

'Piracy never happened'

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday reasserted that there had been not a single incident of "piracy" within 200 nautical miles off the coast of Bangladesh and requested the local media not to use the word for "petty thefts" and "armed robbery".

Since local media were reporting robbery and petty theft as piracy, international organisations like International Maritime Bureau (IMB) counted these incidents as "piracy" and branded Bangladesh as a piracy-prone and high-risk country, Additional Foreign Secretary Khorshed Alam told reporters at the foreign ministry.

This would not only harm the image of Bangladesh but also increase the cost of international trade, he said.

Some ships without reporting to the Coast Guard or the port authority had given "false" report to the IMB and consequently, the IMB termed Bangladesh a piracy-prone country based on these "false" reports, he said.

The secretary said Bangladesh could not be called a piracy-prone country because there had happened no incident of "piracy" off the coast as stated in the definition of the UN Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

There were some incidents of "armed robbery" or "petty theft" and the number was coming down, he said, adding that the incidents occurred near the shore but these did not concur piracy.

TIPAIMUKH DAM Conduct Indo-Bangla joint survey: Suranjit

BSS, Dhaka

Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta yesterday called for an immediate joint survey by India and Bangladesh before construction of the Tipaimukh dam in Indian territory.

"Bangladesh and India must conduct a joint survey to resolve the controversy over construction of the Tipaimukh dam, he said, adding, "We should not make any delay to resolve the issue for the greater interest of existing bilateral and friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries."

He said this while addressing a discussion organised by Bangladesh-India Friendship Society (BIFS) at National Museum in the city marking the 40th Victory Day.

He said some other longstanding issues, including Teesta agreement and incidents of firing in the border areas of India of Bangladesh should be settled urgently for the benefit of the two nations.

Acting Indian High Commissioner Sanjoy Bhattacharyya hoped that the bilateral relations between the two countries would be strengthened in future.

BIFS President and University Grants Commission Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury chaired the discussion.



A delegation of Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PMO

VESTED PROPERTY RETURN (AMENDMENT) ACT Call to frame rules to implement law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some NGO activists and leaders of religious minority communities yesterday demanded formulation of specific rules to implement the Vested Property Return (amendment) Act, 2011, to protect the rights of the minority communities.

They placed the demand at a press conference jointly organised by the Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, Arpito Sompotti Ain Protirodh Andolon and several NGOs at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

The government has taken an outstanding initiative to end the long sufferings of religious minorities through passing the act. But it requires specific rules to execute the act properly, they said.

The government passed the act on November 28, 2011 in parliament.

Reading out a written statement, Arpito Sompotti Ain Protirodh Andolon General Secretary Subrata Chowdhury demanded formation of tribunals and special commit-

tees at district level to dispose of the cases related to vested property.

He also demanded the return of those vested properties, which are occupied by the government, to their real owners or their co-shareholders.

Only the properties which were declared vested before March 23, 1974, should be included in the vested property list and a gazette should be published on it, opined Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of the parishad.

He also suggested introducing such a system so that the successors or anyone of the community related to the real owners of any vested property can get the privilege to buy the property for a token sum of money.

The other demands include issuing two gazettes separating government-occupied vested properties and individually-occupied properties and launching a massive campaign through the media to create awareness about the act.

Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir was also present at the press conference.

Jubo Dal leader's bail prayer rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

The first metropolitan magistrate court of Rajshahi yesterday rejected the bail prayer of the city unit Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal convener Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul and sent him to jail.

Bulbul was arrested during BNP's countrywide demonstration on December 19.

He was later accused in a case under Speedy Trial Act for bringing out a procession defying a police embargo and hampering peace in public life at Bhubon Mohon Park area on that day.

After rejection of the bail prayer, Bulbul was chanting anti-government slogans as he was being taken to the prison van.

Govt to blame if road march foiled: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government would be held responsible for any attempt taken to foil BNP's Chittagong road march in January, warned BNP Standing Committee Member MK Anwar yesterday.

"Do not proceed through an impassable way. You are losing your foothold. We want to complete the road march peacefully," he said.

He said this while talking to journalists at a local hotel in Chittagong city after a divisional preparatory meeting on the road march and successive rallies.

According to the programme schedule, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is expected to lead the road march from the capital on January 8 and address a public meeting in Chittagong the next day.

Claiming BNP's programmes as peaceful, Anwar said, "Three other road marches were completed peacefully. Sometimes, the government cooperated with us and we thanked them for it."

People are eager to see the fast departure of this government because the country's independence and sovereignty is not safe in their hands, he said.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque, BNP Central Vice Chairman M Morshed Khan, BNP city unit President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, BNP chairperson's Adviser Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, Central Organising Secretary Mohammad Shahjahan, Barkatullah Bulu, Golam Akbar Khanbar, Syed Wahidul Alam and members of Chittagong unit of Jamaat-e-Islami Shamsul Islam were present.



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Bangladesh Awami Mukti Joddha League, inset, form separate human chains before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding a speedy trial of the war criminals.

41 BNP-Jamaat men's bail petitions rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected bail petitions of 41 BNP-Jamaat activists in connection with a case filed for the violence carried out in the city's Paltan area on December 18.

Metropolitan Magistrate Asaduzzaman Nur of the Speedy Trial Court-14 passed the order after counsels of the accused submitted separate bail petitions.

Fifty nine BNP-Jamaat leaders were named in the case filed with Paltan Police Station on December 18 for damaging vehicles, halting transport movement, anarchy and preventing policemen from discharging their duties.

The accused include Jubo Dal President Moazzem Hossain Alal, General Secretary Saiful Alam Nirob, Chhatra Dal President Sultan Salauddin Tuku, General Secretary Amirul Islam Alim and Vice-President Shahidul Islam Babul.

They were yet to be arrested or attain bail from any other court.

The 41 accused were earlier remanded, interrogated and sent to jail by rejecting their bail petitions.

At dawn on December 18, several homemade bombs went off in downtown Dhaka as hundreds of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami activists clashed with police, vandalised more than a dozen vehicles and set some of those afire.

A 24-year-old man, Arifuzzaman Arif, was killed when a bomb exploded in Motijheel area.

Following the incidents, police filed 18 cases against around 7,000 leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat across the country for going on the rampage.

Police also picked up 289 opposition activists from the capital. Of them, 120 were remanded for six days in connection with several cases.

Call to help govt try war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain programme yesterday called upon people, particularly from the women and civil society, to assist the government in completing the trial of the criminals who committed crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation.

They also proposed to introduce more tribunals, if required, to prompt the trial proceedings.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organised the human chain programme in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city, said a press release.

Ever since the government started the war crimes trial, anti-liberation forces are plotting to nullify the proceedings, they said adding that, these collaborators killed intellectuals of the country in a planned way.

Ayesha Khanam and Maleka Banu, president and general secretary of the parishad respectively, among others, addressed the programme.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

স্মারক মুদ্রা ও স্মারক নোট বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশের বিজয়ের ৪০ বৎসর পূর্তি - স্মারক মুদ্রা
মূল্য : ১০ টাকা
নগদ ৬৩,৫০০.০০ (টাকা তিন হাজার পাঁচশত মাত্র)।
মুদ্রার ওজন, আকৃতি ও উপাদান :
i) Shape : Round
ii) Diameter : 38 mm
iii) Weight : 25.00 gram
iv) Thickness : Proportionate
v) Metallic Composition : 999 fine Silver
vi) Edge (Thickness area): Serrated
vii) Face Value : 10 Taka

৪০ বৎসর বিজয়ের পূর্তি - স্মারক নোট
মূল্য : ১০ টাকা
নগদ ৬২০০.০০ (টাকা দুইশত মাত্র) এবং
শুধুমাত্র নোট নগদ ৬৮০.০০ (টাকা চালুশ মাত্র)।

বাংলাদেশের বিজয়ের ৪০ বৎসর পূর্তি - স্মারক নোট
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জাতীয় কবি কজী নজরুল ইসলাম রচিত 'বিদ্যুতী' কবিতার ১০ বৎসর পূর্তি - স্মারক মুদ্রা
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স্মারক মুদ্রা ও নোট বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সকল শাখা অফিস এবং বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের শাখা হতে নগদ মূল্যে
পাওয়া যাবে।



Enamul Gulshan Club president

METRO DESK

Engineer Enamul Haque was elected president of Gulshan Club for the year 2011-2012 in the annual general meeting followed by election at the club premises in the city on Saturday.

The other ten executive committee members are Md Adil Hossain (Noble), Shirin Shila, Tanveer Islam, Khwaja Shafiqur Rahman, Lt Col (retd) M Anisuzzaman, Mafiz Ahmed Bhuiyan, Syed Raihan Hasan Ali, Asif Uddowlah (Romel), Syed Asif Kalim and Tawfiq Quadir.

A press release said a press release.

Enamul Gulshan Club president

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