

Campaign for honest

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The Centre. For Policy Dialogue in collaboration with The Daily Star, the Prothom Alo and Channel I organised the regional dialogue as part of a civil society initiative for accountable development.

CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya conducted the dialogue in Nanjing Datarbar Hall.

Prominent educationist and litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque presided over the dialogue. Former vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University Saidur Rahman Khan, Public Prosecutor Qaumrul Monir and President of Shwacheton Nagorik Committee Rajshahi Golam Arif Tipu were special guests.

Former adviser to a caretaker government Hafiz Uddin Khan spoke on behalf of the Nagorik Committee formed for preparing a vision paper for the year 2021. The editor of The Daily Star also participated in the dialogue on behalf of the organisers.

The speakers said lawmakers should be free to develop the development of the northern region which is deprived of investment and commercial benefit. Entrepreneurs never come to the north due to lack of gas supply and other logistical support, they pointed out.

Demanding immediate disbandment of the present Election Commission (EC), Saidur Rahman Khan said the next EC must be acceptable to all political parties.

The EC also must be free from the influence of the government's executive body, he suggested. Khan also demanded reforms in the EC and the system of caretaker government.

He observed that black money is one of the major barriers to free and fair election.

M Hafiz Uddin Khan stressed on reforms in the EC for a free and fair election ensuring largest possible participation of the electorate.

"A powerful election controlling institution is necessary for elections. Public demand for its reform is not illogical and it must be properly heeded", he said.

He also said election related litigations should be adjudicated properly and quickly so that aggrieved persons can get justice on time.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said it is our birthright to be citizens of this country and being citizens we have the right to know how our country is being run.

"We, who vote, suffer from meanness and are not cautious of our political rights, providing opportunities to bad politicians to deceive us. Raising voices against anomalies and problems is our political right".

He called upon all to be proud and feel high enough to be voters in a democratic and independent country. "We will play our political role without being partisans and our politics is not without moral value", he said.

Prof. Hasan Azizul Haque, who chaired the dialogue, said a general election under the existing condition would bring disaster in the society. He urged the civil society members to develop a mechanism so that the suggestions made in the dialogue could be implemented.

Describing the present socio-economic condition as dangerous, he said: "We want to come out of this situation. We want that our resources are distributed without any discrimination to any particular group."

Former minister Sardar Amjad Hossain pointed out that the northern region, including Rajshahi, has been deprived of industrialisation and adequate allocations for development.

Fazle Hossain Badsha, a politbuo member of Bangladesh Workers' Party, said voters should be assured of proper voting and results.

Probin Hitoisi Sangsard President Dr Sultan Ahmed said lawmakers should be properly trained up on how they can play role as parliamentarian for the welfare of the people.

Advocate Rawshan Ara laid emphasis on discussions between politicians and common people. Accountability of the political leaders is necessary for development and checking corruption, she observed.

Rajshahi Bar Association General Secretary Hamidul Haque said "law-makers' lack of knowledge and attachment with business have turned parliament into a trade body."

Dil Sitara Chuni, Rajshahi chapter chief of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, demanded direct votes to elect women lawmakers, good governance and independent judiciary.

Ferdous Ahmed said intellectuals should care more for common people and promote only good ideas. He questioned the necessity of student politics.

Kazi Labanya of Rajshahi Sahitya Parishad said it has become the politician's nature to give promises after winning elections.

Zamat Khan, convener of Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad, criticised governments for corruption and imbalance in development.

"Governments turn a blind eye to those who make huge money in a short time. Politicians do not love the poor. We want a change to this situation", he said urging patriotic people to come to politics.

"We want to see that people can use ballots properly," said Golam Arif Tipu, adding that people would find out the solution to their problems.

Qaumrul Monir stressed regular presence of the opposition members in parliament to make it effective.

He said parliamentary standing committees should be strengthened for keeping regular watch on the government activities.

Monir spoke in favour of 'crossfire' of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in curbing terrorism and criminal activities. He urged the civil society to be more active as it would "help strengthen democracy."

Mahbat Uddin, editor of Weekly Gana Khabar, expressed concern over the trend of turning politics into a corrupt one.

Shafiqul Islam, acting president of Metropolitan Press Club, Rajshahi expressed concern over 'power politics' and said: "We don't want any politics devoid of ideology and pro-liberation sentiment."

Prof Zillur Rahman, president of Rajshahi University Teachers' Association, said one crore people of northern region are deprived of development. "All regions of the country need to be developed equally."

He stressed developing a healthy mentality, especially in those engaged in serving the people, and called for spread of education.

Malay Bhoomik, RU teacher and cultural activist, said the law enforcement agencies should be brought under control of the Election Commission during the next general election.

He said if the political parties want to select honest candidates in polls, they must look for them outside the parties.

Debapriya Bhattacharya said there has been development in the country but with disparity. "The only solution of our political problems is a free and fair election."

Shah Ajam Shantunu, RU teacher, no objectives of the civil society could be achieved without political support. "So, political parties should be forced to include people's demands in their manifestos".

"Our politicians are telling lies continuously but they are always forgiven. Politicians' accountability must be ensured", he said.

Prof Tarek Saiful Islam of RU economics department, called upon political parties to nominate honest and competent candidates in election.

The first mayor of Rajshahi Abdul Hadi said, "It is our duty to elect honest people. We should not expect anything good after electing one in exchange of money".

Sadrul Islam, Rajshahi Paribahan Malik Samity secretary, criticised the government for price spiral of goods, 'crossfire' and corruption in the energy sector.

ANM Khademul Islam, vice chairman of Rajshahi Engineers Institute, proposed that polls-related duties should be given to officials other than deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers.

Freedom fighter Nawsher Ali of ShilpaKala Academy said listing corrupt people is needed more than finding out honest people.

Anil Marandi, president of National Aborigines Council, demanded selecting aborigine candidates in areas dominated by them. He also demanded reserved seats for aborigines in parliament and a separate ministry for them.

"Festivity grows in the country with the election nearing. But aborigines suffer from fear of atrocities and eviction by political cadres."

Sadar Ali, owner of Sapura Silk Mills, said provisions should be made to prevent dishonest people, criminals and loan defaulters from contesting polls.

Rajshahi Mohila Parishad Secretary Kalpana Roy said security of people should be ensured both before and after the elections.

The government has cheated Rajshahi people by not providing natural gas in violation of its election pledge, she said.

Prof Khairul Alam emphasised a close watch on the next elections and taking the dialogue process to grass-roots level.

Prof Mizan Uddin of RU merit must be well nurtured to end the appalling political situation in the country.

Rajshahi Jatiyatadabi Jubo Dal President Mosaddik Hossain Bulbul the election commissioners should be well aware of their responsibilities.

Prof Golam Sabir Sattar said political parties should be registered so that voters can be sure of their manifestos.

District Awami League President Tajul Islam Faruk said corrupt election officials, and not black money, pose the biggest challenge to free and fair elections.

Dr Wahiduddin says

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countries the right to monitor the donors' aid programs, Mahmud said adding, "If the government fails to work out a monitoring mechanism, the civil society should raise their voice in this regard."

He said, "We can plan the development programs on our own and then seek aids from the donors following the project."

Around 250 missions of different donor agencies visit Bangladesh yearly either to present new conditions or monitor whether the preconditions are being properly complied with.

As a result, the administration remains busy taking care of these officials," Mahmud said adding that there should be greater co-ordination between the donors and the government.

Though the Paris Declaration of the OECD prevents donor agencies from setting any prior conditions, no-strings aids still elude Bangladesh as it has failed to check corruption and come up with timely, transparent and reliable report on budget execution, he noted.

Mahmud also stressed on taking up development projects in light of the country's own experiences.

He said, "The projects planned by local experts are more effective than those by foreign consultants."

"PRSPs seem to have become more important in having loans disbursed from the donors than cutting poverty," CPD Chairman Rehman Sobhan said in his speech.

Machine readable passport

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spearheaded the project by making the home ministry ignore various rules and regulations till last month has also stopped hammering on the scheme.

Sources close to the lobby said it was very enthusiastic about the scheme not because it wanted implementation of the scheme, rather it was looking for hefty commission in advance from the German company that would have been awarded contract for the project. Moreover, the German company was striking a deal with a Singapore-based company to do most part of the job.

Given the huge financial stakes, the lobby using various means tried to convince the prime minister late last month to overturn the Cabinet Purchase Committee's refusal. The committee on July 17 declined to approve the project and asked the home ministry to pursue only the MRP and visa scheme.

Sources mentioned that immediately after the purchase committee refusing, the home ministry at a meeting decided to exclude the NIDC component from the project and assign the passport directorate to float a tender on MRP and visa. The ministry also decided to form a committee on the tender but refrained from forming it.

Meanwhile, lobbyists argued with high officials of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and almost convinced them that this project should be re-sent to the purchase committee without any changes and have it approved. Otherwise, the government will not be able to complete its tender process, and consequently the lobbyists will not be 'benefited' by the scheme.

When PMO officials sought the prime minister's decision on the matter last week, a top official gave her a different view. He told the PM that if such a huge project is approved in violation of rules and regulations, it will be yet another political issue for the opposition. At this point of time, the ruling BNP is better off not approving the deal.

The prime minister accordingly decided that only the MRP and visa project would be undertaken as per her previous decision and as per the purchase committee directive, the sources added.

ANOMALIES IN THE MRP-NIDC PROJECT

A highly placed source said the home ministry has failed to handle the MRP-visa and NIDC scheme from the beginning.

"The prime minister on October 16, 2004 approved in principle a proposal on MRP and visa only. She did not approve the NIDC component. NIDC is a very significant matter having deep political and

economic implications. But this component was added by the home ministry on its own without any policy decision backing it," the source said.

Following the prime minister's approval, the home ministry initially started off with the standard practice. In November 2004, it placed a proposal on MRP and NIDC before the secretary-level committee.

The committee remarked that the financial component of this programme will have to be approved either by the ECNEC or the home ministry, depending on how it is going to be financed, and the manpower component of this programme will have to be cleared by the establishment ministry.

The home ministry discussed the matters with the finance minister and establishment minister. When the ministries concerned started making various enquiries about the programme, the home ministry in January last year stopped all correspondence with them and started moving it in a different direction.

"The home ministry resorted to an unusual practice of pushing it (scheme) ahead on its own. The ministry started inviting officials of the finance, establishment or foreign ministries in its exercises for this programme. As a result, the scheme did not have a single opinion from an external committee," the source mentioned.

"The tender for MRP-NIDC was premature. A law is needed for the NIDC. The manpower component needs to be cleared by the finance ministry and finally approved by the national implementation committee on administrative reorganisation (NICAR). The whole project, be it financed under the revenue budget or by some other means, needs to be cleared by the finance ministry. None of these issues was addressed," he said.

The Tk 1,500 crore tender did not ensure competition and proper evaluation. The tender did not involve reputed international consultants though it involves new state of the art technology around the world. Instead, the ministry hired an expatriate consultant for this job under the influence of a minister's son, who was initially disqualified by the home ministry interview board.

Though 34 international companies showed interest in the bid, only four were pre-qualified through questionable ways. Then only two bids were submitted amid allegations of bid manipulation. As a result, the home ministry bid failed to generate competitive price.

Consequently, the home ministry failed to give a clear breakdown of the project cost at the July 17 purchase committee meeting.

Moyeen Khan

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Christine I Wallich and economist Hossain Zillur Rahman, one of the authors of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), appeared to be embarrassed at the minister's act of disapproval.

But, the country director of another donor agency, Hua Du of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was seen smiling.

Besides rejecting the relevance of the strategy paper in the country's context, the minister further questioned the merit of printing the picture of Sangsard Bhapan on the cover of the 300-page PRSP book.

"The document was not placed before parliament for discussion, so what is the justification of printing the picture?" the minister questioned.

He apprised the meeting that the document was supposed to be tabled on the parliamentary standing committee, but it was not done because of floods. "It is a lame excuse," said the minister.

In his 35-minute speech as chief guest at the seminar, Moyeen Khan also came down heavily on the role of the multilateral funding agency, World Bank, and the Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) for their orchestrating campaigns against corruption.

Economic Research Group and Commonwealth Secretariat jointly organised the seminar on 'Monitoring Donor Support to Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Strategy: Rethinking the Rules of Engagement at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Continuing his tirade over the poverty-reduction strategy, Moyeen Khan said the PRSP has been formulated in keeping with the interest of the donors, not suiting people's needs.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper is a development strategy prescribed by donors for the poor countries of the world. Country paper on the strategy has to be home-grown, suiting the needs of such a particular nation.

Power units

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The rest frequently become inoperative, reducing much of the Ashuganj Power Station's production capacity.

During the last seven months the power station faced setback more than 10 times. One unit remains stopped for several months. With three more units stopped on last Friday, now four units out of eight are inoperative.

Local engineers and technicians are working hard to start the stopped units.

Ashuganj Power Station Managing Director Md Shahidur Rahman Khan said functioning of two units will resume today, one within two days and the other will start after completion of its overhauling by October.

Due to unavailability of spare parts of some units in the open market, repair takes time, he said.

250 sorties

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Friday evening -- the deepest strike into Israel of the present conflict.

"These three men were notably responsible for firing a missile against the city of Hadera," he said.

The Lebanese soldier was killed after an anti-aircraft battery opened up on an Israeli helicopter during the raid, prompting retaliatory fire against his armoured personnel carrier, police said.

Israeli planes also struck the southern suburbs of Beirut for a third straight night.

There was no immediate word on casualties in the Hezbollah stronghold, which has been repeatedly pounded since Israel launched its offensive after the Shiite militant group captured two soldiers in a deadly cross-border raid on July 12.

The renewed pounding failed to halt rocket fire on Israeli towns. Five people were lightly wounded when rockets hit northern suburbs of Israel's third largest city of Haifa, medics said.

On Friday, three Israeli civilians were killed and eight wounded when Hezbollah fired 220 rockets at Israel in the one day.

ADB loans

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the way for privatising the vehicle testing mechanism, where BRTA officials will only be responsible for issuing fitness certificate on the basis of the test certificate, ADB sources said.

At present up to 200 vehicles are manually tested at the BRTA's Mirpur office daily. The entire process of getting a fitness test at the Mirpur centre takes minutes, as busy inspectors seem to know the condition of a vehicle 'with a glance at it'.

The job of 'vehicular fitness certificate' issuance is so lucrative that the authorities will have to be extremely careful to introduce the VTCs, said sources at Mirpur test centre.

"Last time in 2000 when the VTCs were about to be introduced, the same gangs were hell-bent to stop them functioning, this time things will not be different," said an official requesting anonymity.

"The people working here to test vehicles will never want a change. Why would these inspectors allow a machine to take over what they have been fattening themselves with?" said the source.

Voter listing

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without allocation of funds even for purchase of necessary materials for the job.

Officials at the EC Secretariat calculated that Tk 20.32 crore is needed for remuneration of the temporary staffs. They will also have to be paid an additional amount as they purchased some necessary materials with their money to start doing the job, sources said.

Besides, the EC will have to spend about Tk 1 crore for transportation and other expenditures of the 6, 270 assistant registration officers and 83 registration officers.

"We are planning to allocate the money this week," a senior EC official said on condition of anonymity.

The EC in a couple of days will seek allocation of another Tk15 crore by the finance ministry, in addition to the Tk 25 crore already allocated, for updating the voter list.

Meanwhile, many field level election officials said proposed remuneration of the temporary staffs is inadequate. The staffs will not be satisfied with the money to be given for their job for 21 days, they feared.

They did not also get proper remuneration for preparing a controversial fresh voter list, which was declared illegal by the Supreme Court.

"Each of them was given only Tk1,000 at that time. They became unhappy at this and refused to work for updating the voter list," a district election officer said.

School teachers, who usually do the job of preparing the voter list, were given over Tk 2,000 each for the task in 2000.

BNP focuses

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NEC meet and they plan to give specific directives to the party rank and file on their course of action during the caretaker government's tenure.

Prime Minister and BNP chief Khaleda Zia will continue her views exchange meetings with grassroots level leaders and workers of the party. At the meetings already held, she asked them to go door to door to ensure the party's success in the coming election. She advised them to remain particularly alert after hand-over of power to a caretaker government, party insiders said.

"BNP leaders and workers will ensure its strong position at field level after power handover," party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told a rally at Muktangan in the capital last week. "If the opposition wants to implement its proposals during caretaker government's tenure, it must have to discuss with us at that time also."

The next election will show which party has a strong footing among the people and which party has not, influential BNP leader Tarique Rahman said in a recent TV interview.

The BNP high command has meantime instructed party workers to step up mass contact in preparation for the next election to be held by January next year, party sources said.

The party has assessed that many of its candidates were defeated in the last election due to intra-party conflicts and wrong selection of candidates.

Tagore's 65th

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Different socio-cultural organisations have chalked out various programmes to mark the day. The programmes include musical soiree, discussion and seminar.

Tagore, who enriched the Bengali language and literature with his astounding talent and merit, died in 1941 at the age of 80.

His contribution in the domain of Bengali literature is immense. He composed hundreds of poems, stories and novels to take the literary creations to their zenith.

Bangladesh Betar and TV channels will broadcast special programmes on the occasion.

Bangla Academy and Shilpakala Academy will organise different programmes to recall Tagore's contribution to arts and culture.

Udichi Shilpi Goshti will hold a discussion and cultural function on the Dhaka University campus today.

Final ODI

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The Tigers have already lost the series at 3-1 after going down in the fourth one-day international on Friday by seven wickets. The fifth match, although academic most, is important for the tourists as they would not like to add to their misery.

With the series already gone, the Tigers have decided to go in with a new-look side as teenagers Mushfiqur Rahim, who has already played Test cricket, and Sakib Al Hasan will make their ODI debuts.

Left-arm pacesman Syed Raseel will play his first match in the series as new ball pair Mashrafe Bin Mortuza and Shahadat Hossain have been rested along with Alok Kapali.

The Tigers could manage a single win so far, coming in the second match when they won by 62 runs. The hosts won the first, third and the fourth games.

BANGLADESH TEAM

Khaled Mashud (captain), Shahriar Nafees, Rajin Saleh, Aftab Ahmed, Mohammad Ashraful, Forhad Reza, Sakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mohammad Rafique, Abdur Razzak and Syed Raseel.

Karnaphuli bridge

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was supporting the government-approved pillar bridge while Nagorik Committee was demanding a suspension bridge on the river Karnaphuli.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman was the chief guest at the rally of the Bridge Execution Committee on the southern part of Karnaphuli Bridge yesterday afternoon while Chittagong Mayor and city Awami League President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury addressed the Nagorik Committee rally on the Laldighi Maidan as chief guest.

Thousands of people joined the rallies with colourful banners and festoons, amid beating of drums while law enforcement agencies kept a strong vigil at both the venues.

The China Major Bridge, the company entrusted with the construction work of the pillar bridge, started the 'informal' preliminary works of the bridge a few days ago.

Minister Noman lambasted Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury for opposing the BNP government's move to construct the pillar bridge on the Karnaphuli.

He brushed aside the mayor's fear that a pillar bridge would create siltation on the Karnaphuli and that it would reduce navigability of the port channel posing threat to Chittagong port.

Former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Syed Wahidul Alam, lawmakers Sarwar Jamal Nizam, Gazi Shahjahan Jewel, city Jatiya Party President Jahangir Alam and Islami Oikya Jote leader Maulana Abdur Rahman also spoke at the rally.

Mohiuddin Chowdhury at the Laldighi Maidan rally reiterated his vow to resist the government move for pillar bridge at any cost by taking people of Chittagong beside him, reports our Chittagong University correspondent.

The government in a planned bid to destroy the Chittagong port has decided to construct the pillar bridge, the mayor said, adding, "We will not hesitate to sacrifice our lives to protect the country's premier sea port, which provides 80 per cent of the national budget, if the government decides to do so."

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Time to expose

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the debacle in the coming election," Oli observed.

Terming the Jamaat as the descendants of Yazid, Oli declared his candidacy from Chittagong 14 constituency (Satkania-Lohagara area) to defeat any Jamaat candidate.

He also pledged to contest the election from this constituency as an independent candidate if the ruling BNP refused to give him a party ticket.

Criticising the double standards of Jamaat politics, Oli noted that though Jamaat once termed the women in politics "Haram" (prohibited in Islamic rule), they are now in favour of women in politics just to stay in power.

He reiterated that he would spearhead his campaign against the corrupt, the terrorists and the plunderers of the country's wealth, even at the cost of his life.

A survivor's crusade

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He added that those who survived are spending the rest of their lives taking blood-forming medicine and nitro glycerine. They must regularly visit hospitals to stay alive.

He said, "The greatest fear of a victim of an atomic bomb is that the destruction of their 'humanity' will continue throughout their lives even if they survive. Atomic bombs are absolute evils and are not morally tolerable."

"I hate the US because they decided to attack Iraq, I can't forgive the US government for what they have done there," said Tsuboi, the association's chairman, who is one of the 20,000 living A-bomb survivors in Hiroshima.

Tsuboi harshly criticised the Japan government for sending troops to Iraq for reconstruction. "I cannot forgive our government's role because sending troops to Iraq indirectly supported the US government although they were not directly involved in the attack," Tsuboi told The Daily Star correspondent during their meeting in Hiroshima last month.

There are 260,000 A-bomb survivors still living in Japan today.

"If there is any dispute between the two countries, diplomats can resolve that through discussions but there is no room for violence," he added.

"A-bombing causes indiscriminate and mass annihilation of civilians and it should never be accepted under any circumstance. We must not create any more Hibakusha (in Japanese, meaning A-bomb survivors) in the world and abolition of nuclear weapons is an earnest desire of humanity. We object to any research, development, production, possession, experimentation and use of nuclear weapons under any circumstance by any country," Tsuboi noted.

"I myself have been to the US, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, the Netherlands and Vietnam to appeal for abolition of nuclear weapons," he said.

"In a world that depends on hatred, war cannot be avoided; but in a world where dialogue is respected and human wisdom is superior to hatred, peace is possible

ment does not move away from its decision."

He urged the government to hand over the project to him if they fail to construct a suspension bridge for want of money.

The mayor announced to hold another rally at the southern part of the Karnaphuli Bridge tomorrow to drum up support for his cause.

The rally was followed by a large procession that paraded the major thoroughfares of the city.

Former minister MA Mannan, Nagorik Committee Co-Chairman Mahmudul Islam, Secretary General Dr Abu Yusuf Alam, city AL General Secretary Inamul Haque Danu, Communist Party of Bangladesh city unit President Shah Alam, Gono Forum city unit President M Kafil Uddin and other leaders of 14-party combine and Nagorik Committee addressed the rally.

No charge sheet

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that also left 50 others injured in the evening of August 7, 2004.

Investigation officer of the case CID's Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Munshi Atiqur Rahman, however, yesterday said the task could not be completed as many complex issues are linked to it, although the overall progress is good enough.

The grenade attack took place when the Sylhet city AL leaders came out after holding a meeting at the city's Gulshan Centre at about 8:00pm on August 7 of 2004, minutes after the departure of Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, who is also the city AL chief.

The explosion burnt down a car that was parked nearby.

Bangladesh-born British citizen SM Nunu Miah took the car from First Security Bank for temporary use as a courier.

Half an hour after the incident, Sylhet Kotwali police arrested Nunu Miah, also an AL leader, from the Gulshan Hotel.

Miah had been there on his return from UK two days earlier.

The law enforcers, being influenced by a ruling party lawmaker, implicated him with the case and tortured for days for confessional statement, it was alleged. A joint interrogation cell also quizzed him in Dhaka for days.

In the face of agitation programme by AL and expatriates at home and abroad, Nunu Miah was released two months later.

Police also arrested as many as 50 people as suspects. Two months after the attack, CID interrogated the injured and other AL leaders, which also raised questions.

Four months after the grenade blast, the CID ASP talked to the Sylhet mayor. The ASP managed a confessional statement from Belal, a guard of a neighbouring house.

The CID forcibly took the statement from Belal, who had stated that AL leader Ibrahim had thrown the grenade, sources said, adding that CID may submit the final charge sheet showing Ibrahim as the main accused.