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‘There is still time to solve the issue’

Speakers call for solutions to ongoing crisis through discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for discussion with the agitating students to resolve the ongoing crisis.

They said there is still time to solve the issue. The crisis can be resolved through dialogue. If terrorism and violence are stopped, peace, harmony and non-communal democratic Bangladesh will be established.

They were speaking at a views-exchange meeting organised by Samprii Bangladesh at CIRDAP auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Pijush Bandyopadhyay, convener of the organisation, presided over the event, while member secretary Professor Dr Mamun Al Mahtab moderated it.

Senior journalists Ali Habib and Farhad Mahmud presented the keynote paper.

“No student can engage in such violence. Students are quite aware and patriotic. Therefore, Bangladesh will never lose its way if the young and the old join hands,” Pijush said.

He called for release of all the innocent students arrested in connection with the violent incidents.

Maj Gen (Retd) Mohammad Ali Shikder, joint convener of the platform, said, “We weren’t prepared for what we are witnessing in Bangladesh today. Those from the new generation were supposed to love the country. In the name of the quota reform protests, I do not wish to see any violence, any loss of life, any destruction to the state’s assets.”

DU Professor Chandranath Poddar appealed to the government to release all innocent students from jail.

“All the murders must be prosecuted. Innocent students should be released. Besides, there are different kinds of rumours which must be curbed. Explain our call to

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Protesters stands atop a mural in the port city’s New market area yesterday afternoon. Tens of thousands of people from all walks of life joined a rally there to protest the killings and mass arrests over quota protests.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Solidarity amid strife

People from various sectors of society back students’ protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent protests surrounding the quota reform movement have garnered widespread solidarity from various sectors of society.

People from all walks of life -- including teachers, writers, farmers, workers, expatriates, development professionals, and artists -- have expressed their support for the students and their deep shock at the recent violence resulting in the loss of numerous lives, as well as countless serious injuries.

For instance, 626 faculty members of BRAC University, through a press statement, expressed their solidarity, emphasising commitment to a just, democratic, and inclusive society, and support for the students’ right to peaceful protest.

They expressed deep concern over the torture and harassment of students and the disruption of academic life.

Additionally, leaders of eight teachers’ organisations have urged students to resolve the issue through discussions with the prime minister.

This call was made yesterday at a meeting held at the central office of the Independence Teachers Council, presided over by principal Dr Shahjahan Alam Saju.

Furthermore, 51 teachers from Cumilla University expressed shock and grave concern over the killing of young students, calling for an end to the harassment, arrest, and torture of students nationwide. They also demanded justice for the deaths.



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The Expatriate Unity Council, in a separate statement, expressed solidarity with the anti-discrimination student movement and their non-cooperation movement from today, and urged everyone to support it.

They also called on army officials to reject any orders by the government against citizens. Thirty writers also demanded an impartial

investigation to all killings related to the quota reform protests, an end to mass arrests, and the immediate release of detained individuals.

They called for lifting the curfew, reopening of educational institutions, stopping the harassment of students and the public, providing compensation to the families of those killed, treatment for injured protesters, and addressing the protesters’ demands promptly.

They also urged a national dialogue to resolve the crisis.

The Bangladesh Krishak Sangram Samiti expressed solidarity with the students’ demands, emphasising the difficulties in receiving education and unemployment after graduation.

They condemned the government’s authoritarian response and urged the eradication of the entire authoritarian system to advance the movement for public liberation.

Under the banner of “Development Professionals’ Alliance for Freedom and Justice”, around a thousand development professionals from different organisations yesterday joined a rally at Justice Shahabuddin Park in Gulshan.

Rubaiyath Sarwar, a development professional and researcher, read the official statement, strongly asserting that injustice and state-led brutality must end, and that the people’s right to speak and write must prevail.

“Bangladesh cannot afford to lose any more of its people in the fight for democracy,” he added.

Various bands, solo musicians, lyricists, and

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Protests rock Chattogram

STAR REPORT

Chattogram’s New Market intersection became a sea of people yesterday as tens of thousands from all walks of life joined a rally there to protest the killings and mass arrests over quota protests.

People in droves from different parts of the port city thronged the area in the afternoon following a call by the Anti-Discriminatory Student Movement who are spearheading a protest against the government’s heavy-handed response in policing a protest over reforming the quota system in government jobs.

In the rally, people expressed solidarity with the announcement of a single-point demand for the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her cabinet members. They also rejected a proposal for discussion by the PM.

The entire area reverberated with slogans like “We want justice” and “Down with dictatorship”.

Students also barricaded a road at Kotwali intersection. Due to that, vehicular movement remained stopped in various areas including Riaz Uddin Bazar Amtali Junction, Station Road, Sadarghat Road and Government City College intersection.

On the spot, this correspondent saw no presence of police or members of other law enforcement agencies.

Afterwards, protesters started marching towards the Dewan Hat area. From there, they headed towards Tiger Pass and Lalkhan Bazar areas.

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of Chhatra League and Jubo League were seen taking position at different places, including GEC intersection, of the city. There were also reports of key Awami League and BNP leaders’ homes

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Student-led movement on the brink of victory: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

Stating that the ongoing student-led movement is on the brink of victory, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged BNP leaders and activists to offer their all-out support to the protesters.



“A mass uprising has begun in the country, with people from all walks of life joining the students’ anti-discrimination movement,” he said.

Talking to reporters after visiting the Banani residence of jailed BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Fakhrul also said the movement is now not only limited to students as guardians, doctors and different professionals, artists, cultural activists, journalists and people from all walks of life have taken part in it.

“The ongoing student-led movement is on the brink of victory. I believe the people will undoubtedly emerge victorious,” he said.

The BNP leader said the central point of this movement is that people have awakened. “We have long been urging young people to rise, and they have finally done so. That’s why we are very

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Are they even okay?

Families left clueless as jail authorities bar them to meet arrested loved ones

RAFIUL ISLAM

Mowsumi Parveen rushed to Bogura jail on July 20 to see her son Shahreear Muztaheed Jim, who had been arrested by police during the quota movement in Sherpur upazila and landed there.

Since then Mowsumi and his husband Tajkirul Islam went to the jail for seven successive days together or by rotation to desperately see their beloved son, but were refused by the jail authorities that has not been allowing any visitors.

Shahreear, a student of Govt Shah Sultan College, was arrested on July 17 as he, along with hundreds of other students, was demonstrating at Dhunat More area, demanding quota reform in government jobs.

“We do not know whether our son is doing well or not. We cannot see him, let alone talk,” Tajkirul told The Daily Star yesterday.

“Had we met our son even once; we could console ourselves, and himself too. The jail authorities



cannot even say when we will be able to meet him,” Tajkirul lamented.

This is not an isolated incident. Thousands of families, whose loved ones are among the over 10,000 individuals recently arrested in connection with the quota protests, are going through immense

sufferings as are being denied the chance to see or speak to their relatives in different jails of the country.

Jail authorities said they are not allowing anyone to meet or call over the phones for security reasons as

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মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার সনদ/সাময়িক অনুমোদন বেচাকেনা/হস্তান্তর করা হতে বিরত থাকা বিষয়ক সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি আইন, ২০০৬ এর ১৭(২) ধারা অনুযায়ী মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি (এমআরএ) কর্তৃক ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য প্রদত্ত কোন সনদ বা উহার অধীন অর্জিত স্বত্ব সম্পূর্ণ বা আংশিকভাবে হস্তান্তর করার সুযোগ নেই। সম্প্রতি লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে, কতিপয় অসাধু প্রতিষ্ঠান/চক্র/ব্যক্তি অথরিটির ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রমের সনদ/সাময়িক অনুমোদন সম্পূর্ণ বা আংশিক হস্তান্তর/বেচাকেনা করার অপচেষ্টা চালাচ্ছে, যা মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি আইন, ২০০৬ এর ধারা ৩৫(১)(ঙ) অনুযায়ী শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। উল্লেখ্য, অথরিটির সনদ/সাময়িক অনুমোদন হস্তান্তরের প্রমাণ পাওয়া প্রতিষ্ঠানের সনদ/সাময়িক অনুমোদন বাতিলসহ আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে।

এ প্রেক্ষিতে, সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অথরিটি কর্তৃক ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার সনদ/সাময়িক অনুমোদন সম্পূর্ণ বা আংশিক হস্তান্তর/বেচাকেনা হতে বিরত থাকার অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। এছাড়া অথরিটির সনদ ব্যতীত বেআইনী ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ বিধায় এ জাতীয় কার্যক্রম হতে বিরত থাকার জন্য সকলকে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

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