

BNP calls countrywide demo again tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Accusing the government of obstructing its yesterday's scheduled programmes at different places, BNP again announced countrywide demonstrations for tomorrow, demanding release of its chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail.

The party's senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi made the announcement at a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office yesterday.

"We will again stage demonstrations and bring out processions in all metropolitan cities, including Dhaka, and the district towns on Tuesday, demanding our leader Khaleda Zia's unconditional release," he said.

On Saturday, the party announced similar programme for yesterday to press for the same demand.

Rizvi said law enforcers and ruling party "cadres" attacked their party's scheduled programme yesterday at different parts of the country, and arrested some party leaders and activists.

He said "armed" ruling party activists with the help of police attacked their party's procession in Sirajganj and set fire to their office in the district.

The BNP leader strongly condemned the attacks, and demanded the government

take action against those involved in the incidents.

"We also demand the immediate release of those arrested," he said.

Rizvi voiced concern that relatives of Khaleda Zia have not been allowed to meet her for 25 days.

As per the jail code, he said, relatives can meet a prisoner after every seven days, but the BNP chief's relatives could not meet her after November 13, as jail authorities are not giving them permission, he further alleged.

The BNP leader urged jail authorities to allow Khaleda's relatives to meet her immediately.

Khaleda has been in jail since being convicted in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case on February 8, 2018. She was found guilty in another corruption case later the same year, though her party claims both cases are politically motivated.

The BNP chief has been receiving treatment at the BSMMU since April 1 this year.

Rizvi said their party extended its support to the ongoing movement by workers of state-owned jute mills across Bangladesh. He urged the government to immediately accept the justified demands of the workers.

Rotary raised \$1.3b for charity

CITY DESK

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) has so far raised US \$1.3 billion for humanitarian activities worldwide, said World Rotary Leader & TRF Chairman Gary CK Huang. He was speaking at the multi District Rotary Seminar held last Friday in Dhaka, said a press release.

Chairperson Shereen Bon presided over the event, addressed by Rotary Governor Khairul Alam; former Governor Dr Meer Anisuzzaman; Govomor-elect Md Rubaiyat Hossain; Royal Rotary President Zahid Hossain and leaders from home and abroad.

Rotarians of Bangladesh donated US \$5.50 million this year.

Rotary International has played an integral role in polio eradication across the world. The organisation has been involved in numerous activities for the last 114 years in service of humanity around the world.



World Rotary Leader & TRF Chairman Gary CK Huang speaks at the seminar.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Chinese

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He was rushed to Patuakhali General Hospital which referred him to Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital. He succumbed to his injuries on the way.

He was working at the construction project since 2017, Jiko added.

The body was sent to Patuakhali General Hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed with Kalapara Police Station, said OC Asadur Rahman.

This is the second such incident on the project in two weeks. On November 29, another worker died when an iron pipe fell on him from a crane.

Khulna BNP

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Former Khulna city mayor Mohammad Moniruzzaman, senior vice-president of city unit of BNP Shahraruzzaman Mortuja, district BNP general secretary Amir Ezaz Khan, BNP leaders Md Sheikh Rashid, Fazle Halim, Sirajul Haque were present and spoke, among others, at the protest rally.

Leaders chosen

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"As a politician with years of experience, I expected to be chosen. I will have to get over this despair of not being chosen. It will take some time," Layeb Uddin Lablu said.

Alfor Rahman said the councillors were prepared for an election, but they didn't oppose the selection. He said, "The selection has created a balance of power in local politics. The new leaders were not enjoying any office in recent past. There is no reason to be dissatisfied with them," he said. Meanwhile, on condition of anonymity, an executive body member of the outgoing district committee said that the new leaders might create division in the party. He said the new president Meraj Uddin Mollah was expelled from the party for taking part in the 2014 general election independently -- going against the party's decision. The new secretary, on other hand, failed to secure party nomination during last general election for his detachment with the grassroots -- following allegations of corruption against him, the AL leader added.

Fate of 56 cases rest

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we need to track the money," he added.

Asked whether the Anti-Corruption Committee will file any case against any big fish for involvement in illegal casino business, Iqbal said they have already interrogated several accused.

"We're now cross-checking whose names have come up during the interrogation. We'll go after the persons whose names have come up in the testimonies of several accused," said ACC Chairman.

ACC's Commissioner AFM Aminul Islam, top officials, RAC President Morshed Noman and General Secretary Aditya Arafat were present at the programme, among others.

Secretariat area to become 'No Horn Zone' from Dec 17

UNB, Dhaka

The surrounding areas of the Secretariat have been declared "No Horn Zone" and the decision will become effective from December 17 -- aiming to prevent sound pollution.

No vehicle will be allowed to honk at Zero Point, Paltan intersection and secretariat link road areas.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting of ministry of environment, forest and climate change at the secretariat yesterday.

The meeting stressed the need for creating public awareness to stop honking in the surrounding areas of the secretariat and sought cooperation of all including media workers in the regard.

According to Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995, if anyone violates this ban, the offender will be sentenced to maximum one month imprisonment or fined a maximum of Tk 5,000 or awarded both fine and jail term.

Earlier, on November 25, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin said the surrounding areas of the secretariat will be declared as 'No Horn Zone' from December 17.

Foreign aid must

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but the relationship has to continue.

In his keynote presentation, Swiss Ambassador to Bangladesh Rene Holenstein said after the Second World War, foreign aid was meant to reconstruct Europe and the third world countries, promote anti-communism and humanitarian assistance.

Eventually, foreign aid became part of technical assistance, foreign policy, free market, democracy, peace, justice and human rights, he said.

Experiences suggest that aid has not always worked well for social change. Therefore, demand for more effectiveness of foreign aid and accountability is rising, he said.

Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said traditionally aid recipients have a sense of inferiority complex, but actually there is no reason to feel that way, because donor countries serve purpose not only of the recipients, but also of their own.

Foreign aid is now part of donor countries' foreign policy and businesses, he said, adding that foreign aid needs to be driven by the development demands of the countries concerned.

Iftekharuzzaman stressed that there should be simplified ways of providing foreign aid and that there is no duplication of activities by the NGOs. Development partners and NGOs -- all should be accountable to the people, he said.

CARE Bangladesh representative Walter Mwassa said Bangladesh is a cradle of many innovations, but the question remains if those were replicated and mainstreamed.

He stressed bringing together all the best practices in the development of Bangladesh and scaling those up.

MSF President and rights activist Sultana Kamal moderated the discussion.



Canadian University held its academic council and syndicate meeting on Saturday. At the meeting, board of trustee members and other high-ups discussed several issues related to delivering quality education.

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Three-way collaboration

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where victims can express their woes without feeling hesitant.

"Preventing sexual harassment is possible, if the intention is there," she added.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal lawmaker Shirin Akter said the definition of "sexual harassment" is not specific in existing labour law, which needs to change.

She said under the current circumstances, a sexually harassed woman finds it hard to fulfill her potential, and is forced to limit her movement.

She stressed for comprehensive learning mechanism at schools, families and society to prevent occurrence of sexual harassment.

Farooq Ahmed, secretary general of

Bangladesh Employers' Federation, said the society needed to be prepared before the government can ratify the ILO convention.

Kamrul Hasan, acting president of Jatiya Sramik Federation, said they will work to convince the government to ratify the convention.

Abdur Razzaque, vice president of Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh, said both employers and workers have to work together to stop sexual harassment against women.

Sharmin Jahan, programme officer of the government's Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women, said at present they are providing training to a number of school teachers which will help them teach adolescent students about sexual harassment and its prevention.

Model UN inspires

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"The world has never been as globalised as today," he said, adding all problems should be solved by mutual discussion, understanding and negotiation -- that is the beauty of the UN.

Terming climate change an existential threat, Mahfuz Anam urged students as well as people of all walks of life to become more conscious about it.

In her speech, Scholastica Principal Farah Sophia Ahmed said they have been organising the conference since 2015 to broaden students' areas of thinking, and help them understand the present world.

Security analyst and former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain is expected to be present at the closing ceremony of the three-day programme.

BCL-backed Ducsu

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submitted admission papers within due time, but the department delayed to forward it to the admission office.

"Hence, it was not my fault; no irregularities were proven after investigation," said Rabbani.

He did not respond to a question about allegations of extortion in development projects of Jahangirnagar University (JU).

Ducsu assistant general secretary and general secretary of DU unit BCL, Saddam Hussain, replied to the question, saying what happened at JU is an internal matter of the student organisation, and action was taken against Rabbani in light of that.

"Golam Rabbani was serving as the general secretary but neither any audio clip of him was leaked nor he was involved with any family business. Yet he resigned from the post in a show of accountability. The allegation raised against Nur is stronger," said Saddam.

Later on, however, Rabbani addressed the leaked audio conversation between him and a JU unit BCL leader.

"From that audio conversation, it became clear that I was not involved with the incident of JU. Still I and the president resigned from our posts as soon as the allegation surfaced against us. We repeatedly demanded probe into the incident but no probe body was formed in that connection," he said.

While reading out a statement at the press conference, Ducsu member Rakibul Hasan said while 23 members of Ducsu are busy in taking students-friendly initiatives, Ducsu VP Nur is busy in tender rigging and lobbying for illegal monetary transactions using the VP post.

He urged the DU vice-chancellor to expel Nur form Ducsu following due procedure if he does not resign from the post willingly.

Ever since the allegation was brought against him, Nur has been claiming that a part of his conversation has been publicised in a distorted way to tarnish his image. He has also declared to step down from the post willingly if the allegation of corruption against him is proven.

High Court may

FROM PAGE 3

The mutiny on February 25-26, 2009 left the nation shocked and numb -- as details of the unthinkable cruelty perpetrated at the Pikhkhana headquarters of the paramilitary force emerged. BDR was later renamed Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). On November 5, 2013, a Dhaka court

awarded death sentence to 150 BDR members and two civilians, and life imprisonment to 160 others in the case.

It also handed down rigorous imprisonment of different terms -- ranging from one year to 14 years -- to 256 people, mostly BDR soldiers. It acquitted the remaining 278, but the government later appealed against the acquittal of 69 of them.

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এতদ্বারা সর্ব-সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ঢাকা এস্টেট বিভাগের আওতাধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত স্টেশন/এলাকা অনুমোদিত মাটের প্র্যান্ডুক্ত তফসিল মোতাবেক প্রটসমূহ বাণিজ্যিক কাজে ব্যবহারের নিমিত্তে বাৎসরিক ভিত্তিতে সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ীভাবে লাইসেন্স গ্রহণে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তিদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রতিটি দরপত্র দলিল নম্বর ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) মূল্যে বিভাগীয় ভূ-সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ঢাকা/চট্টগ্রাম, প্রশান ভূ-সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা (পূর্ব), বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম, জেলা প্রশাসক, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া/ময়মনসিংহ/জামালপুর/হবিগঞ্জ/সুনামগঞ্জ (যে দরপত্রের জন্য যেটা প্রযোজ্য) হতে জ্ঞাত/সজ্ঞাত এবং নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে উক্ত অফিসসমূহে প্রস্তুত করে দরপত্র দলিল দাখিল করা যাবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় করা হবে না। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে অনুযায়ী আগ্রহী দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র দলিল খোলা হবে। রেলওয়ে কর্তৃক রেলওয়ের প্রয়োজনে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।						
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