

Gonojagoron Mancha activists joyfully flash victory sign at Shahbagh in the capital yesterday after receiving news of the verdict that sentenced BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury to death for committing crimes against humanity during the country's Liberation War.



PHOTO: STAR

Execute SQ Chy verdict immediately

Demand cultural, political, anti-war criminal activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing satisfaction and joining jubilant celebrations, cultural, political, and anti-war criminal activists yesterday demanded quick execution of the death penalty verdict against BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

Several hundred people of all ages and sexes burst into cheers shouting "Joy Bangla", "Jonotar Joy Holo" (people triumphed) at the capital's Shahbagh, shortly after a tribunal sentenced the 64-year-old to die by hanging for murder and genocide in 1971.

They hugged each other, hurled flowers into the air, splashed water, waved the national flag, and marched in procession to Central Shaheed Minar.

"SQ Chowdhury not only committed genocide, he has challenged our independence many times in the last 42 years. The verdict proved that the war criminals have no place in independent Bangladesh," said Imran H Sarker, spokesperson of the Gonojagoron Mancha, a platform demanding the death penalty for all war criminals.

The Gonojagoron Mancha activists also celebrated the verdict in Chittagong city, home of the convict, by bringing out a procession from Chittagong Press Club. They paraded the city thoroughfares before ending the march at Central Shaheed Minar.

Soon after the judgment was pronounced, the Awami League-led 14-party alliance and the Communist Party of Bangladesh, among others, welcomed it.

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Sacrificial buffalo gores five, running amok for 17 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A runaway buffalo rampaged through a staff quarter in the capital for 17 hours, goring five people and sending waves of panic among the residents of the neighbourhood, before a police officer gunned it down by firing 36 shots yesterday.

The beast escaped in Bhasantek around 6:00pm Monday when two men were walking it towards Uttara from Gabtoli. The animal meant to be sacrificed this Eid-ul-Azha entered the staff quarter of University Grants Commission (UGC) by breaking the boundary wall. When 20-25 people tried to control it around 10:00am yesterday, the beast wounded five, and gored one of them in the abdomen and leg. He was admitted to hospital.

During the hours the raging animal was on the loose, hundreds of panic-stricken residents shut themselves in their houses.

Finally, around 11:00am, Hosne Ara Begum, officer-in-charge of the nearby Bhasantek Police Station, also an award winning shooter in the force by coincidence, fired 36 bullets from her personal .22mm rifle.

"The beast was too aggressive to be controlled and was about to injure more people. After consulting its owner, I fired several bullets into the front legs," she said, glowing in pride. "The wounded buffalo was slaughtered later."

Land rights not ensured despite plethora of laws

MJF roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is now having 146 land related laws dealing with 20 types of land issues, but they do not ensure people's right to land, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

In addition, loopholes in those laws and the land management system are increasing land related cases, creating avenues for corruption and denying the marginalised people access to land, they told the programme at the capital's Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED).

As many as 120 million people are victims of land disputes, while the money the opposing parties spend is double the country's development budget, they revealed at the roundtable where the summary of a survey of the existing land related laws was shared. Aiming to ensure land rights of the marginalised people, Manusher Jonno Foundation launched the two-year survey in 2011 for drafting a new land law.

Eminent economist Prof Abul Barakat, who led the study, presented the summary of the 2,500-page report in the presence of prominent political leaders from major parties.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam moderated the session, while Justice Abdur Rashid chaired it.

The roundtable urged the political parties to include "Reformation of Land Law" in their next election manifestos.

The political leaders suggested that the parties hold dialogue to include the issue in their manifestos.

"A commission should be formed to review and reform land related laws," said Suranjit Sengupta, minister without portfolio.

AKM Mozammel Haque, MP, chairman, parliamentary standing body on the land ministry, said,

"Huge corruption takes place in the allocations of khasland to the poor."

Gaibandha lawmaker Fazle Rabbi Miah said the commission should comprise experts from government, non-government agencies, academics, researchers and activists. If the commission is staffed only with government officials, it will never work out, he warned.

Awami League lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury suggested sending a summary of the recommendations to the political parties.

Rajshahi lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha called the land settlement,

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Indian Minister Farooq Abdullah due on Friday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Indian Minister for New and Renewable Energy Dr Farooq

Abdullah will arrive here on Friday on a three-day visit to attend the inauguration of India-Bangladesh grid inter-connection.

He will represent India at the inauguration of the Bharat-Bangladesh Bidyut Sanchalan Kendra at Bheramara on Saturday, said a press release of Indian high commission yesterday.

Bangladesh will import 500 MW of electricity from India through this grid.

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Sylhet city is flooded with festoons and banners on the occasion of the upcoming visit of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to address a public rally on Saturday. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

JU teachers protest appointment of three deans

JU CORRESPONDENT

A section of teachers of Jahangirnagar University staged a sit-in before the vice-chancellor's residence on the campus yesterday for an indefinite period demanding his resignation.

The teachers, under the banner of Sadharan Shikshak Forum, have also been confining Registrar Abu Bakar Siddique and Deputy Registrar Abu Hasan to their offices since Monday afternoon over appointment of three deans.

The VC could not appoint any one as an investigation into some allegations brought against him was going on, said the forum Convener Hanif Ali at a press conference on the campus yesterday.

Meantime, another section of teachers, under the banner of Shikshak Mancha, at a press conference at new arts faculty yesterday demanded the chancellor's intervention in this regard.

Sources said VC Prof Anwar Hossain on Monday sent an order to the registrar to appoint former JU VC Prof Abdul Bayes, Prof Nasim Akter Hossain and Prof Md Rafiqunnabi as the deans of business studies, law, and biological science faculties respectively.

Prof Anwar said he sent the appointment order according to the university act.


The agitating teachers have been demanding the VC's resignation since April 27 as he, among others, allegedly did not punish JU Bangladesh Chhatra League unit Secretary Razib Ahmed over assaulting Economics Department lecturer Nurul Haque on April 6. The VC said he would not comment over his resignation before publishing the probe report.



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