

WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

'Hold talks before Mar 25 to set up inquiry commission'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War Crimes Facts Finding Committee yesterday called on the caretaker government to take initiatives to hold a constructive dialogue before March 25 in order to set up an inquiry commission to investigate the war crimes and the crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation.

The government should immediately hold dialogues with those campaigning for the trial of war criminals. Sectors' Commanders Forum leaders and members of the civil society to make clear the government's commitment to justice,

the committee said in a statement.

It also said that setting up an inquiry commission does not mean that trial of the war criminals would start immediately, but the dialogue on certain issue should start now.

The committee also demanded that the commission be comprised of international jurists.

All, including the government, would have to understand that there is no political motive behind the demand for the trial of war crimes, crimes against humanity and mass killing, said the statement, signed by committee convener Dr MA Hasan.

The government will have to take

initiatives to try the war criminals before the next election so that none could use the issue of war crimes for political gains in the future, it added.

The statement also said the war criminals become active again due to the lack of justice.

It also urged the countrymen to send specific allegations against the war criminals to the committee by March 25.

The committee could send the allegations to the Election Commission and the chief adviser of the caretaker government after the verification of the allegations, it added.

JMB man held while giving bribe to another at court

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday detained an alleged Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) member while he was giving money to an accused JMB man at a Chittagong Court.

The arrestee was identified as Abdur Rahman, 18, son of Rafiqul Islam of Ghuchong Chhara in Rangamati.

Sources said JMB member Mohammad Ruhul Amin Sufi along with four other accused was produced before the Chittagong hill district sessions judge's court at about 12:30pm in connection with a case.

Police held Abdur Rahman when he gave Tk 200 to his uncle and JMB member Ruhul Amin while the latter was coming out of the courtroom.

He was brought to Kotwali Police Station and was being interrogated.

Woman, her daughter stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman along with her daughter was stabbed by her brother-in-law over a family feud at Soilargati under Tongi police station on Saturday.

The victims were identified as Selina Rahman Leena, wife of Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, and her daughter Jhinuk. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Khalilur Rahman said his brother Shahid Mridha and Shahid's son Sijan swooped on his wife and daughter over a trifling matter. He filed a case with Tongi police in this connection.

Tongi police said none was arrested as the accused went into hiding.

Late night despatch

FROM PAGE 1

(DIG-prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star last night, "I received two home ministry letters around 9:00pm which say BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and businessman Salman F Rahman have no further detention order against them."

Salahuddin and Salman were arrested in February last year.

The DIG said around 20 days ago he received another letter informing them that BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman's detention had also not been extended.

The DIG-prisons said, "So far, there are 70 people in jail with division facilities, many of whom are not detained under Special Powers Act anymore. We have been receiving such letters from the home ministry for quite a while now."

He said, "Several of the detainees are now convicts and some are also under arrest in a number of cases, for which they are not being released."

Meanwhile, sources said former lawmaker Mossaddak Ali Falu's detention was also not extended, but the DIG-prisons claimed that he had not received any letter regarding Falu's detention not being extended.

Many of the high-profile corruption suspects have been detained under Special Powers Act for a long time now and the Advisory Board of the High Court, which decides every three months whether to extend a detention, recently decided not to extend detentions of a number of big-wig graft suspects, the DIG said.

Following the HC advisory board's decision, the home ministry has been sending out letters to prison authorities telling them which detainees' detentions were not extended.

The DIG-prisons said relatives of the detainees have to get permission from the special branch of police to visit them, every 15 days. Relatives of imprisoned graft suspects who are not under detention orders are however allowed to visit their incarcerated families once a week without needing any permission, and the jail authorities facilitate the visit, the DIG-prisons explained.

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Earlier, detained former ministers Air Vice Marshal (retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Barrister Nazmul Huda were shifted to Narayanganj Jail on February 14 punitively for using mobile phones in Dhaka Central Jail, violating the jail code.

For a similar offence, actions against three other VIP prisoners -- Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, political adviser to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, former state minister Moinuddin Khan Alamgir, and Barrister Sigma Huda, wife of Nazmul Huda are being processed, said jail authority sources.

Atiqur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Ramma Zone under Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) said, "We received a written complaint and we have been investigating the matter."

Aman was arrested on February 3, 2007 and imprisoned for 13 years following conviction in a corruption case.

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Russia slams US 'cynicism' over Kosovo

AFF, Belgrade

Moscow accused Washington of seeking to humiliate Serbia over Kosovo ahead of a visit today to Belgrade by Russian Deputy Prime Minister and presidential hopeful Dmitry Medvedev.

Russia, which has been Belgrade's staunchest ally in opposing Kosovo's declaration of independence a week ago, said Sunday that US backing for the breakaway region was an act of "flagrant cynicism".

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain likely

Light rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jharkhand and Kushtia in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning. Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 31.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jharkhand and lowest 12.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:59pm today and rises at 6:24am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town Temperature Humidity in percentage

Max Min Morning Evening

Dhaka 29.8 16.3 60 50

Chittagong 28.6 16.2 60 81

Rajshahi 30.4 16.0 85 51

Khulna 30.0 17.4 94 62

Barisal 30.0 13.5 81 64

Sylhet 28.7 15.4 56 53

Cox's Bazar 29.5 16.0 54 77

Source: UNB, Dhaka

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