

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS 'Ratify ICC statute for international support'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should ratify the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which would help mobilise international support for the trial of war criminals, convenor of War Crimes Facts Finding Committee Dr MA Hasan said yesterday.

Bangladesh has signed the statute but has not yet ratified it, he said while delivering a speech on 'ICC statute and ratification by parliament' at the Liberation War Museum on the second day of its weeklong 13th founding anniversary and independence festival.

Though Bangladesh will not get any immediate benefit by ratifying the statute, the ratification would help mobilise international support for the trial of war criminals, he said.

The war criminals who have fled to other countries could be brought back easily if the statute is ratified, Dr Hasan added.

He also suggested constituting a hybrid tribunal comprising local and international judges, prosecutors and staffs to try the war criminals. The United Nations would play a supportive role in this case, he said.

Dr Hasan also said the masterminds behind the BDR mutiny could be brought to book and some important amendments could be brought to the International Crimes Tribunal Act 1973 if the statute is ratified.

Later, writer Syed Shamsul Haque handed over certificates to participants of a workshop on documentaries, sponsored by the Liberation War Museum. Three documentaries on the liberation war were also screened at the programme.

DU asks outsiders to leave halls

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday asked all outsiders and other illegal occupants to leave all the halls immediately.

The authorities also urged all students who have legal residential identity cards and are now staying out of dormitories to contact the hall authorities concerned for their seats, DU Proctor Dr Saiful Islam Khan told The Daily Star last evening.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the university's provost standing committee at the vice chancellor's office with Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair.

The meeting was convened in the wake of a threat given by BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) that they will declare a students' strike at the university on March 29 demanding peaceful co-existence at the dormitories.

JCD DU unit President Hasan Mamun, however, told The Daily Star that they would not postpone their scheduled student strike at the university on March 29 if the decisions taken by the university authorities were not implemented within March 28.

Dr Saiful also said the provost committee decided that central administration of the university would provide all necessary assistances to the hall authorities to implement the decision and take stern action against persons who would create problems in implementing the decision.

The provost standing committee also sought assistance from all active student organisations to ensure a congenial atmosphere at the university, he added.



Dutch Ambassador Bea ten Tusscher and Brac Chairperson Fazle H Abed exchange documents after signing an agreement at a city hotel yesterday.

SHIBIR LEADER MURDER HC grants bail to 24 RU BCL men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail for two months to 24 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders and workers of the Rajshahi University (RU), including its president Ibrahim Hossain Moon in Shibir leader Noman murder case.

After hearing a bail petition filed by the accused, the HC bench of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury issued a rule upon the government to explain within six weeks why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail in the case.

The accused BCL leaders and workers appeared before the HC bench for bail.

Sharifuzzaman Noman, general secretary of RU unit Islami Chhatra Shibir, was killed during a clash between BCL and Shibir at the university on March 13.

Shibir's RU unit Organising Secretary Farhad Alam filed a case on March 14 with Mother Police Station against 27 people, including those who were granted bail yesterday.

Earlier on March 17, the HC granted anticipatory bail to 27 RU Shibir activists for two months in a case filed for assaulting BCL men 'oh the campus.

Ibrahim Hossain Moon filed the case on March 12 with same police station against 500 Shibir men, including Shibir President Delwar Hossain Sayeedi on March 11 in this connection.

Advocate Mansurul Huq Chowdhury appeared for the BCL leaders and workers.

Mock interview of Brac varsity on May 6

METRO DESK

Career Services Office (CSO) of Brac University will organise 'The Interview', a mock interview session, as a modular component of Professional Skills Development Programme (PSDP) on May 6 at Brac Centre Inn, says a press release.

The session aims at benefiting both interviewer and the interviewee. The mock interview would provide a student with the chance to practise his or her skills.

At the same time, it would provide the opportunity for employers to hunt for talent with no commitment to employment.

As many as 134 students are participating in the programme. Each interviewer will be allocated an interview desk with a student volunteer and each desk will be limited to twelve interviewees.

Tk 50.4cr Dutch aid deal for Brac instt

METRO DESK

The Dutch embassy and Brac yesterday signed an agreement under which the Netherlands Development Cooperation programme will provide support to the Institute for Educational Development (IED) at Brac University.

Dutch Ambassador Bea ten Tusscher and Brac Chairperson Fazle H Abed signed the Tk 50.4 crore (approximately \$5 million) for five-year agreement at a city hotel.

Under the deal, IED will utilise the Dutch support to implement Educational Research, Training and Advocacy Programme (ERTAP) with an aim to improve quality, equity and efficiency in the education system.

ERTAP targets primary and secondary education through interlinked activities, including design and testing of teaching, training and learning materials, degree and diploma courses and policy dialogue.

The goal is to complement and support government efforts through partnership and collaboration.

The Dutch envoy acknowledged the remarkable progress of Bangladesh in expanding primary education.

She recognised the complementary role of NGOs in achieving universal primary education and emphasised the strategic importance of effective partnering between IED and the ministry of education.

The Dutch envoy also expressed her appreciation for the joint efforts of the government and NGOs to substantially improve the quality of teaching and learning and to reach the excluded and hard-to-reach school-age children.

Brac chairperson emphasised the importance of the collaboration between IED and the national systems to improve human resources in the education sector.

IED Director Erum Mariam also spoke.



Dhaka Community Hospital in collaboration with MERCY Malaysia inaugurated a seven-day plastic surgery programme for poor patients with cleft lips and palates yesterday.

President undergoes check-up

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday underwent routine medical check-up at Dhaka Combined Military (CMH) Hospital.

At the hospital, the president had eye, tooth and radiological tests, and then returned to Bangabhaban, said an official release.

CMH physicians Brig General Juburul Islam, Brig General Anwar Hossain, Brig General Saifuddin and personal physician to the President Brig General Abdul Aleem were present.

Cleft lip, palate operation for poor patients

METRO DESK

Dhaka Community Medical College and Hospital in collaboration with MERCY Malaysia began a seven-day plastic surgery programme of cleft lip and palate reconstruction free of cost for the poor patients, says a press release.

Earlier, Dhaka Community Hospital (DCH) registered the patients through its rural health centres for this programme.

A 10-member voluntary medical team of MERCY Malaysia, an internationally renowned organisation, headed by Prof Dr Ahmad Sukari-bin-Halim arrived here for this purpose. Fifty patients will be operated upon free of cost and also provided food, accommodation and travel cost.

First Secretary of Malaysia High Commission in Bangladesh Hamizan Bin Hashim inaugurated the programme. Dhaka Community Hospital Trust (DCHT) Chairman Prof Quazi Quamruzzaman and Coordinator Prof Mahmud Rahman were present on the occasion.

DCH started the cleft lip reconstruction programme under a project titled 'Hasimukh' in 2007. The hospital organised such operation programme from October 25 to 29 last year and 51 patients were operated upon. Such programmes will be arranged regularly in future.



Winners of a quiz competition in a TV talk show titled 'Amar Bangladesh', produced by Management and Resources Development Initiatives (MRDI), pose for photo with the guests at the gift handover ceremony at Gulshan Club in the city yesterday. MRDI also launched 'Amar Bangladesh-Youth Group' at the ceremony.

NUB holds discussion on higher education

METRO DESK

A discussion titled 'Continuous improvement to quality higher education' was held at Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) in the city on Sunday.

A three-member delegation of International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) attended the programme, says a press release.

Members of the delegation were Deputy Rector of IIUM Dato' Hamidon Abdul Hamid, Director of Alumni and Career Services Division of IIUM Dr Nor Faridah Abdul Manaf and Assistant Director of Alumni and Career Service Division of IIUM Nor Azilee Bin Abdul Aziz.

NUB Vice Chancellor Prof M Shamsul Haque presided over the programme while Treasurer of NUB M Abu Bakar Siddique, Registrar Dr Zahirul Haque Bhuiyan and Director (HRD) M Lutfor Rahman were present.

Pakistan celebrates National Day

METRO DESK

Pakistani High Commissioner in Dhaka Alamgir Babar yesterday said that Pakistan and Bangladesh have a special relationship steeped in the many affinities and bonds that exist between the two brotherly countries.

He was addressing a flag hoisting ceremony at the Chancery of Pakistan High Commission on the occasion of National Day of Pakistan, says a press release.

Alamgir Babar hoisted the flag of Pakistan at the programme.

He observed that bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan are moving forward along a new promising trajectory.

Members of the Pakistan community in Bangladesh and officials of the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka were present on the occasion.

Messages of the president and the prime minister of Pakistan were readout at the programme.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in his message called upon all Pakistanis to uphold the Constitution, rule of law and work for the emancipation of the people.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in his message exhorted the countrymen to inculcate unity and discipline in every aspect of lives and shun petty differences to achieve the national goals set by their founding father.

'Cancel decision to close down 38 pvt TT colleges'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private Teachers' Training (TT) College Association yesterday demanded cancellation of the education ministry's recent decision to close down 38 private TT colleges and declare 102 more TT colleges illegal.

Otherwise, the association will go to court against the directive of the ministry, its leaders said at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Union.

The education ministry took the stern action against private TT colleges as the ministry found that nearly all private TT colleges are not qualified to conduct training courses, especially Bachelor of Education (B Ed) and Master of Education (M Ed), and are engaged in 'selling certificates', ministry sources said.

"The education ministry do not have the right to ask

us to shut down our colleges or declare them illegal. Only the National University can issue such directives as all TT colleges are affiliated with it," said Nabi Newaj, president of the association, at the press conference.

He also alleged that some bureaucrats with the help of teachers of public TT colleges conducted a 'false' investigation and illegally issued such a directive.

"Most seats in 14 public TT colleges remain vacant while more and more students enrol in the private colleges. That is why, the teachers and employees of public TT colleges are eager to close down the private TT colleges," Nabi said.

General Secretary of the association Nazirul Islam, Joint Secretary Mukbul Hossain, Adviser Aminul Islam Kagoji and Vice President Abdul Hai were also present.

PM's support for 3 more army families

UNB, Dhaka

Three more families of army officers killed in the February 25-26 Pilkhona carnage received cheques for Tk 10 lakh each and letters of compassion from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

A delegation on behalf of the Prime Minister led by Chief Whip Abdus Shahid went to the houses of the victim families and handed over the letters and cheques on March 18, said a press release of Prime Minister's Office (PMO) issued yesterday.

The army officers killed in the BDR carnage are Maj Mahbubur Rahman, Maj Khalid Hossain and Maj Maksum-ul-Hakim.

Wajed Miah flies to Singapore for treatment

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ailing husband, Dr M Wajed Miah, left for Singapore on Sunday night for better treatment.

The nuclear scientist, who has been suffering from kidney and cardiac complications, will be admitted to Singapore General and Heart Centre (Sing Heart Hospital).

A team of physicians comprising Dr Habib-e-Millat, Dr Towhiduzzaman and Dr SMA Jaglul Abbas and Wajed Miah's nephew Tajimul Islam and lawmaker Nasrul Hamid accompanied the ailing scientist.

Tk 59 lakh Japanese grant for healthcare centre

METRO DESK

Yonezo Fukuda, chargé d'affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan, signed a grant contract amounting to \$ 86,575 (approximately Tk 59 lakh) with Sumittananda Bhikku, secretary general of Agrasara Memorial Society of Bangladesh, yesterday for its project 'Construction of Agrasara Healthcare Centre' under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGHSP), says a press release.

Agrasara Memorial Society, famous for its 'Agrasara Buddhist Orphanage' in rural Chittagong, has been helping vulnerable orphans and elderly people for more than 65 years in cooperation with villagers. Currently about 1,200 students, including 287 orphans, are studying at its education facilities from primary to higher secondary levels and the girls' college.

Because there is no healthcare facility near the area, Agrasara Memorial Society will establish a healthcare centre with enough medical equipment using the grant from the Japanese government.

A new healthcare centre will make better medical services available to the people around offering maternal and child

health, primary health and medical examinations.

About 10,000 students and villagers are expected to benefit directly from the project a year. The Japanese government hopes that the project will improve health conditions in the area.



২৫শে ফেব্রুয়ারি পিলখানার মর্মান্তিক ঘটনায় দেশের শহীদ সূর্যসন্তানদের প্রতি আমাদের শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলী।

আমরা সমব্যাখী স্বজন হারানো পরিবারগুলোর সাথে-

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