

VICTORY MONTH

Bijoy Mela begins in Chittagong

CU CORRESPONDENT

A 21-day programme including the victory fair of Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela Parishad began here in the port city yesterday.

Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also the chairman of the Bijoy Mela Parishad, inaugurated the 21-day programme to mark the victory in the liberation war of 1971 through lighting the victory flame in front of Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium at 4:00pm.

The organisers said that with its venue occupied earlier, the traditional Bijoy Mela (victory fair) would be held separately in fifteen separate spots of the city till December 9. It will begin in a larger volume with pomp and grandeur at Laldighi Maidan on December 10 and continue till December 25, they said.

Discussion meetings recalling

the memory of liberation war will feature the Mela at every spot and on every day.

While inaugurating the victory fair City Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury called upon all to unite being imbued with the spirit of liberation war to stop the ongoing terrorist activities and anarchy, what he termed as nurtured and unleashed by the ruling government.

Former minister and Awami League Chittagong City unit President MA Mannan, ABM Abul Kashem Master, CPB Chittagong City unit President Mrinal Chowdhury, Comrade Shah Alam, M Kafil Uddin, ATM Nizam Uddin, Kazi Enamul Haq Danu, Absarul Amin and Moslem Uddin were present at the inaugural ceremony among others.

Bangla Bhai product of Sarbahara, Janajuddho

Says Shaikul Hadith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Oikya Jote leader Shaikul Hadith Allama Azizul Huq yesterday said 'Bangla Bhai' is a product of the outlawed parties - Sarbahara and Janajuddho.

"The law enforcement agencies are harassing the students in many madrasas in the name of hunt for militants," said Shaikul Hadith.

He was speaking at a press conference at Purana Pallan office organised by Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish.

The Oikya Jote leader said they have no connection with the militancy.

He said those who supported the four-party alliance during the last general election are now facing threat and their very existence is at stake.

He welcomed the Prime Minister's invitation for dialogue on the militancy issue.

A section of the militants in the name of Islam are trying to turn the country into a battlefield like Iraq to destroy Islam, he said. Islam has no relation with the militants, he added.

Shaikul Hadith announced that the Oikya Jote would hold a national conference on December 9 at the Pallan Maidan at 10:00am protesting bomb attacks on courts in the name of Islam.

Oikya Jote Secretary General Maulana Abdur Rab Yusufi, Naib-e-Amir Mufti Shahidul Islam MP, Joint Secretary Yusuf Ashraf, Organising Secretary Humayun Kabir and central committee member Tofazzal Huq Aziz were present at the press conference.

BIMSTEC MEETING

India proposes regional convention on terrorism

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A sub-group meeting on legal and law enforcement under the BIMSTEC discussed various issues including financing terrorism and checking transnational crimes in New Delhi yesterday, official sources said.

In the meeting, India is learnt to have proposed for a comprehensive regional convention on terrorism issue

under the BIMSTEC, officials here told the BDNEWS.

At present, there is a convention under the Saarc named Saarc Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, which was formed in 1987 in a bid to combat terrorism regionally.

An additional protocol on the convention was framed under the Saarc in 2004.

"Since Thailand and Myanmar are

not the members of Saarc, another convention is needed under the BIMSTEC to combat the most burning issues of terrorism, its financing, drug peddling and trafficking," said the official.

Three officials from foreign, home and law ministries are representing Bangladesh at the meeting.

Meanwhile, preparations are on to hold the three-day ministerial meeting of the BIMSTEC to be held in Dhaka on December 18-20, official sources at the foreign ministry said.

During the meeting, Bangladesh is going to assume the chair of the BIMSTEC.

The idea of the BIMSTEC was first mooted by Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand at a meeting in Bangkok in June 1997.

The aim, purpose and principles are contained in Bangkok Declaration adopted on June 6 in 1997 on the Establishment of the Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC).

At the special ministerial meeting convened in Bangkok on December 22 in 1997, the Union of Myanmar was admitted to the grouping where it was decided to rename it as BIMST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation).

At the ministerial meeting in February 2004, Bhutan and Nepal were welcomed as new members.

National security at stake: Duta

DU CORRESPONDENT

National security is at stake due to repeated attacks by the militants across the country, said the speakers at a rally yesterday.

They demanded immediate action against the militants and their patronisers "inside the alliance government."

The rally was organised by Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The DU teachers alleged that the militant outfits have been carrying out their activities under the support of the government.

The militants are trying to establish a so-called 'Islamic State' by crippling the existing judicial system, they added.

They urged the countrymen to be united to resist the militants.

About the proposed national dialogue, the DU teachers said the

patronisers of the militants must be expelled from the government and the party before holding such dialogue.

They said no dialogue would be fruitful if the government does not take punitive actions against the militants and their godfathers.

Duta leaders said the government could avoid the present dreadly situation by taking timely steps against the militants.

Duta President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the situation is so volatile that any dreadful bomb attack could take place anywhere at anytime.

General Secretary Prof M Akhtaruzzaman urged all to be united against the militants.

Former DU Vice-chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Dean of Social Science Faculty Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Hossain Monsoor and Prof Anwar Hossain also addressed the rally.

1,235 arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,235 people on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, they also seized 4 firearms and two explosives, says a police headquarters release.