

Youths take lesson

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People from all walks of life, including lawyers, businessmen, students and parents with their children, attended the rally in Old Dhaka braving the countrywide violence amid the 60-hour hartal being enforced by Jamaat and its ally BNP.

Speakers at the rally urged the people to stand up against fundamentalists and extremists to end the culture of impunity the Jamaat-Shibir enjoyed over the decades since independence in 1971.

They also denounced the attacks on minority communities in parts of the country.

"We have clearly stated that this politics of killing must stop at once," said Imran H Sarker, the spokesperson for the Shahbagh movement.

Referring to the martyrs of the Sepoy Mutiny, Imran said, "We take our lessons

from history to carry on our movement. We take lessons from the revolutionaries of Bangladesh."

In response to the allegations from some quarters that the protest is being influenced by certain powers, Imran said, "Of course, we are being influenced ... we are being influenced by the martyrs, by the ones who you killed in 1971."

On the question raised by some other quarters if Shahbagh was more powerful than the government, he said: "It is Shahbagh that votes and brings a government to power. Shahbagh is 16 crore people who give the responsibility for running the country."

He strongly criticised those who are "trying to confuse the people of the country through press conferences and TV talk shows" and urged them to stop such efforts. "Stop

trying to spread propaganda about the people's movement."

As part of its nationwide programmes announced on February 21, there will be a grand rally at Jatrabari in the capital at 3:00pm tomorrow and at Suhrawardy Udyan at the same time on March 7.

Commemorating the International Women's Day on March 8, there will be a rally held at the Projonno Chattar under the banner of "Nari Gonjagoron Mancha," Imran said, urging all progressive women organisations and groups to join the movement that began on February 5 demanding capital punishment to all war criminals.

Women had not only been at the forefront of the Liberation War, they have also been an integral part of the Shahbagh movement, he said, adding that women would conduct the

March 8 rally.

The first day of the 60-hour shutdown yesterday made no impact on the anti-hartal demonstrations with people spontaneously responding to the call from the Shahbagh protesters to denounce the Jamaat-Shibir and BNP shutdown.

Several thousand protesters brought out an anti-hartal procession from Shahbagh around 11:15am. The hour-long peaceful procession paraded through Kataban, Nilkhel, Palashi, Chankharpul, Doel Chattar and Buet before returning to the intersection.

People at different points chanted anti-hartal slogans with the protesters.

Also yesterday, leaders of Olama Mashayekh Oikeya Jote joined the protest around 12:30pm and expressed solidarity with the demonstrators.

Karachi bomb blast kills 45

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No group has yet said it planted the bomb, which went off near a mosque as worshippers left evening prayers.

Pakistan's Shia minority are the target of frequent sectarian attacks from Sunni militant groups.

The explosion sent a

huge column of smoke into the sky above Karachi and caused a power cut in part of the city.

Rescuers have been struggling to reach people trapped under the rubble. Residents have been using car headlights to help the search for survivors, local media reports said.

More than 50 people were injured, and there are fears the number of dead will rise. Police are investigating where the explosives were planted and whether it was a suicide attack.

Rescue work was delayed as some residents fired guns into the air in anger at the carnage, reports said.

Pakistan's main political and religious leaders rushed to condemn the attack -- the latest to target the Shia minority.

Nearly 200 people were killed in two separate bombings targeting the Shia community in the southwestern city of Quetta in January and February.

Some relatives of the victims there initially refused to bury their dead in protest at what they said was the failure of the authorities to protect their community from attack.

No group has yet admitted to carrying out the Karachi bombing, but correspondents say suspicion is likely to fall on Sunni militant groups.

Groups such as Lashkar-e-Jhangvi regard Shia Muslims as heretics and have stepped up attacks in recent years.

They are thought to have set several training camps for militants and police seizures have shown they have access to large quantities of weapons and explosives, the BBC's M Ilyas Khan in Islamabad says.

Some activists called 2012 the worst year in living memory for attacks on Pakistan's Shia community.

Last month Pakistan's Supreme Court called on the authorities to devise a strategy to protect Shia Muslims more effectively, given the increase in attacks.

Karachi -- Pakistan's biggest city and commercial capital -- has a long history of violence.

As well as a sectarian divide between Sunni and Shia, that city has also seen conflict between different ethnic communities - Pashtuns from north-west Pakistan, Mohajirs (immigrants from India following the Partition) and Sindhis.

Shutdown compounds

FROM PAGE 20

"I stopped shipment fearing the trucks would get caught up in the political violence en route to Chittagong port -- and more importantly, my goods might get damaged completely."

Now, Ahmed is in negotiation with his client in Europe to extend the lead time. He is offering a 5 percent discount in return.

"I have no other option. If I let the trucks out of my factory and they got burnt, I would have been completely ruined. And I do not want to go for the expensive air shipment as it will leave me with no profits,"

This is a common story for almost all of the country's 5,500 garment factory owners, who are now facing possible order cancellations, delayed payments and penalty for late shipment.

Ahmed told The Daily Star.

Faisal Samad, managing director of Surim a Garments Ltd, too, is facing identical shipment plights.

"A good few trucks were supposed to carry the goods from my factory in Savar to Chittagong port on Saturday, but I did not allow any trucks to leave the factory lest the goods get damaged by the violence in streets."

"I have no other option. If I let the trucks out of my factory and they got burnt, I would have been completely ruined. And I do not want to go for the expensive air shipment as it will leave me with no profits,"

The production at factories has also been halted due to the hartals," Samad said.

Logistics have severely been affected.

"Dyeing, washing and finishing, all of which take place offsite, have to be stopped. Workers living in remote places are unable to turn up at factories."

Shaful Islam Mohiuddin, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the current political situation has left garment exporters with "sleepless nights".

"We cannot get our goods from point A to point

B -- we are totally stuck [The political commotion is suicidal for the country.]

If the situation persists, it will give way to "social unrest" as many factories will become bankrupt leaving workers with no jobs, said Mohiuddin.

"It will severely dent the image of our country -- and our shining garment sector."

The garment sector's contribution makes up 80 percent of national exports annually.

In fiscal 2011-12, the sector raked in nearly \$20 billion, and it has already made \$12.04 billion in the first seven months of current fiscal year.

Govt appeals for death penalty

FROM PAGE 1
the 65-year-old on five wartime criminal offences out of six he was charged with.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that his office would today file an application with the chamber judge of the Appellate Division for fixing a date for a hearing on the appeal.

MK Rahman, additional attorney general and coordinator of the prosecution team at the tribunals, told reporters that they filed the appeal against the "inadequate sentence" awarded by the Tribunal-2 to Quader Mollah, and for capital punishment.

Yesterday, the attorney general's office submitted the 484-page appeal on

behalf of the government challenging the Tribunal-2 verdict.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that his office would today file an application with the chamber judge of the Appellate Division for fixing a date for a hearing on the appeal.

He also got 15 years' imprisonment for complicity in three other criminal offences in which six people were killed.

He was acquitted of the sixth charge of killing hundreds of people at Keraniganj during the Liberation War.

The appeal filed yesterday also sought Mollah's death penalty on the above charge.

The Appellate Division

would have to dispose of the appeals within 60 days of their filing.

Barrister Abdur Razzaq, chief defence counsel for Quader Mollah, told The Daily Star that they were likely to file an appeal with the apex court today.

He said they would state in their appeal that Quader Mollah was innocent, and the prosecution could not prove any charge before the tribunal.

Mollah was in Faridpur, not in Dhaka, during the nine-month Liberation War but the offences, which were brought in the charges against him, took place in Dhaka, Razzaq claimed.

Bangladesh Ordnance Factories (BOF)



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Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in prescribed form are invited from bonafide manufacturers/local agents/importers/suppliers for supply of the following items:

Sl. No.	Nomenclature & qty	Last date of selling tender form	Date of dropping & opening tender	Currency	Price of tender form	Tender No. & date
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1.	Equipment for up-gradation, Modernization and Development of Quality Control Lab (38 items)	08 April 2013 1300hrs	09 April 2013 Dropping 200hrs Opening 1205hrs	Foreign	Tk. 5000/- non-refundable	23.04.0000.167.235.681 3.12.13 dt. 16-2-2013
2.	Sodium Nitrite 5500kg	11 March 2013 1300hrs	12 March 2013 Dropping 200hrs Opening 1205hrs	Local	Tk. 500/- non-refundable	23.04.0000.166.230.485 6.12.13 dt. 6-2-2013
3.	Screw Element with 9 items	11 March 2013 1300hrs	12 March 2013 Dropping 200hrs Opening 1205hrs	Local	Tk. 750/- non-refundable	23.04.0000.166.234.485 6.12.13 dt. 10-2-2013

2. Supplier enlisted at BOF, DGDP and any other defence organization, who have security clearance will only be eligible to participate in the above tenders.

3. Tender forms with details specifications and terms & conditions will be available in the auditorium of BOF on all working days between 9.00am to 1.00pm.

4. Commandant, BOF reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without any reason thereof.

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