

101 intellectuals in Rajshahi want trial of war criminals

RU CORRESPONDENT

About 101 intellectuals in a statement issued in Rajshahi yesterday demanded of the caretaker government to take an immediate initiative for trial of war criminals of the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

The statement hailed the army chief for his recent announcement to try the war criminals. The statement recalled the glorious role of Bangladesh Army during the liberation war.

The statement lamented that after independence of Bangladesh, the countrymen agitated for trial of Rajakars and Albadars on several occasions, but in vain. No imitative was taken for their trial during the long period of 36 years after liberation of the country from the clutch of occupation army of Pakistan, the statement said.

Signatories to the statement hoped that necessary steps would be taken by the authorities concerned within a short time for trial of war criminals.

Signatories to the statement include eminent writer Prof Hassan Azizul Haque, Prof Sanad Kumar Saha, Anisur Rahman, Julfiker Matin, Moloy Kumar Bhowmik, Anando Kumar Shaha, Shamsuddin Ilias, Abdus Sobhan, Khanom Mamtaj, Shah Newaj Ali, Mahbubur Rahman, Sayen Uddin, Golam Kabir, Sujit Sarker, Muklesur Rahman, SM Abu Bakker and Golam Mustafa.

Freedom Fighters' reunion held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A reunion of freedom fighters who had fought in Sector No 4 during the Liberation War of Bangladesh was held at the Central Shaheed Minar here on March 28.

Freedom fighters from both home and abroad participated in the reunion. In the reunion, they recalled their fond memory of Liberation War.

Former Gono Parishad member and elderly politician Md Azizur Rahman, expatriate freedom fighters Dewan Abdul Wahab Choudhury and AFM Sujaul Karim addressed.

Among others, freedom fighters Syed Mahsin Ali, Harunur Rashid, Dewan Hadi Gazi, Dewan Abul Khayer Choudhury and Mahmudur Rahman attended.

The function was followed by a cultural programme.

Ex-BNP MP sued in Sirajganj for corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Selim Reza, former chairman of Chowland, an NGO founded by former BNP lawmaker Maj (retd) Monjur Kader, has lodged a case with a Sirajganj court against Monjur for alleged 'corruption and misappropriation of money' from government development projects during his tenure.

The court ordered the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) to probe the matter and submit a report.

ACC has taken up the matter for investigation, ACC sources said.

In the complaint filed on March 27, Selim said, Maj Monjur floated Chowland after winning the 2001 parliamentary election from Sirajganj-6 constituency (Chowhali and some part of Shahzadpur upazilas). It worked for poor people of Chowhali shoal area in Sirajganj district.

Monjur made him its chairman and also appointed some other people in several posts and tried to utilise the staff to grab khas lands in the area, Selim said in the complaint. As he declined to grab lands and be involved in corruption, he was sacked in 2005, Selim said in the complaint, a copy of which was made available to this correspondent.

The complaint said that Monjur, with the help of some of his accomplices including Enayetpur upazila BNP president and local Union Parishad chairman Liakot Ali misappropriated around Tk 1,64,90,000 from different government development projects.

It said 430 bundles relief CI sheet were sold at Tk 14,19,000 and 550 metric tons rice under GR, TR and VGD projects at Tk 82,50,000 at the behest of the former lawmaker, and the entire amount was misappropriated by his men.

Monjur was involved in misappropriation of Tk 50 lakh, meant for distribution among the poor under a disaster management programme, the complaint said.

Mentionably, joint forces recently recovered a huge quantity of CI sheets from Enayetpur cloth market built by Monjur on about 30 acres of alleged grabbed lands.

The law enforcers also filed a case against six persons including Monjur in this connection.

While contacted over cell phone yesterday, the former lawmaker said the case was false.

Selim Reza is accused in a case, filed in 2005 by Shahidul Islam, Managing Director of Chowland and Shahzan Ali of Khaskawlia in Chowhali upazila.

"Selim lodged the case against me to counter that case and to save himself", Monjur said.

Three editors acquitted in 'false' case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Kushtia court acquitted editors of three local daily newspapers in much talked about local daily Dainik Sikol torching case, filed on May 13, 2004.

The editors are Manjur Ehsan Choudhury of Dainik Andoloner Bazar, S.M. Halimuzzaman of Dainik Deshtathya and Sanjay Chaki of Dainik Kushtia.

Unidentified miscreants set fire to the office of local daily Sikol on May 12, 2004.

After the incident, editor of the daily Sakhawat Ibne Moyeen Choudhury filed a case with sadar police station without mentioning any name.

But latter, a local lawmaker allegedly compelled Moyeen to include names of Manjur Ehsan Choudhury, S.M Halimuzzaman and Sanjay Chaki in the case.

Local fire brigade officials in their statement said, the fire originated from an electric short circuit. However Investigation Officer (IO) of the case did not include the name of fire brigade officials.

"The then BNP lawmaker from Kushtia-4 constituency Seyeed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi compelled Moyeen to include their names in the case to harass them as they wrote about his corruption," Manjur Ehsan Choudhury, editor of Dainik Andoloner Bazar told the daily star yesterday.

Set up district judges' courts in 3 hill dists

BLAST meeting at Rangamati urges govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Speakers at an advocacy meeting held here urged the government to take steps for setting up of district and session judge's courts in three hill districts to redress sufferings of litigants and resolve decades-long judicial problems in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

This will also help establish good governance, they said.

Litigants are suffering a lot in absence of district and session judge's courts. Though judicial complexes have been built in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari hill towns, they are yet to start functioning.

The advocacy meeting titled "Initiatives of CHT people to set up district and session judge's courts in three hill districts", organised by Rangamati unit of Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST), was held at the conference room of CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) on Thursday.

Former senior joint district judge Dipen Dewan presented the keynote paper on rules and laws of

CHT. BLAST member Fanindra Lal Das chaired the function.

The discussants included CHTRC member Goutam Kumar Chakma, ex-deputy secretary Prakriti Ranjan Chakma, Rangamati Lawyers Association president Pratim Roy Pampu, Human Rights activist Tuku Talukder, journalist Sunil Kanti Dey and Rangamati BLAST Coordinator Jewel Dewan.

They said Speakers said thousand of thousand prisoners of CHT, who are under trial in different cases suffering a lot due to absence of district and session judge's courts.

They said around 25,000 cases are pending with Chittagong Divisional Judge's court for long as those were transferred there from magistracy courts in CHT. Thousands of litigants suffer for this, they added.

It is very difficult for poor people to go to Chittagong to appear before the Divisional Judge Court there. Trial is also delayed due to this.

Referring to the CHT Regulation (10f 1900), they said the executive judicial power vested with DCs in CHT.

The litigants suffer as DCs do not find adequate time for disposal of the cases.

The government amended the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation (1 of 1900) considering existing laws. The gazette notification was published on September 21 this year.

Regulation 8(1) says, "Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts of CHT shall constitute three separate Session Divisions and the concerned district judge shall be the Sessions Judge of the respective session division and the joint district judge shall be the Assistant Sessions Judge".

Regulation 8(3) says the three hill districts shall have three separate civil jurisdiction under three district judges and 8(40) says the joint district judge shall try all civil cases in accordance with existing laws, customs and usages of concerned districts.

On February 2, last year, BLAST filed a writ petition (no-606) before higher court to explain in details within six weeks, which is now awaiting for hearing, BLAST sources said.

2 clinics closed in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A mobile court realised Tk, 90,000 fines from six private clinics and diagnostic centres and closed two clinics in Rangpur town during drives on Thursday and Wednesday.

Sources at the civil surgeon's office said, Magistrate Moniruzzaman Miah led the mobile court which closed Jonosheba Clinic and Nursing Home and Arogya Clinic as those did not follow rules and cheated people in the name of giving health service.

The six clinics were fined for running business without trained doctors and nurses, the sources said.

Jewellery shop looted in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Miscreants looted gold ornament worth about a Tk 25 lakh from a jewellery shop at a shopping mall at Zindabazar in the city Thursday night.

Four security guards of a private security service engaged in the market were missing since the incident, police said.

Five others found senseless at the market yesterday morning were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Police took into the owner of the security service into custody.

Abdul Hannan, owner of the

jewellery shop on the 3rd floor of the market, said they reached the market yesterday morning on an information and found the shutters open. About 150 ounces of gold ornaments were stolen from one iron safe, he said. Five other lockers were intact, he said. He said he is preparing to file a case with Sylhet Kotwali police station.

A police official told the Daily Star yesterday that, belts, caps and whistle of security guards were found lying in front of the shop. "No doubt, security guards were involved in the incident", he said.



Winners at the Prothom Alo-HSBC Language Contest, held at Sylhet Blue Bird School and College yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

6 get Independence Day Award at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Six persons were awarded the Independence Day Award -2007 at a reception accorded to freedom fighters and family members of martyred freedom fighters on the Rajshahi University (RU) campus, university sources said.

The university authorities honoured them on Wednesday evening in recognition to their glorious role during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

The recipients are: Dr Ibne Golam Samad, a former teacher of Botany Department, Dr ANM Saleh,

an associate professor of Physiology Department, Badrul Alam, an official of Engineering Section, Abdul Hannan, an official of Shahid Habibur Rahman Hall, Iman Ali, an official of Stuart Section and Azizul Haque, an official of Transport Section, sources said.

RU vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Altaf Hossain handed over medals to them at the function.

Among others, pro-VC Prof Mammunul Keramat, Prof Mastura Khanom, Officers' Association leader Abul Kalam Azad, Fazlul Haque and Badrul Alam addressed.

9X3

2.5X2

3X2

10X3