

Distortion of history protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Forum for Secular Bangladesh staged a demonstration in the city yesterday condemning distortion of history of our independence and the role of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a documentary recently telecast in the state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV).

They brought out a procession and held a rally at Shaheb Bazar zero point.

Former Rajshahi University vice chancellor and Awami League Advisory Committee Member Prof Abdul Khaleque and Muktijuddho Pathagar President Shafiqul Rahman Badsha addressed the rally presided over by language movement veteran Abul Hossain.

Rajshahi AL Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) City Secretary Abdullah Al Masud Shibli also addressed the rally expressing their solidarity with the protest.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF TARIQAT FEDERATION

Vow to resist 4-party alliance in election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of opposition political parties yesterday vowed to resist the four-party alliance in the next general election.

They also hoped that the Khaleda-Nizami alliance would be driven out from the political arena forever through this election.

The leaders were speaking at a meeting marking the first anniversary of Tariqat Federation at the Institute of Engineers auditorium in the city.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said the people ardently want to get rid of misrule of the alliance government.

Referring to the attacks on different shrines and harassment of the spiritual leaders and their disci-

ples during this regime, he assured the victims of legal assistance.

Terming the coalition rule a 'curse', Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said the ruling coalition unleashed a reign of torture and darkness.

He urged the followers of Majibhandari to mobilise public opinion against the government for its failure to check alarming price hike, supply uninterrupted power and provide security for the people.

Tariqat Federation President Syed Nazibul Bashar Majibhandari said elections cannot be free and fair under Chief Election Commissioner Justice MA Aziz and probable chief adviser of the caretaker government Justice KM Hasan.

He stressed the need for reflection of the people's demand in the proposed dialogue on electoral reforms.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu said the Jamaat and militants are the epitome of communalism and militancy. They tried to destroy democracy, religion and the spirit of the War of Liberation, he added.

Awami League leader Ali Ashraf, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, BDB Secretary General Major (Retd.) Abdul Mannan, Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua and Zaker Party President Munshi Abdul Latif also spoke.

PM exchanges greetings with Hindu leaders

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday exchanged greetings with leaders of the Hindu community on the occasion of Bijoya Dashami at her office yesterday.

The leaders of the Hindu community told the Prime Minister that the Durga Puja was held in a peaceful and festive atmosphere across the country this year.

They extended their thanks and gratitude to the PM for providing all support from the government and the BNP for holding the Puja peacefully.

Khaleda said the BNP and the present alliance government are respectful to all religions. She said all people living in the country are Bangladeshis and they have every right to enjoy their religious freedom. Bangladesh is an abode of communal harmony, she added.

President of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta, Adharya of Ramkrishna Mission Swami Akharananda, joint secretary of BNP Gayeswar Chandra Roy, secretary general of Hindu-Buddha-Christian Kalyan Front Goutam Kumar Mitra, Kalyan Front leader Nupur Saha, former minister Netai Chandra Roy, Loknath Dutta, Kamakhya Chandra Das and other leaders exchanged greetings with the PM.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia exchanges greetings with leaders of the Hindu community at reception for them at her office in the city yesterday on the occasion of Durga Puja.

PHOTO: PID



PHOTO: STAR

Leaders of different political parties hold their hands to show unity against the misrule of the four-party alliance government at a meeting marking the first anniversary of Bangladesh Tariqat Federation at the Engineers' Institute auditorium in the city yesterday. From left are Badruddoza Chowdhury, Dr Kamal Hossain, Syed Nazibul Bashar Majibhandari, Rashed Khan Menon and Dilip Barua.

FM's Myanmar visit postponed

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan, who was scheduled to go to Myanmar on a three-day official visit on October 5, has postponed his tour.

Morshed Khan told UNB that he has postponed his visit. During the visit, Dhaka and Yangon were supposed to sign agreements on direct road link and avoidance of double taxation.

Officials here said the visit has been postponed as the ministries concerned could not prepare the necessary documents to this effect.

On the other hand, Bangladesh was missing the chance of striking an avoidance-of-double-taxation deal for augmenting trade with the close neighbour during the FM's visit to Myanmar just for lack of approval by the cabinet, sources in the National Board of Revenue (NBR) said.

The signing of the deal was supposed to take place during his visit, sources said.

"But, just for a lack of cabinet approval, Bangladesh is missing the opportunity," a high official of the NBR said on condition of anonymity.

The second phase of talks aimed at withdrawal of double taxation system between the two countries ended on August 24 last year with the signing of an agreement on 20 articles.

In the first phase of the negotiations, held September 15-17, 2003 in Yangon, the two sides agreed on 10

articles.

The major ones of the 30 articles are on shipping and air communications, dividend, interest, royalty, capital profit and student trainees.

Veena Sikri calls on Morshed

BSS, Dhaka

Outgoing Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri made a farewell call on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office in the city yesterday.

The Foreign Minister appreciated the positive approach evinced by the High Commissioner during her tenure in Bangladesh. He recalled the contribution made by Veena Sikri towards better understanding among the peoples of the two countries, said an official handout.

He hoped that excellent relationship that exists between the two countries would be maintained and cemented further in the days to come.

They laid emphasis on both bilateral relations and regional cooperation for mutual benefit of the common people.

Veena Sikri expressed her happiness over excellent working relationship with government during her tenure here. She appreciated the great success of the SAARC Summit and other regional forum conferences in Dhaka.