

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 Hasnat Milton and was addressed by Bangladeshis living in Australia, including freedom fighter Kamrul Ahsan Khan, Golam Mustafa, Harunur Rashid Azad, Raymond Solaiman and Al Noman 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 Bangladesh 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.

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 Muktiyoddha Parishad Montaz Begum, Rokeya Kabir of Nari Pragati Sangstha, Executive Director of NARI Priya 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. Kawsar 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.



Banglalink, a mobile phone operator, will hold a concert titled 'Banglalink 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.

Road accidents kill seven

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and 38 others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla and Chittagong yesterday.

UNB from Comilla reports: Three unidentified people were killed and 28 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Haripur in Daudkandi upazila yesterday.

Police said a Chittagong-bound bus from Dhaka collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound bus from Laxmipur at about 12:30 pm, killing

two passengers and driver of a bus on the spot.

Four of the injured were rushed to Orthopedics Hospital in Dhaka in critical condition while 12 others were rushed to Gouripur Hospital.

Traffic on the road remained suspended for about an hour following the accident.

Another report from Chittagong adds: Three people were killed and 10 others injured in a collision between a truck and a bus near Mithachar Bazar in Mirsari upazila early yesterday.

Two of the deceased were identified

as bus driver Ruhul Amin, 42, and its passenger Delwar Hossain, 38.

Police said the accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound bus from Dhaka collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound goods-laden truck from Chittagong, amid deep fog at about 5:00am, leaving Ruhul and Delwar dead on the spot and 11 others injured.

Of the injured, six were rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition where doctors declared another unidentified bus passenger dead.

Police seized both the vehicles but the truck driver managed to flee.

Our correspondent from Pabna adds: An engineer of water development board was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Pabna highway yesterday.

The dead was identified as Tahaz Uddin of village Dulai in Sujanagar upazila of the district. He was working as a sub-assistant engineer at Bera water board 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 Tahaz Uddin on the road when he was going to his office by a motorcycle yesterday. He was rushed to Pabna General Hospital in critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries.



Dr MA Hasan, member-secretary of Sector Commanders Forum, speaks at a view exchange meeting on 'The trial of war criminals' at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday while Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandker looks on. The Forum organised the meeting.

Hafiz, Mamun remanded

FROM PAGE 1: Hafiz was remanded in custody for 14 days and Mamun for 7 days before the court. The case was filed with Borhanuddin Police Station in Bhola on June 13 against Hafiz and two others for misappropriating 208 pieces of corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for government relief.

Mamun was placed on a five-day remand in the same case on June 6. He had been remanded for 56 days in different cases.

Selim Malik, chairman of Japan Bangladesh Group, filed the case with Gulshan Police Station against Mamun and his two associates on May 31 for misappropriating Tk 8.4 crore at different times between December 8, 2001 and December 20, 2006.

The other accused Rajib Siraj Opu, son of former BNP lawbreaker Shahjahan Siraj, and Kawsar Zaman Hapji are on the run. Mamun, also the business partner of BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, had been sentenced earlier to different terms of punishment in three cases.

HAFIZ CASE
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani granted Hafiz's two-day remand after his

Alhamdulillah for June 11.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mojibul Haq directed Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Tejgaon Police Station to take legal actions against the accused after conducting an investigation.

KHAIYAM CASE
Metropolitan Magistrate Shahin Uddin granted bail to Khaiyam on a bond of Tk 20,000 with two guarantors after defence lawyers submitted a bail petition.

Police arrested Khaiyam in the city's Kakrail area on November 13 after Solaiman, a contractor of Daulatdia ferry ghat in Rajbari, filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaiyam and two of his relatives.

The plaintiff complained that Khaiyam demanded Tk 20 lakh from him on July 1, 2005 for having him the lease of a parking lot at Daulatdia ferry ghat.

Solaiman said he paid Khaiyam Tk 15 lakh in three cheques of Janata Bank by June 2006.



Visitors are at a stall of a 15-day exhibition of kitchen cabinets, hoods and designed doors of Green Marketing Ltd that began at Bashundhara City shopping mall in the city on Saturday.

Lull at Patharghata fish depot

FROM PAGE 16

But the majority is set to miss the winter season that has started.

Eighteen days after Sidr ravaged the area, many damaged boats piled up on the riverbank bear witness to the severity of the damage.

Rafiqul Islam Dulal, owner of four trawlers, said that there was some trade only in the mornings from the small number of trawlers that goes out to fish.

"Starting afresh is not an easy task for the poorer fishermen. They need financial help, at least one lakh taka in addition to fishing nets and other equipments," he pointed out.

The cost of fishing has meanwhile also shot up high due to absence of power supply in the area.

"The ice mills cannot operate without power, so now we have to purchase ice from Khulna, and Mohipur in Patuakhali," Rafiqul said, adding that the price of a can of ice has reached Tk 250 from Tk 70 previously, due to transport cost.

Sawmills in the area have also been closed due to lack of power, which means many fishermen trying to get their boats repaired are unable to do so.

The possibility of power supply being restored very soon also seems unlikely as the number of damaged

power supply cables and poles is very large, locals say.

Golam Mostafa Chowdhury suggests a loan without interest and mortgage can best help the Sidr-affected fishermen.

If the government issues Tk 1 lakh in assistance for the each small trawler owner, they could borrow the rest from others and repair or build new trawlers to start fishing again, he said.

"The government could also buy each fishermen a shallow engine, costing about Tk 25,000 a piece with which the fishermen would be able to make a trawler," he added.

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) Akhtar 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 took 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 Shrabani. Shrabani was killed at Maghbazar in the city on October 30.

They, however, told journalists that they would not have killed Shrabani if they had known him as a singer.

Adviser promises

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address the issue earlier. So miscommunication arose between the government and the art lovers," Quadri told reporters.

The exhibition will take place on December 18 at the Guimet National Museum of Asian Arts. The first half of the selected artefacts was already sent to France on December 1 and the rest is scheduled to be sent on December 8.

The adviser said he is personally convinced the artefacts will come home safely as it was a deed signed by the two governments.

The government officials attending the press briefing said they are sending 187 artefacts, 118 from the Department of Archaeology, 45 from Bangladesh National Museum and 24 from Varendra Museum.

The adviser dismissed the allegation that the government-formed expert committee could not work due to lack of cooperation by the officials. He said the experts did not come up with any concrete suggestions.

The adviser also said each of the artefacts has proper accession number and counter signature so that it could be recognised later.

He said Bangladesh won't get any financial payoff, but sending these artefacts will heighten the image of the country.

Asked, the adviser said the value of insurance is around Tk 27 crore. Following an inter-ministerial meeting the government proposed that the France government carry the artefacts in two phases, he added.

Quadri said there is nothing to fear for the safety and security of the artefacts. "Those were packed by a company which has three hundred years' experience of packing artefacts. So, I think those will be transported safely."

The adviser could not give a specific date but said, "Those will come back by April."

ABM Abdul Hovik Chowdhury, secretary of the cultural ministry, Md. Momtazul Islam, secretary to the education ministry, Suriya Begum, joint secretary, and Shaiful Alam, director of the Department of Archaeology, were present.



Partex Group Vice Chairman Aziz Al Kaiser and Director Showkat Aziz Russell hand over a cheque for Tk 50 lakh to the Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed for the cyclone-affected people recently.



A Brac medical team providing emergency medical care to cyclone victims in Telikhal of Bhandaria, Pirojpur. Thirteen Brac medical teams providing medical care to victims in Patuakhali, Barguna, Bagerhat and Pirojpur.



Members of Padatik Natya Sangsad- Bangladesh collect money for the cyclone victims at Dhanmondi in the city on Sunday.



Leaders of Ajachak Ashram Bangladesh distribute relief materials among the cyclone-affected people at Moreganj in Bagerhat recently. The relief materials included blankets, sweaters, vests and rice and flattened rice.

Investors clash

FROM PAGE 1
pelted the lawenforcers with bricks.

During the clash, traffic on the road in front of the DSE building and in adjacent areas remained suspended for about an hour creating a severe jam in the city's busy commercial hub, Motiheel.

Witnesses said several hundred investors took part in the clash staying around the stock exchange building. Police detained two of the protesters who were later released.

Motiheel police station, however, said none was arrested and no case was filed in connection with the incident. Several police were also mildly injured. Additional forces were deployed on the spot to avert any further clash, according to the police station.

Trading on the bourse resumed after an hour at 12:20pm and continued till 3:00pm.

Following the demonstration, DSE President Abdullah Bokhari, and its Vice-president Ahmad Rashid Lali went to the SEC and urged the regulator to withdraw the ban on brokerage lending.

During the meeting with the SEC, they said the amount of loan given by brokerage houses is bigger than the lending by merchant banks. The SEC had lifted the ban on lending by merchant banks for investment in stocks on November 25.

Yesterday's withdrawal of the ban on lending by brokerage houses will open the gate again today for investors to borrow from those houses for investing in stocks. The brokerage houses are allowed to lend 67 percent of stocks held by investors.

The market regulator urged the investors yesterday not to panic. "Some investors have genuinely panicked with the downtrend, but there is nothing to be worried because during a market correction it usually goes down," said SEC Executive Director Farhad Ahmed.

He also hoped that the market will stabilize very soon.

Echoing him, another SEC Executive Director Anwarul Kabir Bhuiyan said, "The SEC's intervention was not permanent, rather it was a temporary measure for cooling down the overheated market."

At the end of the day, a total of 8,226,262 shares and bonds worth Tk 186.95 crore changed hands on the DSE. Of the issues traded, 96 went up and 92 slid down while 19 remained unchanged.

Earlier on November 22, a group of investors staged demonstrations in front of the DSE building protesting the restrictions imposed on margin loan facilities by the stock market regulator. The investors think such restrictions led to a continuous slump on the market.

Advertisement

Huawei Technologies (Bangladesh) Limited, one of the leading Telecom Solution providers in Bangladesh is sponsoring a scholarship named Huawei Scholarship. Two Scholarships will be awarded to the students of Level-3 of the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE), BUET. To announce this scholarship, a program called Huawei Scholarship Ceremony was held on 12th November 07, 4 p.m. in Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET). The participants representing Huawei are Mr. Liu, Cultural Counselor, Embassy of China, Mr. Li Zhi Guo, Senior Account Manager, Mr. Asif Zaman, Head of HR and Ms. Chen Ting (Rebecca), Account Manager. Professor Dr. A.M.M. Safiullah, Vice Chancellor, Md. Shahjahan, Registrar and Professor Dr. Satya Prasad Majumder, Head of Department, EEE were present from BUET.

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GULSHAN

Member REHAB