

Try war criminals to establish justice

Speakers tell book launching ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of war criminals must be held in order to establish justice in society, said speakers at a book launching ceremony yesterday.

Committee, the meeting was addressed by Justice Ghulam Rabbani, Sector Commander Lt Col (ret) Abu Osman Chowdhury, Prof Muntasir Mamun, vice-president of Nirmul Committee, Dr MA Hasan, convener of War Crimes Facts Finding Committee, and Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, wife of martyred intellectual Dr Alim Chowdhury.

Muntasir Mamun urged all to mobilise public support for the trial of war criminals. "We are demanding trial of war criminals, not out of vengeance, but to establish justice in society," said Dr Hasan.



(From left) Shyamoli Nasreen Chowdhury, Justice Ghulam Rabbani, Prof Muntasir Mamun, writer Shariar Kabir and Abu Osman Chowdhury hold copies of a book titled 'Mirpur Dashti Badhyabhumil' (10 killing grounds in Mirpur) by Miraj Miju in the city yesterday.

Illegal structures at Duaripara waqf estate demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Housing Authority (NHA) demolished illegal structures on the land of a waqf estate at Duaripara in Mirpur yesterday, rendering over 15,000 families homeless.

Amitav Ghosh made scholar-in-residence at IUB

Amitav Ghosh, the most widely known Indian novelist writing in English, has been made the first Scholar-in-Residence at IUB in recognition of his eminence in modern English literature, particularly South Asian English literature, says a press release.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Zakir Hossain, an official of Concord Engineers and Construction Ltd and son of Dr Mozammel Hossain of Barisal, will be held after Maghrib prayers at his Shyamoli residence in the city today, says a press release.

DHAKA TODAY section containing various event listings such as Discussion, Seminar, Roundtable, Trade show, and Book launching.

WEATHER TODAY section providing a forecast for Dhaka and other cities, including temperature and humidity data.

Call to cancel SQ method for 2010 SSC exam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of guardians yesterday called on the caretaker government to cancel the Structured Question (SQ) method for SSC examinations to be introduced in 2010, saying that most teachers and students are still in the dark about this new pattern of question.

Advocate Abed Raja, convener of Guardians' Forum, read out a written speech at the press conference. The SQ method was scheduled to be introduced in 2009, but the government put this back to 2010 in the wake of protests by teachers, students and guardians.

APPOINTMENT OF AWAL AS ACTING LAW SECY

HC verdict stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court judgment that declared illegal the appointment of Kazi Habibul Awal as acting law secretary.

The order came after Awal filed a petition seeking stay on the HC verdict. HC division bench of Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Shahidul Islam delivered the judgment on February 18 following a public interest litigation filed by District and Sessions Judge Aftab Uddin Ahmed on July 5 last year challenging the appointment of Awal as acting law secretary.

Dhaka Bar Assoc receives no permission for election

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government did not give permission for Dhaka Bar Association to hold its election for 2008-09 scheduled for today and tomorrow. Association General Secretary Golam Mostafa Khan received a letter from the office of Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner yesterday, which said it was not possible to give permission to hold the election because of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

Seven muggers held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested seven muggers from Purana Paltan and Motijheel areas in the city on Monday night. Sources said a patrol team of Rab chased and arrested Shahjahan, 33, Foyez Islam Raju, 25, Badrul Alam, 27, and Rafiqul Islam, 40, from Paltan area when they were running away after committing a mugging at about 11:00pm.

Announce specific date for elections

BDB, Workers' Party urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) and Workers' Party of Bangladesh yesterday urged the government to announce specific date for the general elections and start dialogue with the political parties immediately.

Workers Party leaders Rashed Khan Menon, Bimal Biswas, Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Anisur Rahman, Nurul Hasan and Kamrul Hasan and BDB leaders Maj (ret) Abdul Mannan, Maj Gen (ret) MA Halim, Arshad-uz-Zaman and Mahi B Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

PSC REPORT SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT

New rules for nominating examiners, questioners for civil service exams

UNB, Dhaka

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has adopted new guidelines and principles for nominating examiners, questioners and moderators to ensure neutrality and transparency in the civil service examinations.

Report of Bangladesh Public Service Commission for 2007 to him at Bangabhaban yesterday. Eight members of the commission and its secretary were also present.

SC stays Hasina verdict

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declared by the Appellate Division shall be binding on the High Court Division and the law declared by either division of the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts subordinate to it.

Rehana and cousin Sheikh Selim, but did not include the relevant sections of the EPR. Hasina filed a writ petition on July 29 and the HC bench of Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury issued the rule on the caretaker government, asking it to reply why its approval for bringing the case under the EPR should not be declared illegal.

Hasina's bail prayer rejected

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appeal to the High Court regarding the bail. Special Court-1, set up at MP hostel on Jatija Sangsad Bhaban premises, deferred the hearing on charge framing for three working days as the defence counsel submitted a time petition saying their senior lawyers failed to appear before the court.

The prosecution lawyers said the defence can see the seized pieces of evidence and it should not waste another day to examine them as half the time allocated for this trial has already been spent. The judge said at this stage the case proceedings must go on as there is a time limit and if the Supreme Court upholds the High Court verdict and stays the case, it would be done after the delivery of higher court verdict.

British, EU MPs for lifting emergency

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It was attended by British MPs, MEPs, Peers, Councilors and representatives of human rights organisations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Global Human Rights Defence, Jumma Peoples Network, Nirmul Committee and Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Ojika Parishad.

mentary elections by December 2008. She informed the seminar of the progress in voter registration and various reforms the government has already implemented including separation of the judiciary, formation of an independent election commission, anti-corruption commission and an independent national human rights commission.

Dr Kamal

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He said they don't want elections like the previous ones. "We want such an election that will bring qualitative change in the country in people's lives. We want a sustainable democratic government after the election," said Dr Kamal.

Charge-framing FROM PAGE 16 fixed the hearing date. The court directed the jail authorities to produce Hasina, now detained in a sub-jail at Sangsad Bhaban complex, on the scheduled date. The judge also served summons on the six other accused, now on bail, to show up on the same date.

He asked the chairman and members of the PSC to keep the commission "above all controversy and ensure that the BCS examinations are held regularly to appoint public officials".

British, EU MPs for lifting emergency

Committee; Tim Parritt, deputy director, Asia Programme of the Amnesty International; Brad Adams, Asia director, Human Rights Watch; and Sultan Shariff, Awami League, also spoke at the seminar.

British, EU MPs for lifting emergency

abuses" under the country's state of emergency. Some speakers raised the issue of the trial of war criminals and the failure to bring the perpetrators that has led to culture of impunity.

British, EU MPs for lifting emergency

He added: "Elections aren't only about having the right laws, an accurate register and impartial officials. They depend on the pre-conditions in the months before polling day, and crucially, on the maintenance of a peaceful environment during election campaign."