

## London seminar pays homage to BDR Martyrs

### **Failure to deliver justice will endanger Bangladesh's democracy and freedom**

**London, 6 March 2010**

A credible Independent Public Enquiry was demanded in a seminar on "The Peelkhana Tragedy: Bangladesh and Regional Perspectives," held today at Devanant Centre, London.

The seminar was held to observe the first anniversary of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) tragedy. It paid homage to the BDR martyrs in the massacre on 25-26 February 2009 and demanded proper investigations to find out the real perpetrators, their masterminds and accomplices for the sake of justice and national unity. The participants were convinced that the Peelkhana massacre was the outcome of a long and deep-rooted conspiracy and that there is a mystery shrouding the background of Peelkhana carnage. The speakers expressed anger and frustration that the nation lost 57 valiant officers and somehow, people of Bangladesh do not yet know the entire truth. It was felt that a great injustice has been done to the family members and orphans of the fallen victims in the name of politics. If not addressed honestly and fairly and if kept under carpet, this tragedy will result in greater carnage.

The meeting rejected Anisuzzaman Khan's enquiry report because of its inadequacy and failure to pinpoint the real culprits, condemned the government's delayed actions and attempts at cover-up. The meeting asserted that justice delayed is justice denied. It warned the Government that failure to deliver justice will bring about larking danger to the country's democracy and freedom and that the government will ignore this warning only at a great risk of yet another violent breakout.

Some speakers observed that the government is collaborating with India in dismantling the patriotic forces in the Army, civil administration and political parties. The speakers condemned the recent Indian Border Guard's intrusion onto Bangladesh territory in Sylhet 'by force' as mentioned by the Bangladesh Rifle Chief Major General Mainul Islam despite the so-called 'understanding reached' (March 2, bdnews24.com). Speakers also condemned Indian sponsorship of armed insurgencies in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and its worldwide anti-Bangladesh propaganda in a conspiracy to sever the region from Bangladesh. They condemned India's attempts at land grabbing, creating destabilisation in the border region, and killing and harassing innocent Bangladesh citizens.

Presided over by Dr. K M A Malik, former Professor of Dhaka and Cardiff Universities, the meeting pledged to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh. The invited speakers were Dr. Hasanat M Husain MBE, Former Professor of Dhaka University and Convenor of Voice for Justice World Forum, Barrister Nazir Ahmed FRSA, Chair of Justice for Bangladesh, Shamsul Alam Liton, Eminent Media Personality and Zoglul Husain, Political Analyst. Other contributors in the discussion included Ferdous Rahman, Major (Retd) Faruk Ahmed, K M Abu Taher Chowdhury, Moulana eb Ahmed, Monwar Badruddoza, Barrister Nazrul Islam, Chowdhury M Faruk, Dr Kamrul Hasan, Syed Mustak Ahmed, Mirza Zillur Rahman, Moulana Rafiq Ahmed Rafiq, Dr. A Mumin Chowdhury, Oliur Rahman, Mufti Noman Siddiqui, Towhidul Karim Mujahid, Anwar Ahmad, Motinuddin Afzal, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Ahmed Azad, Dr Khurshed Alam, Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, Liakat Ali and others.

There was also a demand for a wider public meeting on this issue.

Commentary on the London Seminar in Bangla media:

<http://www.probashibarta.com/bn/details.php?NewsId=2755&cat=20&NewsDate=2010-03-08>

[http://www.khabor.com/news/prabash/03/prabasher\\_news\\_03082010\\_0000003.htm](http://www.khabor.com/news/prabash/03/prabasher_news_03082010_0000003.htm)

<http://www.amardeshonline.com/pages/details/2010/03/10/22095>