

Improve quality to protect intellectual property rights

Minister tells WIPO forum

UNB, Dhaka

WIPO Sub-Regional Forum for Intellectual Property Cooperation among the Saarc member-states was inaugurated here yesterday to work out strategies for improving the quality of goods and services and protecting the intellectual property (IP) rights in the region.

The forum, sponsored by World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in collaboration with Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), was inaugurated by Industries Minister Matiar Rahman Nizami at BISS auditorium in the city.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin, Bangladesh Permanent Representative in Geneva Dr Toufiq Ali, Director of Saarc Secretariat YKA Rohanajith and Director of WIPO Ranjana Abeysekera.

The industries minister said competition is getting fierce due to globalisation of technology, rapid improvement in the quality of products, global flow of capital and advancement of digital and communication technology.

"The environment has become more competitive and more uncertain than before," he said, adding, "To face such challenging situa-

tion, our entrepreneurs have no other options but to enhance efficiency and improve quality of products."

Nizami said the main challenge for Saarc countries where 25 per cent of the world population live is to explore the region's enormous resources of human capital.

He said protection of IP rights relates not only its safeguarding but also enduring socio-economic development.

Registered trademarks, patents, designs and copyrights give protection against much more than copying, Nizami said, adding "By giving us an exclusive right, it provides a competitive advantage."

Holy Ashura on Feb 10

UNB, Dhaka

The Muharram moon was not sighted anywhere in Bangladesh yesterday. The month of Muharram or the new year of Hijri 1427 begins tomorrow, said the Islamic Foundation after a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee in the evening.

It said the holy Ashura commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hossain (R) at Karbala will be observed on February 10.

Islamic Foundation Director Fazlur Rahman, Meteorological Department Director Akram Hossain, Khatib of Baitul Mokarram National Mosque Maulana Obaidul Haque, Maulana Nuruddin of Lalbagh Shahi Mosque and Maulana Aminul Islam attended the meeting.

JEWEL MURDER

5 get death, one life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday sentenced five people to death and another person to life imprisonment for killing a teenage schoolboy in September 2004.

District and Sessions Judge Md Abul Mansur handed down the death penalty to Syed Abdus Salam, Shah Kamal Rony, Kala Jahangir, Al Amin and Sabuj alias Hanif in a packed court. Of them, Rony and Hanif were tried in absentia.

The lifer, Sumon, was also fined Tk 50,000. If he fails to pay, he will have to suffer one more year's imprisonment.

The court also sentenced all the six convicts to 10 years' imprisonment each and fined them Tk 20,000 each for concealing the body after killing the boy, Jewel. If they fail to pay, they will have to suffer one more year's imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, the accused called Jewel, a student of class nine at Gonobidya Niketan, out of his house at Beparipara on the night of September 12 and took him to Salam's house at Baburail where they strangled him.

After the killing, the accused cut the body into several pieces and then dumped those in a nearby canal after wrapping the pieces in two plastic bags.

The police recovered the two bags on September 15 and 18.

Salam along with the others killed Jewel over a love affair with a girl as he considered Jewel as his rival.

Eighteen prosecution witnesses were examined during the trial. PP Advocate Nabi Hossain appeared for the state while Advocate Mantu Ghose, Khokon Saha, Selina Yasmin and Kamruzzaman defended the accused.

AIUB convocation on February 5

BSS, Dhaka

The sixth convocation of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) will be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on February 5.

President and Chancellor of the university Prof Iajuddin Ahmed will attend the function.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon and former Filipino President Fidel V Ramos will be present.

About 600 students who have completed their Degrees from the University will receive certificates on the occasion.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion in memory of former AL lawmaker Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday.

Alliance govt does everything to rig election: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government has done everything to rig the next parliamentary election.

As part of its conspiracy to snatch people's rights, the government has already politicised the Election Commission (EC) and is now trying to make the person of their choice the head of the caretaker government, she said at a discussion in memory of former AL lawmaker Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder.

Referring to the chief election commissioners' illness, Hasina said no chief person deserves to be the chief of the EC.

"We have placed electoral reform proposals to establish the people's rights and to ensure accountability and transparency of the government. If a free, fair and impartial election is held under a neutral caretaker government, the people would get the chance to elect the best person," said Hasina.

She alleged that the alliance government also prevented her party's lawmakers from speaking in the parliament.

"Under the directive of the alliance government, the Speaker switched off my mike 73 times in the House. We have given notices on different burning issues, but the ruling coalition did not give us floor," she added.

Referring to the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's comment that the AL has been enjoying facilities without joining the House, Hasina said she (Khaleda) attended the House for only 28 days during the five-year tenure of the previous AL government but received Tk 58 lakh.

Recalling the memory of Sudhangshu Halder, the AL chief said he was a great parliamentarian and he had good knowledge of parliament.

She has learnt many things regarding parliamentary rules and

regulations from him, Hasina added.

She said Sudhangshu challenged the rigging of election results of his constituency and won in the court, which proves that the election was rigged in 2001.

Hasina said the ruling party men have been plundering all the sectors and increasing prices of essentials by creating artificial crisis only to become rich. "The country has turned into 'Zia & Rahman Company' as the alliance government is doing business with

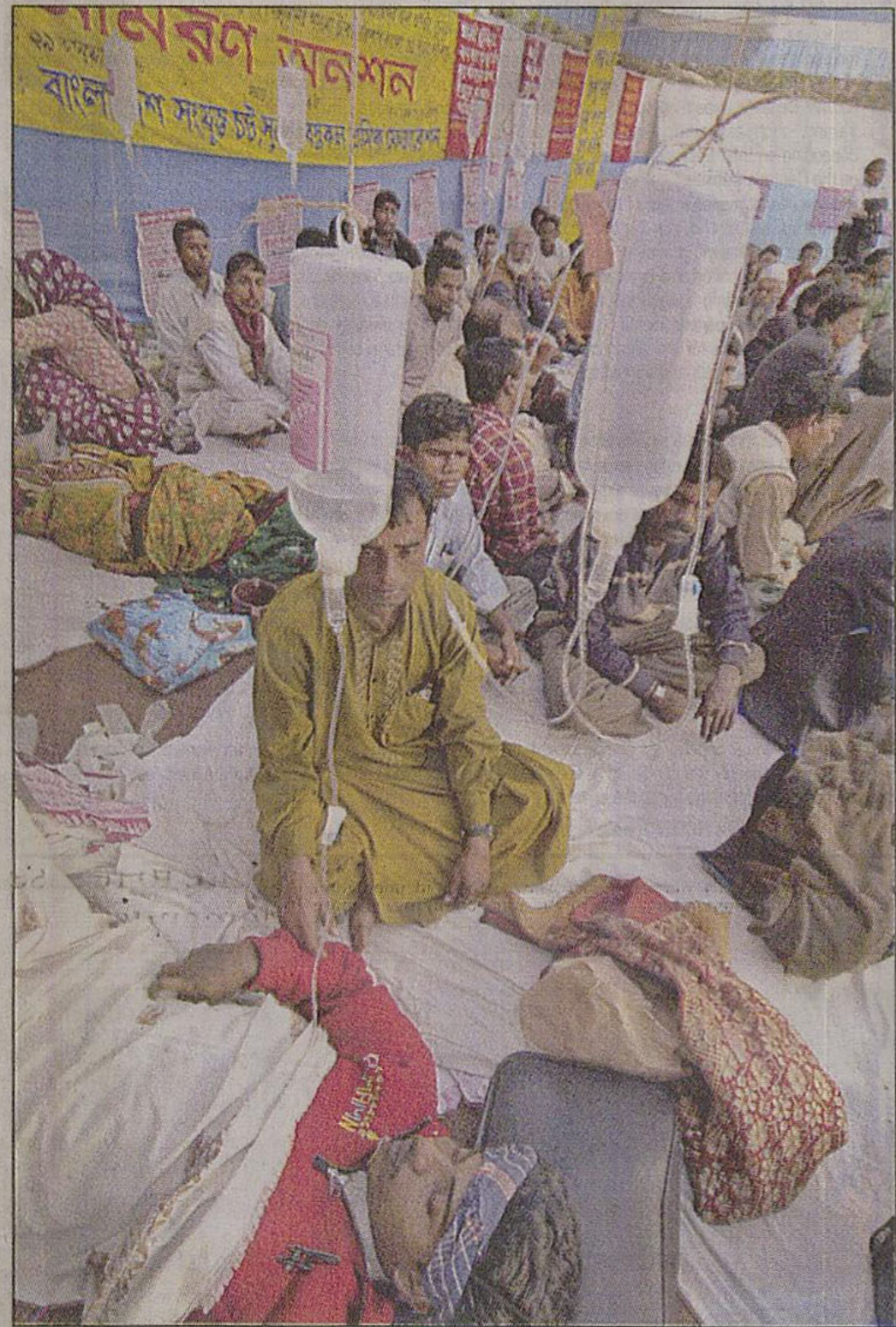
everything," she added.

She also alleged that the alliance government has been harbouring the militants to snatch people's mandate in the next election.


The Memorial Meeting Committee organised the discussion at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers in the city. Barrister Amir-Ul Islam is the convenor of the committee.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon,

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, Supreme Court Bar Association President Advocate Mahubey Alam, Suranjit Sengupta MB, Mohammad Nasim MP, Maj. Gen. (retd.) CR Datta, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, The Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, and Sadhana Halder, wife of Sudhangshu Halder, also took part in the discussion.



Bangladesh Sangjukta Chat, Suta O Bastrakal Sramik Federation continues its fast unto death at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding announcement of minimum wages.



DESCRIPTION :

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Land O'Lakes welcomes resumes from candidates throughout Bangladesh. Please send your resume (personal data, employment history, education, publication, in that order) and cover letter specifying your interest to lolbfo@hotmail.com

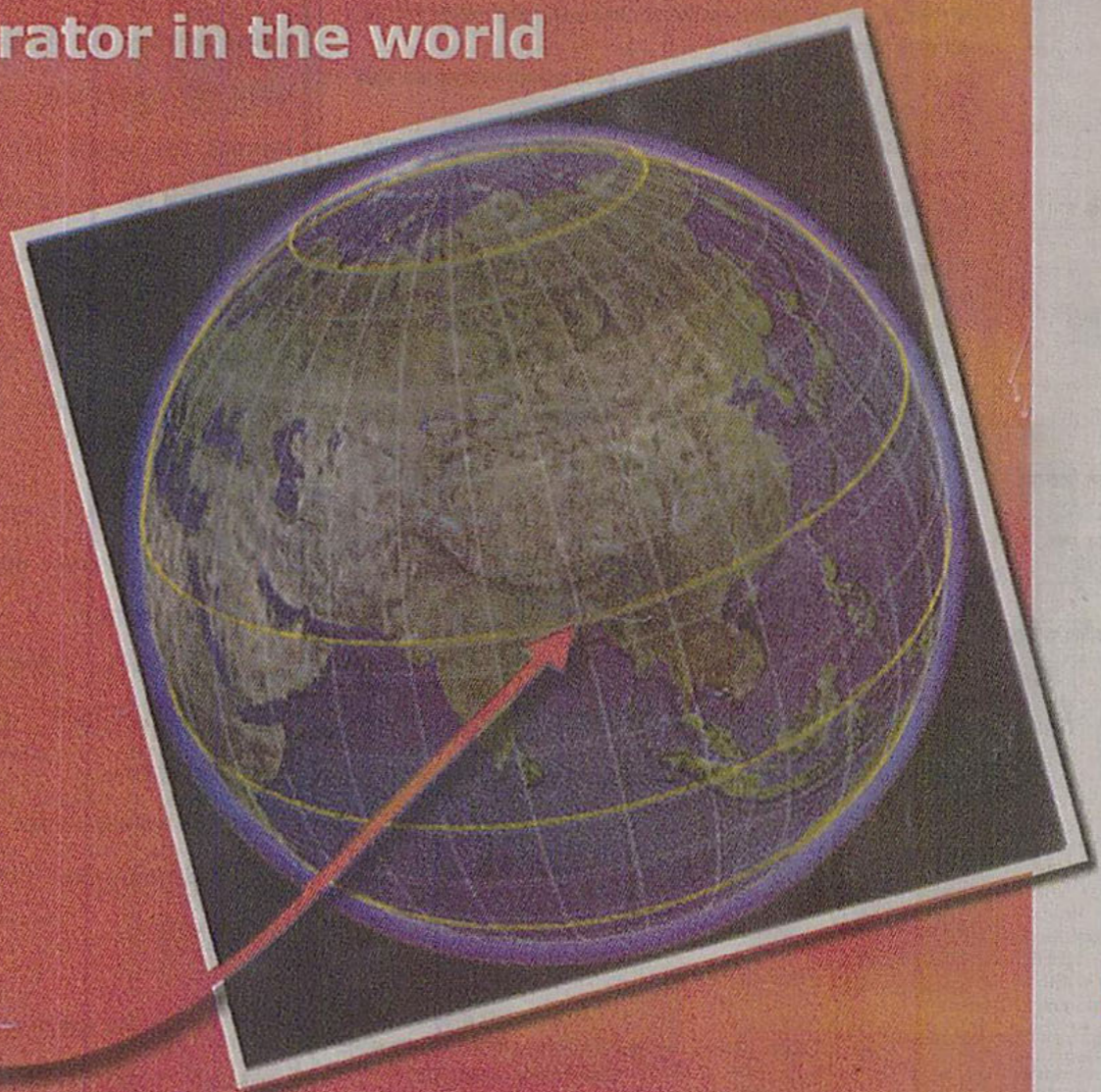
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5	Viettel	Viet Nam	700.00 %
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