

People urged to fight back fundamentalist forces

'People's committee' to be formed to probe bomb attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called upon the people to fight back the fundamentalist forces as they have become a threat to the spirit of the liberation war.

They also decided to form a 'people's inquiry committee' to investigate into all grenade and bomb attacks, and another body to publish a white paper on the activities of the extremist groups.

The roundtable on 'Repeated grenade and bomb attacks and target of militant fundamentalism: The duty of civil society' was organised by South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism and Muktijuddher Smriti Sangrakshak Kendra at Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

Barrister Amir-ul-Islam said a

national programme should be chalked out to save the country from the grip of fundamentalist forces.

AAMS Arefin Siddiqui, president of Dhaka University Teacher's Association, said the people are panicked as the government could not find out a single bomb or grenade attacker.

Prof Muntasir Mamun said the young generation is now confused as true history of the country could not be presented to them.

Bazlur Rahman, editor of the daily Sangbad, stressed the need for strengthening the organisational power of the progressive forces.

Shahriar Kabir, union secretary, presented a concept paper at the roundtable where he quoted some interviews given by top Jamaat-e-Islami leaders of Bangladesh to Jamaat leaders of Pakistan showing

how Jamaat-e-Islami, a major partner of the alliance government, strengthened its organisational power with the help of the government.

The interviews also revealed that until now the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh is carrying out its activities following the ideology of Maulana Moududi, founder of Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami.

Chaired by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, the roundtable was also addressed by CPB President Monjurul Islam Khan, Justice KM Sobhan, Promod Mankin MP, former secretary Mokammel Haq, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Prof Nim Chandra Bhoumik, development worker Aroma Dutta, human rights activist Rosalin Di Costa, Moulana Abdul Awal Khan, Zabid Ahsan Sohel and Shamsunnahar Siddiqui.

'Reforms in political and economic insttts a must for advancement'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs meaningful reforms in political, social and economic institutions for its total advancement, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

Positive changes will not take place in the society until the public institutions are made transparent and accountable and steps taken to ensure human rights, they said.

The roundtable on 'Scoring Bangladesh on Governance, Social Development and Investment Climate' was organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) at its auditorium in the city.

International donors focus on governance in the developing world with good reasons, but existing measures and labels are not enough to identify the pathway to improve governance, said Charles Cadwell, director of the Institutional Reform and Informal Sector, USA, in his keynote paper.

Referring to the recent donor attention to 'fragile states', he said Bangladesh is not listed as fragile or failing, but the frameworks that are evolving in thinking about fragile states are useful for devel-

oping specific plans for reform.

Referring to a World Bank report, 2003 on accountability, Cadwell said Bangladesh scored only 29.3 while its neighbour India scored 60.6. On the control of corruption, Bangladesh scored 7.7 whereas India 49.5 and Pakistan 29.9.

BEI President Farooq Sobhan said lack of efficiency in administration and political instability are seriously hampering the business in the country.

The discussion was attended by foreign delegates, legal experts and civil society leaders.

Bus hits rickshaw in city: one killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A passenger bus hit a rickshwa at Paltan in the city yesterday, killing a woman. The victim Morshuda Begum, 40, died on the spot.

Local people caught driver Mainudin of Gabtoli-Sayedabad bus and handed over him to the police.

