

Enact law to stop JS boycott

Says Iftekharuzzaman
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), yesterday said the culture of boycotting parliament should be stopped through enacting law.

Goodwill of the government is necessary to keep active other organisations like Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), he added.

He told a views exchange meeting on "Good governance and Human Rights", organised by Concerned Citizens Committee-TIB at a hotel in Chittagong city.

Iftekharuzzaman read out a report highlighting the present condition, positive development and concerns of various rights including economic, social, civic, and political.

Human Rights Forum-Bangladesh prepared the report under the purview of United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

According to the report, a total of 156 persons disappeared between January 2009 and September 2012 and 28 bodies were found.

The TIB executive director further read that 862 persons became victims of extra judicial killing in the name of cross-fire in the same period.

Prof Dr Sekander Khan, vice-chancellor (VC) of East Delta University and Prof Shafique Haider also took part in the meeting. Advocate Akhtar Kabir Chowdhury, president of Concerned Citizens Committee-TIB, Chittagong city, moderated the meeting.



BNP lawmakers form a human chain on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises in the capital yesterday demanding withdrawal of 'false' cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and restoration of the caretaker government system.

PHOTO: STAR

**HUMAN CHAIN FORMED
BNP lawmakers want CG system**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition lawmakers yesterday formed a human chain on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises demanding that the government bring a bill on restoring the caretaker government system and withdraw "fake cases" filed against its leaders including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

About 25 BNP lawmakers took part in the human chain held for an hour beginning at 11:00am.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque said "We are ready to join the New Year session if a bill to reinstate the caretaker government system is placed in the parliament after the president's speech."

BNP would not participate in any election under this government and allow any polls to be held in the country without a caretaker government, he said.

Demanding unconditional release of party's acting secretary general Miza Fakhru Islam Alamgir and withdrawal of all cases filed against Khaleda Zia, Farroque said it is not possible for the BNP to join the house keeping Khaleda indicted in "false cases" and Fakhru in jail.

Another lawmaker Mahub Uddin Khokon said, "The government used the court to get the verdict of caretaker government in favor of them."

Though the court observed that the next two polls could be held under a non-party caretaker government, the government does not care of that observation, he said.

Rasheda Begum Hira, Syeda Asifa Ashrafi Papiya, and Lutfur Rahman also addressed the programme.

Join parliament

Speaker Abdul Hamid urges opposition

UNB, Dhaka

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday urged the main opposition BNP to join the current session of parliament to continue their efforts for public welfare and fulfil the people's expectations.

"I hope, members of both the treasury and opposition benches will continue their efforts to fulfil people's expectation and for the welfare of the nation. To realise that expectation, I urge the members of the opposition to join parliament," he said before taking up the business of the House on the first day of the winter session.

The Speaker said it is the sacred duty of the members of parliament to speak in the House for the people who had voted to elect them.

"The success of the parliament fully goes to you (MPs). I hope, we will be able to convert parliament into a centre of

fulfilling the country's and its people's hopes and aspirations with the support from all," he said.

Urging the members of both the treasury and opposition benches to play an effective role in the parliament session, Abdul Hamid said, "We are all accountable to the country and its people."

"The role of the opposition is equally important alongside the ruling party to make the parliament effective... the opposition can point out the mistakes of the government through healthy debates," he added.

Debate in the parliamentary proceedings is very important and both the treasury and opposition benches should take part in healthy debate, the speaker said.

"As Speaker, my role is to run Parliament. Both the treasury and opposition benches are equal to me," he added.

Teachers stop agitation now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The MPO-listed teachers and employees belonging to a pro-opposition teacher's organisation yesterday postponed their non-stop agitation until February 17.

The teachers and employees, who have been agitating from Wednesday under the banner of Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote with a demand for nationalising their jobs, postponed their programme due to the upcoming SSC examinations.

They will start their demonstration after February 17 at district and upazila levels if the demand is unmet by then, said Selim Bhuiyan, chairman of the jote, adding that they would announce their next action during the grand rally on March 31.

During yesterday's sit-in, he also threatened to call for hartal if the government bars them from holding their rally.

KIBRIA MURDER

No hope for justice

Reza Kibria tells his father's memorial meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Voicing strong resentment over the investigation into the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, his family members yesterday said they have lost hope in getting justice under this government.

Dr Reza Kibria, son of AMS Kibria, said they would wait for the next government to take further step regarding investigation into the case. He also rejected both the charge sheet and supplementary charge sheet in the murder case.

"Filing a charge sheet against one truck driver and few low level members of the opposition party does not render true justice to a man who spent his life serving the Awami League," he said.

"We want a complete and fair trial," he said adding, "We want to know who were the masterminds behind the killing and reason behind it".

He alleged the government did not give utmost importance to his father's murder.

Dr Reza was addressing a memorial meeting at Bangladesh National Museum in the capital. Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research organised the



meeting marking the eighth death anniversary of AMS Kibria.

On January 27, 2005, Kibria and four others were killed in a grenade attack at a public meeting on Baiddar Bazaar Primary School premises at Baiddarbazara of Habiganj Sadar upazila.

Kibria's family members allege that the real culprits are yet to be arrested as the investigators submitted "flawed" charge sheets.

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir said, "Relatives of Shah AMS Kibria raised objection against a portion of the probe report (regarding his killing incident) which was submitted to the court and that portion will be reinvestigated afresh."

He told a function at Police Staff College in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Shangkritik Jote and Awami League leaders including Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Joint General Secretary Mahabub-Ul-Alam Hanif paid tribute to Kibria by placing wreaths on his grave at Banani Graveyard in the capital.



Leaders of the ruling Awami League offer prayers after placing wreaths on the grave of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria at Banani Graveyard in the capital yesterday marking his eighth death anniversary.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKI

10-TRUCK ARMS HAUL CASES

Ex-NSI DG was not hurt when brought to court

States former Ctg metropolitan magistrate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A former Chittagong metropolitan magistrate yesterday denied the defence's claim that accused Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdur Rahim of the sensational 10-truck arms haul and smuggling cases was brought before him in an injured condition.

Osman Gani, a prosecution witness, also said Rahim, a former National Security Intelligence (NSI) director general, claimed to have no injury when the former inquired on his health.

Osman was being cross-examined by the defence lawyers yesterday before Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 Judge SM Mojibur Rahman. He gave his deposition on January 9, said court sources.

Osman said he had no idea that Rahim suffered injuries to his eyes during police remand from May 14 to 20 in 2009 and had undergone an

operation for it.

On the defence's claim that the bandages on Rahim's eyes were removed before he was produced before Osman on May 27, 2009 to give a confessional statement, the magistrate said it was not true.

On another claim that Mohsin Uddin Talukdar, former Managing Director of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL), did not give any confessional statement as an accused but was given a proposal to give statement as an approver, Osman said it was not true.

Mohammad Mahabubur Rahman, another former Chittagong metropolitan judge and currently a land commission secretary in Khagrachhari, also gave his deposition yesterday before the court adjourned its proceedings till today.

He stated to have recorded confessional statements of three accused and statements of nine prosecution

witnesses during his tenure in a Chittagong court.

On January 8, two former Chittagong metropolitan magistrates -- Muntasir Ahmed and Md Abu Hannan -- gave their depositions and were also cross-examined.

Yesterday, 11 of the accused, including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and former industries minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, were produced before the court.

On April 2, 2004, around 1,500 wooden boxes containing sub-machine guns, AK-47 assault rifles, sub-machine carbines, Chinese pistols, rocket shells and launchers, hand grenades and bullets were seized from two vessels at a CUFL jetty.

Two cases were filed the next day with Karnaphuli Police Station under the special powers act and arms act for smuggling and seizure of the arms cache.



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