

Immediate trial of war criminals demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriate Bangladeshis under the banner of Justice for Bangladesh Genocide 1971 formed human chains and held candlelight vigils in Sydney and Vienna on December 1 demanding immediate trial of the war criminals.

The Australian chapter of Justice for Bangladesh Genocide 1971 formed a human chain in Sydney's central business district, said a press release.

Addressing the gathering at Martin's Place in Sydney, Rachel Evans, a professor at Newcastle University and human rights activist, said, "We will work to raise public awareness to demand the trial of war criminals guilty of genocide in Bangladesh in 1971."

A candlelight vigil and a rally were held following the human chain.

Speakers at the rally said the trial of the war criminals is demanded by the lives lost in the liberation war and the political leadership has no excuse to keep avoiding this.

Pledging their commitment to the cause, the speakers said expatriate Bangladeshis had achieved similar success in the past by establishing February 21 as International Mother Language Day.

The rally was presided over by Bangladeshi-Australian academic Abul Hasan Milton and was addressed by Bangladeshis living in Australia, including freedom fighter Kamrul Ahsan Khan, Golam Mustafa, Harunur Rashid Azad, Raymond Solaiman and Al Norman Shamim.

A number of Australian human rights activists also turned up for the event, also attended by a number of Pakistanis who expressed their solidarity with the cause.

A similar event was organised by the group in Austrian capital of Vienna, where speakers said Jamaat-e-Islami committed treason against Bangladesh and the Bangladeshi state must bear the responsibility of bringing them to trial.

'Women's role in liberation war yet to be duly recognised'

Staff Correspondent

Women rights activists in a view exchange meeting yesterday assured the sector commanders of the liberation war of extending all sorts of cooperation in forging nationwide movement to put the war criminals into trial.

They also suggested taking lessons from the movements that were waged in the past to try the war criminals.

At the same time rights activists lamented that women's role in the liberation war is yet to be duly recognised.

The view exchange meeting, organised by Sector Commanders' Forum, was held at Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium in the city yesterday.

Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandker said any government would pay heed to their demand when they can raise voice from every corner across the country demanding trial of the war criminals.

Urging the activists to spread the mission of the Forum, he said, "No quarter would be able to spread the message across the country as you (women organisations) can do."

Member Secretary of the Forum Dr MA Hasan conducted the meeting while Ayesha Khanam of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, President of Mahila Mukti Joddha Parishad, Momtaz Begum, Rokeya Kabir of Nari Pragati Sangstha, Executive Director of NARI Pria Saha and Parvin Sultana Jhuma also spoke.

Exhibition on kitchen cabinet begins

A 15-day exhibition of kitchen cabinets, hoods and design doors of Green Marketing Ltd began at Bashundhara City in the city on December 1, says a press release.

Kitchen cabinets imported from Belgium, Germany, Spain and France, kitchen hoods from world famous Faber Company of Italy and design doors manufactured by Green Marketing have been put on display at the exhibition.

Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ), inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest. Kawser H Chowdhury, managing director of Green Marketing Ltd, was present on the occasion.

Consumers will get special discount on the products during the exhibition, which will continue until December 15.

Green Marketing has long been marketing a wide range of globally renowned brands of kitchen cabinets, kitchen hoods, kitchen accessories and wooden floors and own brands of design doors and bedroom furniture.



Bangalink, a mobile phone operator, will hold a concert titled 'Bangalink Desh Music Fest 2007' on December 7 to raise funds for the cyclone-affected people. Singers and organisers pose for photograph at a press conference on the concert at Spectra Convention Centre in the city yesterday.

20 muggers held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) during their recent drives arrested 20 muggers of two gangs, including 'Aggyan Party', in the city.

Aggyan Party is a gang of snatchers who drug their victims into unconsciousness before robbing them. Another gang snatches valuables at gunpoint.

Of the arrestees, nine are members of Aggyan Party.

Rab also recovered three cars, two firearms, six sharp weapons and some tablets from their possession.

Rab-2 battalion commanding officer (CO) Akhbar Ali at a press briefing at Mohammadpur camp in the city yesterday said the arrest of 20 is a success of their month-long effort.

He said they launched the massive drives due to rise of mugging and snatching incidents, including the Aggyan Party activities, in the city.

He said among the arrestees is Aggyan Party boss Mohammad Abdul Aziz alias Guru Aziz.

Guru Aziz and his accomplices were produced before journalists at the briefing.

Talking to The Daily Star, Aziz said he had training from India 10 years ago.

He said he trained up over 50 disciples. He, however, said he and his disciples, excepting one or two, are no longer involved in such activities.

Meanwhile, ten other members of a muggers' gang were also arrested in the city. Of them, four admitted their involvement in the killing of singer Nasir Shabran. Shabran was killed at Maghbazar in the city on October 30.

The dead was identified as Tahez Uddin of village Dulai in Sujanagar upazila of the district. He was working as a sub-assistant engineer at Berab waterboard office, sources said.

The accident took place at about 10:00am yesterday on Dhaka-Pabna highway at Dulai Bazar.

Sources said a speedy bus hit

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