

Trial of war criminals never too late

Language Movement veteran Abdul Matin tells The Daily Star

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The war criminals of 1971 are yet to be punished due to the negligence of the earlier political governments...

Steps can be taken to punish the war criminals even now as such a matter can never be too late...

"It is a matter of sorrow that the war criminals have avoided punishment for 37 years of the Liberation War."

The political governments, including those under the Awami League and BNP did not take steps to punish the war criminals...

Referring to the examples of



Abdul Matin talking to Star Pabna Correspondent

different countries especially about the trial of the war criminals after the Second World War...

"I dream of a better future for the nation. I am still optimistic. I see great potentiality in the nation. We are going ahead joining

hands together. As a nation the Bangladesh can achieve much if we work with enthusiasm...

"I do not lament for what I did not get in life," said the octogenarian Language Movement hero.

Matin urged using Bangla at all levels of academic and administrative affairs.

"Negligence of the mother tongue is very unfortunate. First we have to learn the mother language properly. The practice of using Bangla should be implemented in every steps of life," he said.

Urging all to work with sincerity and devotion to lead the nation towards peace and prosperity...

Failure of the political parties to discharge their duties and responsibilities to the nation has led to the unrest situation of the country, he said.



Akash

DEATH OF CHILD

Three doctors charge-sheeted in Jhenidah for negligence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Three doctors including the RMO of Jhenidah Sadar Hospital and two nurses were charged yesterday for negligence in duty that allegedly led to the death of a child.

The accused are RMO Swaphan Kumar Kundu, Dr. Rezaul Islam of emergency ward, child specialist Dr. Khalekuzzaman and nurses Nurjahan and Putul Rani Bapari. They were suspended a few days back.

Investigation officer of the case SI mozzamel Haq submitted the charge sheet to a court here.

Akash, a student of class four, died at the hospital due to alleged negligence of the doctors and nurses on May 8, 2007. His father Rezaul Islam filed a case with Jhenidah court against three doctors and two nurses.

The case is under trial at Jhenidah Chief Judicial Magistrate court.

Contacted, civil surgeon Dr Niranzon Shikdar said, the five hospital staff were suspended on February 5 following an order from the ministry of health, which will remain in force till disposal of the case.

Social worker Serajul Islam passes away

STAR NATIONAL DESK

M Serajul Islam, organising secretary of Sylhet Division Unnayan Parishad and an eminent social worker, died of cardiac arrest at LabAid Hospital in the capital on Thursday. He was 51.

He left behind parents, brother, two sisters, a son, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers.

Boycott war criminals in next polls

Nirmul Committee urges people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Leaders of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee at a view exchanging meeting yesterday called for boycotting war criminals in the next parliamentary elections to end religion-based politics in the country.

"If we boycott war criminals socially, they would never be able to contest in the general election. On this issue Ghatok Dalal Nirmul committee has been working across the country, Shaharior Kabir, acting president of central Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, said at the meeting held at Gaibandha Press Club hall room.

We appraise the present government's attitude towards the trial of war criminals, Shaharior said,

adding, "The war criminals always try not to leave any evidence. This has happened throughout the world. If tried in the existing court of justice, they may be acquitted. They should be tried under special tribunal."

Members from the European Parliament in a recent discussion with the leaders of Nirmul Committee agreed over the trial of war criminals in Bangladesh, Shaharior said.

"The trial of war criminals is a common demand of mass people, and we are fighting for its implementation for the last 16 years," he said.

The new generation should be made aware of the true history of the Liberation War and they should be involved in the movement for

war criminals' trial, Kabir said. Local political leaders and professionals attended the view exchange meeting.

Nirmul committee Vice-president Shyamoli Nasreen Chowdhury and General Secretary Kazi Mukul accompanied Kabir in the meeting.

Presided over by Nagorik Committee convener Aminul Islam Golap, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Abu Bakkar Siddique, secretary, district Awami League, Wasiur Rahman Rafel, central member of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Mihir Ghosh, secretary CPB, Mahamudul Huq Shahajada, Shah Masud Jahangir Kabir, Amatur Nur Chhara, Shah Masud, Jahangir Kabir Milon, Mostaq Ahmed Ranju.



Tributes paid to Bazlur Rahman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Journalists here yesterday at a condolence meeting held at Barisal Reporters' Unity (BRU) paid tributes to eminent journalist Bazlur Rahman who passed away on Tuesday.

Turning Bazlur Rahman as light-house on sea at dark night, speakers stressed on preservation of his works to guide the next generation.

Among others, Susanta Ghose, Kamal Masudur Rahman, Anisur Rahman Swapan, Manbendra Batobayal spoke at the function with BRU president Nasimul Alam in the chair.

2 months' fishing ban on southern rivers takes effect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Official ban on fishing in major rivers of the southern region for the next two months is being enforced from yesterday.

The ban was imposed for ensuring safe laying of eggs and increasing fish resources through protection of fishes.

About 340-kilometre area of the Ilisha, the Meghna, the Tentulia, the Bishkhali and the Padma in Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Munshiganj, Chandpur and Laxmipur districts have been declared fish sanctuaries.

Sources in District Fisheries' Association and District Fisheries Office said the ban was imposed along 100-kilometre area from Shatnol to Char Alexander of the Meghna and the Padma and branch rivers, 90-kilometre from Madanpur Char-Shababazpur of the Meghna and the Ilisha and branches, 100-kilometre from Vedunia to Char Rustom of the Bishkhali and the Tentulia and branches and 50 kilometre from Kalapara to Charmanik.

Assistant director of Barisal Divisional Office of Fisheries Directorate said enforcement of the ban will be monitored strictly with the help of local administration and law enforcers from March 01 to April 30.

Special grants, facilities and alternative employment opportunities will be provided to affected and unemployed fishermen by the government.

However, Md Yusuf Ali, organising secretary of District Fishermen's Association said the monthly allowance of Tk 200 to 300 meant for each fisherman is too meager to maintain his family.

3 more sharks recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Coastguards recovered three more large sharks Friday afternoon from some fishermen.

The sharks were found concealed under the deck of a trawler on the bank of Shibsha river in Nalian Range of Sundarban forest division. Assistant Conservator of Forests Ariful Huq Belal said the recovered sharks would be sold in auction today and the sales proceeds would be deposited to the national exchequer as per rule.

Each of these sharks weighs over 500 kilograms, he said.

But he did not say anything when asked if legal action will be taken against the fishermen for violating the ban on catching sharks.

On February 5, coastguards and forest guards during a joint drive in the Sundarbans recovered eight sharks each weighing over 600 kgs from the Sundarbans.

Divisional forest officer of east wing of Sundarban forest division Shahidul Islam did not deny the allegation sharks being caught by an organised group of poachers.



Students of People's Jute Mills High School at Khalishpur form a human chain yesterday protesting BJMC's plan to close down the institution.

720 criminals held in Jhenidah last month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

About 720 criminals were arrested in Jhenidah last month.

Jhenidah superintendent of police (SP) TM Mozahidul Islam told this at a view exchange meeting held at his office here yesterday.

Of the arrested, seven were top listed criminals, 12 fugitive convicts, 181 accused of regular cases, 265 of GR cases, 204 of CR cases, 292 of recall cases and 52 of different cases.

'REOPA to create jobs for rural women'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Speakers at a workshop held here yesterday said the rural employment opportunities for public assets project (REOPA) will ensure income to underprivileged women.

The workshop on 'Rural Employment Opportunities for Public Assets Project (REOPA) was organised by the district administration. Held at the Sadar upazila auditorium, it was presided by

Sathkira deputy commissioner (DC) Md Kefayatullah.

The project is being implemented by local government while it is being financed by European Union (EU) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

REOPA project director Akmal Hossain, also deputy secretary (DS) of Local Government Ministry was present as chief guest while UNDP advisor Mayen Uddin Tazim was present as special guest.

20 acre lands of tribesmen grabbed in Khagrachhari

Haque's two sons are leaders of Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Aminul Haque's two sons are leaders of BNP fronts-- Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal. He allegedly grabbed about 20 acre lands of indigenous people in Ganjapara union in Khagrachhari during the past alliance government.

Aminul is a resident of Mohazonpara Narikel Bagun area in the Sadar upazila. His son Bahadur Alam alias Bahar is Khagrachhari Jubo Dal vice-president and the other-- Shahidul Hoque is a cadre of district Chhatra Dal, the victims said.

The lands grabbed by Aminul Haque earlier belonged to some 10 indigenous families in Ganjapara, according to Golabari Union Parishad Chairman Chaila Prue Marma and some other sources.

While talking to this correspondent, some of the victims complained that Aminul grabbed most of the lands by using political clout during the rule of four-party alliance government. They were helpless as sections of unscrupulous officials and political leaders connived with the land grabber who also threatened of muscle power, they said.

They said they went to authorities concerned for legal action but they were harassed by some officials and local political leaders, they claimed.

"I went to the court of First Class Magistrate on August 8 last year to seek legal order. The then magistrate ordered police to investigate the matters and record a case", Golabari UP Chairman Chailapru Marma told this correspondent yesterday.

"But have not yet investigated the matter, let alone filing of case", he said.

Sub-Inspector Rafiq, who was asked to probe the allegations have done nothing so far, he said. "Rather, he has very good relations with the grabber", Chailapru Marma said. He said he also submitted a

complaint to joint forces in December last year to take steps for return of the grabbed lands.

Chaindi Aung Marma, 61, of Ganjapara area alleged that Haque grabbed about two acre lands of her family by making fake document.

"He (Haque) leased the land for two years for a brick field from my brother Mrasathowai Marma. After my brother died, he declined to return the land, saying my brother sold the land", she said.

Chaindi filed a case with the civil judge's court.

Anil Chakma of Perachhara Darmapur area claimed that Haque grabbed about one acre of his land. He moved police stations but to no effect, he claimed.

The victims also include Satho Aung Marma, Neeang Marma and Lali Marma alias Lal Buri, who alleged that Haque grabbed about 10 acres of their land by using the then ruling party cadres and forged documents.

Some Bangalee people also

alleged that was tried to grab their lands.

The victims alleged that Haque enjoyed the blessings of Khagrachhari municipality chairman and district BNP secretary Joynal Abedin, among others.

Joynal Abedin, a close aide to former lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan, is also advisor to the Parbatya Chattagram Samo Adhiker Andolon (PCSAA), a forum of Bangla speaking people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

While contacted, Hoque said he has all legal documents on the lands but he could not show any paper. He however admitted that he is facing some cases regarding land.

Assistant Police Superintendent (ASP) Mohammad Tareq Ahmed, when contacted, said police has nothing to do till case is filed. He however said he will look into the matter.

When contacted, Joynal Abedin denied his involvement with Haque in land grabbing.



A structure on the land that MA Hoque (inset) allegedly grabbed from Chailapru Marma during the tenure of last BNP-Jamaat government.

Table with 4 columns: ক্র.সং, মতামত/বিভাগ, বিবরণ, and মতামত/বিভাগ. It lists various items and their details.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Project Director. Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) - Preparation Project. Department of Environment (DoE). E-16, Paribesh Bhaban, Agargaon. Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. www.doe-bd.org/aqmp. Pedestrian Infrastructure and Traffic Engineering Consultant-International. Expressions of Interest (EOI). No. Paribesh/CASE-PP/PITE Consultant (Int. firm)-18/2008/59. Date: 27/02/2008. This EOI is for the selection of a consulting firm required for review of traffic management schemes and designs, preparation of a traffic signal synchronization and preparation of bid documents for procurement of new traffic signals. (Contract Package No. S10). 1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Japanese Policy and Human Resource Development (PHRD) grant (No. TF090407-BD) administered by the World Bank for the preparation of Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant towards payments to an experienced international firm under contract as a Traffic Management Consultant. 2. The utilization of the grant will be administered by a Project Preparation Team (PPT) anchored at the Department of Environment (DOE) under the Ministry of Environment and Forest. 3. The main components of this consultancy are: Review the designs for FOBs, one-way schemes, MV/NMV lane separators and sidewalks produced by the local consultants; advise the PPT in the execution of the design contract so that the designs are of high quality and meet both national and international standards; assist the PPT with preparing the bid documents for implementing the works and evaluation of the bids; ensure that all relevant environmental and social guidelines are incorporated into the bid documents. Design and implement the synchronized traffic signal timings along one (Mirpur-Shahbag-Gulistan) corridor; prepare the bid document for procurement of traffic signal equipment required for replacement of defunct traffic signals on one (Mirpur) road. 4. This activity will involve a 1.5 man-month of input by 2 (two) national and 1 (one) international professionals spread over a 3 month period beginning sometime in the month of April 2008. The contract may be terminated, extended or renegotiated before or beyond the stated time period, based on the joint assessment of PPT and the World Bank. 5. The international consultant/firm should have the following qualifications: Expertise in planning and design of pedestrian infrastructure and traffic engineering/management measures of the kind mentioned above, experience of preparing and evaluating bids, demonstrable interpersonal and communication skills, proven ability to work in a collaborative team environment, and written and oral fluency in English. Experience of having worked in developing countries would be a plus. 6. The Project Director of the CASE-Preparation Project now invites eligible firms to express their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating their professional capability and experience to perform the outlined services. Such information shall be substantiated by referring to projects or assignments carried out by the individuals and indicate their consent to be available for this assignment. 7. The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank Guidelines, "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (May 2004)". 8. Interested consultants may obtain further information and more detailed terms of reference (ToR) at the address below during office hours on weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm or can be downloaded from the website www.doe-bd.org/aqmp or www.aqmpbd.org 9. Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the above contract must be delivered to the address below on or before 16/03/2008 during office hours. Project Director. Clean Air and Sustainable Environment-Preparation Project. Department of Environment, Paribesh Bhaban. E-16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. Email: nasiruddin@doe-bd.org. GD-1003