

Ban BNP politics

Jubo League submits memoranda to EC, ministries

STAR REPORT

Jubo League has submitted a four-point memorandum to the Election Commission and home, law and foreign ministries demanding a “ban on BNP politics” and cancellation of its registration.

The other demands are posthumous trial of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman, extradition of convicts Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman.

Besides, JL also sought implementation of punishment for the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by bringing them back, reports UNB.

A JL delegation led by Chairman Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash and General Secretary Md Mainul Hossain Khan handed over the memoranda to the EC and other ministers.

Regarding the

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with World Bank Executive Director Parameswaran Iyer at Gono Bhaban yesterday morning. At the meeting, Iyer praised the premier saying that the developments of Bangladesh have been achieved because of her leadership and planning. He also said other developing countries can follow the development model of Bangladesh.

PHOTO: PID

‘Take action against contractors for incomplete work’

JS body asks LGRD ministry to float retenders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the Local Government and Rural Development ministry to take actions against contractors who have stopped construction halfway.

The parliamentary standing committee on the LGRD ministry also asked to float retenders to complete those unfinished work.

The recommendation came during its meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with former minister and MP Nurul Islam Nahid in the chair.

Expressing discontent at contractors for stopping construction work in different parts of the country, committee members asked the top LGRD ministry officials to submit a complete report on the number of work halted and the reasons behind it, and place it before the next meeting.

Parliamentary standing committees are supposed to hold at least one meeting every month.

At the meeting, two lawmakers mentioned that some construction work was halted for around four to five years, due to which people are being deprived of the benefits, meeting sources said.

Contractors often claim that due to the rise in prices of construction materials -- including iron rods -- they are forced to stop the work.

But a lawmaker at the meeting said some construction

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Collective efforts key to control dengue outbreak

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Multi-sectoral efforts are necessary to control the current dengue outbreak that has taken a severe turn, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

To improve the situation, there is an urgent need for everyone’s responsible attitude and engagement, they said at the event organised by Public Health Association of Bangladesh at National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM).

“A combined approach is imperative in the fight against dengue,” said Prof Shah Monir Hossain, president of the association and former director general of DGHS.

He stated that eliminating dengue entirely from the country is not possible for the government without active participation of civil society, media, and people.

“We can get rid of the problem by uniting public service providers and government institutions through effective planning,” he said.

While presenting another keynote, Prof Sanya Tahmina, former additional director general of the DGHS, said, “The present situation does not indicate that we are united. The dengue situation seems to have been forgotten due

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure combined approach
- Declare nat’l health emergency
- Take measures nationwide
- Follow dengue guidelines

to the election issue. This may intensify the disaster further.”

She opined that the present dengue crisis should be declared a health emergency.

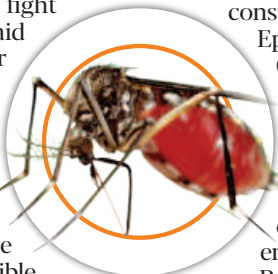
Dr Mushtuq Hussain, consultant at Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, echoed the same.

“It is not like hundreds of people need to die for the situation to be considered an [health] emergency,” he said.

Prof Nazmul Islam, director of Disease Control at DGHS, emphasised the urgency of measuring the severity of dengue outbreak nationwide.

Prof Md Golam Sarwar, head of entomology department at NIPSOM, stated that mosquitoicide and larvicide have lost their effectiveness.

Journalist Shishir Moral added that the guideline to tackle dengue outbreak is not being followed amid the ongoing dengue outbreak.



‘Little known’ BNM, BSP now registered parties

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission yesterday officially declared two “little-known” and “suddenly established” parties -- Bangladesh Nationalist Movement (BNM) and Bangladesh Supreme Party (BSP) -- as registered political parties with the commission.

The EC unanimously decided to register the parties. BNM’s symbol will be an “anchor”, while BSP will have “ektara” as its symbol, read an EC statement.

This registration took place just ahead of the next polls, slated for late December or early January.

A political party must be registered with the EC to participate in the national polls, and with the two new ones, the total number of registered political parties is now 44.

Since 2008, 49 political parties have been registered with the EC. However, the registration of five of them was cancelled later.

The commission registered three parties ahead of the 2014 elections but did not register any ahead of the 2018 national polls.

The commission yesterday took the decision to register the new parties following a hearing on Monday after different individuals raised four objections regarding EC’s decision to grant registration to the parties.

On July 16, the commission issued a public notice seeking objections to their primary decision to register BNM and BSP.

The EC began the registration process for new parties in May 2022, as 93 political parties sought registration.

Twelve parties were primarily selected for registration, with two of them finally being able to secure it at the end.

Meanwhile, soon after the EC primarily cleared BNM and BSP for registration, many politicians alleged that BNM is a party formed by some former BNP leaders, while BSP is an ally of some Islamist parties having ties with Awami League.

“Who are they? I’ve never heard of them before. The question is, why is the EC registering two unknown parties, excluding the ones

that are rather active?” said Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar.

“It’s an agency job. The party will get registration to create a rift in BNP,” said Mustafizur Rahman Iran, chairman of Labour Party, which failed to get a registration.

A BNP standing committee member told The Daily Star yesterday that they smelled something fishy in the EC’s decision. “It’s part of the [government’s] conspiracy to split BNP,” he alleged, wishing anonymity.



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BNM was formed in July 2021. Its convener is Abdur Rahman, and Maj (ret’d) Md Hanif is its member secretary. Both are former BNP leaders.

Rahman was elected MP with BNP’s nomination from Barguna-1 in 1996 but he later left the party. Hanif resigned from BNP’s executive committee in June 2021.

BNM Spokesperson and Joint Convener Sarowar Hossain left BNP in 2019.

Sarowar denied their party’s involvement in any conspiracy.

“The allegation against BNM of hatching a conspiracy to split BNP is completely false,” he said.

BNM insiders said at least nine of the 33 central leaders of the party are retired army officers.

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Burial made easy in DNCC

‘Smart graveyard management’ launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City dwellers under Dhaka North City Corporation will now be able to access information related to burials without having to go to the graveyard.

They will be able to complete all pre-burial procedures online, after filling out the application form with the relevant information, stated a DNCC press release yesterday.

Once all the procedures have been completed online, the body can be taken directly to the designated graveyard. The burial certificate will also be provided online.

Additionally, all information related to a graveyard will be available online. So, city dwellers can know how many graves are located there, where exactly a body was buried under whose name, and where they can find a vacant spot for burial.

All the graveyards of DNCC will be brought under a smart graveyard management system in phases, said DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam, while inaugurating the smart digital graveyard management system at Gulshan Nagar Bhaban.

Six graveyards -- Banani Graveyard, Mirpur Shaheed Intellectual Graveyard, Rayerbazar Graveyard, Utara Sector 4 Graveyard, Utara Sector 12 Graveyard, and Utara Sector 14 Intellectual Graveyard -- will be brought under the smart digital graveyard management system first.

An app named Graveyard Management DNCC is now available on the Google Play Store for city dwellers.



LABOUR RIGHTS

US trade body expresses concern

Calls for fair probe into murder of union leader Shahidul

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA), a US-based platform of apparel and footwear traders, expressed deep concern over the recent situation regarding labour rights in Bangladesh.

In a letter on July 27, AAFA said urgent action is needed to ensure welfare of labourers in Bangladesh. The letter was addressed to the Prime Minister and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Faruque Hassan.

“However, it is with deep concern that we communicate AAFA’s position on certain pressing worker welfare issues that demand immediate action,” Stephen Lamar, president and chief executive officer of the AAFA, said in the letter.

AAFA, which represents more than 1,000 global brands that are having more than US \$490 billion worth transactions annually, expressed its shock at the recent murder of Shahidul Islam, a ready-made garments workers’ union leader.

His (Shahidul Islam) killing is not only an immeasurable loss for his family and friends but also represents a setback for workers’ rights and the overall welfare of workers in Bangladesh, AAFA said in the letter.



Shahidul Islam



Demanding Tk 25,000 as minimum wage for readymade garment workers, leaders of 11 rights organisations held a procession in the capital’s Jatiya Press Club area yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Tk 25,000 minimum wage or we boycott polls

Say RMG workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The readymade garment workers will boycott the national polls if the government fails to guarantee Tk 25,000 as their minimum wage by then, said speakers at a procession yesterday.

They made the remarks at “Garment Workers Movement for Wage Increase” organised by 11 rights organisations in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The speakers also demanded a 10 percent annual increment.

According to the participants, additional benefits, including overtime pay, gratuities, and maternity benefits, have also been taken away from the workers.

No party has yet proposed any new wage board, despite the fact that

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