

'Rid politics of black money, musclemen'

BSS, Dhaka

Black money, non-political persons in politics and ineffectiveness of parliament are the main reasons for intolerance and disagreement in national politics.

This was observed by the participants from both the ruling and the opposition parties at a roundtable in the city yesterday.

They unanimously underscored the need for wiping out black money and musclemen from the political arena to pave the way for growth of democratic institutions in the country.

Use of money and terrorism to eliminate political opponents must be stopped for ever, Bhuiyan said.

He regretted that even the country's intellectuals were now divided due to presence of such evil practices. "You do not need to go through any write-up on political issues, as the name of a writer will say what is there in his or her article," he said and urged the media to play a more positive role in creating a national consensus to uphold national interests.

"I do not find any reason, why we can not forge a national consensus to resist the unwanted hands in tender process on issues like push back and bank loan defaulters," the BNP

and Industry (MCCI) Tapon Chowdhury, Prof Shamsul Huda and Prof Abu Ahmed.

The Daily Ajker Kagoj organised the roundtable on "Political consensus in crisis and potential" Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University presented the keynote paper.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, also BNP Secretary General underlined the need for accepting elections results by the political leaders for growth of democratic institutions in the country.

Participants in the roundtable included Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for Science, Information and Technology Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Jatiya Party (Manju) General Secretary Anwar Hossain Manju, General Secretary of Bangladesh Communist Party Abdul Jalil, Kabir Hossain MP, Faruque Khan MP, AmCham President Afzal Islam, President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

Secretary General said. Moyeen Khan asked political parties to work together for making the Jatiya Sangsads effective, which can be the best forum to forge a national consensus.

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil said there must be a consensus to drive out criminals from the political arena in greater national interest.

Anwar Hossain Manju, also a former minister, said the political parties should accept the election results. "If necessary, the election process can be changed to make the election results acceptable," he said.

Mujahidul Islam Selim said the socio-political system must be overhauled to bring about a positive change, he said.

The business leaders, however, brought forth the economic issues during the discussion and referred to the privatisation process, which should be implemented through a national consensus to give the country a competitive edge in the global market.

"I do not find any reason, why we can not forge a national consensus to resist the unwanted hands in tender process on issues like push back and bank loan defaulters," the BNP

Mayor promises to stop Trimohini pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka city Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka has assured the residents of Barogram in Eastern Dhaka that the flow of polluted water into the local rivers and lakes will be stopped.

The Mayor was addressing the third environmental public meeting at Shekherjaiga arranged by Barogram Unnayan Sangsada, a local non-government organisation, yesterday.

The mayor said the prime minister has instructed to solve the pollution problems of the particular area at an inter-ministerial meeting.

He said the government will be setting up a treatment plant near the

Rampura bridge, the entry point of contaminated water through the Balu, Narai and Debbholai rivers.

Hundreds of people from the villages of Khilgaon, Sabujbag and Demra came to join the public meeting with placards that read 'Stop polluting the water, save our environment'.

The meeting was also shown a plastic bottle full of black water as a sample collected from the rivers and lakes of this locality.

The local speakers said after the first and second public gatherings demanding healthy environment, they had hoped for solutions to their problems. But so far no steps had been taken, they said.

They also pointed out that even a few years back many people earned their living catching fish. These people are distressed today as the water of the lakes and rivers is almost pitch black and stinky.

At the beginning of the meeting Nazrul Islam, a member of Barogram Unnayan Sangsada, read out a memorandum and submitted it to the mayor.

Md. Salahuddin MP, Dr. Badiul Alam, Dr. Kazi Zakir Hossain, Meher E. Khoda, Dr. Ayeasha Khatun, Borhan Uddin and Dr. Abu Naser Khan also addressed the meeting while Md. Suru Mianh chaired it. The meeting was arranged with the help of the Hunger Project.

The local speakers said after the first and second public gatherings demanding healthy environment, they had hoped for solutions to their problems. But so far no steps had been taken, they said.

South Asia's fate directly impinges on the rest of world as one fifth of the world's population live here. "South Asia, therefore, remains a test case for peace and prosperity in the world," he told a seminar on 'South Asia and the Commonwealth' sponsored by the Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) at Sonargaon Hotel.

The Foreign Minister, however, was not all pessimistic as he said the expansion of democracy in South Asia, economic reforms and market liberalisation opened wide the door of interaction within the Commonwealth and the world at

large.

"South Asia's huge emerging market, its large and capable middle class with good entrepreneurial, technical and scientific skills have opened the way for extensive economic and commercial contacts," he said.

Former Foreign Secretary and ex-SAARC secretary general Ambassador Abul Ahsan was the keynote speaker UNB Chief Editor and Managing Director Enayetullah Khan was among the discussants.

Derek Ingram, the founder-Editor of Gemini, chaired the seminar where delegates posed queries about infusing more dynamism in the Commonwealth and its effective cooperation with SAARC.

Referring to the criticism that Commonwealth is a barren club and historic relic that has lost its relevance, the Foreign Minister said it is an organisation that has actively sought and continued a defining role.

"The Commonwealth is a community of democracies... There is a strong sense of belonging and identity in terms of representative democracy, parliamentary procedures, independence of judiciary, largely free press, non-political civil service and educational curricula. The fabric is still holding together," Khan told the seminar.

Spelling out the themes of the Commonwealth summits in Harare in 1991, Edinburgh in 1997, Durban of South Africa in 1999 and Colombo, Australia, in 2002, the FM said it is a voluntary association of states.

Its decision-making is by consensus. It's real thrust is not duplicating but supplementing the work of other international organisations especially in the areas of strengthening democracy and bringing reforms, not only political but economic as well, he said.

Shazneen case

FROM PAGE 1

pm on April 23, 1998.

He told the court, "At about 11:15 pm, I along with my wife went there and saw Simeen Hossain, elder sister of the victim, at the main gate of their house. She (Simeen) told my wife that Shazneen was killed. Then we went to Shazneen's bedroom and saw her (Shazneen's) body on the floor in front of the bathroom. Her body bore a number of injury marks and blood spilled on the floor. A deep wound was seen on the left side of her neck. I could not bear such a sight and went out of the room. Later, I saw Shazneen's father Latifur Rahman wailing. I was also crying. But I found 10 to 12 people including carpenter Shaniram, Hasan was waiting there in a white microbus and asked him if the job was done properly. Shahid told him that it was done as per his instruction and asked him to arrange their escape. Hasan then took Shahid to cantonment railway station and he (Shahid) went to Chittagong by train. As per instruction from Hasan, Shahid surrendered to Chittagong Kotwali Police Station on April 27."

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

Special public prosecutors (PPs) Arfanuddin Khan, Mahbub Ahmed and Saima Khanam appeared for the state while advocates Mosharrif Hossain Kajol, MA Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam and Mizanur Rahman appeared for the accused yesterday.

Iqbal continued, "On September 27, police took Shahid to Latifur Rahman's house where he narrated the incident in presence of me, Shazneen's parents, her paternal uncle Atiqur Rahman alias Masum, her sister Simeen Hossain and Yeasmin Morshed. Shahid told us that Hasan and Badal hired Humayun, Shaniram, Parvin and

him to for raping and killing Shazneen.

"Shahid said Humayun took the chisel from carpenter Shaniram, he (Shahid) stabbed Shazneen with the kitchen knife and Humayun hit her with the chisel. Parvin grabbed Shazneen by the hair and pressed her hands on her head with a piece of brick.

The witness further said, "The three pulled down Shazneen from the bed. She was becoming unconscious. Shahid raped her in this condition and came out of the room with the blood stained knife and threw it beside the tin-shed where Shaniram used to stay. He fled the house immediately. Shahid then met Hasan at Gulshan Avenue. Hasan was waiting there in a white microbus and asked him if the job was done properly. Shahid told him that it was done as per his instruction and asked him to arrange their escape. Hasan then took Shahid to cantonment railway station and he (Shahid) went to Chittagong by train. As per instruction from Hasan, Shahid surrendered to Chittagong Kotwali Police Station on April 27."

Noor Jahan Begum, Islam's wife, filed a case accusing seven people but no one was arrested till last night.

They also pointed out that even a few years back many people earned their living catching fish. These people are distressed today as the water of the lakes and rivers is almost pitch black and stinky.

At the beginning of the meeting Nazrul Islam, a member of Barogram Unnayan Sangsada, read out a memorandum and submitted it to the mayor.

Md. Salahuddin MP, Dr. Badiul Alam, Dr. Kazi Zakir Hossain, Meher E. Khoda, Dr. Ayeasha Khatun, Borhan Uddin and Dr. Abu Naser Khan also addressed the meeting while Md. Suru Mianh chaired it. The meeting was arranged with the help of the Hunger Project.

The local speakers said after the first and second public gatherings demanding healthy environment, they had hoped for solutions to their problems. But so far no steps had been taken, they said.

South Asia's fate directly impinges on the rest of world as one fifth of the world's population live here. "South Asia, therefore, remains a test case for peace and prosperity in the world," he told a seminar on 'South Asia and the Commonwealth' sponsored by the Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) at Sonargaon Hotel.

The Foreign Minister, however, was not all pessimistic as he said the expansion of democracy in South Asia, economic reforms and market liberalisation opened wide the door of interaction within the Commonwealth and the world at

large.

"South Asia's huge emerging market, its large and capable middle class with good entrepreneurial, technical and scientific skills have opened the way for extensive economic and commercial contacts," he said.

Former Foreign Secretary and ex-SAARC secretary general Ambassador Abul Ahsan was the keynote speaker UNB Chief Editor and Managing Director Enayetullah Khan was among the discussants.

Derek Ingram, the founder-Editor of Gemini, chaired the seminar where delegates posed queries about infusing more dynamism in the Commonwealth and its effective cooperation with SAARC.

Referring to the criticism that Commonwealth is a barren club and historic relic that has lost its relevance, the Foreign Minister said it is an organisation that has actively sought and continued a defining role.

"The Commonwealth is a community of democracies... There is a strong sense of belonging and identity in terms of representative democracy, parliamentary procedures, independence of judiciary, largely free press, non-political civil service and educational curricula. The fabric is still holding together," Khan told the seminar.

Spelling out the themes of the Commonwealth summits in Harare in 1991, Edinburgh in 1997, Durban of South Africa in 1999 and Colombo, Australia, in 2002, the FM said it is a voluntary association of states.

Its decision-making is by consensus. It's real thrust is not duplicating but supplementing the work of other international organisations especially in the areas of strengthening democracy and bringing reforms, not only political but economic as well, he said.

They also pointed out that even a few years back many people earned their living catching fish. These people are distressed today as the water of the lakes and rivers is almost pitch black and stinky.

At the beginning of the meeting Nazrul Islam, a member of Barogram Unnayan Sangsada, read out a memorandum and submitted it to the mayor.

Md. Salahuddin MP, Dr. Badiul Alam, Dr. Kazi Zakir Hossain, Meher E. Khoda, Dr. Ayeasha Khatun, Borhan Uddin and Dr. Abu Naser Khan also addressed the meeting while Md. Suru Mianh chaired it. The meeting was arranged with the help of the Hunger Project.

The local speakers said after the first and second public gatherings demanding healthy environment, they had hoped for solutions to their problems. But so far no steps had been taken, they said.

South Asia's fate directly impinges on the rest of world as one fifth of the world's population live here. "South Asia, therefore, remains a test case for peace and prosperity in the world," he told a seminar on 'South Asia and the Commonwealth' sponsored by the Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) at Sonargaon Hotel.

The Foreign Minister, however, was not all pessimistic as he said the expansion of democracy in South Asia, economic reforms and market liberalisation opened wide the door of interaction within the Commonwealth and the world at

large.

"South Asia's huge emerging market, its large and capable middle class with good entrepreneurial, technical and scientific skills have opened the way for extensive economic and commercial contacts," he said.

Former Foreign Secretary and ex-SAARC secretary general Ambassador Abul Ahsan was the keynote speaker UNB Chief Editor and Managing Director Enayetullah Khan was among the discussants.

Derek Ingram, the founder-Editor of Gemini, chaired the seminar where delegates posed queries about infusing more dynamism in the Commonwealth and its effective cooperation with SAARC.

Referring to the criticism that Commonwealth is a barren club and historic relic that has lost its relevance, the Foreign Minister said it is an organisation that has actively sought and continued a defining role.

"The Commonwealth is a community of democracies... There is a strong sense of belonging and identity in terms of representative democracy, parliamentary procedures, independence of judiciary, largely free press, non-political civil service and educational curricula. The fabric is still holding together," Khan told the seminar.

Spelling out the themes of the Commonwealth summits in Harare in 1991, Edinburgh in 1997, Durban of South Africa in 1999 and Colombo, Australia, in 2002, the FM said it is a voluntary association of states.

Its decision-making is by consensus. It's real thrust is not duplicating but supplementing the work of other international organisations especially in the areas of strengthening democracy and bringing reforms, not only political but economic as well, he said.

They also pointed out that even a few years back many people earned their living catching fish. These people are distressed today as the water of the lakes and rivers is almost pitch black and stinky.

At the beginning of the meeting Nazrul Islam, a member of Barogram Unnayan Sangsada, read out a memorandum and submitted it to the mayor.

Md. Salahuddin MP, Dr. Badiul Alam, Dr. Kazi Zakir Hossain, Meher E. Khoda, Dr. Ayeasha Khatun, Borhan Uddin and Dr. Abu Naser Khan also addressed the meeting while Md. Suru Mianh chaired it. The meeting was arranged with the help of the Hunger Project.

The local speakers said after the first and second public gatherings demanding healthy environment, they had hoped for solutions to their problems. But so far no steps had been taken, they said.

South Asia's fate directly impinges on the rest of world as one fifth of the world's population live here. "South Asia, therefore, remains a test case for peace and prosperity in the world," he told a seminar on 'South Asia and the Commonwealth' sponsored by the Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) at Sonargaon Hotel.

The Foreign Minister, however, was not all pessimistic as he said the expansion of democracy in South Asia, economic reforms and market liberalisation opened wide the door of interaction within the Commonwealth and the world at

large.

"South Asia's huge emerging market, its large and capable middle class with good entrepreneurial, technical and scientific skills have opened the way for extensive economic and commercial contacts," he said.

Former Foreign Secretary and ex-SAARC secretary general Ambassador Abul Ahsan was the keynote speaker UNB Chief Editor and Managing Director Enayetullah Khan was among the discussants.

Derek Ingram, the founder-Editor of Gemini, chaired the seminar where delegates posed queries about infusing more dynamism in the Commonwealth and its effective cooperation with SAARC.

Referring to the criticism that Commonwealth is a barren club and historic relic that has lost its relevance, the Foreign Minister said it is an organisation that has actively sought and continued a defining role.

"The Commonwealth is a community of democracies... There is a strong sense of belonging and identity in terms of representative democracy, parliamentary procedures, independence of judiciary, largely free press, non-political civil service and educational curricula. The fabric is still holding together," Khan told the seminar.

Spelling out the themes of the Commonwealth summits in Harare in 1991, Edinburgh in 1997, Durban of South Africa in 1999 and Colombo, Australia, in 2002, the FM said it is a voluntary association of states.

Its decision-making is by consensus. It's real thrust is not duplicating but supplementing the work of other international organisations especially in the areas of strengthening democracy and bringing reforms, not only political but economic as well, he said.

They also pointed out that even a few years back many people earned their living catching fish. These people are distressed today as the water of the lakes and rivers is almost pitch black and stinky.

At the beginning of the meeting Nazrul Islam, a member of Barogram Unnayan Sangsada, read out a memorandum and submitted it to the mayor.

Md. Salahuddin MP, Dr. Badiul Alam, Dr. Kazi Zakir Hossain, Meher E. Khoda, Dr. Ayeasha Khatun, Borhan Uddin and Dr. Abu Naser Khan also addressed the meeting while Md. Suru Mianh chaired it. The meeting was arranged with the help of the Hunger Project.

The local speakers said after the first and second public gatherings demanding healthy environment, they had hoped for solutions to their problems. But so far no steps had been taken, they said.

South Asia's fate directly impinges on the rest of world as one fifth of the world's population live here. "South Asia, therefore, remains a test case for peace and prosperity in the world," he told a seminar on 'South Asia and the Commonwealth' sponsored by the Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) at Sonargaon Hotel.