



Water coming out of underground Wasa pipeline in front of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University at Shahabagh in the city yesterday causes suffering to pedestrians, but the authorities appear to have turned a blind eye. PHOTO: STAR

Call to start trial of war criminals without delay

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said people would get frustrated if the government delays starting the process of the trial of war criminals, terming it a sensitive issue.

The government is committed to holding the trial as the ruling party had incorporated the issue into its election manifesto, which has been a popular demand, they added.

The anti-liberation forces have already started many conspiracies to keep the issue at bay, seeing the government's delay in starting the process.

The speakers said this while addressing the discussion on 'Trial of war criminals: Present context and review of government steps'.

The 14th December Dal, an organisation of youths, organised the discussion at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Journalist Shahriar Kabir said the trial of war criminals is possible under the Tribunal Act of 1973 and the government should start it immediately.

"The Tribunal Act of 1973 is an outstanding act. And it is enough to try war criminals under this act," he said, adding, "Seeing the government's

delay to start the process, many identified war criminals are filing cases in normal courts using money to hamper the trial in a special tribunal."

Shahriar demanded appointment of investigation officers for the trial within a week and formation of a special tribunal by one month.

He also said they are going to publish a Bangla rendition of the 1973's tribunal act within a week to facilitate the trial.

Coordinator of Sector Commanders' Forum Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-ur Rashid said the young generation wants to see Bangladesh as a socially and economically established state. So, the execution of the trial of war criminals is a must.

Speakers said other social and economical crises, including militancy, in the country would not be rooted out unless the criminals are tried.

They also said patriotic and efficient persons should be appointed in the process to make the trial acceptable nationally and internationally.

They also called on the countrymen to be united to realise the demand putting pressure on the government.

President of Projonmo' 71 Shaheen Reza Noor, journalist Mozammel Babu and Bhaskor Rasha also spoke.



Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, third from right, hands over the graduation certificate of language movement martyr Abul Barakat to his cousin M Taha, second from left, at his office yesterday. (Story on Page 16) PHOTO: STAR

Cash incentives for textile sector demanded

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of Textile Engineers Forum, Bangladesh (TEFB) yesterday demanded 15 and 10 percent cash incentives on import value for the woven and knit sectors respectively to make the government-announced stimulus package for textile sectors meaningful.

They also urged the government to take steps to bring down the interest rate of bank loan to 10 percent for the export-based textile sector and proposed eight percent cash incentive for the spinning sector.

The TEFB leaders placed their demands at a pre-budget press briefing held at the National Press Club in the city where TEFB Adviser Prof Sayed Fakrul Hasan Murad read out a written statement detailing their demands.

TEFB President Mohiuddin Ahmed Selim said the government should immediately take a decision to ensure sufficient gas and power supply, adding: "New gas should be explored to address the growing demand."

He suggested considering alternative energy like solar power system to improve the power supply situation.

Replying to a question, he said the impact of global financial recession is already being felt in Bangladesh and it might take a critical shape in

the next fiscal year. "The government should take proper steps to keep textile sector out of recession impact."

The TEFB president suggested the government to stop import of yarn through land ports to save the local spinning mills.

He sought the government support to convert the College of Textile Engineering and Technology under Dhaka University into 'Bangladesh University of Textile Engineering and Technology' so that highly educated textile engineers can come out of it

for the betterment of jute and textile sector.

TEFB Secretary General Md Enayet Hossain, Senior Vice President ATM Shamsuddin Khan and Joint Secretary General AKM Mohsin Ahmed were present at the press briefing.

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