

WAR CRIMINALS

Call to start process of trial immediately

'They can be tried under Int'l Crimes (Tribunals) Act'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War criminals can be tried under the existing International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, journalist and writer Shahriar Kabir said at a discussion yesterday.

"The process of the trial should begin immediately. Seeking help from the United Nations in this regard may delay the trial process," he added.

Bangladesh Heritage Foundation organised the discussion on 'Prospects and possibilities of transitional justice in Bangladesh, at Bilia auditorium where freedom fighters and university students were present.

Shahriar Kabir said there are enough evidence against the war criminals in the country. The trial process should start immediately, as the war criminals and their accomplices are destroying the proof of their involvement in

war crimes, he added.

He also said, "The war criminals and their accomplices are now carrying out militant attacks across the country and, at the same time, they are also threatening others. So, all should come forward to put them on trial."

Presenting the keynote paper, Tazrina Sajjad, who did her PhD from American University in Washington DC, suggested establishing a hybrid court comprising national and international laws and jurisdiction to try war criminals.

Political will is a must to try war criminals, as the issue has many political, social and psychological dimensions, she said.

Former Ambassador Wali-ur Rahman moderated the discussion. He said, "Involving the United Nations Security Council in the trial process would be one of the best ways to try war criminals."

Private University Ordinance promulgated

UNB, Dhaka

The government has promulgated the Private University Ordinance 2008 with retrospective effect from December 30.

Containing 51 sections, the latest one replaces the previous Private University Act 1992.

"The Private University Act 1992 now stands repealed as the new ordinance has become effective," an official announcement said yesterday.

"All private universities established under the previous act must follow the conditions under the new ordinance," it said.

The full ordinance is available on the website (www.moedu.gov.bd) of the education ministry.



Ambassadors of Middle East countries call on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

Suhrawardi Hospital limping along on limited facilities

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Relatives of a mason who had suffered a head injury were crying helplessly at the emergency ward of Shaheed Suhrawardi Hospital in the city where the attending doctor and nurses did not do anything except referring the patient to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

They even did not provide any primary treatment to the patient who needed at least half an hour or more to take him to the DMCH, said the scared brother of the patient.

Motaleb, 32, fell from an under-construction building at Mohammadpur area and received severe injury in his head.

As the Suhrawardi Hospital is nearer to Mohammadpur, the relatives brought him to that hospital for quick treatment, but it only led to his delayed treatment.

A significant number of patients who seek treatment at the emergency department of the hospital are referred to other hospitals, as the hospital is yet to be equipped with full-fledged emergency service facilities.

"Everyday on an average some 30 to 100 patients who seek treatment here are referred to different hospitals as we don't have enough facilities for treating them," said the on-duty Emergency Medical Officer Dr Saiful.

"As we don't have any CT Scan machine here, we cannot provide service for patients with head injury. At the same time, due to lack of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) we have to refer them to other hospitals," he said, adding, "We just give primary treatment to the patients, and if necessary, we admit them to this hospital."

But as there is no casualty, neurosurgery, neurology, paediatric surgery and cardiology departments, the hospital has to

send back these patients without considering whether their condition is critical or not, he added.

It is also surprising that no emergency operation takes place in the 375-bed public hospital except the delivery for lack of manpower and surgical instruments.

Shortage of medicine at the hospital also leads to continuous sufferings of the poor patients, and often the hospital can supply only 10 types of medicine at a time although it should have more than 70 types of drugs, sources said. Other facilities also were not expanded although the inflow of patients increased a lot in last few years.

The bed occupancy at indoors increased from 73.92 percent to 76.91 percent in 2005 and 2006, which was mounted to 87.36 percent in 2008. But the number of doctors has not been increased since last 10 years.

A total of 192 doctors, nurses and class three and class four employees were recruited in 1997 and then some class three and

class four employees were recruited in 2004, and since then no recruitment was made. At present the hospital is running with 97 doctors and 172 nurses.

"Though we applied to health ministry for some 160 registrars, assistant registrars and 100 medical officers along with professors, associate and assistant professors, nurses and technicians a few months back, we are yet to get any response from there," said the acting director of the hospital Prof Yakub Ul Azad, adding that, lack of manpower hampers the service in the hospital.

While visiting the medicine outdoor at 1:00pm, this correspondent found a large number of patients waiting since 9:00am, but they were yet to get the serial.

"Everyday nearly 400 patients come for treatment at the outdoor department of medicine ward, but there are only four doctors to attend them. It is not possible for a doctor to treat a hundred patients from 8:00am to

1:00pm," said the on-duty doctor, adding that the situation is almost same at the outpatient departments at ENT, Skin and Gynaecology.

The pressure of the patients has been rising day by day in the hospitals, especially after its turning into a medical college in 2005.

Some 1500 patients on an average everyday seek treatment at outdoor and emergency departments.

While talking to The Daily Star, director of the hospital said they applied to the government nine months ago for making it a 625-bed hospital.

If the government approves, then it will be possible to open new departments like intensive care unit, coronary care unit, cardiology, neurosurgery, neurology and paediatric surgery, he said.

The health ministry has recently informed that the proposal for expanding the capacity of the hospital is under process, he added.



Former Ambassador Wali-ur Rahman speaks at a discussion at Bilia auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is Shahriar Kabir and on his right is Tazrina Sajjad.

Janakantha editor gets ad-interim bail in four graft cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted ad-interim bail for four months to the daily Janakantha Editor Atiqullah Khan Masud in four separate corruption cases filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

Earlier, different trial courts sentenced Masud to imprisonment of different terms in the cases.

Three of the cases were filed on charges of forging Rajuk approvals for building designs and another case was filed on charges of amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income and concealing information in his wealth statement.

Upon separate appeals filed by Masud against the trial courts' verdicts, an HC bench comprising Justice Md Muzammel Hossain and Justice Afzal Hossain Ahmed granted bail to the petitioner.

Masud's counsel Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam yesterday told The Daily Star that his client earlier got bail from the High Court in two cases.

Sources said Masud would not be released from the jail at this moment following the High Court bail orders since he was shown arrested in two other cases.

Joint forces arrested him from the Janakantha building at Eskaton in the city on March 7, 2007.

Doc commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A physician committed suicide by injecting himself with drugs at his house at East Shewrapara in the city's Kafrul area on Sunday night.

Dr HM Saifur Rahman, who fell ill soon after he gave himself the injection at around 10:30 pm, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where the doctors declared him dead, the police said.

Quoting family members, Sub-Inspector Emdadul Huq said Dr Saifur had strained relations with his wife who has been staying in a separate house for the last two years.

Moreover, Dr Saifur, who worked in a clinic in the city, had been sacked recently, the police said.

N'ganj criminal dies in shootout

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A listed criminal was killed during a shootout between his accomplices and members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police in Port police station area of the district early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Abul, 40.

Acting on a tip-off, members of police and Rab raided the area when Abul and his accomplices were preparing to commit a crime in Muradpur area.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the criminals, opened fire on them prompting police and Rab to fire back.

Abul was shot dead on the spot while his accomplices managed to escape the scene.

Police recovered six bullets and a shooter gun from the spot, police said.

Police, Rab and local sources said Ali was a top criminal in the area and wanted in at least 26 cases by different police stations.

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- সর্বাধুনিক ধোয়া সনাক্তকরণ ও অগ্নিনির্বাপন ব্যবস্থা
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- নেট সুবিশাল অফিসিয়াম ও ৭টি ভয়েড
- ২২ লাইনের বোলিং সেন্টার
- ৩০০০ লোকের ফুড কোর্ট
- ৫০০০ কার পার্কিং সুবিধা
- ৩ জোড়া কনভেন্সর কেট