

Hold trial of war criminals in transparent manner

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said the process for the trial of war criminals would have to be flawless, transparent and acceptable both nationally and internationally and those involved in the process must be efficient as well as sincere.

"The international community is closely observing the trial process. So, the process would have to be flawless, transparent and acceptable nationally and internationally. The government has to be conscious of it," said Dr Sarwar Ali, trustee of Liberation War Museum.

He also said that the young generation will have to play a vital role in this regard.

The speakers said the trial of war criminals must be held in the country so that the anti-liberation forces cannot hatch conspiracy against the country.

Projonmo '71, a platform of children of the martyrs in the liberation war, organised the discussion at the Liberation War Museum in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr Sarwar said the nation has been bearing a stigma for the last 38 years, as it could not try those who committed the brutal and heinous crimes during the liberation war.

The liberation war was not only a matter of geographical independence; some socio-political ideologies were there which anti-liberation forces ignored, he said, adding that those who committed crimes against humanity wanted to continue Pakistani rule in this country by ignoring the ideologies and the spirit of the Liberation war.

The political parties of the war criminals have made a strong ground politically, economically and socially and are still ignoring the ideology of the country, he said.

"We would have to boycott them politically, economically and socially, otherwise we would not be able to implement the mass opinion reflected in the December 29 elections."

Dr Sarwar said the likelihood of trying

the criminals gathered pace in 2009 and the main reason behind it is that the countrymen, especially the young generation wanted the trial through their verdicts in the polls.

Mili Rahman, widow of Bir Shreshtha Matiur Rahman, said, "We want the trial of war criminals and it has to be held in the country in a transparent process."

She called on all to be alert so that the criminals cannot escape from the legal loopholes, as they would desperately try to do so.

"The war criminals would try to create anarchy and disorder with the trial process moving ahead," she said, urging all, especially the young generation, to be conscious in this regard.

Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, vice chancellor of World University, called on the young generation to carry out the fight against war criminals and establish the spirit of the liberation war as well.

Freedom fighter Amanullah Aman and Projonmo '71 President Azizur Rahman also spoke.



PHOTO: PID

Members of the Buddhist community greet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with a bouquet at her official residence Jamuna in the city yesterday on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

Govt to ensure equal rights of all: Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the main objective of her government is to ensure equal rights to all, irrespective of caste, creed and religion, to further consolidate peace and harmony in the country.

Besides, she said, her government would always put in all-out efforts to develop Bangladesh as an example of the most peaceful country in Asia.

During a meeting with a Buddhist delegation on the eve of Buddha Purnima at her official residence Jamuna, the PM listed vengeance, injustice, communalism, militancy and

violence as the biggest enemies for the mankind in the way of establishing a non-violent peaceful society as preached by Lord Buddha.

Extending her greetings to the Buddhist community on this holy occasion, the greatest religious festival of the followers of Buddha, Hasina urged them to extend their continued supports to the present government's drive against hunger, poverty and exploitation, saying: "We want to keep our heads high in the world arena."

Speaking about all religions, including Islam, she said, "Islam is the religion of peace and everybody has the right to

follow his or her own religion in this part of the world."

Later, Buddhist community leader and President of CHT Buddha Sangha Progananda Mohathero offered a prayer seeking divine blessings for the peace and prosperity of the people as well as long life and further success of Hasina in running her governance.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mohammad Shajahan, Ethhin Rakhane MP, Buddha Kristi Prochar Sangha Vice President PR Barua and Buddhist Federation General Secretary Ashok Barua also spoke on the occasion.

Hafizur new chairman of Khulna Wasa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Retired joint secretary Sheikh Hafizur Rahman has been appointed chairman of Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) on contractual basis.

A freedom fighter, Hafizur started his career as a deputy magistrate of Khulna after the liberation war in 1971 and later served as a sub-divisional officer (SDO) and deputy director of the erstwhile anti-corruption bureau in charge of Khulna division from 1992 to 1995.

He retired from the job as additional commissioner of the division in 2004 with rank and status of a joint secretary.

Indian sarees, Phensidyl bottles seized

UNB, Comilla

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Thursday seized huge quantity of Indian saree, Phensidyl syrup and foreign liquor worth Tk 64 lakh in Comilla.

Several patrol teams of 33 Rifles Battalion recovered 850 pieces of Indian sarees from a covered van at Alekharchar in Adarsha Sadar upazila, 1,180 bottles of Phensidyl from Sadar Dakkhin upazila and 254 bottles of foreign liquor from Choudhagram upazila.



PHOTO: STAR

Save the Environment Movement stages a demonstration near the second Buriganga Bridge in the city yesterday with a call to stop dumping untreated industrial wastes into the river.

'Stop dumping industrial wastes into rivers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday called for stopping dumping of untreated industrial wastes including the waste of Hazaribagh tanneries into the rivers around the capital.

They also demanded punishment for those who will dump industrial wastes into the rivers violating the existing laws.

The rally was organised by Save the Environment Movement (SEM) under the

second Buriganga Bridge in the city.

The speakers urged the government to give priority to save the rivers Buriganga, Turag, Shitalakkhya, Balu and other rivers in its development planning considering economy, public health and environment.

They said a task force was formed earlier following the movement of environmentalists, and the taskforce took 31 decisions including demolishing of illegal structures on the

riverbanks.

Although some illegal structures were demolished but new structures have been re-built at the evicted places, they added.

The speakers also called for measures to stop dumping of wastes of households, kitchen markets, construction materials and untreated sewage of Dhaka Wasa into the rivers.

They also demanded dredging to increase the flow of water in the rivers around the capital and initiative to

bring water from upstream by special arrangement.

SEM Chairman Abu Naser Khan, Adviser of Bishwa Shanti Sangha Abul Kalam Azad, Secretary General of Peace Ifma Hossain, President of Nagarbashi Sangathan Sheikh Ansar Ali, President of Citizens' Rights Movement Tushar Rehman, Secretary of Jagaron Haji Jasim, Pijush Kanti Saha and Ashraful Hasan Ashu also spoke.

Three fertiliser factories to reopen soon

BSS, Dhaka

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industries Ministry at a meeting yesterday decided to reopen three fertiliser factories within the shortest possible time.

The committee also recommended taking steps in the coming budget to reopen the closed industries and for readjustment of existing VAT and tax structure to protect the interests of local industries.

The meeting was held at the committee room of the industries ministry at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Chairman of the committee Tofail Ahmed, also former industries minister, in the chair.

Committee members Kamal Ahmed Majumder, Md Ali Asgor, Md Meraj Uddin Mollah, Muhibur Rahman Manik, Anwarul Ashraf Khan, Jahid Malek and SM Abdul Mannan attended the meeting. Industries Minister Dilip Barua was present in the meeting on a special invitation.

The meeting formed a three-member subcommittee headed by Kamal Ahmed Majumder to probe reported irregularities in Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation. Its two other members are Anwarul Ashraf and Jahid Malek.

It also recommended restarting of different projects of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) initiated by the government from

1996 to 2001 and regularising the officers and employees engaged in the projects.

The projects include creation of self-employment through small and cottage industries, women entrepreneurs' development programme, poverty alleviation through income-generating programmes, revamping rural economy through the development of rural industries and apiculture.

The meeting also decided to hold meetings at different industries and corporations under the ministry in phases.

Industries Secretary Dewan Zakir Hossain and chiefs of different industries and corporations were also present.



PHOTO: STAR

Children engrossed in drawing pictures at a drawing competition at the Faculty of Fine Art on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. Kendriya Khelaghar Asar organised the event to mark its 57th founding anniversary.

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