

BLUE FOR PEACE
Govt urged to bring bomb attackers to justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of people lined up along the road at Moghbazar in the city yesterday to register their protest against the bomb blasts across the country.

They also demanded trial of the killers of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and others who died in different bomb attacks.

The human chain was formed under the 'Blue for Peace' programme initiated by Asma Kibria, widow of the slain minister.

Speaking on the occasion, Asma Kibria said there is no other way for the government but to realise the people's strong demand for bringing the culprits behind the bomb attacks to justice.

She called upon people to make their words of protest more powerful than the bomb blasts to compel the government to listen to them.

"I have much doubt about the trial of the culprits involved with bomb attacks during the tenure of the present government," said Mahi B Chowdhury, organising secretary of Bikalpo Dhara Bangladesh.

Fifteen minutes into the four bomb attacks in London, the British Prime Minister appeared before his countrymen to deliver his speech while our Prime Minister is still silent despite passing of 15 days after the hundreds of bomb attacks across the country," he aggrieved.

"I never thought that my brother who served the country throughout his life would have to die in such a way," said Sharifa Mosabbir, sister of slain Kibria, in an emotion-choked voice.

Kibria's three other sisters Safia Rahman, Fouzia Shahed and Ashrafi Siddique, Dhaka University Teachers' Association President AAMS Arefin Siddique, Ramna Thana Awami League General Secretary Faizul Munir Chowdhury and other family members of the deceased took part in the programme.

Kibria was killed in a grenade attack in his hometown Habiganj on January 27.

JSD urges people to oust govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Huq Inu yesterday at a discussion urged the youths and students to unite to oust the BNP led four-party alliance government immediately to save the country and people from the clutch of fanatic, militant and undemocratic forces.

Jatiya Jubo Jote organised the discussion on 'Armed fundamentalism and rise of fanatic forces' at Colonel Taher auditorium in the city to mark the organisation's first-founding anniversary.

"Fearing to face the truth, the government opposed the historic verdict of the High Court where the rules of military governments, including that of Maj General Ziaur Rahman, were declared illegal," said Inu while addressing as chief guest.

Terminating the alliance government as an undemocratic government, he said the fanatic and militant forces are carrying out bomb attacks killing progressive political leaders, civil society members and intellectuals, pushing national security at stake.

"Youth and students can play a vital role to form a national government with a view to rescuing the country from the evil forces," he said recalling the youths and students contribution in previous times.

Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak said time has come to resist the fundamentalist forces because fanatic forces have already occupied different vital posts of every sector of the government.

Nazmul Huq Proddhan, convener of the Jatiya Jubo Jote presided over the meeting. JSD leaders Iqbal Hossain Khan, Jubo Moitri President Nur Ahmed Bakul, Jubo Jote leaders Rakanujjaman Rakan and Karim Siddik also spoke.

Freedom fighter appeals for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter yesterday appealed to the government for financial assistance for the treatment of his heart disease.

Md Alamgir Khandaker has been suffering from heart ailment for last few months.

Addressing a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity Auditorium, he said a cardiac surgeon has prescribed for him an immediate CABG surgery that requires a few lakh taka.

"The monthly income that I have from an ordinary job in a private company is spent for the survival of my 4-member family. So it is not possible for me to bear the cost of the treatment," he said.

Alamgir, a resident of 1202, Strand Road, Bondor, Chittagong, is now staying in Dhaka for his operation.

National security now at stake: Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A free and fair election is a must to establish a transparent and effective administration, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Eminent lawyer and Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said national security is now at stake, but the government is not paying any heed to it.

He also said the politicians should disclose their personal assets in order to ensure a corrup-

tion-free national election. Bangabir Osmani Smriti Parishad organised the discussion to mark the 87th birth anniversary of Gen. MAG Osmani, commander-in-chief during the War of Liberation in 1971, at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city.

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Md Rezaul Karim said Osmani will be remembered forever for his role in the War of Liberation as well as in establishing multi-party democracy in the country.

Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta said electoral reform is a must to make the election and the nation free from corruption.

Criticising the politicians, Barrister Moinul Hossain said they do politics only to indulge in corruption.

GM Qader MP, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Moinul Hossain Chowdhury, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) M Azizur Rahman also spoke.



Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and members of the civil society line up on the Tongi Diversion Road at Moghbazar in the city yesterday as part of 'Blue for Peace' programme, demanding trial of the killers of Kibria.

INTERFERENCE TO JUDICIARY

Opposition demonstrations on Sept 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) and its left allies will stage demonstrations across the country on September 4 protesting ruling alliance's interference to the judiciary and its stand in favour of illegal and unconditional power grabbing.

The AL, 11-part alliance, Jatiya

Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and National Awami Party (NAP) decided it at a meeting at the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

The meeting said that the recent verdict of the High Court declaring the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution illegal is historic.

The observations in the verdict

have upheld the superiority of the constitution, the meeting said.

The verdict has brought new dimension to the history of the politics, democracy and rule of law, the meeting observed.

The leaders at the meeting also observed that the verdict has made the present government nervous and that was reflected in the mid-night drama that followed the verdict.

AL leader Amir Hossain Amu presided.

AL leaders Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Surenjit Sengupta, JSD leaders Hasanul Haq Inu, Syed Zafar Sazzad, Mainuddin Khan Badal, Workers Party leader Bimal Biswas and Gono Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya were present at the meeting.

WEATHER TODAY
Light to moderate rain likely
UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6:00pm today.



Barrister Amir-Ul Islam speaks at a meeting of the Supreme Court Bar Association at its hall in the city yesterday protesting remarks of the law minister on the High Court verdict regarding the fifth amendment to the constitution.

GRENADE, BOMB ATTACKS

Perpetrators should be tried

EC envoy tells Hasina

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Outgoing European Commission (EC) Ambassador in Dhaka Esko Kentrschynskiy yesterday said the perpetrators of grenade and bomb attacks, including those of the August 21 grenade attack and August 17 nationwide serial bomb blasts, should be tried.

Esko Kentrschynskiy said this when he made a farewell call on the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday.

After the long meeting with the opposition leader he told the waiting journalists, "Proper investigation is needed and the perpetrators should be brought to justice to stop such heinous and brutal attacks."

They also discussed about different aspects on bilateral issues in the almost three-hour meeting.

Referring to the overall situation, Hasina said there is no rule of law in the country and people were being killed without trail; in fact a kind of stalemate was prevailing in the country.

She said "The government is overtly patronising the militant religious fanatics and that's why they aren't taking any action against the perpetrators of the bomb attacks."

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP and Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, were also present at the meeting.

Prisoners clash in van: Seven injured

BDNEWS, Dhaka

At least seven prisoners were injured during a clash among themselves inside a prison van while they were being taken to the Central Jail from the court on Wednesday night.

One of them, identified as Abdur Razzak, 22, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

According to the jail police, the clash ensued at night when six convicts, sentenced to death in a murder case, beat Abdur Razzak, an accused in an arms case, severely.

The other six convicts were identified as Sohel Riaz Pappu, Shahriar Hossain Jasim, Lallu Uddin Lulu, Meer Mohammad Riaz, Ratan and Tipu.

Police said Razzak was attacked when he protested the misbehaviour of the six convicts inside the prison van.

Razzak was admitted to the DMCH and others were sent back to the Central Jail as their injuries were not severe, police said.

DEBATE COMPETITION Ctg Pub School, Haji Mohsin College become champions

CU CORRESPONDENT

A four-day debate competition titled "Prothom Alo Alokito Chhattagram - Star Ship-Natua Juktir Utshab '05" concluded yesterday.

Chittagong Public School and Haji Mohammad Mohsin College became the champions in school and college groups in the debate finals held at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

Tajrian Ainan of Chittagong Public School and Hafsia Jannat Dorin of Chittagong College were adjudged the best debaters in the school and college groups.

Alokito Chhattagram, regional publication of the Daily Prothom Alo, and Natua jointly organised the competition in collaboration with National Debate Federation (NDF).

Addressing the concluding ceremony as chief guest Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman called for practice and application of logic before making a decision in every sphere of life. Later he handed over the prizes among the winners.

The speakers observed that the practice of logic is limited only in functions. As such even the parliament is not a centre of debate that could bring about further progress and advancement of the nation.

Hasan Ahmed, president of the NDF, presided over the session.

Abul Momen, residential editor of the Daily Prothom Alo, Dr. Moniruzzaman of Chittagong University Bengali Department, Shariful Islam, corporate manager of Starship, Debunshu Hore, director of Natua addressed the function.

In the finals, Chittagong Public School and College beat Chittagong Government Girls High School in the school group participated by 14 schools while Haji Mohammed Mohsin College defeated Chittagong College in the college group where 8 colleges took part.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion on the occasion of the National Mourning Day at the Institution of Engineers auditorium in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Chhatra League organised the meeting.

20 killed in 'crossfire' in August

Odhikar report says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 24 people were killed by the members of the law enforcement agencies across the country last month, said a report of Odhikar, a human rights watchdog, yesterday.

Of them, 20 were killed in 'crossfire'.

Ten were killed by the elite force Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the rest 14 by the police.

According to the report based on newspaper stories, a total of 16 people were killed and more than 900 others injured in political violence.

Besides, seven people were killed in police and jail custody, the report added.

A total of 84 women and girls were raped, seven of them killed after the sexual abuse during the period.

Some 39 women fell victims to repression for dowry while 25 of them were killed.

A total of 17 women, children and men received acid-attack.

A report of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission said a total of 40 journalists fell victims to repression including physical harassment and threats on life.

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR), in its report, said a total of 248 people were killed in different forms of social violence last month.

Democracywatch, which works

on good governance and human rights, said seven UP representatives were killed and 19 others injured during the period.

A report of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission says, a total of 22 journalists were the victims of repression.

Mass-line Media Centre (MMC), scanning 10 national dailies and 196 regional dailies said a total of 526 incidents of repression on women took place across the country.

A report of Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council says, some 318 people were killed in different forms of violence last month.

DU-67 celebrates 12 years of founding today

DU-67, a club of the Dhaka University graduates of 1967, will celebrate 12 years of its founding today, says a press release.

Members of the club will hold a function at Golf Club this evening.

A souvenir will be published on this occasion and members will discuss future plans to activate the club.

The celebration will be followed by a cultural function.

TEACHERS' CONFINEMENT Duta demands action against culprits

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday demanded immediate action against the students responsible for the confinement of teachers at Shahidullah Hall on August 27.

Addressing a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar, the Duta leaders protested the repeated humiliation of teachers and their assault at the university.

They also urged the authorities concerned to ensure the security of their colleagues.

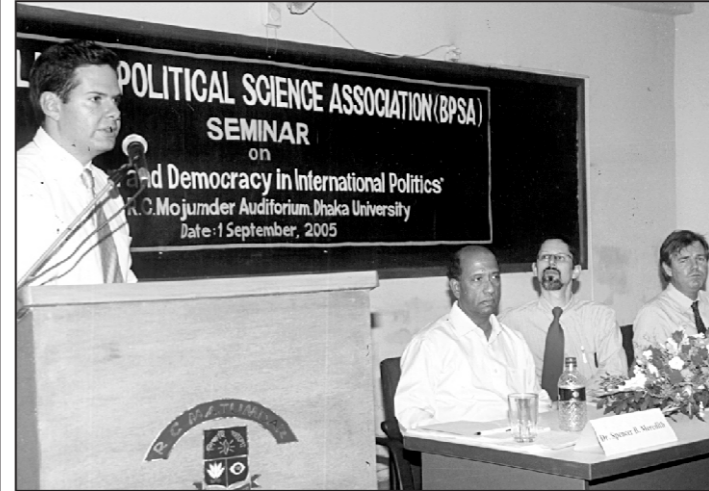
Duta President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the present administration is taking no action against the students who misbehaved with the teachers and a quarter of the university administration has been patronising the culprits responsible for teachers' humiliation and assaults.

He said, "We cannot expect justice from this administration."

Duta General Secretary Prof Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman urged the university authorities to take action against the persons responsible for teachers' assault to uphold their dignity.

Earlier, Duta brought out a silent procession from the foot of Aparajay Bangla at 12:00 noon that ended at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Dean of Social Science Faculty Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Hossain Mansoor, and Prof Sadeka Halim, were present on the occasion.



Dr Spencer B Meredith of Rochester Institute of Technology addresses a seminar at the RC Majumder auditorium of Dhaka University yesterday.

No difference between Islam and democracy Says US teacher

DU CORRESPONDENT

There is no basic difference between the Islam and democracy as the both want to establish peace and social justice, said a US political science teacher at a seminar in the city yesterday.

The seminar titled 'Religion and Democracy in International Politics' was organised by Bangladesh Political Science Association at RC Majumder Arts Auditorium of Dhaka University.

Dr Spencer B Meredith of Rochester Institute of Technology said the influence of religion on politics should not be misused.

He also said every religion has a strong influence on international politics.

Residential Director of National Democratic Institute Dr Owen Lippert said without ensuring peace democracy cannot function properly.

With association President Prof Ataur Rahman in the chair, the seminar was also addressed by Director of the American Centre in Dhaka Jonathan Cebra.

In another seminar titled 'Religion and International Politics' organised by the Department of World Religion, the speakers said politicians who are ignorant about religion and aspire for power use religion for their own interests.

They said all the religions give lesson to love all.

Presiding over the seminar, Prof AKM Saad Uddin said fundamentalists are the main barriers to peace.

He said religion should be used in establishing peace across the globe.

Iraq invasion has destroyed the world peace pushing the moral environment at risks, he observed.

Dr Spencer B Meredith, Prof Aminul Islam, Prof Mir Mobasser Ali and Jonathan Cebra also took part in the discussion.

DHAKA TODAY
Painting exhibition
Discussion
Rally
Photo exhibition
Seminar