

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

Foreign interference won't be tolerated

Says Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holding the trial of war criminals of 1971 is exclusively an internal matter of Bangladesh and interference from any country will not be tolerated, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said in parliament yesterday.

"The trial of war criminals will not have any impact on the relationship with any country. We are determined to continue the trial process," she said in a statement.

Her statement came as Workers' Party lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon raised a point of order on Monday demanding to know the government's stance on the comment of a Pakistani official on the trial of war crimes.

Pakistan's Additional Secretary for Asia-Pacific

Masood Khalid reportedly told some Bangladeshi journalists in Islamabad on Saturday that relation between Bangladesh and Pakistan would be cooled if Dhaka goes on with the planned trial of war criminals.

In an oblique reference to the Pakistani official comment, the foreign minister said the world community supports the trial and that conscious people cannot oppose it.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Shafiq Ahmed told reporters yesterday that prosecutors will be appointed and an investigation agency will be formed for the trial soon after the budget session is over.

In parliament, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said the UN is providing legal assistance in holding the trial and

other development partners also agreed that the war criminals should be tried in order to uphold the rule of law and human rights.

"The world is with us and the world opinion is also with us. We are determined to hold the trial of war criminals with cooperation from all," she asserted.

Referring to the Awami League's electoral pledge to hold the trial, she said the people had given the AL full mandate to hold the long-awaited trial.

"We want to free the nation from disgrace by holding the trial of war criminals."

The government is working to ensure a transparent process of the trial and international standards will be maintained in the overall process, she added.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES
BNP announces names of conveners, jt conveners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday announced names of conveners and joint conveners of the convening committees of its 71 organisational districts, out of 75.

The conveners have also been asked to submit full lists of the convening committees with names of other members by June 25 and the convening committees will have to hold councils of all units under their district by November 15 this year.

The conveners are: Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir (Thakurgaon), Mojahid Ali Pradhan, MP (Jyapurhat), Md Asadul Habib Dulal (Salmonirhat), Omar Faruk (Kurigram), Advocate Mahbubur Rahman (Bogra), Principal Abdul Gafur Sarkar (Syedpur), Ahsan Ahmed Hasan (Nilphamari), Iqbal Hasan Tuku (Sirajganj), Habibur Rahman Tota (Pabna), Shahjahan Mia (Chapainawabganj), Kazi Murshed (Nature), Mojahid Hossain (Panchagarh), Shamsuzzoha Khan (Naogaon), Azizur Rahman (Rajshahi), Mizanur Rahman Minu (Rajshahi city), Rizwanul Haque (Dinajpur), Ashraf Hossain Borda (Rangpur), Md Anisuzzaman Babu (Gaibandha), SM Faisal (Habiganj), M Naser Rahman (Moulvibazar), M Ilias Ali (Sylhet), Dr Shahriar (Sylhet city), Begum Selima Rahman (Barisal North), Md Mojibur Rahman Sarwar (Barisal South), Golam Salek (Barisal city), Golam Nobi Alamgir (Bhola), Gazi Nuruzzaman Babul (Pirojpur), Dr T Ahmed (Jhalakati), Abdur Rashid Chunnu Mia (Patuakhali), Matiur Rahman Talukder (Barguna), Shafuddin Ahmed (Chandpur), Sirajul Islam (Comilla North), Begum Rabeya Chowdhury (Comilla South), Advocate Harun-or-Rashid (Brahmanbaria), Md Abdul Khayer Bhuiyan (Laxmipur), Md Shahjahan (Noakhali), Maj (retd) Sayeed Eskander (Feni), Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury (Chittagong city), Golam Akbar Khandaker (Chittagong North), Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, MP (Chittagong South), Shahjahan Chowdhury (Cox's Bazar), Deepen Dewan (Rangamati), Sarching Pruzee (Bandarban), Wadud Bhuiyan (Khagrachhari), Maj Gen (retd) Mosharaf Hossain (Mymensingh South), Ashraful Islam (Netrokona), Advocate Fazlur Rahman (Kishoreganj), Mizanur Rahman Sinha (Munshiganj), Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah (Gazipur), Khairul Kabir Khokon (Narsingdi), Advocate Taimur Alam Khondaker (Narayanganj), Abu Nayeem (Rajbari), Shahjada Mia (Paridpur), Sirajul Islam Siraj (Gopalganj), Kazi Humayun Kabir (Madaripur), Jamal Sharif Hiru (Shariatpur), Mazedul Islam (Khulna), Nazrul Islam Manju, MP (Khulna city), Advocate Iqbal (Narail), Kabir Murad (Magura), Principal Sohrab Uddin (Kushtia), Habibur Islam Habib (Satkhira), Shahidul Islam Chowdhury Nayan (Jessore), Mashru Rahman (Jhenidah), Md Azad Hossain, MP (Meherpur), M o z a m m e l H a q u e (Chuadanga), and Advocate Shamsul Haque (Bagerhat).

Leaders of different political parties yesterday called upon the government to take effective steps to stop the construction of Tipaimukh dam on Borak river saying that it will cause ecological disaster for the country.

Moreover, the dam will harm not only the people of Bangladesh but also the people of three Indian states, they added.

The speakers said if the dam is built Bangladesh would face environmental disaster and at the same time the relation between the two countries would be damaged forever.

They also urged the people to raise their voice as India is going ahead with the construction of the dam violating the international river laws and denying the interest of Bangladesh.

They said vast areas of Bangladesh will be adversely affected due to construction of Tipaimukh dam. Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB-Reconstituted) yesterday formed a human chain and later held a rally at the Muktagan in the city to condemn the Indian move and termed it unacceptable.

Meanwhile, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) has urged the people to resist the Indian move to build Tipaimukh Dam unitedly.

At a meeting of its thana coordinators in the city yesterday, the party leaders expressed deep concern over the conspiracy of turning Bangladesh into a desert.

They said the past BNP-Jamaat-led government including the caretaker government did not say anything against the construction of Tipaimukh dam and the present government is also silent.

Speakers at the rally presided over by CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan said India cannot interfere with the natural flow of water of any river without the consent of the downstream country.

But India is still doing it breaching all international

laws, charters and norms, they added.

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4 bills placed in JS for amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four bills were placed in parliament seeking amendments to four laws including one for renaming National Agriculture Award after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury placed the bill seeking amendment to National Agriculture Award Fund Ordinance 1976 to rename the award as 'Bangabandhu National Agriculture Award'.

LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam, who is also in charge of the establishment ministry in parliament, placed a bill seeking amendment to Public Servants (dismissal or conviction) Ordinance 1985 to increase the term of imprisonment of public servants for their dismissal.

The bill proposed to increase the term to one year from six months and to Tk 10,000 from 1,000.

As per the proposed bill, a public servant will be dismissed from the service if he or she is convicted for one-year imprisonment.

The LGRD minister also placed another bill seeking to amend the Public Servants (marriage with foreign nationals) Ordinance 1976.

The proposed amendments to both the bills on public servants were made by the past caretaker government through promulgation of two separate ordinances.

But the ordinances ceased to have effect on February 25 this year, as they were not ratified in parliament within the specific timeframe.

State Minister for Science and Information & Communication Technology Yeafesh Osman placed a bill seeking to amend Information and Communication Act 2006.

All the bills were sent to respective parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny and submitting the reports to the House.

3,600 Phenidyl bottles seized

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized a consignment of 3,600 bottles of Indian Phenidyl from a truck at Sonamasjid Taltala in Shibganj upazila on Monday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-5 searched a truck near the land port and seized the contraband syrup at about 11:30pm.

However, no-one was arrested in this connection.

Take steps to halt Tipaimukh dam project

Political parties urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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WEATHER TODAY

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowsers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:46pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 38.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 22.2 degree at Sandwip and Rangamati.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	
Max	Min	Morning Evening	
Dhaka	34.8	25.5	81 69
Chittagong	32.2	22.8	74 85
Rajshahi	38.3	28.3	78 75
Khulna	35.0	28.8	84 76
Barisal	34.0	29.0	81 75
Sylhet	30.6	23.9	84 77
Cox's Bazar	32.6	22.5	84 86

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