

Resignation of war crimes probe chief demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded resignation of chief investigator Abdul Matin of the war crimes investigation agency who has been accused of being a member of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the pre-independence student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

of the trial process demonstrate lack of groundwork by the government.
Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee or Forum for Secular Bangladesh organised the discussion in the city to mark the 81st birth anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam.
The speakers also demanded a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami and immediate arrest of the main war crimes accused.

Shahriar Kabir, acting chairperson of the Nirmul Committee said, "Islami Chhatra Sangha is the wing that created Al Badr. If he (the chief investigator) was a part of that wing, we can quite logically call him a collaborator, which disqualifies him from the post. The government must conduct a proper investigation into this issue."

Terming the incident unfortunate, lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon said, "The government must act immediately to find out how such allegations can surface even after an extensive vetting process carried out by different ministries and agencies during appointment."

He also said funding of the religion-based political parties also needs to be monitored.

Justice Gholam Rabbani stressed the need to involve citizens in the process of war crimes trial, as they are the key witnesses of the atrocities.

Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir MP said the Matin issue will be dealt with utmost priority.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promod Mankin, General Secretary of CPB Mujahidul Islam Selim, Shaheed Jaya Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Prof Mizanur Rahman and Barrister Turin Afroze also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Justice Gholam Rabbani speaks at a discussion at Bilia auditorium in the city yesterday on the occasion of the 81st birth anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam. Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the event.

'Damaged embankments in haor areas to be repaired'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flood protection embankments damaged by the recent flash floods in the haor areas of Sunamganj and Netrakona will be repaired before the next Boro season, the minister for food and disaster management has said.

"The height of the embankments will also be increased to protect the only crop, Boro, grown in the haors from ill-timed flooding," Abdur Razaque said while visiting Netrakona on Sunday.

He visited different areas of the districts and addressed rallies, says a press release issued on Monday by the food ministry.

In Sunamganj alone, around two lakh hectares of land with ripening paddy went under water, while the floods damaged crops on over 30,000 hectares of land in Kishoreganj. The estimate of crop losses in Netrakona could not

be known yet.

Recently an executive engineer of Water Development Board posted in Sunamganj was suspended for his failure to take effective measures to protect the crops. Flaws in constructing embankments in Kishoreganj also led to the damages, correspondents from the two districts earlier said.

Stating that it is very difficult to overcome the losses of crops caused by the flooding, the minister said the poor people of the haors would be provided with food aid under the vulnerable group feeding (VGF) programme until the next harvest.

He said the government would take measures to ensure that farmers get adequate seeds and fertilisers before the next Boro season.

Besides, the government would introduce Employment Generation Programme for the Ultra Poor as the water recedes, he said.

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