

DISTORTION OF HISTORY

Legal notice calls on govt to ban books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A legal notice has been served calling on the government to ban the books titled 'Documents on the War of Independence' published in June 2004 by the then BNP-led four-party alliance government distorting the history in respect of the declaration of independence.

The notice sent on April 13 by Manzill Musrhid, a lawyer of the Supreme Court (SC), also urged the government to take action against the persons who changed the real history in the name of reprint.

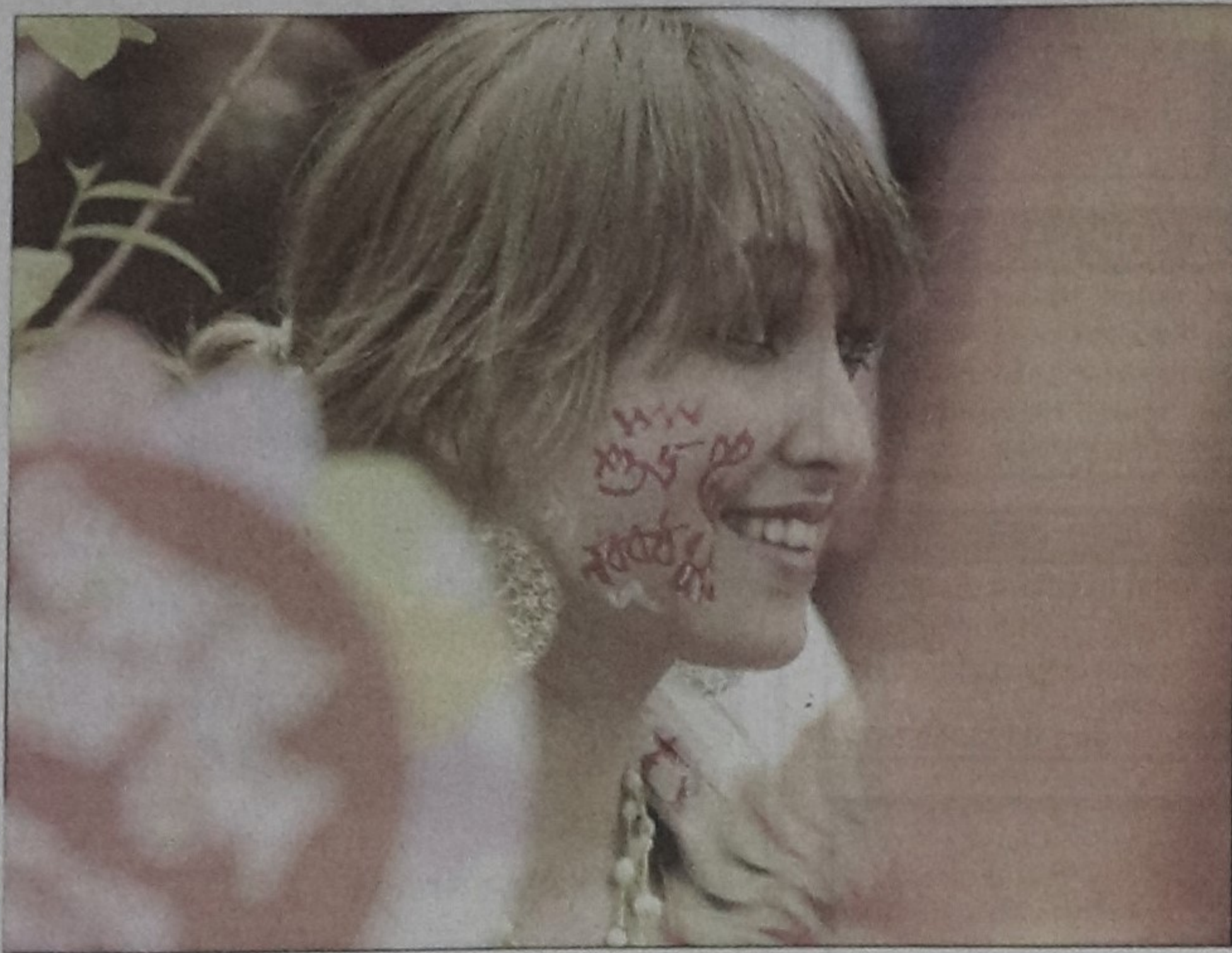
The 15 volumes of the books were first published in November 1982 and then in December 2003. But the Liberation War Ministry brought changes to the part 'Declaration of Independence' in the 3rd volume of the book when it was reprinted in June 2004, the lawyer said in the legal notice.

He also set a 48-hour timeframe to meet his demand, which ended yesterday.

Manzill Musrhid told The Daily Star yesterday that as the government did not take any steps or give any reply to the notice, he decided to file a writ petition with the High Court (HC) on Sunday seeking direction to the government to ban the books.

He said those who were responsible for distorting the national history had committed offence against the state and violated the Constitution.

The legal notice was served to eight high officials of the government, including the secretaries of the cabinet division, the president secretariat and the office of the prime minister.



A foreign national enjoys the celebrations marking the Pahela Baishakh at the Fine Art Institute on the Dhaka University campus on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee to frame new action plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed an expert committee to formulate a new 'Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan' in order to minimise the adverse impacts of global climate change.

The six-member committee was formed at an inter-ministerial meeting, with Planning Minister AK Khandaker in the chair.

The meeting also asked all the ministries to prepare reports on 'prevention of climate change' and submit them to the environment ministry within next seven days.

Earlier, the government formed the inter-ministerial special committee to recast the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan-2008, which was launched at the London conference on Climate change on October 10 last year.

After reviewing the existing

Action Plan, the inter-ministerial meeting yesterday decided to frame a new one. The meeting was held at the Forest and Environment Ministry.

"We found that some important issues were not addressed properly in the present action plan. So, we are going to frame a new one incorporating all these issues," said a member of the expert committee, preferring anonymity.

The committee members are Forest and Environment Secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Majumder, Director General of the Environment Directorate Najibur Rahman, Dr Ainun Nishat of IUCN, Dr Anisuzzaman of BIDS, Dr Atique A Rahman of BCAS and Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, president of Bangladesh Ummayyeh Parishad.

The committee was asked to complete their task of framing new action plan by June.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Food and Disaster

Minister Dr Abdur Razzak, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader, and State Ministers Advocate Mostafizur Rahman, Dr Hasan Mahmud and Advocate Abdul Manna were present at the meeting.

President returns

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman returned home last night after his medical check-up at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore.

A regular flight of Singapore Airlines carrying the president landed at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) at 10:35pm.

Ministers, the dean of diplomatic corps, cabinet secretary, diplomats, the chiefs of the three services and senior civil and military officials received the president at the airport.

PM assures DRU of support for permanent office

Allocates Tk 20 lakh for development

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the officials concerned to look into the status of the land of Dhaka Reporters' Unity's (DRU) at Segunbagicha in the city for setting up its permanent office there.

Hasina also made an instant announcement of donating Tk 20 lakh for development of the DRU at a meeting with its leaders.

The PM made the directives when the DRU executive committee members led by its President Shamim Ahmad and General Secretary Pathik Saha called on her at her office.

The DRU placed a five-point demand before the PM. Their demands include solution to the accommodation problem, introducing pension scheme and risk allowances and medical facilities at the public hospitals on priority basis.

About the reporters' accommodation problems, Hasina said their accommodation problem can be solved through 'hire-purchase' process under which flats will be built and they will get the ownership of the flats by paying rent for a particular period of time.

Shamim Ahmad praised

Probe body soon to start war crime trial process

Says state minister for law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam has said the government would form an investigation committee in a day or two as part of its process to try war criminals.

Awami League leaders have urged all to build up a political culture free of clashes in the Bangla New Year on Tuesday.

Qamrul Islam and Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak MP were speaking at the inauguration of a colourful procession organised by Awami League to welcome the new year.

The minister said the government would complete the trial of war criminals within this year. An investigating agency would be appointed in a day or two. With the appointment of the agency, the trial process would start.

He called on the countrymen, saying: "Wait a little longer. You will soon see the trial of the war criminals of 1971, including Razakar, Al Badr and Al Shams, on the soil of Bangla."

Workshop on peace, conflict resolution begins tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day training workshop on peace and conflict resolution will begin in the city tomorrow.

Jaagoran, a worldwide transformational movement, in association with the United Nations mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) will organise the workshop at 100 Masjid Road, Banani, Old DOHS, says a press release.

The targets of the workshop are to develop participants' knowledge and skills on conflict intervention, including conflict management, resolution and transformations as well as developing negotiation skills with clear appreciation of cultural factors.

The grand alliance government is determined to try the criminals."

The trial of the war criminals was an election pledge of Awami League in its election manifesto. The government would in no circumstances backtrack from trying the war criminals, he added.

The minister said the trial of war criminals would be held under International Crimes Tribunals Act 1973. The government is looking into the legal aspect of trying the criminals.

One or more than one tribunal would be formed under this act, adding that the foreign ministry has started groundwork on repatriating the war criminals staying abroad.

Abdur Razzak MP said all have to march forward with new initiatives, leaving the old year behind. He urged all to cooperate with the trial process unitedly being imbued with the spirit of the liberation war.

Prior to the procession, the AL leaders said the expectations of the ministers and lawmakers

of the party are also to complete the trial of war criminals in the quickest possible time alongside building the country.

The procession started from Bahadur Shah Park in the old Dhaka and ended at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Several thousand leaders, workers and supporters of the party participated in the procession. They wore different masks and carried banners, festoons and placards welcoming the new year.

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BCL man held on charge of mugging

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist on charge of snatching a cellphone from a person at Suhrawardy Udyan in the city on Tuesday.

The arrestee was identified as Ziaul Haq, a master's student of Philosophy department at Dhaka University and a resident of Salimullah Muslim Hall.

A plain-clothes policeman held the BCL activist while he was taking away the cellphone from one Sobhan Ahmed.

Officer-in-Charge of Shabbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star that the arrestee was sent to jail after he was produced before a Dhaka court earlier.

'Dealers' invited to carry forward the 'no petrol' revolution in Bangladesh.

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Delhi Public School Society (DPSS) has more than 150 schools in 13 countries. To extend further, DPSS has gone into a joint venture with STS Group, the owner of International School Dhaka (ISD) and Apollo Hospitals Dhaka to open DPS STS School Dhaka in Bangladesh; which will start operation from September 2009. We are inviting applications for the following positions -

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[Those who applied previously need not apply as their applications are already under process.]

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