



People from all walks of life -- doctors, lawyers, cricketers, businesspeople, actors, performers, religious leaders, human rights activists, freedom fighters and family members of arson and crude bomb attack victims -- gather in their own capacities and under different banners in front of Jatiya Press Club, Central Shaheed Minar and Bangladesh National Museum in the capital throughout the day yesterday. Forming human chains and organising rallies, they reiterated their sole call -- "Stop the violence in the name of a democratic movement".

PHOTO: STAR



No talk with 'terrorists'

HT Imam, Mizanur Rahman tell publication ceremony of Mashiur Rahman's book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There should not be any dialogue with those perpetuating terror by throwing petrol bombs at civilians and burning them alive, speakers told a book launch yesterday.

It is terrorism, and the government should fight it, they said.

The publication ceremony of the book titled "Constitutional Democracy - Not Death Squads Again", authored by Dr Mashiur Rahman, economic affairs adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was held in the capital's Bangladesh National Museum.

HT Imam, political affairs adviser to the PM, said, "The government will serve its full term till 2019. If you believe in democracy, you have to wait and then start discussion in the normal forum."

Referring to the ongoing violence allegedly perpetrated by the BNP-led alliance, he said, "With whom will we sit for dialogue? With the grim reaper?"

Violence cannot be a path to democracy, he said.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said there was no scope for the unelected people ruling in a democracy. The constitution is the main guide, so every problem must be

Stop violence in name of democratic movement

Capital reverberates all day long with the demand of citizens from all walks of life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Stop violence in the name of political movement" was the silent cry reverberating through the streets in front of Jatiya Press Club, Central Shaheed Minar and Bangladesh National Museum throughout the day yesterday.

People from all walks of life -- doctors, lawyers, cricketers, businesspeople, actors, performers and family members of arson and crude bomb attack victims -- began to gather before the press club from 9:30am with banners which depicted pictures of victims and burning vehicles and carried slogans "This is not politics, this is terrorism, murder".

Debate over proclaimer of independence ridiculous

Prof Rehman Sobhan tells launch of a book titled 'Serving the Nation: Reflections of Bangladesh Diplomats'; says none but Bangabandhu could do that at the time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Termining the debate over who proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh "just ridiculous", noted economist Prof Rehman Sobhan yesterday said no other person except Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was in a position to declare the country's independence. "And no formal declaration was

ism, murder". About 400 people arrived at the unannounced programme, reacting to the recent arson attack on a passenger bus in Jatrabari on Friday night which left around 30 persons injured.

After about an hour, they silently set out towards Central Shaheed Minar and stayed there for some time.

Nine organisations including Sectors Commanders Forum -'71 (SCF), Bangladesh Truck Covered Van Owner-Workers' Oikya Parishad, Society for Establishment of Human Rights, and Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods also formed separate human

chains in front of the press club with the same call.

Meanwhile, some 150 people under the banner of Samprodayikta Jongibadh Birodhi Mancha formed a human chain in front of the museum around 3:00pm denouncing the killing of innocent people in the name of movement.

"Movement and dialogue can take place in a democratic country but killing people cannot be a part of politics," said journalist Haroon Habib, also the SCF acting secretary general, before the press club.

"We would request the government to sit for dialogue if you (BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia) leave Jamaat," said Lt Col

(ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, vice president of the forum formed by sector commanders of the Liberation War demanding trial of war criminals.

He called upon the young generation to resist the ongoing blockade of the BNP-led 20-party alliance by laying siege to the houses of the alliance leaders and activists.

The forum's former general secretary Lt Gen MA Harun called upon the alliance to leave aside politics of violence. "Governments should be changed through a democratic method with people's consensus, not through killings," he said.

Step down from power

Factions of BFUJ, DUJ urge PM as a move for stopping ongoing blockade violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Factions of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and the Dhaka Union of Journalists yesterday urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step down from power to stop the ongoing blockade violence across the country.

"If you (Hasina) do not resign by yourself then you have to face this public movement," DUJ President Abdul Hye told a human chain formed before the capital's Jatiya Press Club protesting the government's interference in the freedom of media.

He said the government

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WE MOURN

We are deeply shocked and grieved on the sad demise of the custodian of two Holy Mosques -His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

The Board of Trustee and all employees of Ibn Sina Trust extend our deep condolence to the Royal Family, Saudi people and the Government. We pray to Almighty Allah to bestow upon the king his mercy, forgiveness and eternal peace and grant him the best reward for his good deeds.

