



Five Left Parties stage a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding punishment to the persons responsible for the killings at Phulbari.

PHOTO: STAR

Call to resist farcical election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Speakers at a citizens' rally yesterday called upon people to resist any farcical election that the BNP-led government and its fundamentalist allies have planned to jeopardise the country's independence and sovereignty.

They demanded reform in caretaker system of the government and electoral laws and resignation of Chief Election Commissioner including two of his deputies and new election commissioner to ensure a free and fair election.

The call was made at Rajshahi Divisional grand rally of Sammilita Nagorik Andolon (SNA) at Shaheb Bazar Zero point in the city with

former Rajshahi University Vice-chancellor Prof Abdul Khalek in the chair.

Braving downpour, over ten thousand people from different northern districts attended the rally. Justice KM Sobhan said the government betrayed with the people allowing Asia Energy to extract gas in the open pit mining system in Phulbari.

Journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said the alliance government did not fulfil its principal electoral pledges that proved its fundamentalist character.

"The government denied the very existence of Bangla Bhai, but now it announced to execute him", he added.

Blasting fundamentalist forces

and war criminals, eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque said, "People's security is in peril, as the defeated forces of 1971 are receiving government back-up."

Journalist Shariar Kabir said people has the right to know what Bangla Bhai and Shayekh Rahman wanted to tell to the media.

He also demanded a ban on politics of war criminals. "War criminals should be deported from the country and their voting right should be seized", he added.

Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu, Dr Sayed Shafikul Alam, Abdul Matin, Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, Afroza Haq Rina and Kuddus also spoke on the occasion.

AUG 17 SERIAL BLASTS Verdict in case against Sunny on Sept 20

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will deliver the verdict in a case against Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) military commander Aatur Rahman Sunny and five others on September 20.

The case was filed with the Airport Police Station in connection with August 17 serial blasts last year.

After the hearing on arguments from the prosecution and the defence, Judge SM Mojibur Rahman of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set the date for delivery of the judgment.

The five other accused are Rezaul Haq Reza, 25, Asadullah Al Sohail alias Zahid, 21, of Jamalpur, Musa alias Mustafizur Rahman, 22, of Naogaon, and Habibur Rahman, 16, and Sagir Hossain, 35, of Dhaka.

Khaleda to visit Rajshahi Sept 13

BSS, *Rajshahi*

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to lay the foundation stone of the long-cherished gas supply project here on September 13.

This was disclosed at a preparatory meeting on the PM's visit in the City Bhaban conference hall yesterday afternoon.

Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu presided over the meeting.

During her visit, the prime minister will inaugurate Remodeling Rajshahi Railway Station, Rajshahi Education Board Academic Building, Women Polytechnic Institute and Academic Building and Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hall of Ruet.

Apart from this, the PM will lay the foundation stones of a 500-bed new building of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, a 100-bed diabetic hospital and an integrated flood protection project.

MDG framed not for development

Speakers tell at dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The conception of global partnership is a master-slave relationship, a hoax and illusion in the name of development that is gradually crippling the country, said the speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

The dialogue styled 'Political economy of aid challenging conditionalities' was organised by Voices of Interactive Choice and Empowerment (Voice) at the National Press Club.

"Millennium Development Goal (MDG) is not framed for develop-

ment, rather it has become a tool for trade on development issues and incurring poverty", Dr Salimullah Khan, an eminent researcher, said, adding this is high time that the WB and IMF should be withdrawn and the nation has to give hard thought to alternatives.

He castigated the economists who failed to frame a befitting development policy for the country.

"People of Bangladesh are made more indebted due to WB and IMF projects making them more vulnerable. But the horse of Troy remains hidden and those who own fatty lives must be detected," he urged.

Saiful Haque, general secretary of Workers' Party, said the chronicle started from the 60's Green Revolution and the target of the developed countries was to grab the market of 15 crore people.

The aggression has taken its violent form now, he added.

Aminur Rasul, head of the secretariat of the Campaign for Good Governance, showed how the media, civil society and common mass were able to ward off the evil move of the government to snatch away the right to sue the WB and seek justice.

He apprised the audience of an ulterior programme of the government to handing over the water

routes to private ownership, like the process initiated in railway sector.

"With this privatisation, the government would lose control over the entire water bodies," he said.

Tanim Ahmed, senior staff correspondent of The New age, delineated the grim experience of Bolivia over water treatment plant.

Aiming at supplying water through Saidabad Water Treatment Plant, the new authorities have started controlling pipeline and billing system and days are not far way when they would take the entire system in their grip depriving the people of the utility service, he explained.

The speakers alleged that the WB and IMF are mainly responsible for dismantling price controls and doing away with price support for food, transportation, health and education sectors.

They also compelled the government for privatisation of state-owned enterprises and devaluation of currency which will surely undermine the development of the nation.

Gulam Mahmud, central organising secretary of BSD, and Shamima Nasreen, leader of Swadhin Bangla Garments Sramik Federation, also spoke on the occasion.

Buet reopens, exam schedule announced

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) yesterday resumed academic activities after a five-week unscheduled closure amid tight security and low attendance of students.

Residential students were seen getting back to their respective dormitories from morning.

Buet authorities declared the university closed sine die and directed the students to vacate the dormitories on July 30 following a violent student agitation demanding deferral of examinations.

At least 30 people including policemen and students were

injured in the clash.

Newly appointed Vice-chancellor Prof Safiullah said he was happy that the Buet situation is going to be normal.

He sought cooperation from all to sustain the congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

Meanwhile, fresh schedule for postponed examinations has been announced for all terms and levels.

Office of the Controller of Examinations has hung the detailed schedule on all notice boards.

The schedule will also be available at university website: www.buet.ac.bd, a Buet press release said.



Namaz-e-janaza of six Bangladeshi peacekeepers, killed in a road accident in Ivory Coast, was held at the Army Stadium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR