

Build enough dormitories for students, urge activists

Ensure hassle-free environment for bachelor tenants

Staff correspondent

A GOOD number of city dwellers, who are bachelors, have been facing various problems regarding renting lodging after the deadly Gulshan and Sholaki attacks early July, according to Bangladesh Online Activist Forum.

The activist forum urged the educational institutions to construct enough dormitories for their students to resolve their housing problems.

The bachelors are allegedly being oppressed by police and house owners, said members of the activist forum, a pressure group working to realise the rights of the unmarried citizens living in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

The activist forum held a press conference at the Reporters' Unity in the city on Wednesday and urged the government, member of law enforcing agencies and the house owners not to harass the bachelor tenants.

On top of the social stigma attached to the bachelors, recent attacks have worked against the interest of the bachelors as the house owners are now reluctant to lease apartments to them, said Kabir Choudhury Tonmoy, president of the organisation.

According to an unofficial estimate, nearly 50 lakh individuals live in the capital at various messes, sublet rooms, and apartments, the activist forum leaders claimed.

'Police should not harass bachelor tenants in the name of block raid,' said, Quddus Afrad, ex general secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists, who was a guest speaker at the news conference.

He said: 'Police and intelligence agencies of the country should act on specific information, not on mere hypothesis.'

Humayun Kabir Khokon, associate editor of Daily Amader Somoy, said, youths living in the capital are resources for the country.

The existing problem of the bachelor tenants to rent apartments could be resolved through discussions and mutual cooperation between the tenants and the owners, he added.

Mozammel Haque Chowdhury, general secretary of Zatri Kalyan Samity, urged the tenants to get united to resolve their housing crisis.

The organisation suggested a number of proposals to mitigate the housing problems of the bachelors and spinsters.

The proposal included, building enough dormitories by the educational institutions for their students, constructing apartments at the government and non-government levels for the bachelors, reforming 1991 Tenant Act, signing lease agreement by an individual and the respective apartment owner, and taking police help if any house owner turns down an individual tenant from renting his apartment.