjuman vested property for now

Overturns HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday overturned a High Court verdict that had directed the government to give ownership of 0.47 acres of vested property in Lalbagh of the capital to charitable organisation Momen Anjuman.

The SC also asked the HC to hold further hearing on the writ petition filed by Momen Anjuman, which claimed ownership of the land worth about Tk 50 crore on purchase, and to adjudicate the petition in four months.

A five-member bench of the apex court passed the verdict following a petition filed by the land ministry seeking review of its 2009 verdict.

In 2009, the SC had dismissed an appeal filed by the land ministry challenging the HC verdict.

Responding to a petition of the charitable organisation, the HC in April 2006 directed the land ministry to exclude the 0.47 acres of land from the list of vested property, and give it to Momen Anjuman.

The ministry's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that the HC judged in favour of Momen Anjuman as the organisation claimed that the land in question was included on the list of vested property in 1983, which is illegal.

According to a SC verdict in 1974, the government cannot include any land on the list of vested property after that year, he said.

Manzill said he placed a document before the SC showing that the property was included on the list of vested property in 1970, and therefore, inclusion of the land on the list was legal.

Momen Anjuman's lawyer Mahmudul Islam opposed the review petition saying his client had purchased the property in 1962 and the government cannot claim its ownership as per relevant law.

Scan the QR code to watch the video of the event

TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE LIKE 'NIGMA BARCODE SCANNER' FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.

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(From left) Prof Biswajit Ghosh of Dhaka University, dance artiste Minu Haque, Nargis Bulbul Chowdhury, dance artiste Laila Hassan, Syed Zakir Hussain, Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Kamal Lohani and dance artiste Amanul Haque at the launching of the book "Sunder Ei Prithibi Amar", the memoirs of Afroza Bulbul on her husband and pioneer dance artiste Nriyacharya Bulbul Chowdhury, published by Adorn Publications, at AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. Later, Pooja Sengupta and artistes of Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts presented dances at the event.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

CORPORATE BOOKING

Fantasy Kingdom, Water Kingdom & Heritage Park will be reserved on 12, 13 and 14 March, 2015 for Annual Festival of Hop Lun (Bangladesh) Ltd.

Fantasy Kingdom, Water Kingdom & Heritage Park will remain open for all from 15 March, 2015 (Sunday).

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Rasel Chy wins Syngenta Photography Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi photographer Rasel Chowdhury has won the second prize in the Syngenta Photography Award-2015.

The winners of the Syngenta Photography Award-2015 were announced at a ceremony in London yesterday.

The Syngenta Photography Award is an international competition which aims to stimulate dialogue and raise awareness about significant global challenges through photography.

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Mosquito menace grows acute at RU

Five students get malaria

MA SAYEED, RU

Because of a delay in spraying pesticides, the mosquito menace has grown acute in different parts of Rajshahi city and Rajshahi University in the last one month and a half.

At least five resident students contacted malaria in early March, according to the university medical centre.

The problem starts in late February and persists for the next three or four months if there have been no containing measures by Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), say officials. Amzad Hossain, a resident student of Bangabandhu hall, said it was nearly impossible to stay in the room without using the mosquito net or burning repellent coils.

The insects swarm into the room in the evening, from nearby drains and ponds, added Asaduzzaman Newton of Suhrawardy hall.

However, some students reported that sometimes the repellents did not work and an excessive use of these caused burning in

the eyes and breathing complications.

As an alternative, employees of the central library make smoke burning wood and straws to save themselves from bites, said one staff Sukesh Karmakar.

Every year RCC's mosquito control department, which employs 500 people, sprays larvicides across the city and on the university campus towards the end of February.

On condition of anonymity, an official told The Daily Star that RCC had sanctioned Tk 1.5 crore this year for mosquito control.

Muhammad Sanauallah, inspector of the department, said there had been a delay in having the funding approved because Mayor Mossaddek Hossain Bulbul was rarely found in recent times.

He, however, could not specify when the drive may start, saying the pesticides would be bought from India this month and tested by experts to ensure they were not harmful. It will take some time, he added.

STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the Star Weekend will have an array of articles for your reading pleasure. We have a special spotlight on BRAC celebrating their 43rd year, with an insight on how Sir Fazle Hasan Abed has set higher standards for NGOs worldwide. We have a historical article on the legends of Badr-Al-Din, the saint or otherwise known as the King of The Seas. There is a heart warming write-up on the Tigers' thrashing win against England and much more. Be sure to pick up your copy of the Star Weekend this Friday. Don't miss it!