

Ratify Rome statute of ICC to promote rule of law

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Many countries, including Bangladesh, are yet to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in fear of an international watchdog over state crimes and corruption, speakers said at a workshop yesterday.

Once the statute is ratified, the rule of law will be promoted and the effective implementation of legislation will be ensured, they said.

But the countries where democratic practices are fragile due to corrupt and opportunist governments

are yet to endorse the ICC, they added.

The Odhakar and Bangkok-based Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum Asia) organised the workshop on ICC at the Tennis Complex Auditorium in Rajshahi, with Supreme Court lawyer Adilur Rahman Khan in the chair.

Dr Asif Nazrul, a teacher of the law department of Dhaka University, presented a keynote paper at the workshop.

Ninety-seven countries, including the most powerful ones from Europe, have so far ratified the treaty. Bangladesh signed it in 1999 after it was adopted in Rome in 1998.

Based in the Hague, the ICC came into effect in 2002. Amnesty International's members around the world have been lobbying their governments to ratify it, the workshop was told.

Adilur Rahman said some rulers who fear that they or their officials might someday face the international justice for their crimes and corruption are not interested in ratifying the treaty.

Sultana Razia of the law desk, The Daily Star, said the ICC would help countries improve criminal justice and create fair and effective courts.

Senior SC lawyer AF Hassan Arif, Rajshahi Bar Association President Zillur Rahman, Secretary Hamidul Haque, Rajshahi University law department Chairman Dr Asma Siddika, journalist Hasan Millat, engineer Tajul Islam, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association's Rajshahi chapter chief Dil Sitara Begum Chuni also spoke.



Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain inaugurates the 'Vitamin A plus campaign' by administering a vitamin A capsule to a child at the Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

C-In-Ad results published

BSS, Dhaka

The result of C-In-Ad (second shift) examination, which was held in December under Bangladesh C-in-Ad Board, was published yesterday. The percentage of pass in the examination was 84.01 percent. A total of 3,587 students from 44 Primary Training Institute (PTI) sat for the examination.

Of them, 264 students were placed in the first division and 2,747 in the second division. A total of 3011 students passed in the examination.

On the other hand, from the old syllabus, 89 students were placed in the second division and a total of 131 students sat for the examination. The percentage of pass was 67.93 percent.

Abducted trader rescued in city

3 kidnappers arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) late Tuesday night rescued an abducted trader from a house at Shahjadpur of Badda in the capital and arrested three alleged kidnappers.

The arrestees – Abul Kalam Azad, Faruk Ahmed Shohag and Md Siraj – were handed over to Uttara Police Station.

Rab-1 sources said Md Hanif, a sand trader from Uttarkhan, was kidnapped Tuesday noon while he was on way to Badda from Gulshan in a taxi. Five people stopped the vehicle and boarded it. Hanif soon lost consciousness and later found himself in a dark room with his hand tied.

The kidnappers later brought two young girls in the room and undressed them to take pictures with him. They threatened to distribute the pictures and kill him unless he paid them Tk 7 lakh.

His abductors told him they are accomplices of notorious criminal Kala Jahangir.

They forced him to telephone his younger brother about the ransom demand.

Hanif's brother immediately contacted Rab-1. Rab intelligence traced the house where the victim was confined and Rab-1 members raided it at around 11pm.

"We found three men and two young girls on the 3rd floor of the five-storey building on Batar Goli (lane) at Shahjadpur," said a Rab-1 member.

At the Rab-1 headquarters in Uttara yesterday, Kalam told this correspondent, "My wife persuaded me to go for such criminal acts to make money. I kept Hanif confined when he came to see me, and demanded money. But I had no intention to kill him."

He went on, "I rented the house on June 5 to use it for sex trade. I gave my identity as a businessman."

His wife Aklima and her friend Khadija confessed to appearing undressed to put Hanif in trouble.

"My husband asked me to do these and assured me of giving money in return. I persuaded my friend Khadija

UP member abducted in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangamati

A union parishad (UP) member was abducted allegedly by the armed cadres of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), a platform for indigenous people opposing the CHT peace accord, from Bongtoli village in Baghaichhari in the early hours of Wednesday.

About 12 armed people raided the house of Aongata Chakma, 33, a member of Bongtoli union parishad, at around 4:00am and kidnapped him at gunpoint, local people said.

Aongata is known as a supporter of Parbatya Chattagram Jono Sanghati Samity.

"The reason behind the abduction might be factional rivalry between indigenous groups," said an intelligence official here.

When contacted, Superintendent of Police Md Maruf Hassan could not confirm the incident.

"However, I'm looking into the matter," he added.

Mango, silk festival begins in Rajshahi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

A three-day mango and silk festival will begin at Rajshahi Parjatan Motel here today.

Ban Voyage Tourism and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation jointly organised the programme, first of its kind in the city.

The Daily Star and ATN Bangla are the media partners of the festival.

Post and Telecommunication Minister Barrister Aminul Haque will inaugurate

'Produce herbal medicine to earn fame, money'

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called for producing various medicines in the country saying that Bangladeshi pharmaceuticals are now declared world class by the developed countries.

"We are exporting medicines abroad. We can use goodwill of Hamdard and produce Herbal medicine, which will earn both fame and money, and the country as well as the people will be benefited," he said.

He said this while he was addressing a seminar on "Development of Eastern Medicine during 20th Century" organised by Hamdard Bangladesh at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

Iajuddin said that in the last few decades, a curious thing has happened regarding the Hamdard medicine. Instead of being destroyed by medical sciences and pharmaceutical chemistry, it has made a splendid recovery.

"The practitioners of this system treat people in a holistic way that takes into account diet, exercise and lifestyle, and not just the relief of symptoms."

The herbal systems of medicine are now very popular among the general masses, he said.

He said: "The Eastern System of medicine is practised widely in this subcontinent. Because of its vast wealth of knowledge, experiences and proven efficacy, this medicine became very popular and its popularity is still continuing."

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain,

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam, Hamdard Foundation Bangladesh president Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, National Professor Nurul Islam also spoke.

Hamdard Foundation Pakistan President Sadia Rashid presented the keynote address at the seminar while Hamdard Bangladesh managing director Hakim Md Yousuf Haroon Bhuiyan gave the vote of thanks.

Robbery at Sylhet city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Armed miscreants looted a British passport, money in cash, ornament and other valuable worth about Tk 2 lakh from a house in the city yesterday.

About 6 miscreants, armed with firearms entered the house of one Sarwar Ahmed at the Shaplabag Residential Area at about 12:30pm in the guise of PDB staff saying they have come to check the meter.

A case was filed with the Kotwali Police Station.

The miscreants tied the housewife Razia Sultana, her five-year child Mahin and the domestic help with ropes at gunpoint.

They managed escape along with the booty including a cash of Taka 1,05,000, gold ornament, a British Sarwar, owner of the house and a construction material trader, was not at home during the robbery.

A case was filed with the Kotwali Police Station.

BRTA steps to check crime by auto-rickshaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has made uniform mandatory for the CNG-run auto-rickshaw drivers in the port city from July 31.

BRTA took the decision to check fake 'driving license' of the drivers and stop use of three-wheelers in criminal activities like mugging and robbery, sources said.

The Chittagong City Regional Transport Committee has asked the auto-rickshaw workers' unions to submit attested documents of their registration in 10 days to the assistant director (engineer) of BRTA, Chittagong Circle.

The unions were also asked to issue two copies of identity cards to its members, one of which would be submitted to deputy commissioner (traffic) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

The auto-rickshaw owners were asked to maintain a register containing name, address, driving licence, ID cards by unions and other particulars.

BRTA also requested the owners to install meter on the auto-rickshaws by July 31, sources said.

The communication ministry at a meeting on June 12 set a two-month's deadline (till July 31) for installing meter to CNG-run three wheelers in the port city.

As many as 13,000 CNG auto-rickshaws are allowed by the government to ply in the city and no such vehicles would be allowed without meter after July 31.