

Govt trying to push BNP into conflict

Alleges Fakhru Islam
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is trying to push BNP into conflict, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir alleged yesterday. He, however, said BNP does not believe in politics of conflict. BNP believes in change of power through voting, he added.

Fakhru was briefing journalists after a joint meeting of the party at BNP's Naya Paltan central office in the capital.

The meeting was organised aiming to successfully hold a rally BNP plans to hold at Suhrawardy Udyan on January 7.

Pointing to the Awami League (AL) men obstructing BNP men from holding a "black flag rally" at different parts of the country yesterday, Fakhru said such activities were nothing but the ruling party's provocation.

"They want to put BNP in a conflict," Fakhru added.

The BNP leader also said they want to hold the rally at Suhrawardy Udyan on January 7 to mark "democracy killing day". "We hope

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Traffic congestion plaguing the capital for the last two days continues into the night, leaving people stranded for hours on the road, unsure when they will be able to rest after a hard day at work. The photo was taken on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue around 6:40pm yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Thief killed in gunfight with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A suspected cattle thief was killed and three others injured after his gang had a gunfight with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Gazipur early yesterday.

The alleged thief, who could not be identified immediately, died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital where all of the four wounded persons were sent.

Two of the injured were Abdul Jalil, 28, of Kazipur upazila in Sirajganj, and Rafiqul Islam Shawon, 28, from Mugda Manda area in Dhaka.

A third suspect aged around 35 also remains unidentified, said Rab.

Rab-1's Additional Superintendent of Police Mohiul Islam said on a tip-off, they tried to stop a truckload of cattle by putting barricades on the road in Gazipur city's Majlishpur area.

However, the criminals opened fire on the law-enforcers while trying to escape through Dhaka-Tangail highway, he said. The four were hit when the Rab team responded, he added.

JU BCL men beat JCD leader unconscious

JU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Jahangirnagar University unit beat up a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader on the campus yesterday.

Nabul Islam Nabin, vice-president of JU JCD unit and resident student of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A group of BCL men led by Shakil Mahmud Shawon, Sanaul Haque and Firozur Rahman Sabuj, beat up Nabin at Bismail gate around 1:30pm with iron rods and hockey sticks and left him unconscious, said an eyewitness.

SM Abu Sufian Chanchal, general secretary of JU BCL, said,

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Collapsed market continues to burn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While shopowners of the gutted DCC market lament losses, some parts of the collapsed building are still on fire as clouds of smoke continued billowing from the rubble yesterday.

Firefighters drilled holes on the collapsed roof to reach crevices and completely douse the fire.

"We demanded that the mayor rehabilitate us and provide compensation for the loss and he assured that he would help," said Sher Mohammad, chairman of the DCC Kancha Market Businessmen's Association.

The cause of the devastating fire which started around 2:00am on Tuesday is yet to be determined. Businessmen suspect it was a sabotage of some vested quarters to drive them out of the market.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Anisul Huq in a press conference in the afternoon, however, urged the businessmen to

refrain from jumping to conclusions before an "impartial and transparent probe finds out the reason".

"DNCC will be by the side of the affected businessmen," said the mayor.

An official of DNCC said it would seek assistance of the army and Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) to clear the rubble.

The shopowners, however, said they would not leave the market premises until the mayor's promises are kept.

MAYOR'S PRESS BRIEFING
There are seven risky markets of the DNCC. The buildings are dilapidated and a tragedy might occur at any moment, said the mayor at his office.

He added that the risky markets included two in Gulshan, two in Kawran Bazar and one each at Mohammadpur and Taltola.

Commenting on the collapsed market, he said the building was in

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HC wants probe report on illegal structures on Turag

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the chief judicial magistrate of Gazipur to probe if illegal structures along the foreshore of the Turag river in Kamarpara area of the district had been demolished.

The court also asked the magistrate to submit a probe report before it in this regard by March 1.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah came up with the order while hearing a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

In compliance with an earlier HC order, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) submitted a report before the court yesterday, saying that the structures constructed by nine organisations in the river had already been removed.

But HRPB lawyer Manzill Murshed told the HC that it seemed from the pictures submitted by the BIWTA that there might be some illegal structures in the river and land grabbing might be still going on there.

Earlier on November 9 last year following the writ petition, the HC directed the government to stop earth

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Stop extraction of stones, sand: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to stop extraction of stones and sands from Lovachhora river in Kanaighat upazila of Sylhet for the next six months.

The court also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks why extraction of sand and stones from the river should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman gave the order and rule following a petition filed by a local rights activist, Nazrul Islam, challenging the legality of extraction of stone and sand from the river.

Citing from the petition, his lawyer Kamruzzaman Salim told The Daily Star that some people have been extracting stones and sands from Lovachhora river damaging and polluting the environment.

The petitioner sought court direction upon the government authorities to stop such activities.

HC asks govt to explain why two murder accused will not get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in 10 days why two under-trial prisoners of Kishoreganj jail, who are mentally challenged, should not be granted bail in two murder cases.

The two -- Shafiqul Islam Swapan, 35, and Sabed Ali, 55, from Kishoreganj -- have been languishing in the jail since 2001 and 2003 respectively, in connection with the two separate cases.

Issuing a suo moto (of its own) rule, the court asked the prison authorities to produce the duo before it on January 19 for hearing their statements.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice

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The Chittagong Port Authority has chopped down two old rain trees on the premises of an abandoned government bungalow in Monoharkhali Residential Area in Chittagong city. CPA officials said the trees were old and might have fallen down anytime; so they cut them down to avert accidents.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

KHALEDA'S GRAFT CASE Hearing deferred till Jan 12

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A special court in Dhaka yesterday deferred to January 12 for placing BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's self-defence statements in connection with the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

Judge Abu Ahmed Jomadar of the Special Judge Court-3 passed the order in presence of Khaleda Zia after her lawyer Abdur Rezak Khan submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

During the hearing, Khaleda, who appeared before the court at 11:30am, was allowed to sit on a chair. She then left the courtroom at 2:45pm.

In the petition, the lawyer said his client had earlier filed a petition with the High Court for recording

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BGB, locals clash hurts six in Srimangal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Six people were injured in a clash between the members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and locals at Srimangal upazila bazar in Moulvibazar yesterday evening.

Following the clash, locals blocked many roads in different areas of the upazila.

Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Srimangal Police Station, said the clash ensued following an altercation that took place between a BGB official and a local transport worker.

Witnesses said the BGB official went to a restaurant where he locked into an altercation with a man and then a group of local people attacked him.

After he had informed the matter to the officials at BGB sector-9 headquarter, some BGB soldiers went to the restaurant and started beating locals which led to the clash.

Ranadhir Deb, Srimangal upazila chairman, said the situation is now under control and they are trying to persuade the locals to withdraw the blockade. The injured were rushed to Upazila Health Complex.

Man held with 1kg of gold in rectum at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence detained a person with 12 gold bars weighing over 1kg hidden inside his rectum at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday.

Over the suspicious movement of Sharif, 33, who got off a flight coming from Malaysia, was taken to a hospital for X-ray through which the gold bars were detected, Custom Intelligence Director General Moinul Khan told The Daily Star.

Later, the man pushed out the gold worth Tk 60 lakh, he added.

DIALOGUE WITH PRESIDENT CPB for new law on forming EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday recommended that President Abdul Hamid take measures to enact a law in line with the constitution to form the election commission (EC).

A nine-member delegation of CPB held dialogue with Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban on formation of the EC.

Led by its President Mujahidul Islam Selim, the CPB team also proposed forming a "select committee" which will recommend names of prospective candidates to the president for appointment of chief election commissioner and other election commissioners.

The committee will be comprised of chief justice or attorney general, speaker of the

parliament, chairman of public service commission, comptroller and auditor general, heads of other constitutional bodies and two non-partisan dignitaries appointed by the president.

In the talks, CPB also recommended that Abdul Hamid take measures to form an election-time government, which will only carry out routine works of the state.

The delegation also suggested that the president re-organise the country's electoral system to free polls from the influence of black money and muscle power.

Welcoming the CPB delegation, Abdul Hamid said he had been getting positive proposals from the political parties, which would help him form a strong EC.

'Tk12 lakh' snatched, man stabbed in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Muggers snatched around "Tk 12 lakh" after stabbing a staff of a business organisation in Chittagong city's BRTC area last night.

Md Saddam, a staff of G-Net Distribution, was going to the organisation's head office in New Market area with the money from the branch office at Chowmuhoni. When his CNG-run auto-rickshaw reached BRTC area around 7:30pm, around five muggers snatched the money after stabbing him, said Liton Barua, supervisor of the organisation.

Saddam was given primary treatment, he added.

Nur Ahmed, inspector (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station, said they were looking into the matter.

The Daily Star
18th 'O' & 'A' Level
Award Presentation Ceremony, 2015-2016
Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates and Schools

Private Candidates
Private candidates who fulfill the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

Criteria for 'O' Level
Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2015 to May/June 2016

Criteria for 'A' Level
Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2015 to May/June 2016)

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Sheikh Yasir Arafat at The Daily Star 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, with their **original Results Certificates and a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs** in person on **29,30 or 31 January, 2017**, between **12:00 noon and 5:00 pm**.

Schools
Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Sheikh Yasir Arafat at The Daily Star (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215), on the aforementioned dates and times or email him at o.alevel.tds@gmail.com by 28th January, 2017, with:
• **The name of the school, phone number of a responsible representative and a valid email address that is checked regularly.**
The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

No registration will be allowed or accepted after 5:00 pm of 28th January, 2017.
NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.