

Seminar on Taher's death Trial of all political killings demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday demanded trial of all political killings "including that of valiant freedom fighter Col Abu Taher" and revelation of the facts relating to the "farical trial of those involved in the army-people revolution of November 3, 1975."

They also demanded revival of the 1972 Constitution that "truly reflects and protects people's hopes and aspirations and upholds the spirit of the Liberation War."

Ganotanrik Jubo Andalon, a youth organisation, arranged the seminar on "Investigation into the killing of valiant freedom fighter Col Taher and his retrial" at the Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium.

Supreme Court Bar Council leader Advocate Shamsul Haq Choudhury, Dhaka University Professor Dr Serajul Islam Choudhury, actor Syed Hassan Imam, BSD convener A F M Mahbubul Haq and former student leader Shaif Ahmed also addressed the seminar presided over by Moklesur Rahman Mukul. Advocate Z I Khan Panna presented the key-note paper.

Addressing the seminar Advocate Shamsul Haq Choudhury said the judiciary should be reformed for fair judgement but no govern-

ment so far attempted this. Dr Serajul Islam Choudhury termed the trial of Col Taher "farical". "People have the right to know about the charges brought against him and the so-called trial", he said.

"Taher's offence was that he tried to integrate the soldiers with the people to achieve the goals of the war of independence. He was never aspirant for power", Dr Choudhury said.

A F M Mahbubul Haq called for mobilising the downtrodden to ensure their representation in the state power to establish their rights. Only then, trial of all political killings could be held, he observed.

Syed Hassan Imam demanded "Open trial" of all political killings and "revelation of facts about the trial of Col Taher to remove confusion."

Advocate Z I Khan Panna said the November 7 has been recognised. But Col Taher's role was not acknowledged.

He also demanded scrapping of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution that blocked trial of the killings of many national leaders and revival of the 1972 Constitution.



Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama (R) receives a flower bouquet from Makiko Tanaka, chief of his cabinet's Science and Technology agency, prior to a cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's official residence yesterday. Murayama's ruling coalition parties won 65 seats of Upper House election July 23. — AFP photo

Garments workers demand Implement minimum wages fixed by govt

Garments workers yesterday demanded minimum wage of Tk 950, weekly holiday and fixation of working hours at 48 to put an end to what they called modern slavery in the garment sector, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference here, general secretary of the National Garments Workers Federation Amirul Haq Amin said the government has announced the minimum wage of Tk 950 in January last year, but it was yet to be implemented.

"A garments worker has to work 14 to 16 hours a day with the minimum monthly wage of Tk 400 only," he claimed. There are 2200 garments factories with 12 lakh workers of whom 80 per cent are women.

Narrating the plight of garment workers, he said they are deprived of basic amenities like overtime allowance, medical, transport and residential facilities.

Garments factory owners don't give any appointment letter, identity card, salary

slip and overtime slip to the workers, he said. He demanded weekly holiday on Friday and other public holidays, restriction on women's labour after 8 pm and other financial incentives. Otherwise, workers will start enjoying weekly holiday on Friday from the first week of October, he warned.

The workers have planned programmes including processions and publicity campaign from July 28 to October 6 to press home their demands.

Replying to a question of the MOU signed on child labour, he said it will not be effective unless garments workers are involved in it.

Federation leaders, including Shabana Rahman, Himangshu Singha, Mojibor Rahman Pintu, Alam Kabir, Sumi Aktar Joya, Afzal Hossain Bepary, Rafiqul Islam and Farida Rahman, were present at the press conference at the federation office.

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Teenage girl rescued from Tanbazar

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 25: A 14-year old girl, Shadhina, missing for about five months, was rescued from the Tanbazar 'red light area' here yesterday evening.

Police raided the area and rescued the girl but did not arrest anybody involved in her kidnapping and sale in the 'red light area.'

Shadhina, daughter of late Siddique Bhuiyan of Kadamtoli, Matlab, use to work in a garments factory at Mohakhali in Dhaka city.

"Some five and a half months ago, while I was going back to my village home a woman named Baby came to me at the Narayanganj launch terminal and offered me a very good job in the town," Shadhina told newsmen last night after her rescue. "Being convinced, I went along with her to the Tanbazar area. She trapped me and sold me to one Shilpi for Tk 20,000."

Shilpi is a notorious 'flesh dealer' in the Tanbazar area. According to Shadhina, there were more 18 underaged girls in her custody. Two of them Lipi and Josna — also wanted to come along with Shadhina during the police raid yesterday, she said.

"But Shilpi mercilessly beat them up and locked them in a room when police took me away," Shadhina said requesting the newsmen, "please, help them rescue, if you can."

In the last five months, Shadhina tried to inform her family about her condition, but could not. Last week, a man who visited the 'red light area' turned out to be

PM's directive

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"Traffic jam has become a regular phenomenon in the city streets. Vehicles are plying haphazardly, they are also parked in a haphazard manner in the road crossings creating traffic jam," she observed.

Begum Zia instructed the traffic division to take measures so that every vehicle follow the traffic rules, traffic signal and avoid overtaking. She also asked the law enforcing agencies to take stern action against the offenders.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Inspector General of Police A S M Shahjahan were present.

one from her village. She requested the man to inform her mother about her misery. Shadhina's mother came to Narayanganj thana yesterday and requested the police to rescue her daughter.

After her rescue, police at first refused to accept a case regarding the incident but later accepted a case of repression on woman under pressure from local people.

When asked about arrest of Shilpi and others involved in the incident, Officer-in-Charge of the thana told newsmen that they were hiding. But when a group of newsmen visited the Tanbazar area later, they found Shilpi at her room. She was in an advanced stage. The newsmen returned to the thana and told the OC that Shilpi was at the room there. The OC replied, "a pregnant woman can not be arrested."

Bosnia praises Dhaka's role

Bangladesh troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to the latest reports, are safe although the situation continues to aggravate there, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman said yesterday, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina Muhammad Sacyrobi has appreciated Bangladesh's role in protecting his country's territorial integrity and independence.

A competent source said the Bosnian Foreign Minister thanked his Bangladesh counterpart while talking to him over telephone on Monday.

The Bosnian Foreign Minister has been invited to visit Bangladesh and has agreed to come to Dhaka at his convenient time.

OIC seeks aid for flood-hit Bangladesh

JEDDAH, July 25: Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Dr Hamid Algabid appealed to the OIC member states and the relief organisations and institutions in the Islamic world to extend assistance to Bangladesh and Pakistan — the countries which are facing flood disaster, reports BSS.

The Midnight File

Flash floods claim 110 more in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, July 25: Flash floods caused by heavy monsoon rains and lightning killed at least 110 more people in Pakistan today, government officials said. They said 73 people died in the North West Frontier province (NWFP), including 35 killed by lightning, reports Reuter.

Fierce gunbattle in Grozny

GROZNY (Russia), July 25: A fierce gunbattle took place in the centre of the Chechen capital Grozny today shortly after peace talks were suspended for three days to allow for consultations. Eyewitnesses said Russian armoured vehicles fired at the bombed-out former presidential palace in the centre of the city and Kalashnikov and machine gunfire echoed in nearby streets. There were no immediate reports of casualties, reports Reuter.

Nurullah new AG

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regime. He was succeeded by Rafiqul Haq Bar at Law, who was replaced by Advocate Aminul Haq during the caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Nurullah was born on January 7, 1937 in Dhaka in a Muslim landowning family, and obtained Master of Arts degree from the University of Dhaka in 1957 and Bachelor of Law (LL B) from the same university in 1961.

He enrolled as advocate of the erstwhile High Court of East Pakistan in Dhaka in 1962 and advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 1967. He became Senior Advocate of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in 1986.

He also became member of the Managing Board of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society in 1977 and represented the Society in several international conferences held in Geneva and Oslo. He participated in the programme launched by the BDRCS for the rehabilitation of Rohingya refugees in 1977.

He had been a member of the Governing Board of the Holy Family Red Cross Hospital for about 6 years and held the office of secretary of the hospital for about 4 years.

Besides, he was appointed member of the Legal Consultative Committee on Farakka in 1977 and took part in drafting the Ganges Water-Sharing Agreement.

Some of his previous assignments are: Member of the Jails Reforms Commission in 1978. Member of the Bangladesh Press Council in 1982. Member of the Bang-

ladesh Medical and Dental Council in 1983. Member of the Civil Procedure Code Reforms Committee in 1993. Chairman, Bangladesh Bar Council during the years 1985 to 1990. Member of the Ad-hoc Managing Board of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society in 1991 and Chairman, Bangladesh Bar Council Election Tribunal in February, 1995.

M Nurullah also led some delegations in abroad. He led the Bangladesh delegation to the 25th Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee in Tanzania in 1986, was Alternate Leader of the Bangladesh Delegation to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee in its 26th and 27th sessions held in Bangkok and Singapore in 1987 and 1988, represented Bangladesh as a member of the Bangladesh Delegation to the 42nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1987.

At home, he delivered lectures on constitutional issues at Civil Service Academy at Savar from 1987 to 1989 and was a Speaker in the Judicial Officers Training Programme jointly sponsored by the Asia Foundation and Bangladesh International Institute of Legal Affairs from 1985 to 1990.

Ministers' donation for flood victims

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and members of her cabinet including state ministers and deputy ministers have decided to donate their three days' salary in aid of the flood-hit people, reports BSS.

Hasina at a meet in US BNP has placed country under one-party rule

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina said the BNP government has placed the country under one-party rule ignoring the opposition demand for fair elections under a caretaker administration, reports UNB.

Hasina, now on a private tour of the United States, was speaking at a meeting of Bangladeshi expatriates in Florida last Sunday, according to a faxed message received in Dhaka yesterday.

"At present Bangladesh is being ruled at the whims of one person," the Awami League president said.

She said although parliamentary democracy was restored in the face of the Opposition's pressure, the system was made ineffective by undemocratic acts of the BNP.

Florida Awami League Vice-President Mohammad Ayub Khan chaired the meeting. Fazlur Rahman, Ayman Akbar, Ekramul Islam Bhuiyan and Humayun Akhtar Rashid of US Awami League spoke on the occasion.

Former minister joins BNP

THAKURGAON, July 25: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said that the objective of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is to serve the people and ensure the overall development of the country, reports UNB.

At the meeting, former minister Mirza Ruhul Amin formally joined the BNP.

Muggers hurl cracker at police: One hurt

By Staff Correspondent

A constable was seriously injured when muggers hurled crackers at a police patrol at Gulshan in the city yesterday. The injured policeman, Ashraf was admitted to the Rajarbagh Police Hospital.

The police, however, arrested the four muggers identified as Abdul Malek, Mobarok Hossain, Azizul and Rahman. Cocktails and daggers were recovered from the arrested persons. The muggers in a auto-rickshaw hurled the crackers as the patrol police chased them near the Shooting Range at Taltala, Gulshan.

Foreigners allowed in Assam, Tripura Meghalaya

The Indian government has withdrawn restriction on foreign nationals for entry and stay in its states of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura, reports UNB.

Foreign nationals holding valid Indian visas will now be able to visit the three states without obtaining Restricted Area Permits.

Thakurgaon uplift programmes reviewed

THAKURGAON, July 25: The overall development activities of this northern district was reviewed at a meeting here with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports UNB.

Speaking at the meeting attended by the district-level officers the Prime Minister underlined the need for continuing the development spree throughout the country for the betterment of the people.

Officials gave a brief resume of the development programmes, agricultural production, food situation, progress in the education sector of the district.

They said 371 development projects were taken in the district and the rate of implementation was 100 per cent.

The officials apprised the Prime Minister that the situation of agricultural production was good as there would be good aman harvest this year.

The officials apprised the Prime Minister that the Thakurgaon Sugar Mills had earned a profit of Taka 2.22 crore, first time since its inception 37 years ago.

The Prime Minister said steps would be taken to modernise the Thakurgaon Sugar Mills and Thakurgaon Silk Mills.

Traders call hartal in Jhenidah today

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 25: Traders have called a 24-hour hartal in Jhenidah town tomorrow protesting the attack on a businessman here.

A gang of extortionists had reportedly assaulted Milton on July 18.

Earlier on July 19, the traders enforced a day-long hartal here demanding arrest of the toll collectors.

Students demand repeal of DU admission rule

By DU Correspondent

The students of Dhaka University observed a day-long strike on the campus yesterday demanding immediate repeal of the rule regarding the admission of the wards of the teachers, officials and other employees of the university.

The Ganotanrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a front of eight left leaning student bodies, enforced the strike.

Some 200 wards were admitted to the DU under this rule last year while another 120 are likely to be admitted this year under this "illegal" and "discriminatory" rule, the GCO leaders alleged.

As per this rule which was passed by the DU Syndicate recently, sons and daughters of the university's teachers and employees would only have to face the examinations for their admission, but do not necessarily require to pass in the tests.

JCD activist beaten up

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 25: A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist was beaten up by some Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists at Sadar Road in Barguna town this afternoon.

Police have been deployed to avert further clashes.

Students rally for 'question bank'

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 25: Students of the Barguna town today called a half-day hartal in the town Sunday to press their demand for the reintroduction of 'question bank' system in the SSC examinations.

Our Jhenidah correspondent adds: Thousands of students barricaded the roads at Kaliganj Thana Headquarters for three hours from nine am demanding reintroduction of the 'question bank' system in the SSC examinations.

Fresh flood

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Bazar is receding slowly but still flowing above danger level.

Meanwhile, the Relief Ministry sent more relief materials to the flood-hit districts.

The fresh allocation included 700 tonnes of wheat, 50 tonnes of rice, Taka 1.25 lakh, Taka 4.50 lakh as house building loan, 500 pieces of saree and 500 pieces of lungi.

JEC meet

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Rahim, Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Karim Elahi and other high officials were present at the airport.

During his stay in Islamabad, the commerce and information minister will call on President Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The delegation will also hold meetings with the ministers for foreign affairs, information and industries of Pakistan.

It is expected that an agreed minute will be signed between the two countries on July 26.

JP leader

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doctor declared him dead.

Rahim's son Abdul Karim, 19, filed a case with Lalbagh thana in this connection. In the FIR, at least five persons were accused of being involved in the murder, police said. However, none was arrested till last night.

Meanwhile, police said that a number of cases against Rahim were under trial.

RU teachers

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Uddin, stayed out. The VC had called the meeting to discuss the prevailing situation of the university. RU was closed for an indefinite period on July 22 after a gun fight between two rival students groups.

The RUTA had earlier decided on Sunday that none of its members would cooperate with the VC in his administrative activities.

The teachers, who attended today's meeting urged the government to take steps to restore congenial atmosphere on the campus.

Meanwhile, the Students Advisor, Prof M Quamrul Islam, has sanctioned Taka 15,000 from the Students Welfare Fund for the nine students, who were injured in the July 22 incident and are now under treatment at the Rajshahi Medical College hospital.

Bosnia

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ing a stronger role at this critical moment."

With legislation to unilaterally lift the UN arms embargo scheduled to be come up later today in the Senate, the White House seemed resigned to a loss.

A Sarajevo report adds: Bosnian Serb forces have entered the besieged town of Zepa in eastern Bosnia and civilians have fled, UN officials said today.

"UNPROFOR confirms from a UN presence on the ground in Zepa that Bosnian government army troops no longer appear to be in the town and that Bosnian Serb soldiers are moving through Zepa with impunity," UN spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon said.

About 17,000 Muslims are believed trapped in the UN 'safe area' of Zepa and its surrounding villages.

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