

Civil societies & Activists call for Shahidul Alam's immediate release



By- Siam Sarower Jamil
Dhaka, Aug 12,

Activist of different political parties & organizations on Saturday demanded immediate and unconditional release of Shahidul Alam, an internationally acclaimed photographer and social activist, picked up from his home by detectives Sunday (5 Aug) night. Nineteen civil society groups call for Shahidul Alam's immediate release too in a joint statement.

Speaking at the demonstration in front of National Press Club,

Dhaka after noon, complained "We demand immediate and unconditional release of Shahidul," said writer & Professor Rahnuna Ahmed, wife of Shahidul. Shahidul, founder of Drik and Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, was picked up amid ongoing protests by students for safer roads. Shahidul went live on Facebook discussing the protests and was also interviewed by Doha-based Al Jazeera on the issue.

"In the television interview, Shahidul offered his analysis of the situation in Bangladesh

which should in no way be the reason to treat a person of his stature this way," said Shirin Haque, a colleague of Shahidul. Shahidul's lawyer Barister Sara Hossain said "The way law enforcers are behaving goes against constitution and guidelines issued by the High Court on how law enforcers should act while detaining an individual." Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) president Mujahidul Islam Selim said the students had proven that the anarchy prevailing in the transport sector should not

continue any longer. With empty promises to calm down the previous student movement this year, the government had completely lost people's trust, he said. He alleged that the law enforcers were overstepping laws to crackdown on people, including children, who may have supported the ongoing student movement. "It won't help the country anyway," said Selim.

Anu Muhammad, Social Activist & professor of Jahangirnagar University said that it seemed the government was in a war against its own

citizens. "The government is afraid of its citizens," said Anu.

"It is afraid of its labours, its political opponents and even of children protesting at deaths of their friends," said Anu. Tanjim Uddin Khan, Professor of Dhaka University said, "The use of laws such as the ICT Act in Bangladesh to legally harass journalists and media workers and violate the right to freedom of expression, and call for its urgent repeal."

Meanwhile, Nineteen civil society groups have released a joint statement calling for the immediate release of Bangladesh photojournalist Shahidul Alam and for the charges against him to be dropped today.

The joint statement, signed by organisations such as the Ain o Salish Kendra and Transparency International, Bangladesh, says Alam has been denied access to his lawyers, was reportedly beaten and is in poor health.

"We, the undersigned civil society organisations, call for Shahidul Alam's immediate and unconditional release, that all allegations against him be dropped, and that he receive proper medical care," the statement said.

Popular Front National General Assembly begins



IT News
Imphal, Aug 12,

The National General Assembly of Popular Front of India began at Malabar House at Puthanathani in Kerala. The Assembly started when Chairman E. Abu Backer hoisted the tricolor flag of the organization.

While inaugurating the programme, E Abubacker stated that, under BJP rule, the democratic process in the country had been shrunk into holding elections and its spirit and practice had been abandoned in the functioning of the government. The mainstream opposition parties, who have forgotten their duties to the people, are growing more and more subservient to fascist agenda

that is being promoted by the ruling party. Under BJP rule the common citizens are suffering due to wrong economic policies which are only corporate friendly.

He reminded the delegates that people in every state are identifying Popular Front as a ray of hope and coming forward in support of our activities. He called upon them to take the timely message of the movement to every nook and corner of this country and work to fulfill people's hopes.

General Secretary M. Muhammed Ali Jinnah presented the mid-term report of national level activities. About 200 delegates from different states are attending the programme, which will conclude on Sunday.

NSS Unit 1 & 2 inaugurated



IT News
Thoubal, Aug 12,

A seven days Special camp of the National Service Scheme Unit -1 & 2 of the Chaoyaima Higher Secondary School Thoubal under the motto "Not me but You" was inaugurated today at the school campus today. The camp is being attended by 100 students including 50 girls and 50 boys. Various social

services under the topic Leadership skill, disaster management, NSS & NYK, HIV and AIDS and Goal setting will be organized during the camp.

The inaugural function was attended by L. Damodar Singh, Principal of Chaoyaima Higher Secondary School and Programme officer Unit -1 W. Biren and Programme officer Unit -II Dr. Ak. Priyokumar as dignitaries on the dais.

English competition

IT News
Kakching, Aug 12,

Prize distribution function of the 3rd English grammar competition organized by Library and Information Centre Kakching was held today at the auditorium of the centre at Kakching Phousupung. The competition was held in

three categories. Naorem Rosila of Victoria High School Kakching got the first position of the Class 3 to 6 category. For the class 6 to 8 category Yengkhom Kened of Padma Ratna English School got the first position and for the Class 9 to 10 category Kshtrimayum Galax of Padma Ratna School Kakching got the first position.

Media clinic, film screening held at press club

Form our correspondent
Guwahati, Aug. 12

Nemcare Hospital today (11 August 2018) conducted the weekly media OPD clinic at Guwahati Press Club, where Dr Biswajit Deuri and Dr Amritanshu Barkakoti offered free consultations to the participants. Dr Hitesh Barua, chairman cum managing

director of the hospital also graced the camp. The participants also got their weight, blood pressure & sugar checked in the camp. Nurses Dimpi Deuri, Lukumoni Dowarah & Phulmoni Deuri assisted the physician in the clinic, where public relation officers Biswajit Sarma & Dharani Kalita were also present.

Admit Card Lost

I have lost my admit card for class XI bearing roll no 7161 of 2011 issued by COHEM on the way between my resident to Imphal on 8/8/2018.

Sd/-
Ningthoujam Sophia Chanu
Phojing Makha Leikai Nambol

Politics over lynchings shows perverse mindset, says PM Modi on opposition criticism

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it would be a great travesty to reduce such crimes to mere statistics and then indulge in politics over them.



Courtesy ANI
New Delhi, Aug 12,

Lynchings are "deeply unfortunate" but citing them for political gain is a "travesty", Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said in rare comments about mob attacks that have killed dozens across India.

"My party and I have spoken in clear words, on multiple occasions against such actions (lynching) and such a mindset. It is all on record. Even a single incident is one too many and deeply unfortunate. Everyone should rise above politics to ensure peace and unity in our society," said Modi in an interview to news agency ANI when he was asked a question about Opposition parties criticising his

government for crimes against women and lynchings.

"It would be a great travesty to reduce these incidents to mere statistics and then indulge in politics over them. That shows a kind of perverse mindset that looks at violence and criminality as something to be milked, instead of unitedly opposing," he said. Mohammed Azam, a UK-educated IT worker from Hyderabad, died and at least two of his friends were badly injured when a mob beat them in Bidar district of Karnataka on July 13. Eight police officers who went to Murki village were also attacked - the latest in a series of attacks based on false rumours about child kidnappers.

Police and government warnings to people not to

believe in such messages have gone unheeded: in Tripura, a mob lynched a person hired by the government to dispel such rumours.

The government says it is not tracking data for lynchings, but data portal IndiaSpend has tallied more than 30 deaths from nearly 70 such incidents since January 2017.

The Supreme Court on July 17 asked Parliament to come up with an anti-lynching law to tackle cow vigilantism and lynch mobs and laid down preventive, remedial, and punitive measures against the backdrop of a spate of such incidents across the country. "Horrendous acts of mobocracy" can't be allowed, a bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud had said.

"Flop Show": Trinamool demands apology for Amit Shah's "Insult" of Bengal

Agency
Kolkata, Aug 12,

Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress has delivered a stinging comeback to BJP chief Amit Shah who hurled a bundle of accusations at the Bengal chief minister. Mr Shah, speaking at a rally in the heart of Kolkata, had accused Ms Banerjee of leading a corrupt system in the state that siphons the crores of rupees sent by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for people.

"Did the nephew and syndicates share the loot?" Mr Shah had said. "Rubbish," Derek O'Brien shot back, serving a 24-hour ultimatum to Mr Shah, widely considered the BJP's master strategist, to apologise or face legal action. Mr O'Brien said the BJP president had crossed the limits of decency, insulted Bengal with his blatant lies and could not get away by leveling allegations against Ms Banerjee.

"You may have done this kind of politics in Gujarat but it can't happen here. And who are you to raise questions about corruption," the senior Trinamool Congress leader said. It is a point that Mr O'Brien made more than once, also angered by the BJP chief's speech that, the Trinamool says, was an attempt to polarise the electorate along religious lines.

Ms Banerjee had been his lone target through Mr Shah's 26-minute speech in which he took aim and opened rapid fire. The Trinamool Congress has described the public meeting a "flop show".

"There are banners that the BJP is anti-Bengal.... We are not... we are definitely anti-Mamata Banerjee," Mr Shah said in his now-controversial speech before he went on to hammer her on illegal immigrants, corruption and minority appeasement.

He also claimed that local news channels had been stopped from telecasting his speech. Communal politics won't cut ice in Bengal, Mr O'Brien responded. Neither will allegations of corruption in Bengal.

"Ms Banerjee's credibility is very high... No one will listen," he said.

Mr Shah had claimed that ever since Trinamool Congress government had come to power in Bengal seven years ago, "there has been a series of corruption (cases) starting from the Narada scandal, Saradha and Rose Valley ponzi scams ... syndicates and the unlawful activities of cattle mafias and coal mafias".

According to news agency IANS, Mr Shah also made a veiled attack on Ms Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee - the Trinamool lawmaker is widely regarded as her prospective successor. "During the 14th Finance Commission, the Narendra Modi government allotted Rs. 3,59,000 crore to Bengal as compared to Rs. 1,32,000 crore given by the UPA government during the previous Finance Commission. Where did all the money go? Did it disappear in the pockets of syndicates and the nephew?" Mr Shah asked.