

Movement can't be stopped by threats

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday warned that the ongoing movement cannot be suppressed by threatening to send the party's chairperson Khaleda Zia back to jail.

Hemade this remark at the chairperson's office in Gulshan in a response to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statement that Khaleda Zia will be sent back to jail again if BNP does excesses in the name of movement.

Fakhrul said, "At a time when the country is going through extreme mismanagement, extreme economic and political crises, she (the prime minister) is making such a threat... if she thinks it will disrupt or suppress the movement of democracy, then she is not living in the right place."

No one will be able to suppress this movement of the people. People are fighting for their rights, he added.

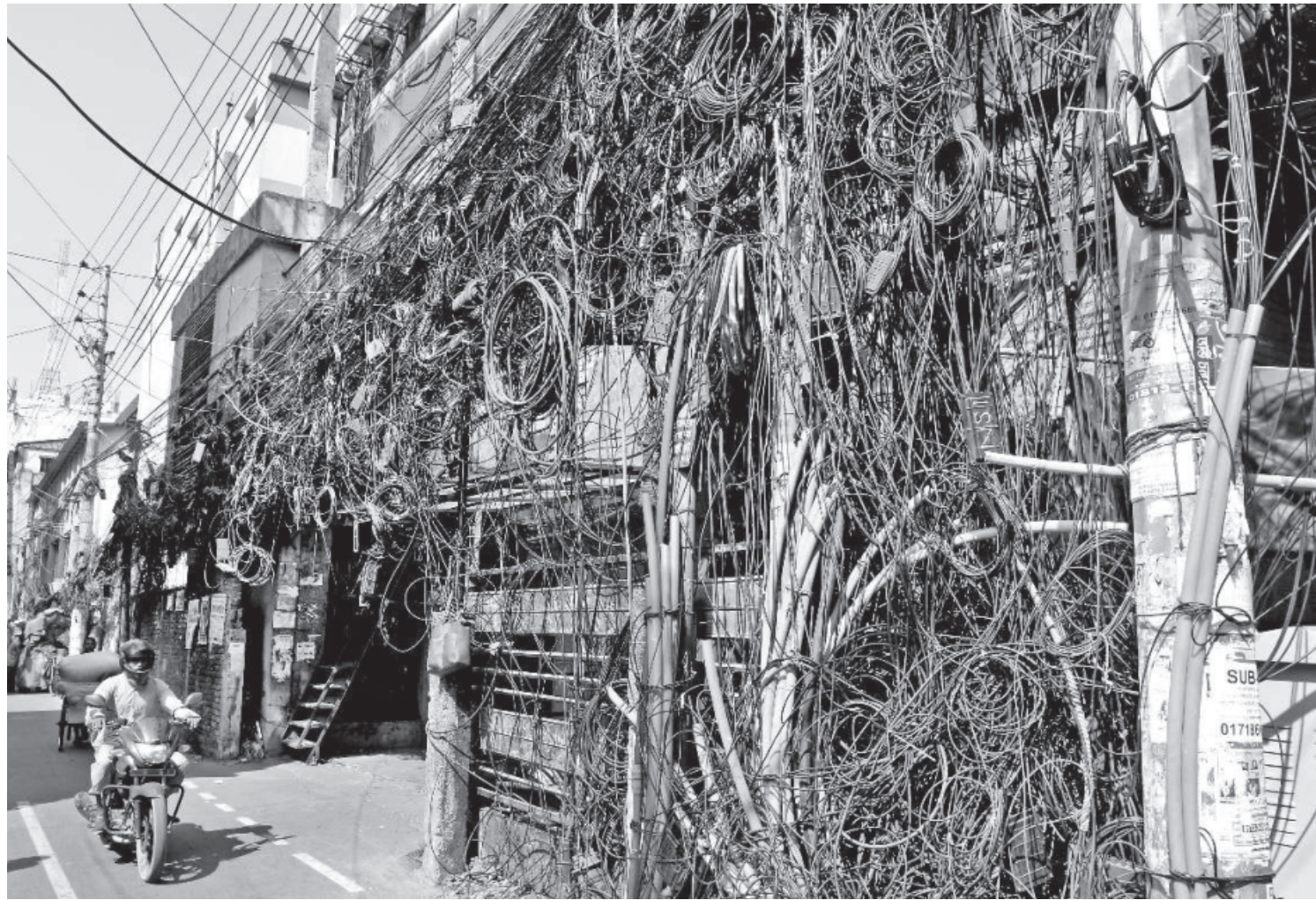
Fakhrul said it is the Awami League government which is crossing its limits.

"The transport movement had been stopped five days before our rally in Barishal. The launch and speedboat services from Patuakhali to Barishal has stopped. How do you explain it?" he asked.

The AL government is trying to come back to power by holding a fake election again, he added.

He said the crises that have arisen in Bangladesh are entirely due to their (AL) corruption.

Fakhrul said their last divisional rally will be held in Dhaka on December 10.



Overhead cables are a common sight in the capital. These webs of wires not just pose serious danger, but also remain an eyesore. The photo was taken in Mohakhali area recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Two trampled to death by elephants in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

Two people were trampled to death and another was injured in an attack by a herd of wild elephants in Lama upazila of Bandarban yesterday.

The deceased are Amir Ali, 70, and Khodeza Bibi, 65, residents of Sohrabpara in Aziznagar union under the upazila and the injured is Bayati, 60.

UP chair Md Jasim Uddin said a herd of wild elephants coming from a nearby jungle entered Sohrabpara area around 8:00am.

The injured were rushed to Chakaria Upazila Health Complex in Cox's Bazar where Amir succumbed to his injuries, the chairman said. Bayati was shifted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for better treatment.

Anamul Haque Bhuiyan, in-charge of Aziznagar Police Outpost, said the wild elephants also vandalised establishments of the locals.

Bhashani univ VC freed after 52 hours of confinement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Students of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University in Tangail freed its vice chancellor yesterday, 52 hours after the employees confined him to his office.

The university's class III employees detained Prof Farhad Hossain on Wednesday morning to press home their 14-point demand, including job regularisation of 22 employees recruited on an ad hoc basis during the tenure of immediate past VC.

The VC assured the agitators of meeting their demands as per the university rules after talking to the University Grant Commission (UGC).

Moreover, the UGC chairman talked to the agitators over phone, but they did not release the VC.

Mahfuzur Rahman, president of Class III Employees Association, said class IV employees of the university also expressed solidarity with their movement.

Meanwhile, the pro-VC, treasurer, deans and the teacher leaders also talked to the agitators for three occasions on Thursday, but the employees told them of resolving the issue after talking to local political leaders.

The VC, however, refused to talk to the local leaders.

Amid the situation, the university students went to the administrative building

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CHILD MARRIAGE not under team Aparajita's watch

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Once a victim of child marriage herself, Anima Sultana (14), a ninth grader at Lengura High School in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila is now leading a 40-member "Team Aparajita", that pledges to end early marriage.

Early marriage is very common in remote villages of Kalmakanda as most of the people in these areas live below the poverty line and parents seek to marry their daughters off early to relieve themselves of financial pressure, said Sheikh Mohammad Shamim, a local journalist.

Anima was brought up in a poor household by her maternal aunt Anwara Khatun, in Lengura Udupara area.

Alongside financial hurdles, Anima's worst nightmare was about to come true during the pandemic last year. She was arranged to marry a 50-year-old man in their locality.

Wasting no time, Anima immediately shared this with the upazila Women Affairs Officer Jannatul Islam Mim and her two teachers living adjacent to her house.

They all rushed to Anima's house instantly and

CHANGE MAKER



managed to stop the marriage. For her bravery and proactive attitude, Anima was awarded by the upazila administration and Women Affairs Department as "Brave Girl" on March 8, 2021, marking International Women's Day.

Anima used to work with child forum organised by World Vision's local unit. There she learnt the ill-effects of early marriage.

"The number of child marriages in my locality during the lockdown was shocking!" said Anima.

In mid-2021, Anima with the help of two female HSC candidates, now married Reshma Akter and Boishaki Akter, formed a team to stop early marriage.

The team has stopped around 25 child marriages since 2021 and 17 early marriages this year, informed team member Sumaiya



On many occasions, we had to endure abrasive behaviour from the bridal party due to our work, but we never take it to heart since our mission is clear.

A member of Team Aparajita

Akter.

Team member Najmul Hok, a 10th grader, said being informed of any incident, the team first rushes to the spot, talks to guardians and tries to persuade them about the harmful effects of child marriage.

"If they (parents) aren't convinced, then the UNO and officer-in-charge (OC) of the local police station is informed."

"They immediately respond to our call," said Najmul.

"On many occasions, we had to endure abrasive behaviour from the bridal party due to our work, but we never take it to heart since our mission is clear," said Shakil, a ninth

grade volunteer.

"We also campaign against the negative effects of repression on women and children, and stalking," said Rokshana Akter, a college student.

Like many other locals, Anima's father, a furniture worker, said he's happy as the girls and boys are working for the benefit of the society.

Contacted, UNO Md Abul Hasem said the team members have done an excellent job so far. He said the members have already been given caps, T-Shirts and identity cards.

"We bear the conveyance and food costs of the team members when they visit different areas to stop child marriage. We are also thinking to provide them with bi-cycles soon," he added.

The UNO who joined Kalmakanda in March this year said it's their mission to make the upazila free from child marriage and the team's activities is gradually spreading through the entire upazila.

Md Abdul Ahad Khan, officer-in-charge of Kalmakanda Police Station, said the team contacts the law enforcers before every drive and they are supported accordingly.

Load-shedding every alternating hour in port city

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

"Load-shedding starts at 6:00am, then power comes at 7:00am, then again it goes away at 8:00am... and it continues like this."

This is how Saima Akter, a resident of port city's Askar Dighir Par area, described the situation that has been prevailing for the past one week.

"My one-year-old daughter could not sleep for a moment last night due to the severe heat and frequent load-shedding," she said. "We are facing power outage eight to 10 times a day."

Like Saima, residents of Chattogram city have been suffering due to frequent power outages.

People in many areas claimed that the places witness load-shedding every alternating hour, making it difficult to stay at home both during daytime and at night.

Acknowledging the issue, officials of Power Development Board (PDB) in Chattogram said it had to implement load-shedding to supply uninterrupted power to the industries, as the city is not getting the required power from the national grid.

The sufferings of city dwellers worsened as the mercury rose high in the past two days.

The highest temperature in the city was recorded at 31.3 degrees Celsius yesterday, while it was 32.4 degrees on Thursday, said Harun-ur-Rashid, forecast officer of Chattogram Met office.

"The more humid the air, the more people will feel hot," he said.

"When people sweat on a hot day, the air absorbs the sweat if humidity remains low. But when humidity is high, air cannot absorb sweat," he explained. So, amid this scorching heat, the residents are suffering both indoors and outside due to the outages.

Locals of Halishahar, Bahaddarhat, Oxygen,

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The hills raise mangoes the fastest

Says study; findings likely to aid better harvest planning

ANWAR ALLI, Rajshahi

The common perception about mangoes is that they mature early in the country's north-western districts.

The Himalayan slope in the north sees more acute winters and summers than any other district, and this has fuelled the idea.

But a recent study proved a different theory.

The study found that the country's hilly terrain, which is closest to the sea, where there is less difference in temperature, ripens mangoes faster.

After the hills, the fastest rates of maturity were measured in Khulna, Rajshahi and Rangpur regions.

The study also shows that any variety

of mango in the country's northern part takes at least three weeks more to mature when compared to the hilly regions' rate.

The study was published in the MDPI Sustainability journal of Switzerland on October 19.

It was jointly authored by Md Moniruzzaman and Khan Rubayet Rahaman of Saint Mary's University in Canada, Md Sorof Uddin of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Md Abdullah Elias Akhter of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, and Akshar Tripathi of Indian Institute of

Technology (IIT) in India.

The findings open up prospects for accurate planning and better management

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Dengue death toll 162

Total number of patients 41,481

3,660 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients 37,659

498 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 5

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:55 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:15

JAMAAT 5:30 1:15 4:15 5:34 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Pedestrians face difficulty in using the footbridge as vehicles have been parked right at the mouth of the bridge, obstructing their movement. As authorities do not intervene, these private cars get away with parking without permit. This photo was taken on Dhaka's Mirpur Road in Kalabagan area recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS