

ATTACK ON FREEDOM FIGHTER

Try war criminals, punish Shibir cadres

DU students, teachers urge govt

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University students, teachers and freedom fighters at a rally yesterday threatened to take to the streets to realise their demand for the trial of war criminals and Razakars (local collaborators of the Pakistani army in the liberation war), saying that the anti-liberation forces are still harassing the war heroes.

Students of journalism department organised the rally on the campus to protest the assault of freedom fighter Sheikh Muhammad Ali Aman by Islamic Chhatra Shibir cadres at a programme of 'Jatiya Muktiyoddha

Parishad' on Friday.

The speakers demanded immediate steps for the trial of war criminals and called on the people, particularly the young generation, to launch a tough movement to realise the demand.

Earlier, hundreds of DU students, teachers, freedom fighters and journalists take out a silent procession that paraded through the campus demanding trial of the war criminal in a special tribunal and punishment to the Jamaat-Shibir cadres who assaulted the freedom fighter.

The students also burnt the effigies of Jamaat leaders Golam Azam, Matiur Rahman Nizami, Ali

Ahsan Mujahid and Kader Mollah, saying that they are responsible for war crimes during the liberation war in 1971.

After the rally, the students also brought out a protest procession on the campus and demanded a ban on the 'Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad', an organisation backed by Jamaat-e-Islami.

At the rally, the students also vowed to work unitedly against Jamaat-Shibir and foil any conspiracy against the country and freedom fighters.

Maj (ret'd) Kamrul Hasan Bhuiyan, a freedom fighter of Sector 11, called on the young generation to protect the country

from the conspiracies of Razakars.

Milli Rahman, wife of Birshrestha Matiur Rahman, said the people should now raise their voice to demand the trial of war criminals.

She said Matiur Rahman Foundation would take to the streets street on Tuesday to protest the incident and demand the trial of war criminals.

Prof Anwar Hossain, also a freedom fighter, questioned that why the law enforcement agencies have not yet arrested the Shibir cadres who can easily be identified from the television footage of the attack on the freedom fighter.

He demanded immediate punishment to the Shibir cadres who assaulted the freedom fighter.

Maj (ret'd) Shafiqullah, a freedom fighter, said the so-called 'Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad' has been formed only to insult the genuine freedom fighters.

Sajed Rumel, a reporter of Ekushey Television, who was also harassed by the Shibir cadres at the programme, also spoke.

Prof AAMA Arefin Siddique, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Muhammad Samad, Prof Giti Ara Nasreen, Prof Sadeka Halim, Associate Professor Robayet Ferdous, Assistant Professor Nadir Junaid, Dr Zinat Huda Ahid, Dr Wahiduzzaman Chan, Prof Khandakar Mokadem Hossain, Maj (ret'd) Joyal Abedin, Bir Pratik, and student leaders Sohel Rana Tipu and Khan Asaduzzaman Masum took part in the rally.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), a left-leaning student organisation, also staged a demonstration on the campus demanding exemplary punishment to the Shibir cadres involved in the attack on the freedom fighter.



Bangladesh Chhatra Union stages a demonstration on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding exemplary punishment to the Shibir cadres involved in the attack on a freedom fighter.

PHOTO: STAR

Bela legal notice to stop encroachment on Turag river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday served a legal notice on secretaries of several ministries and some government officials with a call to take immediate initiatives to prevent illegal earth filling and encroachment on Turag river and Tongi khal

(canal), says a press release.

The legal notice has been served on the secretaries of the ministries of land, water resources, environment and forest, fisheries and livestock and housing and public works, the director general of the Department of Environment, chairman of Bangladesh Water Development Board, Rajuk and BIWTA, and UNOs of Kaliakoir,

Tongi, and Savar upazilas.

The notice mentioned that the Turag river and Tongi canal are identified as flood flow zone in the Master Plan of Dhaka City. The law No. 36 of 2000 and the Master Plan have strictly prohibited earth filling and any change in the nature of such flood flow zone, it added.

Referring to media reports and

its field investigation, Bela claimed that unauthorised sand and earth extraction is going on in different parts of Turag river and Tongi canal, violating the city master plan and the existing laws.

Bela also threatened to take legal action against the authorities if they do not respond within seven days from the receipt of the notice.

Cancel Labour Act '06

Demands SKOP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), a platform of workers and employees, yesterday demanded rights of trade union activities and cancellation of the Labour Act 2006 and the amended Labour Ordinance 2008.

SKOP leaders at a press conference at its temporary office at Topkhana Road in the city also demanded that the government set minimum national wage for the workers and employees at Tk 4,500 in consistency with the present market price of commodities.

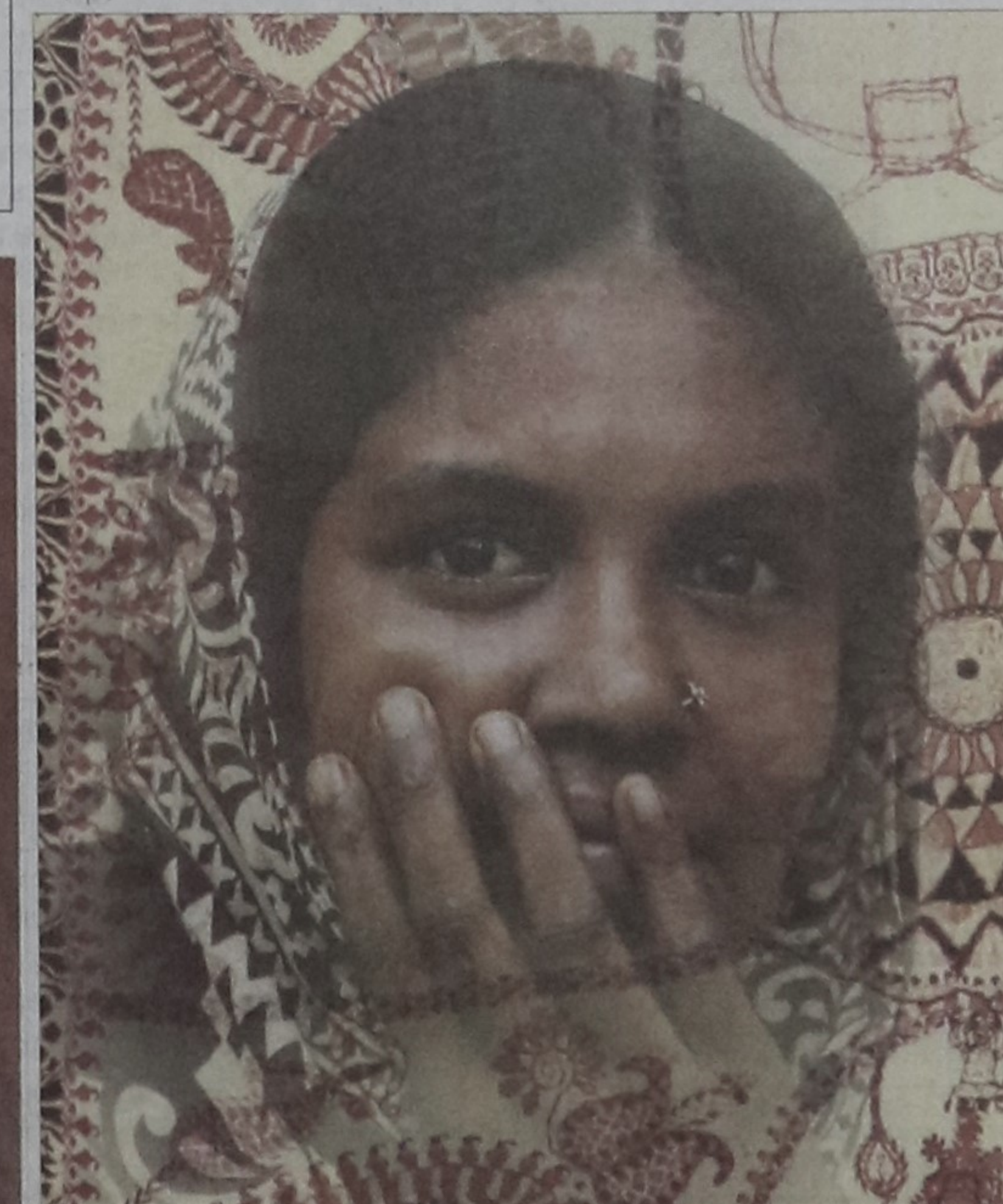
They also demanded the authorities introduce a rationing system for the workers and employees of all industries and give 50 per cent dearness allowance.

Bangladesh Labour Federation President Shah Muhammad Abu Zafar read out the written state-

ment at the press conference.

At the press conference the SKOP leaders also demanded implementation of all the accords signed with the workers of all sectors, including water vessel workers and sugar mill workers, and reopening of all the closed jute mills.

SKOP Coordinator and General Secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra Dr Wazedul Islam Khan, Jatiya Sramik League President Abdul Matin, Abul Bashar, president of Jatiya Labour Federation, and Abdul Kader Howlader, president of Jatiya Sramik Jote, Bangladesh were also present.



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Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury speaks at a view exchange meeting on 'Going to School: Challenges in Chittagong Hill Tracts' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On her left are MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Barrister Devashish Roy and Prof Sadeka Halim and on her right is Prof Mesbah Kamal. (Story on Page 16)

Arrest only criminals to curb crimes

DMP chief asks police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed yesterday said it is impossible to curb crimes by increasing the number of arrestees.

So the police should arrest only

Dhaka supports capacity building in Palestine

BSS, Jakarta

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said Bangladesh would support capacity building in the State of Palestine in every possible way.

He said this while speaking at a ministerial conference on capacity building in Palestine organised as part of the New Asian African Strategic Partnership, hosted jointly in the Indonesian capital by the governments of Indonesia and South Africa.

Iftekhar said Bangladesh's support to the cause of the Palestinians is abiding and unflinching. "We support this inalienable rights to have an independent state of their own with Jerusalem as the capital in accordance with all the relevant UN resolutions, the Arab Peace Plan and the Quartet Road Map," he added.

The foreign adviser appreciated the current efforts of the European Union Presidency, in particular of President Nicolas Sarkozy and Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner to bring together the leaders of Palestine and Israel in Paris.

The adviser specifically offered training in micro-credit, youth development, women empowerment, education, administration, magistracy diplomacy and agriculture to the Palestinians.

the real criminals in order to contain crime and violence in the society, he added.

Naim was speaking as chief guest at a crime conference at Rajarbagh Police Lines Auditorium in the city.

He said police must try to satisfy the complainant from the time of case filing to the end of the investigation.

Naim said the DMP has launched drives against the footpath toll collectors and already arrested 56 of them.

Besides, the policemen who will be found involved in such extortion must be punished as the entire DMP cannot be responsible for the crimes of any of its members, he said.

At the conference, the DMP commissioner also expressed his satisfaction over the existing law and order situation.

Replying to a question, he said Mirpur and Wari are the two crime-prone zones in the city.

In reply to another question, the

DMP commissioner said drug and mugging are interrelated as in most cases the money for the drug is managed by mugging.

Krishak Dal hunger strike on July 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal, a front organisation of BNP, will hold a token hunger strike on July 22 in the city to realise its four-point demand including release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and curbing prices of essentials.

Krishak Dal leaders yesterday in a press briefing, held at the Nam flat residence of BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, urged the authorities to send Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman abroad for treatment and demanded immediate withdrawal of state of emergency.

"The so-called '1/11' change-over destroyed everything and threw the country into uncertainty," Krishak Dal General Secretary Shamsuzzaman Khan Dudu said in a written statement.

Krishak Dal acting President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said government has failed to ensure low prices for fertiliser and other materials for the farmers.

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