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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 (Remembering 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 (Remembering 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.

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Over 100 hurt as cops charge batons at teachers’ protest

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 Shabbagh yesterday afternoon.

The incident took place around 4:00pm when several hundred teachers tried to march towards Shabbagh 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 an indefinite work

DEMANDS

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

abstention nationwide 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

Govt’s role is not to serve any party’s interests

Says Tarique Rahman

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the interim government’s main responsibility is to establish a democratic administration through free and fair elections, not to serve any party’s interests.

Virtually addressing the “Hindu Representative Council 2025”, he cautioned that the recent actions of certain political parties, who once marched alongside the anti-fascist movement, may now be creating a situation that undermines people’s rights and opportunities.

“The role of some of our allies in the anti-fascist street movement is perhaps creating a situation that could destroy the rights and opportunities of many people in the country, including yours and mine. If the country becomes unstable, it may pave the way for the rehabilitation of the fallen, defeated, fugitive fascist forces,” the BNP leader said.

He urged the interim government and pro-democratic, anti-fascist forces

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

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

NATIONAL POLLS

NCP weighs solo run to build ‘third force’

SHAMIMA RITA

Many members of the National Citizen Party (NCP) are reluctant to contest the upcoming national election as part of a BNP- or Jamaat-e-Islami-led alliance, as the party seeks to emerge as a distinct third political force.

While discussions with BNP and Jamaat on possible seat-sharing continue, several NCP leaders believe the party should build its own identity by contesting all 300 constituencies or forming a new alliance with parties outside the two major blocs.

They acknowledged that joining hands with BNP or Jamaat could bring short-term gains, such as a few winnable seats, but warned it might weaken the party’s long-term vision.

Leaders also said an alliance with BNP would make NCP share responsibility for its recent controversies, while a deal with Jamaat could threaten the party’s survival.

These issues were discussed at a six-hour national committee meeting on Friday evening at the party’s office in Banglamotor.

NCP Convener Nahid Islam, Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain, and Chief

KEY PLANS

- NCP leaders favour contesting all 300 seats independently
- Party aims to build identity as third political force
- Alliance with BNP or Jamaat seen as risky for long-term vision

Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary attended the meeting, while two key organisers, Hasnat Abdullah and Sarjis Alam, were absent.

After the meeting, several leaders spoke with The Daily Star.

“We are preparing to contest the election independently to demonstrate our ability to field candidates in all 300 constituencies,” said NCP Joint Convener Sarwar Tushar.

He said, “We are also discussing forming a third political alliance outside BNP and Jamaat, but nothing has been finalised yet. Everything remains uncertain until the implementation order of the July Charter is issued.”

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

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