METROPOLITAN

TOKEN TRIBUNAL AGAINST TORTURE

Perpetrators of torture during emergency must be tried

Says jury panel

OUR CORRESPONDENT

A panel of jury at a token tribunal against torture in their verdict on Saturday said torture cannot have any place in the process of state affairs and judicial process and those who torture must be tried.

They said any kind of torture is a violation of human rights. Torture cannot be acceptable in any civilised society. There is a clear declaration in the constitution of Bangladesh against torture.

Five people tortured at the hands of the army men and wife of one killed during the tenure of the caretaker government narrated the torture at the token trial held at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Two lawyers Shah Bakhtiar Ilias and Asaduzzaman gave different legal advices to the victims. Human rights organisation Odhikar and Danish organisation RCT were the organisers of the token trial.

Leader of the indigenous people of Modhupur in Tangail Cholesh Richhil fell prey to their (army men) torture. His wife Sandha Simsang described the gruesome torture on him.

SM Akhter Faruk, chairman of Monohorpur Union Parishad under Monirampur upazila in Jessore, Deen Islam, a student of Journalism department at Dhaka University, Selim Reza Newton, a teacher of Journalism department at Rajshahi University, ASM Nasiruddin Elan, director of Odhikar, and Mahbubur Rahman, former Dhaka University correspondent of Amar Desh, also described torture on them.

DESCRIPTIONS BYVICTIMS When Akhter Faruk was describing torture on him, the audience maintained pin-drop silence. They were scared stiff. Only hushed sounds of exclamations were reverberating. Tears were rolling down

both eyes of the narrator. The victim said, "He kicked my testicles. I could not take breath. He took off my pants. Then, he hung me upside down and started kicking with boots and beating with a stick at a time ... Again, he continued to beat me on the foot, under the knee and on the thigh...'

Faruk continues to describe: "Four persons stood on my two legs. Then somebody hit me on the head with something. I sprang in the air and my head hit the roof. Then I can remember nothing. When I regained consciousness, I saw they were plucking my nails of the legs with a plus. They were pressing on the nails of my hands. I again fell unconscious. When I regained consciousness, they started pouring hot water onto my nostrils with

pipes. I again fell unconscious. Describing the torture on her husband, Sandha Simsang said, "Inside the army camp, my husband's eyes, hands and legs were tied and he was hung upside down and was tortured. His both hands and legs were broken. The nails of his hands and legs were plucked using a plus. Needles were pushed all over his body. He was tortured by pressing his male organ using a plus. Not only that ... Tying his hands and legs, he was hung from a tree and was beaten with iron rods.

Later, his body was taken to Modhupur upazila health complex. "Those who washed his body told me that both eyes of Cholesh Richhil were gouged out and replaced with marbles," Sandha said.

The indigenous leader's widow in a chocked voice said, "You try the killers of my husband. This is my fervent request."

Deen Islam said a case was filed against him in connection with the incident of burning army vehicle during clashes between the army men and the students of Dhaka University on August 20, 2007.

Islam said he was on the run and army members beat up his old parents, brother, sister, brother-in-law and aunt. After arresting him, they tortured him with sticks several times, kept without food and was not allowed to take even a bath.

THE JURY SPEAK

Maj Gen (retd) Moinul Hossain Chowdhury said barbaric torture was inflicted on those who came here. When discipline in the army breaks, such kind of

incident happens. Then they become ferocious. Those who resort to such

activities become burden for the army. Those who are responsible for such incidents can be tried under military law. he added. Later, he read out the verdict.

Prof Mizanur Rahman of Law department at Dhaka University said the information extracted through torture has no value in the court. So, why does the state resort to torture? It has become mentality of some individuals and institutions. They would have to be tried.

He demanded the government arrange

compensation to the victims. Another jury Farhad Mazhar said, "Those who torture are individually responsible. but the whole system is also responsible. If we allow such torture to continue, each of us would take the role of a torturer."

VIEW EXCHANGE MEET A view exchange meeting was held at the same venue in the afternoon.

Awami League presidium member Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said if the state is honest, police or other forces cannot take the role of a torturer.

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed said the two years of the last caretaker government were the blackest chapter in the country's history. At the time, the state carried out torture on the citizens.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of private TV channel Banglavision M Asafuddowla said, "We are still living in a colonial society. The killer agency Rab is given Independence Day medal here. It is unfortunate.'

Awami League lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury said he has placed a bill in the parliament against torture in police remand.

Chief Editor of Manabzamin Motiur Rahman Chowdhury and Acting Editor of the vernacular daily Amar Desh Mahmudur Rahman also spoke at the function.



PHOTO: STAR

Plumes of smoke are seen rising from some factories at Ashulia yesterday after garment workers set fire to the units during a clash with police. (Story on Page 1)

Tk 3127.50 crore CCC budget announced

Plan to build a flyover from airport to Dewanhat footbridge and a marine drive from Sadarghat to Kalurghat Bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) yesterday announced an ambitious budget of over Tk 3127.50 crore for the fiscal year 2009-2010 giving special emphasis on building a flyover from airport to Dewanhat footbridge and a marine drive from Sadarghat to Kalurghat Bridge with a view to addressing the gridlock in the port city.

The mayor also announced a revised budget of over Tk 239.13 crore for the fiscal year 2008-2009 at a special general meeting of the city corporation at its auditorium in presence of ward councillors, officials and journal-

The budget of the city corporation for the last fiscal year (2008-2009) was over Tk 622.06 crore only.

"We have decided to construct a flyover stretching from

Dewanhat footbridge at a cost of Tk 1,500 crore and a marine drive along the river Karnaphuli from Sadarghat to Kalurghat Bridge at acostofTk1,000 crore.

The main objective of these two large projects is to help streamline the traffic system as well as reduce the acute problem of gridlock in the city," Mohiuddin said.

He said the Tk 1,000 crore marine drive project will also include river training to make the Karnaphuli pollution-free and enable the river a safe navi-The proposed budget sought

approval and allocation for seven more 'prioritised' projects involving Tk 238 crore from the ministries concerned. These projects are: 1) Construction of ballocation or fund in due time, an bincome generating tube-light some flyovers worth Tk T10 crore issue that has long been holding at different city points, 2) Tk 25 crore footpath and island construction project, 3) Tk 25 crore project for carpeting important city roads with asphalt plant, 4) Tk Chittagong Shah Amanat 10 crore garbage collection, entgovernment organisations is International Airport to disposal and treatment plant another factor that holds the

project, 5) Tk 15 crore mariners' bypass road development from Bohaddarhat Intersection to the Karnaphuli river and revival of diversion canals and adjoining sub-canals, 6) Tk 25 crore CCC office building construction and 7) Tk 53 crore project for extension of Dhaka-Trunk Road and construction of footpath, median

"Despite having a limited income, we always try to focus on the development of 155square kilometre city and ensure rendering best possible services to its around 50 lakh people," Mohiuddin said.

strip and drain.

The city mayor, however, said the envisaged developments in his budget proposal depends by and large on getting government back the expected prosperity of

Mohiuddin said unpaid dues of municipality tax worth around Tk 384.24 crore by differ-

corporation back to large extent. "Of this, the largest defaulter is Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) that owes Tk 192.00 crore

to us, followed by Bangladesh Railway Eastern Zone (Tk 48.75 crore), Chittagong Development Authority (Tk 7.82 crore) and Chittagong Steel Mills (Tk 5.99 crore),"he said. The city mayor also spelled out

fewotherplansincludingconstruction of an international standard five star hotel at its own land, an old home on a nine-katha land at in Nasirabad area, an IT institute under CCC-run Premier University, the second unit of 100-bed Memon Maternity Hospital, a modern laboratory to examine the standard of foods and other food items at different hotels and restaurants, an factory at a cost of Tk 8 crore and modernisation of 43 automatic traffic signals in the city.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Imtiaz Hossain Chowdhury and Secretary Md Shamsuddoha were also presentatthe function.



Streetlights remain switched on even at 7:15am although the government has introduced daylight saving system (DST) to offset acute power crisis. The picture was taken from Elephant Road in the city yesterday.

'Frame nat'l policy to eliminate child labour'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday urged the government to formulate a national policy to eliminate child labour form the engaged in different jobs. society.

creating mass awareness about ardous jobs, he added. adverse effects of child labour on the society.

trade union in eliminating child labour in informal economy' was organised jointly by Bangladesh Truck Chalok Sramik Federation (BTCSF) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) at a city hotel.

Of them around 13 lakh are They also laid emphasis on employed in 47 types of haz-He warned that this huge

number of child labourers will The workshop titled 'Role of become physically unfit for any work after a certain period of hazardous jobs from an early labours. period of their life.

labourers are working at farm-

assistant executive director of cent in construction indus-Bangladesh Institute of Labour tries, 3.3 percent in fisheries maintaintheir families. Studies (BILS), said around 40 and 2.5 percent in hotel and lakh child labourers are restaurants, said the keynote union leaders to help stop

studies of inhumane torture on child labourers by their masters which showed that how helpless they are in their work-

Sultan made some recomtime as they are engaged in mendations to eliminate child age.

Around 52.7 percent of child food security for the children and their families, ensuring job lands, 14.6 percent in indus- security for every student on Presenting the keynote paper tries, 14.2 percent in trade, 4.7 completion of their education

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed; percent in transport, 3.1 per- and just wage for elderly labourers so that they can

He specially urged the trade recruitment of child labourers It also presented some case in their organisations and to cooperate with the government to eliminate child labour from the country by creating awareness among the guardians for not sending their children to work at their early

Panudda Boonpala, direc-These include ensuring tor of ILO Area Office in Dhaka, and Roy Romesh Chandra, general secretary of BTCSF and Jatiya Sramik League, also spoke at the workshop.





বাংলাদেশের সর্বপ্রথম এবং একমাত্র রেডি স্যাটেলাইট টাউন RUPAYAN TOWN

a planned satellite city

মাত্র 8 লক্ষ ১৪ হাজার টাকা ডাউন পেমেন্ট

मिर्य ठावि निर्य উঠে পডून निष्कत क्रुगारि বাকিটুকু ২০ বছরের কিস্তিতে

ভাড়ার টাকায় নিজের ফ্র্যাট

नावाजनगळ अधिन ।

NAME OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

DESIGN : 02026 2255 98, 02500 325020

(## : 396 2805, 9808300

মতিঝিল থেকে ১০ মিনিটের দূরত্বে, ঢাকা-নারায়ণগঞ্জ লিংক রোড সংলগ্ন ভূঁইগড়ে রেডি ৭৮৪টি ফ্র্যাট এবং ৩০০টি দোকান নিয়ে আপনার অপেক্ষায় রূপায়ণ টাউন RUPAYAN AND BATT APPLE

ANTEN CHAIR (BY OR HE HA SON SEEK, SONE SEEK, NACH HAVE NO SEEK STAN COLL TANDALIS OF PARTY AND ARREST PROPERTY. ONTHER CHANGE COURSE COURSE COURSE COURSE COURSE COURSE cidar cidar, cidar cidars, cidar cidar t-mail: rupayan@onenerbd.com. Web: www.cupayangroup.com

HING WHO AND THE PROJECT SEED BELL MICHIGAN STREET

कल कलनः ०३१७० ०५०२५०, ०३७३३ ७৮७৮৫५, ०३१३७ ०७०२७०, ०३१७७ ०८११८२, ०३३७४ ३४२७৮১

क निर्मा के निर्मा के कि के कि कि कि कि कि कि कि

CONT. DEGRESO, DOUBERS, BOOK 108, SQUARES

CHRIST : 02250 022586, 02250 022569, 02250 022500, 02250 022550 अधिका समित्र **東京 知りの代(こぞ 年初)** उपाध्य क्रिक

CENTRE : 02 929 2 9 90 98