



The newly built memorial in Cox's Bazar which allegedly contains names of some fake freedom fighters.

'Fake' freedom fighters on memorial plaque

Protests in Cox's Bazar : Hartal today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Freedom fighters and political parties will enforce a half-day hartal in Cox's Bazar town today to protest what they called 'distortion of history of Liberation War' by putting some fake freedom fighter names on the plaque of the newly built memorial.

The memorial built near the Shaheed Minar at the Shaheed Swarani in the town is ready for inauguration but the date is yet to be fixed.

The alleged anomaly triggered protests in the town by freedom fighters and political parties.

They held a rally and formed a human chain in front of the deputy commissioners office yesterday demanding removal of names from the plaque.

They also brought out a proces-

sion in the town on Thursday and submitted a memorandum to the DC protesting the names.

Besides freedom fighters, yesterday's protests were joined by activists of Awami League and its student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Chhatra Union and Bangladesher Samajtantric Dal.

Local leaders of Muktiyoddha Sangsad told this correspondent that the memorial plaque contains names of only 10 freedom fighters. These are of Abdul Hamid, Mokbul Ahamed, Golam Sattar, Mohammed Shiddique Ahmed, Golam Kader, Abul Kalam, Ezahar Miya, Lal Mohammed, Shamsul Alam and SM Jahangir.

Names of many more freedom fighters are left out. They include Farhad, Shuvas, Abdul Hamid, Bashir Ahmed, Sharif, Shoshi

Kumar Baroya, Eliyas, A T M Zafor Alam, Nirmol Baroya, Golam Kader and Golam Sattar, they claimed.

They said the plaque contains at least names of five people who were not freedom fighters.

The memorial has been built by the district administration.

The Sangsad leaders said they urged the district administration to remove or correct the names, but their request went unheeded.

This is a deep rooted conspiracy to distort the history of Liberation War, they said.

As protests for correcting the names mounted, Deputy Commissioner Habibur Rahman told newsmen that the administration only engraved the names given by the government. WE just followed the government list, he said.

Govt will be forced to accept demand for reforms

Noor tells Satkhira rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Awami League central publicity secretary Asaduzzaman Noor MP yesterday said the opposition will realise reforms of caretaker system and the Election Commission through agitation.

He said inclusion of the Jamate-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote in the government team for talks prove that they are not sincere to resolve the issue and hold the next election in a free and fair manner.

"The government has made it clear that it really does not want to hold the dialogue. They are staging drama in the name of dialogue just to kill time", he said addressing a public meeting held at Ghona High School ground in Satkhira Sadar upazila.

They have done it knowing well that Awami League will not hold talks with forces which opposed the independence, he said.

Chaired by SM Shawkat Hossain, the meeting was addressed by among others by district AL President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, vice-president

Monsur Ahmed and general secretary Nazrul Islam and other leaders.

Noor said the BNP-Jamat government is reluctant to accept the reform proposals because they know they will not be able to retain power if a fair election is held. They will be compelled to accept the reforms, he added.

He said BNP is leading the country towards a confrontation by sheltering anti-liberation forces and religious bigots, who are involved in violence. This is tarnishing the image of the country abroad, he said.

He demanded arrest and punishment of those ministers and MPs who harboured top militant Shaekh Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai. Islamist militants are still active in the country under different banners under protection of the government, he alleged.

He called upon the people to unite and intensify the ongoing agitation to dislodge the 'failed government'.



The newly elected president of Rangpur Apex Club, Dr Omar Faruque, presenting a crest to Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor, The Bangladesh Observer, at a function held in Rangpur recently. Dr Rafiqul Islam, Avijit Kumar Das Bobby and Bijon Kumar Poddar were present.



Police intercepting a procession brought out by Awami League's student front Chhatra League in Netrakona town yesterday hailing return of Sheikh Hasina's son Sajib Wajed Joy to the country.

Sukumar Barua honoured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Probas Prokashoni, a publishing house owned by some Bangladeshi immigrants in UK, has awarded its Shabdapat Medal-2006 to eminent rhymester Sukumar Barua for his contribution to literature.

The award, which includes Tk 25,000 and a crest, was handed over to him at a simple function held at Moulvibazar Public Library auditorium yesterday.

The function was presided over by short story-writer and journalist Akmal Hussain Nipu. Literateurs Shihab Shahrier, Abdul Hamid Mahub, Aminur Rashid Babar, Mohibul Amin, Shahabuddin, Mokbul Hussain, Mahfuzur Rahman and Prof Abdul Khaliq, among others attended the function.

Probas Prokashoni published a book of rhymes titled 'Thik Achhe Thik Achhe', composed by Sukumar Barua during the Ekushey Book Fair this year.

BOMB ATTACK ON DIP AZAD Khulna Press Club rejects charge sheet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of Khulna Press Club have rejected the charge sheet of journalist Dip Azad bomb attack case, submitted to court on Friday.

Alleged mastermind of the bomb attack, former Additional Police Superintendent of Khulna Mofazzel Hossain, has been left out of the charge sheet in which five extremists have been accused.

President of Khulna Press Club Liaquat Ali and general secretary AK Hiru in a statement yesterday demanded reinvestigation of the case to find out the real culprits.

Four out of five chargesheeted extremists made statements before a Metropolitan Magistrate court under Section 164 of CrPc naming the former additional police superintendent as the lone mastermind of the bomb attack.

Dip Azad, former Khulna bureau chief of Dainik Jugantor, escaped

unhurt after a powerful bomb was tossed at him on the night of January 4 last year in Khulna city.

One of the chargesheeted accused, Khairuzzaman alias Talbabu, said in his judicial confession that former Additional SP gave money to make bombs hurled at Dip Azad and that the bombs were made in a police outpost at Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district.

Mofazzal was arrested on February 16 last year from Dhaka for his involvement in the attempt to kill journalist dip Azad with help of extremists.

One of the chargesheeted extremists, Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury alias Hasan, was arrested by members of Rapid Action battalion (Rab) from office of the former Additional SP.