

## SHIP-BREAKING YARD

## Absence of rules hinders monitoring

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Chittagong

Absence of specific and strict rules as well as lack of coordination among the ministries concerned left the Department of Environment (DoE) helpless in monitoring operation of ship-breaking yards without clearance, said officials at DoE Chittagong.

Meanwhile, activists of different non-government organisations (NGO) and owners of ship-breaking yards expressed mixed reaction over the High Court order that directed the government to close operation of all ship-breaking yards in two weeks for running without environmental clearance.

None of the 36 ship-breaking yards at Sitakunda have taken clearance from DoE, a report submitted to the government recently revealed.

DoE Chittagong officials said the applications of some shipyards for clearance from DoE were also rejected since they couldn't produce necessary documents.

An official preferring anonymity said owners of the shipyards could manage the government high-ups to run the business without permission from DoE.

In this regard, DoE Inspector Saiful Ashraf said seven new firms have submitted applications for environmental clearance in one month.

All the applications were sent to the DoE Dhaka office as usual for approval.

Newly appointed director of DoE Chittagong Abdus Sobhan said they are yet to receive any directive from the government to stop operation of the yards.

Bangladesh Ship Breakers' Association (BSBA) President Jafar Alam said if the government shuts down the yards in two weeks it might create labour unrest in the sector.

At least 30,000 workers are directly involved with the ship-breaking yards while around 20 lakh people are involved with the sector directly or indirectly, he said.

Jafar said they would soon submit applications to the DoE seeking the clearance.

Muhammad Ali Shahin, an official of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) and Focal Person of NGO Platform on Ship-Breaking, hailed the court directive.

He said ship-breaking should be operated in container yards or in dry-dock yards, not on the beach.

Director (Programme) Syeda Rizwana Hasan, one of the three who filed the petition for Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) prompting the court order, emphasised the need to frame rules on ship-breaking in line with the Basel Convention 1989, Environment Conservation Act 1995 and Environment Conservation Rules 1997 as

ordered by the court.

"It was a historic order to streamline the ship-breaking yards," she said while talking to this correspondent last evening.

She urged the administration to execute the court order to close operation of all ship-breaking yards within two weeks with the help of law enforcers.

The name of the shipyards now operating without clearance in Chittagong are Ziri Subedar Shipyard, Mamun Enterprise (S. Trading Corporation), Pakhiza Enterprise, Jamuna Ship-breaking Yard, Sultana Shipyard, SN Corporation, S. Trading Shipyard, Lucky Shipyard, Kabir Steel 1, Kabir Steel 2, Sajeel Shipyard, Foyzun Shipyard, Rahmania Shipyard, Ahmed-Mujtaba Shipyard, Six Star Shipyard, Siko Shipyard, Enterprise Shipyard, Namrin Enterprise, ZN Enterprise, Golden Shipyard, ARL Shipyard, PHP Ship Recycling Industry, Habib Steel Shipyard, NEW Ambia Shipyard, MAC Corporation, Sagorika Shipyard, Harun Steel Shipyard, GL Ship-breaking Yard, Royal Shipyard, JS Trading Shipyard, Taher and Brothers, Mahin Enterprise, Mabiya Enterprise, Taniya Enterprise, F & F Ship Recycling Yard, and an unnamed one owned by SMAL Mamun, son of lawmaker Abul Kashem.

## Birth anniversary of Bangabandhu, Nat'l Children's Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different Bangladeshi missions abroad and social and political organisations observed the 89th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Children's Day 2009 in a befitting manner on Tuesday, says press releases.

Bangladesh High Commissions in Washington DC, Beijing, New Delhi, Berlin, Abu Dhabi and Hong Kong celebrated the day with due respect and festivity.

The missions undertook elaborate programmes that include commemorating discussions, milad mahfil, painting and essay competitions and screening of films on the life and works of Bangabandhu.

A discussion was held at the Bangabandhu auditorium at Bangladesh High Commission in Washington DC.

Ambassador M Humayun Kabir chaired the discussion where Prof Khalid Hasan, Mizanur Rahman Majumdar, Alauddin, Dr Shahjahan Mahmud and Mahmudun Nabi Bakis spoke.

The speakers highlighted the contribution of Bangabandhu in the national life of Bangladesh and urged countrymen to work to fulfil Bangabandhu's dream of a prosperous Bangladesh.

Humayun Kabir recalled the role of Bangabandhu in Bangladesh's emergence as an independent country.

Painting and essay competitions for the Bangladeshi children were also held.

Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations also organised a discussion highlighting the significance of the day.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh National Museum also chalked out colourful programmes on the occasion.

Joy Bangla Oikya Jote will organise a painting competition for the children tomorrow. Home Minister Sahara Khatun will inaugurate the event.

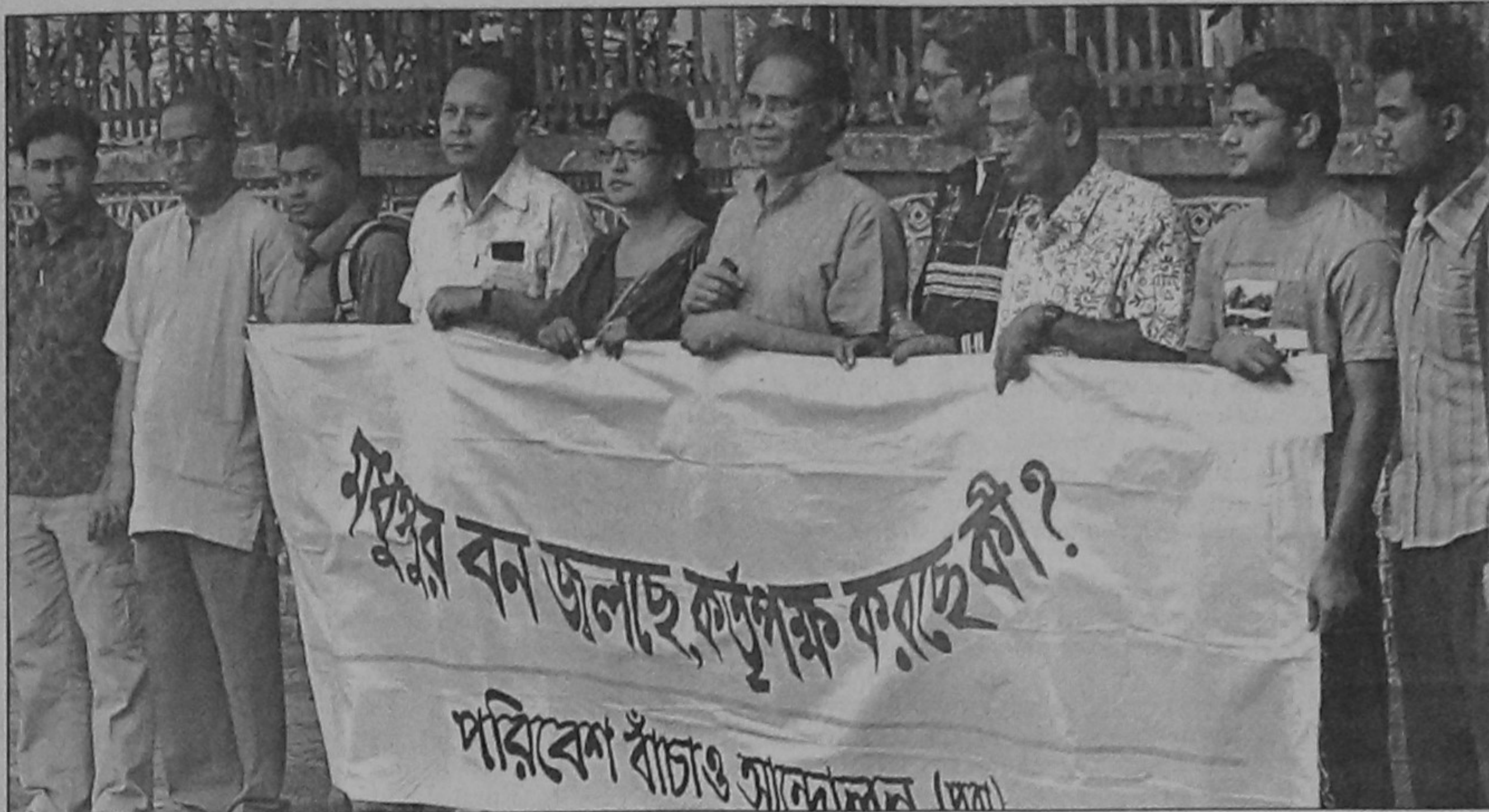


PHOTO: STAR

Paribesh Bachao Andolon forms a human chain in front of the Institute of Fine Arts in the city yesterday demanding steps to protect Madhupur forest in Tangail.

## CHOLESH RISIL MURDER Trial demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon and Bangladesh Chhatra Sangram Parishad demanded trial of Choleish Risil murder and establishment of rights of indigenous people on land and forest.

They made their demands from a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday.

They said a judicial probe committee was formed in May 5, 2007 after the murder of Choleish Risil, but the committee submitted its report yet.

Although seven indigenous people were killed so far in connection with the problem of Madhupur forest and land but trial of any of the murder completed yet, they added.

They also demanded withdrawal of all false cases against indigenous people, cancellation of eco-park project, and solution of land-related problems.

Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon General Secretary Prof Meshbah Kamal, Organising Secretary Rakhi Mrang, convener of Desh Premik Janaganer Mancha M Enamul Haque, general secretary of Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation Amirul Haque Amin, and Shahidul Islam Shabuj, among others, addressed the gathering.

## Extinguish fire at Madhupur forest

Demands Save Environment Movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save Environment Movement yesterday demanded effective steps to put out the fire at Madhupur forest.

Addressing a human chain at Shahbagh, its leaders said although the fire broke out at Beribaidh Bit of the forest on March 4, the authorities concerned did not take initiatives to put out the fire.

The fire is destroying different herbal trees and the biodiversity of the forest. As a result, different animals are coming out in the locality for want of food, they said.

Over the last few years, the 45,600 acres of forest has been reduced to 7500 acres due to development activities in the forest to serve the interest of a vested quarter.

They urged everyone to come forward to save the forest.

Chairman of Save Environment Movement Abu Naser Khan said although gas and minerals are considered

as resources, forests are not considered as such and that is why the forests are being destroyed continuously.

Dr Sadrul Amin, educationist Pijush Kanti and social worker Nazimuddin also spoke.

## Workshop on HIV/AIDS

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Thakurgaon

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed on coordinated efforts of the people, government and non-governmental organisations to combat HIV/AIDS in the country.

Padakhep Consortium, a non-governmental organisation, in association with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Save the Children USA organised the workshop on reduction of the HIV/AIDS risk among drug users through injection at the conference room of Thakurgaon civil surgeon's office.

## Number of diarrhoea cases declines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) experienced reduced number of diarrhoea patients yesterday comparing to that of the last week.

Some 449 patients were admitted to the ICDDR,B till 5:00pm which was almost the same (451) on the day before yesterday by the same time. However, it crossed 650 by midnight on Tuesday. But in the last week, the rush of the patients crossed even 750.

Though every year during the end of April and beginning of May, people suffer from diarrhoeal diseases, this year early rise of temperature and scarcity of pure drinking water lead to early outbreak of diarrhoea, according to the experts.

People from all classes of the city's Mohammadpur, Adabor, Badda and Khilgaon areas are the worst victims of the disease this year as the water supplied by Wasa are dirty and stinky, they added.

## CONCEALING WEALTH INFORMATION

## DCC councillor sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Councillor Mosharraf Hossain Monzu to jail after he surrendered and sought bail in a case filed for concealing wealth information of Tk 37 lakh to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order after Monzu along with his lawyers appeared before the court and sought bail in the case.

Moving the bail petition, Advocate Abul Kalam Azad told that his client had earlier surrendered before the High Court (HC) and sought anticipatory bail. But it, without granting bail, directed the accused to surrender before the lower court within eight weeks. Showing respect to the court, his client appeared before the court and sought bail, lawyers said.

On the other hand, the prosecution opposed it saying the lower court had no jurisdiction to grant bail to the accused. So, the prosecution prayed for rejecting his bail and giving order to send the accused to jail.

After the hearing, the court rejected his bail petition and ordered to send him to jail.

On December 24 last year, the ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Monzu for committing the offences.

## Hena receives Distinguished Service Award

METRO DESK

Mohammad Abu Hena, member of the Advisory Council of Bangladesh Scouts, was given the prestigious 'Asia Pacific Regional Award for Distinguished Service' in recognition of his outstanding leadership and invaluable contribution towards the promotion and development of scouting in home and abroad, says a press release.

The Asia Pacific Regional Scout Committee bestowed the award to him during the opening ceremony of the 6th Scout Leaders Summit in Nepal on March 1.

Abu Hena served as the chief election commissioner of Bangladesh.

Hena became the international commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts in 1978. He was elected member of the Asia Pacific Regional Scout Committee in 1984 and subsequently elected chairman for a three-year term.

## BDR CARNAGE

## AL leader, 13 others on 7-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Torab Ali, a ward Awami League (AL) leader and retired Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) member, and 13 mutineers were shown arrested and remanded yesterday in connection with the BDR mutiny case filed with Lalbagh Police Station.

Metropolitan Magistrate Faisal Atiq Bin Kader granted seven days remand for each of them to quiz against the prayer for a ten-day remand about the BDR carnage taken place on February 25-26 at BDR headquarters.

The other arrestees are subedar Shafiz Uddin, nayek subedars Helal Uddin and Shahjahan Ali, havildar Billal Hossain Khan, nayek Matu Rahman Khan, lance nayek Shahidul Islam, sepoy Abdul Matin, Abdullah Al Mamun, Shahiduzzaman, Altaf Hossain, carpenter Narayan Kumar Das, electrician Zakir Hossain and a son of retired BDR subedar Zakir Hossain.

Earlier, Torab Ali and Zakir were arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for his alleged involvement with the killings

and lootings and later remanded for a five-day for interrogation.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Tuesday arrested 12 fugitive BDR personnel from different parts of the country and handed over them to Lalbagh police.

In his forwarding report, investigation officer (IO) ASP Abdul Kahar Akond of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) mentioned that primary interrogation suggests their involvement in killing, repression and looting. So, they need to be remanded to find out more information about the killing and looting, IO said.

Defence lawyers submitted separate bail petitions saying that all of them were arrested on February 27, but they were produced before the court on Wednesday. The lawyers said the arrestees were implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass them. So, they prayed for granting bail to the arrestees cancelling their remand prayers.

The IO also took 19 others for questioning about the carnage. CID so far has arrested 288 BDR mutineers in the case.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh Scouts leader Mohammad Abu Hena receives the prestigious Asia Pacific Regional Award for Distinguished Service from Asia Pacific Regional Scouts Chairman Eric Khoo at a ceremony in Nepal on March 1.

## AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK

## Next hearing Mar 22

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday recorded statements of two more prosecution witnesses in connection with the August 21, 2004 grenade attack cases.

Judge Mohammad Masdar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 recorded the statements of Nurul Islam and Abdul Karim and later they were cross-examined by the defence lawyers.

The court then fixed March 22 for next hearing of the case and summoned two other witnesses to appear before it on the scheduled date.

In their statements, the two mentioned that they went to the railway supermarket at

Bangabandhu Avenue at about 9:30pm on August 21, 2004 where police made a seizure list of a live grenade and later they signed on it.

Harkatul Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, former deputy minister and BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu and 12 others, now in jail custody, were produced before the court during the yesterday's hearing.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 16 other prosecution witnesses, including complainant Sub-Inspector (SI) Sharif Faruq Ahmed.

Eight others, including Pintu's brother Maulana Tajuddin, have been absconding since the cases were filed.

## Post of law secy not for judicial officials: PM

UNB, Sangsad Bhaban

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday described the brewing discontent among the judges over the law secretary as very regrettable, saying that the controversy should not have been there in the corridors of courts of justice.

She made the remarks replying to a supplementary question from Jatiya Party lawmaker Mojibul Haque (Kishoreganj-3) during the PM's question time. She said the law minister and others

are trying to resolve the dispute.

On setting up a separate secretariat for the judiciary, the prime minister said that in the interest of separation of the judiciary, an effective Judicial Service Secretariat under the Supreme Court could be established if the judiciary wants.

The prime minister noted that the post of law secretary is not reserved for the officials of the judicial service and the government has no plan to do so.

"It is the government that will decide who to work in the ministries as secretaries," she categorically said.

The PM said there is no scope to consider the law minister as a part or extension of the Supreme Court or judiciary.

Replying to a supplementary question from Awami League lawmaker Zillul Hakim, Hasina said that various steps, including appointment of new judges, have been undertaken for quick disposal of the piled-up pending cases.

## Jica distance learning seminar ends

METRO DESK

As part of promoting JICA's distance technical cooperation scheme, popularly known as JICA-Net, JICA Bangladesh office organised a distance learning seminar that ended yesterday, says a press release.

Titled 'Remote sensing and GIS (geographic information system) course', the seminar was organised at the JICA's country office on January 14 in association with Japan Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Japan.

The objective of the seminar was to promote remote sensing and GIS for the sustainable development of natural resources and environment in developing countries through e-learning or distance education.

JICA-Net, a comparatively new initiative of JICA, was established as an instrument of providing technical cooperation using wide range of information and communication technologies such as video conferencing, multimedia contents and distance lectures and seminars.

JICA-Net aims at creating a bridge among different countries of the world for knowledge and information sharing.

The seminar comprised lecture and presentations followed by question, answer and examination sessions. The lectures were delivered by Prof Shunji MURAI of the University of Tokyo/Keio University.

## TORTURE OF BRITISH CITIZEN 4 security guards of ZIA tried by court martial Govt informs HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has informed the High Court (HC) that four security officials of the Zia International Airport (ZIA) were tried by the court martial and punished on charge of torturing barrister Rezwan Hossain, a Bangladesh-born British citizen, at the airport in April last year.

The government has recently conveyed it to the court through an affidavit in connection with the case that the four convicts are Saiful Islam, Delwar Hossain, Mujibur Rahman and Anwar Hossain.

Quoting the affidavit, advocate Manzill Murshid, lawyer for Rezwan Hossain, told The Daily Star yesterday that Anwar was detained for 45 days and three others' promotion was held up for different periods for torturing his client.

Another accused Mizan was released from the charge, he said.

He said the HC yesterday asked him (Manzill) to explain by April 13 whether the members of the law enforcement agencies can be punished under the penal laws when they have already been punished under the court martial.

Rezwan Hossain, who is an adviser to charity department of London-based television

Channel S, went to ZIA to see his younger sister off as she was going back to London on April 14, 2008.

A London-bound old woman sought his help as she was having problems with her ticket at the airport. Rezwan went to the ticket counter to talk about it with the officials who instead of helping the woman asked Rezwan how he had got into the counter.

At one stage, security officials Saiful, Delwar, Mujib, Anwar and Mizan beat him severely. It was published in the newspapers.

Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder was present for the government, while advocate Saifuddin Ahmed Chowdhury appeared for the civil aviation authorities.

## 2 electrocuted

UNB, Comilla

Two brothers were electrocuted at Salehpur village in Laksam, Comilla, yesterday.

Locals said Zahiruddin came into contact with a live electric wire when he was operating a shallow machine at about 2:00pm.

Suruj Miah, elder brother of Zahir, was also electrocuted as he went to save his brother. The two brothers died on the spot.

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