

BNP wants to hold 'Solidarity Day' rally Nov 7 or 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday chalked out a 10-day programme, including a rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan on November 7 or 8, to mark what it calls National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

"The Awami League is holding its council there (Suhrawardy Udyan) using state machinery. We hope we'll at least be able to exercise our right to hold a rally either on November 7 or 8," BNP Secretary General Fakhru Islam Alamgir said while briefing media at the party's Naya Paltan central office.

While BNP and its allies celebrate November 7 as "National Revolution and Solidarity Day", the ruling party considers it a day of "killing of freedom fighters".

The programme includes hoisting the party flags atop its all offices on the morning of November 7, and placing wreaths and offering prayers at the grave of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman.

Amid political turmoil, soldiers and civilians on November 7, 1975 jointly freed then chief of army staff Ziaur Rahman from captivity in Dhaka cantonment, paving the path for Zia to come to power.

AL INVITES BNP

AL yesterday invited BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Fakhru Islam to its council, scheduled for October 22-23.

A five-member delegation, led by AL's deputy office secretary Mrinal Kanti Das, handed over the invitation cards to Fakhru at Naya Paltan office.

Talking to reporters, Mrinal said, "We hope they'll join our national council." Asked, Fakhru later said the party would discuss the matter to decide whether to attend the council.



ANOTHER ARTERY BLOCKED

Incessant dumping of garbage in Ramchandrapur canal in the capital's Mohammadpur area has not only suffocated the water body but also is contributing to the continual waterlogging problem in the area. Even though Wasa has put up a signboard, not in picture, which forbids dumping of waste into the canal, the residents continue to ignore it. The photo was taken Wednesday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Logical minds beat back militancy

Inauguration of Prothom Alo-JDC debate competition told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's young generation cannot be misled into militancy if they can think about everything logically, observed speakers at a programme yesterday.

The militants never believe in logic but rather try to misguide the youths with their dogmatic ideology, they added.

So, the young generation must be aware of the evil attempts so that none can hinder the nation's progressive movement, the speakers mentioned.

"Where militancy exists, progressive movement faces obstructions," said Advocate Sultana Kamal, former adviser to a caretaker government, while addressing as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a four-day Prothom Alo-JDC National Debate Competition

organised by the Josephite Debating Club (JDC) in the capital's St Joseph Higher Secondary School.

She said the young generation cannot be misguided if they can practice tolerance and humanity in their daily lives.

"A logical person never believes in narrow ideologies. Those who have respect for humanity can never be a militant," she said, adding that militancy and corruption prevent the country's democratic progress and development.

The militants are corrupted because they never want to show any transparency in their activities, said Sultana Kamal, a rights activist and chair of the Bangladesh chapter of Transparency International.

It is essential to eradicate corruption that creates frustration among people, especially the youth, which the mili-

tants might utilise and mislead them, she observed.

Hassan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, chairman of Debate for Democracy, said the political leaders must be united to ensure the country's democratic ruling and good governance to fight against the militancy.

The youths must not be defeated because they have to lead the nation, he said, adding that the practice of debate was essential for enhancing their logical and open minds.

The programme was chaired by St Joseph Higher Secondary School's Principal Brother Robi Theodore Purification, CSC.

Sixty-four teams are expected to take part in the children, inter-school and inter-college debate competition.

The final competition will be held on next Sunday.

Obituary

CITY DESK

Mahbubur Rob Sadi, Bir Protik and a former member of parliament, died of a cardiac arrest at United Hospital in the capital on Monday. He was 74.



Born on May 10 in 1942 in Habiganj to Dewan Mamun Chowdhury and Syeda Jabunessa Khatun, he served as a sub-sector commander during the 1971 Liberation War.

His namaz-e-janaza was held on Tuesday at the south plaza of the Parliament Complex. Later, he was buried in Martyred Intellectual Graveyard in Mirpur.

He is survived by two sons and a daughter and was the youngest brother of SB Chowdhury former governor of Bangladesh Bank.

SNAPS & snippets

Killing of two siblings: Charges accepted against mother

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted the charges against Mahfuza Malek Jasmine in a case filed for killing her two children at her Banasree house in the capital in February.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order and fixed November 15 for hearing the charges. Nusrat Aman Aroni, 14, and her brother Alvi Aman, 6, were strangled in their Banasree apartment on February 29. Mahfuza reportedly confessed to the killings in court on March 13.

DSCC to build 100 public toilets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) will construct 100 modern public toilets by 2017, said its Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday.

Addressing a programme at Nagar Bhaban, he said the new public toilets will help the commuters, particularly women and children.

100 North Dhaka landlords to get 19,000 fruit saplings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sabuj Dhaka, a social organisation, will give 100 selected landlords in North Dhaka 19,000 fruit saplings with pots for making rooftop gardens to encourage the dwellers to turn the city into a green one.

Mayor Anisul Huq will inaugurate the distribution programme tomorrow at the capital's Krishibid Institute.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Inter-Parliamentary Union President Saber Hossain Chowdhury meets Turkish Grand National Assembly President Ismail Kahraman during a visit to the country at the invitation of the latter on Wednesday.

Star, EBL ink deal to focus on restaurants' top dishes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star and Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) have entered into a partnership to highlight the main dishes or recipes of top restaurants of the country.

The leading English daily and the local bank signed a deal at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday to run a six-month programme to this effect.

Under the deal, The Daily Star will carry out special news features on top 24 restaurants' signature dishes. News features on each dish will be published in the newspaper every Friday starting from next week.

Apart from the features, special video and multimedia stories will be uploaded on Star Live, the YouTube channel of the newspaper.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of EBL, signed the deal on behalf of their respective organisations.

Highlighting on professionalism and ethical journalism, Mahfuz Anam said "The Daily Star has proven that good journalism is also good business."

Ali Reza Iftekhar said Diners Club usually operates in a niche market and they are not like other cards like Visa or Master cards.

Eastern Bank and Diners Club International, a charge card company formed in 1950, entered into a two-year partnership to launch exclusive range of credit cards especially targeting the elite class.

Diners Club International is a direct banking and payment services company owned by Discover Financial Services.

Eastern Bank Limited is the sole issuer and acquirer of Diners Club credit card in the country. The Diners Club credit cards offer its clients premium travel and lifestyle benefits, privileges at the local top restaurants, discounts at more than 165 hospitals worldwide, and cash back offer at local supermarkets.



The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Eastern Bank Ltd Managing Director Ali Reza Iftekhar exchange documents in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday after signing a deal to run a six-month programme to highlight the main dishes or recipes of the country's top restaurants.

PHOTO: STAR

'Irregularities' tearing Ctg south dist AL apart

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

"Irregularities" in running the Chittagong south district unit of Awami League (AL) and allegations of "nomination trade" in the recently held Union Parishad (UP) polls are tearing the unit apart, according to party insiders.

The rival leaders including Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, lawmaker from Chittagong-14 constituency (Chandanaish upazila), and Dr Abu Reza Mohammad Nezamuddin Nadwi, lawmaker from Chittagong-15 constituency (Satkania-Lohagara upazilas), alleged that the unit's president and the general secretary were engaged in irregularities and that they failed to run the unit transparently.

The rivalry turned extreme over nominating chairman aspirants during the UP polls, added the insiders.

They also said President Moslem Uddin Ahmed and General Secretary Mafizur Rahman did not maintain fairness when sending the lists of candidates to the central committee and also when forming UP committees in different upazilas, the insiders mentioned, adding that they [rival leaders] therefore became aggrieved.

During recent meetings with Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, AL central executive committee member and lawmaker from Chittagong-13 (Anwara upazila), the leaders informed him of the irregularities and failure of the unit's president and general secretary, said a leader who was present there.

Javed, also state minister for land affairs, assured them of discussing the issues with the party chief Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We want the unit's activities to be done transparently, but they are forming the UP committees embodying mostly incompetent people," alleged Abu Reza.

Nazrul echoed Reza.

"The present leadership is not running the unit transparently. We should protest against such irregularities," he told The Daily Star.

"They did nomination business in the polls and are also forming the UP committees involving some unwanted people in return for some personal benefits," Nazrul alleged.

Contacted, Mafizur brushed aside all the allegations, saying, "Some leaders might be aggrieved as they were not given nomination in the polls."

He claimed that while forming UP committees, they selected competent leaderships after taking opinions from grassroots activists.

"Some inactive leaders failed to make their place in the present committee and they are the very people who are trying to fish in troubled waters," said Mafizur.

Denying all the allegations brought against him, Moslem said the party's central nomination board gave the nominations to the candidates in the polls, adding that they just sent recommendations, based on which the candidates were selected...

"So how I and my general secretary are liable for giving nomination to the UP chairman candidates?" he said.

If any leader had any complaint or anything to say about the leadership, they could have raised it in the working committee's meetings," Moslem said, adding, "But none did so."



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Abdullah, 6, only child of Abu Salam of Bakerganj upazila in Barisal, is suffering from blood cancer.

Presently, the boy is at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in Dhaka.

Abdullah needs a regular four-year treatment, including chemotherapy and medicines, which will cost around Tk 30 lakh, his father, a former factory worker, told The Daily Star, quoting doctors.

Tk 50,000 is needed every month for his treatment, which has been stopped for more than four months due to a lack of money.

So, the family have appealed to the well-off for financial help.

Aid can be sent to Abrax Khan, A/C No: 006412100002479, Southeast Bank, Begum Rokeya Sarani Branch, Mirpur; bKash No: 01742040204.

Vacancy Announcement
Team Leader, Developing Midwives Project

The James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University has been Developing Midwives to improve the maternal and neonatal health in Bangladesh. The Developing Midwives Project, funded by UKaid is looking for one **Team Leader** for this project.

Job profile

The main role of this position will be to deliver midwifery education with quality. The candidate must have BSc in Nursing with MSc or PhD in Nursing or Midwifery and 7-10 years of experience in leadership position at any reputed organization.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit: <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/index.php/opportunities/employment>
Deadline for application: 31 October 2016.

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