

Press govt to speed up war crimes trial

Civil society urges progressive forces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some civil society members yesterday called upon all pro-liberation and progressive forces to launch tough movement in pressing the government to speed up the trial of war crimes.

They said the government has failed to achieve significant progress to try war criminals during its two years regime although it was the top agenda in its electoral manifesto.

They told a seminar styled 'Stopping political patronisation is a precondition to resist fundamentalism', organised by central publicity and mass media sub-committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at its Sufia Kamal Auditorium in the city yesterday. Parishad President Ayesha Khanam was in the chair.

Presenting the keynote paper, Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul

Committee Executive President Shahrir Kabir said it is impossible to root out militancy and fundamentalism from the country until their political patronisation is stopped.

He criticised the government for trying the war criminals individually instead of trying them as an organisation.

He said, "Playing role against the War of Liberation is not an individual's decision but an organisational one. So, why are the organisations not being tried?"

Addressing the function, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Maleka Banu strongly criticised the country's political parties for collaborating with the fundamentalists for assuming power.

Robayet Ferdous, associate professor of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University also spoke.

BOY KILLING IN TANGAIL One sentenced to death, another life

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced one person to death and another to life in jail in absentia for killing an eight-year-old boy for ransom in March 23, 2003 under Mirzapur upazilla in Tangail district.

The convict with death is Mohammad Bakul while Mohammad Selim was given life in jail.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 gave the verdict saying that the punishment of the fugitives would be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender.

The court also acquitted Hawa Begum, Suruj Miah and Lal Chand as the charges brought against them were not proven.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 19 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, on March 23 of 2003, a group of miscreants led by Bakul and Selim kidnapped Mamun, 8, also a student of Afazuddin Darul Ulum Madrassa of Trimohon village in Tangail district, and demanded Tk 3.5 lakh to his parents in ransom. But the kidnapers killed the victim after they failed to realise their demanded money.

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