

WAR CRIMINALS

# Trial process soon

Says finance minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Finance and Planning Minister AMA Muhiit yesterday said the government is set to start taking steps for the trial of war criminals.

In addition to its groundwork on some legal aspects at home, it has already communicated with the UN officials to start the process, he added.

The minister said this at a view exchange meeting with reporters at the Sylhet Circuit House in the afternoon.

Muhiit, on his first visit after taking over as the finance minister, flew to his home town on Friday evening and offered feteha at the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) and Hazrat Shahporan (RA).

The bureaucrat-turned-politician, also the lawmaker for the Sylhet-1 constituency, also addressed his first meeting with the government officials, chiefs of education institutions, political leaders and social leaders on the law and order situation at the circuit house.

The government is giving topmost priority

on ensuring law and order, Muhiit said, adding: "We would not allow anybody to create troubles on the campuses."

Asking the officials to remain strict on the law and order situation, he said, "Education institutions should be kept free of violence at any cost. Unruly capture of the campuses should be stopped," adding, "We want to get out from the confrontational political culture. We are committed to making enlightened and violence-free campuses."

Muhiit called on the concerned officials to hold the upazila elections in a free and fair manner.

The officials as well as the political activists should avoid excess of doing anything, he said, adding, "We will break the tradition of breaking laws using the name of party. We will not take any terrorists in the party and there will be no new entrants as well."

As BNP is the country's second largest party, Muhiit said, it would be hard to carry out the government's development efforts without its cooperation.



PHOTO: STAR

Garment workers hold a white flag rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting Israeli attacks on civilians in Gaza.

## Deal extortionists with iron hand

Minister asks law enforcing agencies

BSS, Faridpur

Labour, Employment and Expatriates Welfare Minister Engr Khondoker Mosharrif Hossain called upon the law enforcing agencies to deal the terrorists and extortionists with an iron hand to restore law and order situation in the district which would help pave the way for ensuring normal development process.

Addressing the heads of all departments of the district on

Friday evening at the Deputy Commissioner conference room the minister directed the law enforcers to take necessary actions as per law to curb the law breakers as terrorism and extortion hinder development activities, he told the concerned departments to round up the anti-socials irrespective of their identity or party affiliation.

The minister called upon the officials to act as per rules of business and not to yield to any

pressure and not to entertain any interference. If there is any interference for violating the set rules of the government, he might be informed to deal the matter, the minister added.

He asked the concerned officials to take necessary measures for attaining self-sufficiency in food in the district. To attain this target, he assured necessary seed, fertiliser and other agriculture inputs available as and when necessary.

## Police raid 3 JU halls as BCL factions clash

A CORRESPONDENT, JU

Police raided three halls of Jahangirnagar University (JU) early yesterday in the wake of clash between two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists.

The police entered AFM Kamaluddin Hall, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and Maulana Bhashani Hall at around 3:00am.

No arrest was made and no arms were recovered during the raid.

Around 15 gunshots were heard during the raid. The university authorities said the police fired all the gunshots. But witnesses said the gunshots were heard from both the sides -- police and students.

Meanwhile, the police arrested two men of general secretary Johnny's group at Maulana Bhashani Ball yesterday morning.

## Physiotherapy students resume hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students' Union (BPSU) resumed their hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, as the government did not implement the pledges it had made nearly two months ago.

They have been demanding realisation of their four-point demand.

They started observing a hunger strike on November 25 at the same place demanding the government announce a date of building a distinct college of physiotherapy, withdraw false cases against the students, take necessary steps for admission procedure in the first year physiotherapy course and recruit physiotherapy teachers at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR).

Though the Director (medical education) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Dr Khondoker Mohammad Sifayet Ullah and Director of NITOR Prof Dr Sheikh Nurul Alam assured the students of necessary steps within a week and made the students postpone the strike, eventually no steps were taken in this regard.

Following a clash among the physiotherapy and orthopaedic students, the Nitor authorities suspended the classes for an indefinite period on September 4.

All the classes, examinations and clinical practices have been halted since then making the future of around 600 students uncertain.



PHOTO: STAR

Leaders of Narigrontho Probortona form a human chain in front of High Court in the city yesterday demanding direct election to the reserved seats for women.

## Steps taken to stop arms smuggling from neighbouring states

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun yesterday said they have taken measures to stop smuggling of illegal arms from the neighbouring countries.

"We have already ordered the law enforcement agencies to take strong steps to stop smuggling of the illegal arms," she said while addressing the inauguration of an eye camp at Uttara in the city.

The home minister sought people's cooperation in rooting out terrorism, extremism and extortion from the country.

"Eradicating terrorism, extremism and extortion are among the main commitments of our government. But it is not possible for the administration alone," she said.

"It will be possible when people from all walks of life will stand beside us (government)," she added.

Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB) organised the annual general meeting (AGM) at its Mirpur office in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Presided over by BNSB Chairman Khandker Mahub Hossain, the meeting was addressed by its General Secretary Prof Khaleda Khanam and representatives from different districts.

Mahub called on all to come forward for the betterment of the visually challenged people and requested the BNSB leaders to be sincere to make the society vibrant.

He distributed blankets from his personal funds to the visually impaired students.

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Devotees offer prayers at Ramakrishna Mission in the city yesterday during a programme marking the 147th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

PHOTO: STAR

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## ফ্ল্যাটের মেলা

১৪ থেকে ২০ জানুয়ারী ২০০৯

সময়: সকাল ১০:০০-সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০  
স্থান: শেল্টেক লাইভ, শেল্টেক টাওয়ার, ৫৫ বীর উত্তম কাজী নুরজ্জামান সড়ক (পশ্চিম পাহাড়পথ), ঢাকা

মেলা উপলক্ষে ২০% পর্যন্ত মূল্য ছাড়\*

\* শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

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