

BDR mutiny a plot to halt trial of war criminals

Say organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday condemned the brutal killing of the army officers at the BDR headquarters and demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in the killings.

They also held doa mahfils seeking eternal peace of the departed souls of the army officers and the civilians killed in the BDR mutiny and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

In a statement, Prajatma

'71, an organisation of the children of the freedom fighters, said there is no doubt that a vested quarter who want to destroy the spirit of the liberation war carried out the incident.

Terming the incident a conspiracy to halt the trial of the war criminals, they also demanded the government start the trial of the war criminals immediately.

They also urged all to refrain from giving any provocative or motivated speech during this critical moment

for the sake of proper investigation into the incident.

In another statement, Gonotantrik Bam Morcha urged the political parties to focus on finding the masterminds behind the mutiny instead of accusing each other.

They also demanded the probe report be made public.

However, they questioned forming two probe bodies - one by the government and the other by the army officers.

Meanwhile, Shahjalal Islami Bank, Association of

Mobile Telecom Operators in Bangladesh and the High Commission of Bangladesh to the Republic of Maldives held doa mahfils at their respective offices praying for the salvation of the departed souls.

Bangladesh Medical Association, Mukti Joddha Sanghati Parishad, Moulvibazar Babosayee Samity and Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad Kendriya Command Council also condemned the killings in separate statements.

JS okays resolutions seeking membership of CPA, IPU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously passed two resolutions seeking reinstatement of its membership of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The resolutions will immediately be sent to the headquarters of CPA and IPU requesting them to reinstate Bangladesh parliament's memberships of the two organisations.

Bangladesh parliament again lost its membership of CPA in May 2007 since the 8th parliament was dissolved on October 27, 2006 and new parliament was not constituted in next 90 days stipulated in the constitution. It lost membership of IPU in April 2008 for the same reason.

Secretary general of CPA in a letter on January 21 asked

the parliament to pass a resolution and send it to the CPA headquarters for reinstatement of its membership.

Similarly, IPU also sent a letter on February 3 asking the parliament to pass a resolution and send it to its headquarters for reinstatement of its membership.

Chief Whip Abdus Shahid proposed the motion for reinstatement of the parliament's membership of CPA, while Whip Mujibul Haque placed another motion on IPU membership.

Lawmakers of the parliament will be able to participate in different international seminars and discussions to enrich their parliamentary knowledge," he added.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan said the country would be freed from the stigma with getting back the membership of CPA.

BNP lawmaker MK Anwar supported the motion, saying that parliament must be made focal point of all activities.

Another defamation case against Abu Karim

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An Ulema League leader yesterday filed a defamation case against recently forced-retired information secretary ATM Fazlul Karim alias Abu Karim for writing a verse criticising Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members.

Maulana Mohammad Ismail Hussain, president of Bangladesh Ulema League, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka against Abu Karim and Sayeed Bari, publisher of Suchipatra Prokashana.

The same court on March 2 issued an arrest warrant against him in connection with another defamation case filed by Hazrat Maulana Mohammad Elias Hussain, president of Bangladesh Awami Ulema League, on February 22.

Later two more sedition cases were also filed on February 24 against Abu Karim for his alleged involvement with defaming father of the nation and making malicious comments subversive to the state.

The order of those cases will be delivered on March 16.

After hearing the yesterday's case, Metropolitan Magistrate Kanika Biswas recorded statements and did not pass any order on the issue.

In his complaint, Maulana Ismail mentioned that the accused had written a verse titled 'Bagan Phutey Achhey Anek Golap' in February 2006 and the Suchipatra Prokashana published the book in Ekushey Book Fair in 2008.

Khulna power distribution co boss removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The managing director of West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZPDL) Engineer Abu Ishaque has been removed from his post.

The decision was taken at the board meeting of WZPDL on Tuesday following allegations of corruption and inefficiency against him.

He will be replaced by AFM Alarmin Kabir, a member (Dis)

of the PDB.

Media urged to help promote gender parity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists at a seminar yesterday called on the mass media to play a key role in improving the status of women in society through raising awareness and portraying positive image of women.

The mass media is gradually changing where presence of women are increasing everyday. The media could be a perfect tool to spread the message of women's empowerment, said Maleka Banu of Sammilita Sangskriti Jote.

M Hamid, CEO of RTV and president of Group Theatre Federation, filmmaker Mustafa Sarwar Farooki, and filmmaker Nurul Alam Atique also spoke.

representation in the media."

Ayesha Khanam, president of the Mahila Parishad, Nasiruddin Yusuf, chairman of Sammilita Sangskriti Jote, M Hamid, CEO of RTV and president of Group Theatre Federation, filmmaker Mustafa Sarwar Farooki, and filmmaker Nurul Alam Atique also spoke.

Five students of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute is going to participate in the Central and South Asian Regional Enterprise Challenge at the Shakespeare's Global Theatre in London.

The team will showcase new ideas to address pollution at the three-day event that begins on March 9, it was said at a press conference at the British Council in the city yesterday.

Besides Bangladesh, students of five other central and south Asian countries -- Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan and Uzbekistan -- will participate in the event with the theme 'Make Your Mark'.

The British Council is organising enterprise competitions for young students from technical and vocational institutes as part of its 'Skills for Employability' project in central and south Asia.

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