

War criminals trying to erase spirit of liberation war

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the trial of war criminals an unsettled chapter of the national life, speakers at a roundtable yesterday said the anti-liberation forces are trying to divide freedom fighters (FFs) with a view to wiping out the spirit of the liberation war.

Rural Journalists' Foundation organised the roundtable 'Future of Bangladesh, rights of freedom fighters and firm footing of the war criminals' at Comrade Moni Sing-Farhad Trust Bhawan in the city.

The speakers said the war criminals are gradually grabbing the economic, education and health sectors and they are sheltering their people financially, spreading militancy across the country.

The war criminals are approaching in such a planned way managing a big political party and now hatching a conspiracy to destabilise the country with mili-

tant activities, they added.

They further said Bangladesh is a secular country and it has a long tradition of communal harmony but the fundamentalist forces is trying to turn the country into a religion-based country. For this, they compelled the government to dismantle sculptures that represent the country's tradition.

The speakers said voters should be more alert so that war criminals cannot go to the parliament. The pro-liberation forces and freedom fighters can play an important role to identify the criminals who will contest the upcoming polls and forge public opinion against them.

Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker, who was the deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces during the liberation war, said, "We will go to remote places across the country to forge mass awareness of the war criminals so

that they cannot return to power to make it a militant country."

He further added, "War criminals are hatching a conspiracy to make the country unstable to make a ground for foreign invasion in the country."

The speakers said the issue of the trial of war criminals remains ignored since the independence and now it is time to unite the freedom fighters in order to combat them.

Presided over by Chairman of the foundation SM Zahurul Islam, the roundtable was addressed by Standard Bank Ltd Chairman Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Misbahur Rahman Chowdhury and Lieutenant General (ret'd) Harun-or-Rashid.

General Secretary of the foundation Md Rezaul Haq Titu moderated the discussion, while MR Mahub presented a keynote paper.



Sylhet Division Unnayan Chhatra Sangram Parishad forms a human chain on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting indiscriminate felling of trees at Khashia Palli at Shrimangal in Sylhet.

Cops to serve better under political govt

Hopes IGP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

While denying making any comment on the proposed police ordinance, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Muhammad has hoped that police would serve people better under the next political government.

He said police personnel up to inspector level will be transferred within the divisional range.

The IGP was exchanging views with the journalists at Barisal Circuit House on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP) yesterday.

Acknowledging the existence of militancy in the region he said its foundation has been destroyed

and they are now functioning separately.

They are also often nabbed by the police in many places, he added.

Talking about the post-election law and order situation, the IGP hoped that police are now more professional than before and will do better under a political government.

He said the success in reforming police force and creating closer relation between police and people, would yield positive result in preventing interference of political forces over the law enforcers in future.

The IGP said arrangement has been made for the residential accommodation of the BMP commissioner, and progress has also been made about the construction of BMP headquarter and police line.

4 killed, 45 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Four people were killed and 45 others injured in separate road accidents in Netrakona, Kushtia and Rajshahi yesterday.

Our correspondent from Kushtia adds: Two people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident on Kushtia-Bheramara road at Egaromile in Kushtia yesterday.

They died were identified as Rezaul Haq Bablu, 48, and Sumon Kumar, 39.

The accident occurred when a Khulna-bound passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch losing its control at about 9.45am leaving two dead on the spot.

Seriously injured passengers were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital.

Our correspondent from Netrakona reports: One person was killed and 25 others were injured in a road accident on Netrakona-Kendua road at Ranritola under Kendua upazila in Netrakona yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rasul Mia, 55, of Ranritola village.

Police quoting locals said the accident occurred when a Kendua-bound passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch losing its control leaving Rasul Mia dead on the spot and 25 others

injured.

The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and Netrakona Sadar Hospital.

Our RU correspondent adds: One person was killed and 10 others were injured in a road accident on Rajshahi-Natore highway at Kapashia in Rajshahi yesterday.

The victim was identified as Nasir Uddin, 22, son of Taibur Rahman of Shibganj village in Chapainawabganj.

Police quoting locals said the accident occurred at around 12.00noon when two passenger buses collided head-on at Kapashia leaving 12 passengers injured.

Locals rushed the injured passengers to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) where Nasir succumbed to his injuries.

Following the accident agitating peoples blocked Natore-Rajshahi highway for one hour that created a huge traffic jam on the road.

Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.



Commodore Commanding Chittagong Commodore M Nasir sees off a batch of 79-member navy team at Shah Amanat International Airport yesterday.

Navy contingent leaves for UN peace mission

UNB, Chittagong

A 79-member contingent of Navy (BANFRU-4) left Shah Amanat International Airport yesterday for UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan.

This contingent will replace the BANFRU-3 which is stationed at Malakhall of Sudan, said an ISPR release.

Earlier, two officers, 11 sailors and one civilian staff of Bangladesh Navy, led by Contingent Commander Captain M Sajjad Alam, left for Sudan as advance team of this contingent.

At present 73 BN officers and 180 sailors have been deployed in various countries of different UN peacekeeping missions.

Valuables worth Tk 7 lakh looted at Beanibazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Armed robbers looted gold ornaments, valuables and cash from the house of an expatriate at Beanibazar upazila in the district in the early hours of yesterday.

Around 10 to 12 robbers attacked the house of Syedur Rahman at Govindasri village under the upazila and looted 18 tolas of ornaments and valuables worth Tk seven lakh at gunpoint.

They also gave the family members a good beating. They hit Syedur with an iron rod. He received severe injuries on his head and hands.

The victim was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

He alleged that the masked robbers stormed the house and blindfolded the inmates before confining them to a toilet.

They took the ornaments, valuables and Tk 25,000 from the almira, he added.

PARLIAMENT ELECTION

Govt is on right track Says British envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Stephen Evans yesterday said the caretaker government is moving towards a general election in December and the process is on the right track.

"Lots of works have been done by the caretaker government in last 18 months that include an impressive voter list, amendment of electoral rules and series of dialogues with political parties. These are key requirements for a free and fair election and we think the government is heading towards a right direction to hold the general election on December 18," said the envoy at a meeting with the journalists of different print and electronic media at the VIP Lounge of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) in the evening.

"Election under the state of emergency is permissible as per Bangladesh law. But I would say total lifting of emergency will create the most desirable and ideal

situation for free and fair election," said the high commissioner when asked by the journalists, which situation -- partial relaxation of complete lifting of emergency -- will be supported by his government.

Citing their recent bilateral talks with the chief adviser and other advisers, Evans said they have received assurances and commitment from the caretaker government that the upcoming election would be free, fair and credible and all parties concerned would take part in it.

Daily Purbokone Editor Taslimuddin Chowdhury and Daily Azadi Editor MA Malek also spoke on the occasion.

Director (trade and commerce) of the High Commission Kevin Ringham and official Kamrun Nahar were also present.

Earlier, CPC President Ali Abbas, General Secretary Ejaz Yusooofi and other members of the club greeted the envoy and his entourage with bouquets.



Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad inaugurates the nomination form distribution programme of his party collecting a form at the party office in the city yesterday.

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