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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



From left, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, Rashtra Sangskar Andolon President Hasnat Qaiyum, Economist and activist Prof Anu Muhammad, Dhaka University Prof Samina Luthfa and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Fauzia Moslem at a discussion on 'Ila Mitra o Tebhaga Andolon (Ila Mitra and the Tebhaga Movement)' at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The Daily Star Itihash Adda organised the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Ila Mitra's spirit lives on in today's struggles for equality

Speakers tell discussion marking her birth centenary

Our political and social consciousness has not changed much. That's why we must not forget women like Ila. The discourse on her life and ideals must continue.

FAUZIA MOSLEM
Mahila Parishad President



Ila Mitra's story was not just about one person but about an era shaped by collective struggles. Behind Ila's courage stood the memory and pain of countless others.

SAMINA LUTHEA
Professor at Dhaka University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ila Mitra's fight for equality, justice, and human dignity remains unfinished in today's Bangladesh, where farmers, workers, and women still face the same neglect she once stood against, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They said people like Ila Mitra cannot be restrained – the more she was held back, the stronger her defiance grew, making her a symbol of resistance, dignity, and courage.

Political leaders, academics, rights activists, and journalists spoke at the discussion titled "Ila Mitra o Tebhaga Andolon [Ila Mitra and the Tebhaga Movement]" held to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Ila Mitra, observed on October 18.

The Daily Star Itihash Adda

organised the programme at The Daily Star Centre in the capital, as part of its third Itihash Adda session.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Fauzia Moslem said, "Whenever Ila spoke, she spoke for people, for struggles, for movements. Such families of shared commitment are rare today. Ila Mitra was never alone; her entire family was part of the struggle."

She noted that even after a century, women's rights over property, marriage, and guardianship remain restricted. "Our political and social consciousness has not changed much. That's why we must not forget women like Ila. The discourse on her life and ideals must continue," she said.

Fauzia said Ila Mitra worked closely with the Santal community

and that their struggle still continues today. "As we celebrate her birth centenary, we must carry forward her dream."

Eminent economist Prof Anu Muhammad said, "Debates over who should be remembered or forgotten reflect the biases of those in power. Whoever stands against injustice and speaks for humanity must be remembered as one of our own."

He said society begins to change when working people and women unite against exploitation. "That's why Ila Mitra's Tebhaga Movement spread so widely," he added.

"As for Bangladesh, one year after the July uprising, the dream of an equal nation remains unrealised. The aspiration exists, but the forces behind it are weak," he added.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

Over 100 hurt as cops use batons on protesting teachers

Indefinite strike called at all govt primary schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 100 people were injured as police charged batons, fired sound grenades, and used water cannons to disperse a group of government primary school teachers during a demonstration in Dhaka's Shahbagh yesterday afternoon.

The incident took place around 4:00pm when several hundred teachers tried to march towards Shahbagh intersection after staging a sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar to press home their three-point demand, including upgrading their pay scale to the 10th grade.

Later, the protesting teachers, under the banner of Prathomik Shikhhok Dabi Bastobayon Parishad (Primary Teachers' Demand Implementation Council), a coalition of four teachers' organisations, announced a nationwide



DEMANDS

- 10th-grade pay scale
- Higher-grade eligibility after 10, 16 years of service
- 100% departmental promotion

indefinite work stoppage starting today.

They also said they would continue their sit-in at the Shaheed Minar to protest the "police attack" and press for their demands.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Judiciary reforms aim to serve people, not power: CJ

DU CORRESPONDENT

The judiciary has been undergoing major reforms over the past 15 months to make it more independent, efficient, and accessible to the people, Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed said yesterday.



Speaking at a programme marking the 75th founding anniversary of Dhaka University's Department of Islamic History and Culture at the TSC auditorium, the chief justice said, "We have worked to bring real changes so that the justice system serves people, not power."

He said the ongoing reforms are gradually becoming a "people's reform", as citizens have started to see and support the changes.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

CANCELLATION OF MUSIC, PE TEACHER POSTS

Voices unite in melodic protest

Cultural groups urge reconsideration of govt decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protests are continuing across the country against the government's decision to cancel the recruitment of music and physical education teachers in primary schools.

In Dhaka yesterday, cultural organisations including Udichi Shilpigoshthi and Chhayanaud staged programmes condemning the decision and announced further demonstrations.

At a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, Udichi Shilpigoshthi announced a two-week nationwide protest programme.

In a written statement, the organisation's general secretary Amit Ranjan Dey said the cancellation was part of a "far-reaching, politically motivated conspiracy" to remove fine arts, music, dance, and theatre from the curriculum.

He described the decision as "suicidal" and driven by "communal and politically

narrow motives."

The protest programme will include cultural assemblies, human chains, and musical processions organised by Udichi's district and branch committees in association with progressive organisations, starting today.

Central activities will include submitting a memorandum to the education ministry, holding roundtable discussions, and releasing statements from prominent citizens.

Meanwhile, another faction of Udichi announced a separate protest titled "From Udichi to Jamuna" – a musical procession.

According to a press release by Udichi's publicity secretary Manjur Morshed Milton, the procession will begin at 4:00pm today from the organisation's central office on Topkhana Road and march towards the chief adviser's residence at Jamuna.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



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