

MAJ SINHA MURDER Army chief promises full cooperation to ensure justice

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN,
from Cox's Bazar

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman has promised full cooperation to ensure swift justice for the murder of Major (retd) Sinha Mohammad Rashed Khan.

Speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of the Sinha Memorial Plaque in Baharchhara, Teknaf, the army chief extended his deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

A monument was constructed under the supervision of the Border Guard Bangladesh, said a press release from the Inter Services Public Relation Directorate.

Sinha was shot dead at a police checkpoint in Baharchhara on July 31, 2020. The unarmed ex-army officer, who had served in the Special Security Force and as a UN peacekeeper in Ivory Coast, was killed in what was later determined to be an unlawful act by law enforcement personnel.

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Army chief Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman being inducted as the "Colonel of the Regiment" of the Bangladesh Infantry Regiment at Rajshahi Cantonment yesterday.

PHOTO: ISPR

From movement to mainstream politics

FROM PAGE 1
Akhter and Nahid were convener and member secretary respectively of Gonotantrik Chhatra Shakti, a platform launched on October 4, 2023, and dissolved on September 14 last year, two months after the uprising.

Additionally, Nasiruddin Patwary,



Samanta



Patwary



Hasnat



Sarjis

will remain active after the launch of the party. The two platforms will continue to operate from their existing offices at Rupayan Trade Center in Bangla Motor.

NCP will have a separate office at a different location.

The uprising activists are planning to hold a mammoth rally to mark the launch. Leaders of the two platforms said they are aiming for a massive turnout of 3 lakh people.

Yesterday, workers were preparing the stage on the road in front of the south gate of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Leaders and activists of all the units of SAD and the Nagorik Committee will attend the event.

Those from outside Dhaka have been asked to park their buses at the old Trade Fair ground in Agargaon.

Nagorik Committee insiders said leaders from various political parties, diplomats, families of the martyrs of the mass uprising, injured activists, and representatives of expatriates who played significant roles in the movement have been invited to the event.

Additionally, oppressed individuals from various classes and professions who contributed to the backdrop of the mass uprising, as well as students and the public who actively participated in the July 2024 movement, will also attend the ceremony.

The event will begin with recitations from the Holy Quran and other religious scriptures.

Representatives from the families of the July uprising martyrs and injured individuals will deliver speeches afterwards.

A documentary on the uprising will also be screened at the event.

In December last year, student leaders of the uprising announced their plan to form a new political party and contest the next general election.

Later, the BNP stated that it would not accept any attempt to form a political party while remaining in power. It urged advisers involved in the formation of the new party to resign from the cabinet if they intended to enter politics.

Govt to clear Beximco payroll

FROM PAGE 1
The government will start providing service benefits to workers and officers on March 9 and the payment includes the employees' salary up to February.

The 14 units are Bangladesh Export Import Company Limited (Head Office), International Knitwear and Apparels Limited, Crescent Fashion and Design Limited, Esse Fashions Limited, New Dacca Industries Limited, Escorp Apparels Limited, Bextex Garments Limited, Yellow Apparels Limited, ShinePukur Garments Limited, Beximco Fashions Limited, Prefix Fashions Limited, Crescent Accessories Limited, Urban Fashions Limited and RR Washing.

The four currently active Beximco units are Bangladesh Export Import Company Limited (Factory), Beximco PPE Limited, Escorp Apparels Limited (Yellow Local Brand) and RR Washing (Partially Running), according to Beximco Group.

The adviser said his government would take action against the responsible persons and officials of the banks and other departments and agencies of the government involved in giving loans by violating rules between 2008 and 2024.

Legal action will be taken through the ACC against them including Janata officials, Beximco board members, the Bangladesh Bank and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission.

The labour and employment ministry will ask the home affairs ministry to impose a travel ban on the persons and officials of the banks, companies and boards of directors of different companies, he said.

Those who are already abroad will have to return to Bangladesh at some point or they will be declared persona non grata through seizure of their passports.

The government formed a high-powered committee headed by Lutfey Siddiqi, the chief adviser's special envoy for international affairs, to determine the next course of action for the industrial units inside Beximco Industrial Park.

Representatives from the BSEC, BB, a representative from the office of the attorney general, Beximco Group's receiver and chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority are also included in the committee.

A total of 13 banks, including the BB, provided more than Tk 40,000 crore in loans to Beximco Group.

Beximco owes Janata Tk 23,285 crore, Sonali Tk 1,424 crore, Agrani Tk 420 crore, Rupali Tk 987 crore, National Bank Tk 315 crore and United Commercial Tk 333 crore.

It also owes AB Bank Tk 938 crore, Exim Tk 497 crore, Global Islami Tk 61 crore, Dutch Bangla Tk 94 crore, IFIC Tk 78 crore and the Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund about Tk 87 crore.

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The names of Nagorik Committee members Nahida Sarver Niva, Monira Sharmi and Dr Tasnim Zara; and SAD executive committee member Nasrat Tabassum are being discussed.

The central convening committee is likely to be a 151-member body divided equally between the Nagorik Committee and SAD.

Former Islami Chhatra Shibir leaders in the Nagorik Committee withdrew from

the movement to mainstream politics.

He said if the amendments truly reflect the people's aspirations, this would be the appropriate way to move forward.

"We have witnessed the events of 2024. In particular, the experience of August 5 reminded us that people's aspirations can never be ignored. The student movement is part of our historical continuity, where a generation has taken to the streets for its just demands – this just as we saw in 1952, 1969, and 1971. This movement is not limited to a specific time frame; it is an integral part of our national consciousness."

Kamal Hossain, one of the framers of Bangladesh's constitution, was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion titled 'The 1972 Constitution and Proposed Reforms', organised by the Bangladesh Gonotantrik Ainjibi Samity at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) auditorium yesterday afternoon.

Bangladesh's constitution reflects the nation's struggle, he said.

"It is not merely a legal document but a reflection of our dreams, aspirations, and struggles. Discussions on reviewing and reforming the constitution as per the needs of the time are not new, but the question remains – how much these changes will reflect the will of the people?"

Mofizur Rahman Milon from Bhola said the BNP must resist any attempt to hold local government elections before the national polls.

Shun vengeance, unite to rebuild Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1
"People from all walks of life in Bangladesh, especially the youth, are eager for a positive democratic change. We must work for the greater interest of the country by rising above pettiness," she said while addressing an extended party meeting virtually from London, where she is currently

minister, appeared on the big screen at exactly 12:23pm yesterday, the party leaders and activists stood up, applauded, and chanted slogans in her name.

She called upon her party activists to unite and re-organise the BNP with greater determination, incorporating the people, so that the party can once

again lead movements and govern the state like it did in the past.

"Let us use our full strength in the coming days to realise Shaheed Ziaur Rahman's dream of a modern, prosperous, and democratic Bangladesh."

Speaking as the chief guest, she said the cohorts of fascists and enemies of Bangladesh are plotting to undermine the achievements of the mass uprising. "Through unity, we can thwart the conspiracy."

Asking the party activists to remain united to ensure success in the upcoming national election, Khaleda said, "Don't take any action that would render your long struggle and sacrifices useless."

The BNP's extended meeting started at 11:00am at the ground adjacent to LD Hall of the parliament, with around 4,000 leaders and activists from across the country joining the event. The theme of the meeting was "Shudro Oikya Rukhe Dite Pare Shorontro" (Strong unity can foil conspiracies).

The party's last extended meeting was held on February 4, 2018, at a city hotel. Khaleda presided over that programme.

As Khaleda, also a former prime

undergoing treatment.

Calling upon the youth, students, and the people, Khaleda said, "Let us build our beloved Bangladesh truly a liveable, developed, and democratic state, not through revenge or vengeance, but with mutual love and brotherhood."

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