

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

Analyse process of trials to make laws relevant

Say international experts on war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International experts on war crimes trial yesterday recommended carrying out comparative analysis and research on the process of such trials held in different countries to make the existing law in Bangladesh a law of the 21st century.

"We must guarantee or strive for extensive requirements for transparency and education, equal and concurrent legal and social analysis, and protection against political exploitation," said Helmut Scholz, a member of EU parliament.

"For the crimes in Bangladesh, a legal analysis similar to the Cambodian

model, combined with international support, is highly recommendable. A mix of national and international courts can focus on the standards of independence and transparency, and also protect against political exploitation," he added.

Helmut Scholz said this while presenting a paper on 'International law and peace-making' at the second plenary session of the 2nd International Conference on 'Genocide, Truth and Justice', organised by Liberation War Museum in the city.

Dr Syed Anwar Hossain presented another paper on 'Genocide in Bangladesh, 1971: Fixing Responsibility'. Prof Chanwahn Kim of

Graduate School of International and Area Studies, Seoul presided over the session.

Another paper on 'Documents and statements from the Pakistan Press in 1971' by Ahmed Salim was also presented at the session.

Speaking on the occasion, former ambassador Wali-ur Rahman called on the government to ratify the International Criminal Court.

The speakers emphasised giving broad entitlement to investigative research and investigative journalism to create an educational climate in public debates.

They also emphasised that different issues should be debated such as the demand

for legal reparations, the question of the origins of violence and reconciliation.

"It is the state's job to secure the structures which allow for open cultural reconciliation, such as here, in the Liberation War Museum," Scholz said.

At the third session, Prof Chanwahn Kim presented a paper on 'The role of India on the prisoners of the Korean war'; Constanze Oehrich and Nafis Tasnim Din presented a paper on 'Victims unit and role of the victims in the Cambodian court of Trial'; while Bina D'Costa presented a paper on 'Gender-Sensitive Justice Mechanism'.

Halina Wawzyniak presided over the session.



The road at Kalyanpur Naton Bazar lies in dilapidated condition for long, causing immense suffering to the locals. The photo was taken yesterday.

Fresh probe into death of Nurul Islam demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of Bangladesh Trade Union Centre (BTUC) demanded impartial reinvestigation into the death of Md Nurul Islam, former president of Ganatantri Party and BTUC, and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

They placed the demand from a human chain formed at Muktangan in the city yesterday, says a press release.

They alleged that a vested quarter continued pressure on Nurul Islam as he got the grand alliance ticket for contesting in the last parliamentary election from Noakhali-1. The conspiracy ended through his death by a mysterious fire.

The investigation committee formed by the government was partial and not acceptable. We demand an impartial reinvestigation into the death and punishment to the culprits, they said.



Ganatantri Party forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding reinvestigation into the death of Md Nurul Islam.

Workshop on apparel fashion begins at Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alliance Française de Dhaka hosted its 1st 'Appreciation Workshop and Training Course' of three months' duration on the basics of apparel fashion design and ramifications in the ready-made garment (RMG) merchandising continuum on Wednesday at its Uttara Antenne.

Martinetts, a consulting house, will conduct the workshop. Jacques Bounin, directeur-adjoint of Alliance Française, opened the course, saying that the effort of Alliance Française would hopefully be contributive to the Bangladesh RMG sector revamping initiatives.

Under a kind corporate modality, it is intended to provide excellence in human resource development in the RMG at low cost to the students in the middle-class community with a mix of cooperation and support.

This is specially suitable for those who find it difficult to get opportunities of good training for economic reasons from a good training house.

Martinetts Chairman AKM Kamaluddin Chowdhury, Director FH Khan and Al-Arafah Bank Director Harun-Ar-Rashid Khan were present at the programme.

Present true history before young generation: Zillur

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday underscored the need for presenting the true history of the War of Liberation of the country before the young generation so that they can grow up being imbued with patriotism.

"It's our responsibility to build our young generation with the spirit of the War of Liberation," he said while addressing a gathering of the winners of national cultural competition.

Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela at Bangabhaban in the city.

He said the children would feel proud of the country if they are able to know its glorious history of the independence.

"The glorious history of our War of Liberation will encourage the young generation to perceive their responsibilities for people," he said.

Zillur hoped that today's young generation could make immense contribution to the nation-building process to know the life and

work of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the independence of the country.

Quoting Bangabandhu as saying "I need golden people to build the golden Bangla", the president said by 'golden people', Bangabandhu meant a citizen with honesty, competency and intelligence.

Congratulating the winners, he urged the young generation to acquire noble qualities of good citizens for becoming a patriotic and worthy citizen.

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's declared 'Charter of Change' for bringing smiles among the distressed people, he hoped that the youths would show their talent and creativeness in implementing the goal.

Chief Adviser of Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Adviser Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, Chief Patron Meer Mosharraf Hossain Pakbir and President Meah Monsaf were present at the function.

HC asks govt to give upgraded pay scale to 254 BCS (Agri) cadres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday in a verdict directed the government to provide the upgraded pay scale and all arrears benefits to 254 BCS (Agriculture) cadre officials allowing their selection grade since January 8, 1994.

The HC bench of Justice Md Miftah Uddin Choudhury and Justice Abu Bakar Siddiquee delivered the verdict upon a writ petition jointly filed by 254 BCS (Agriculture) cadre officials.

Petitioners' lawyer Advocate Salahuddin Dolon yesterday told The Daily Star that his clients had completed their 10-year service in the class one posts on January 8, 1994, but on that day only the BCS (Administration) cadre officials were given the benefits of the selection grade denying the same to his clients.

The deprived 254 BCS (Agriculture) cadre officials filed the writ petition with the HC challenging the government's discriminatory decision last year, he said.

He said the HC in its verdict also declared the government's decision discriminatory and illegal.

Breastfeeding can prevent one-third of neonatal deaths a year: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a press briefing yesterday said initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of birth can prevent one-third of neonatal deaths in the country every year.

They also disclosed that around 240 under-five children die every day for not having breastfeeding properly.

To mark the Global Breastfeeding Week 2009 from August 1 to 7, Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF) in association with Save the Children organised the press briefing at the National Press Club in the city.

With the theme 'Breastfeeding is a vital emergency response: Are you ready?', the week would be observed across the country and elsewhere in the world with an aim to make people, especially the mothers, aware that breastfeeding is a must for under-five children during disaster to avoid different diseases, including diarrhoea.

Stressing the need for breastfeeding, Dr Ganesh Chandra Sarker, director (IEM) of

Directorate of Family Planning, said only breast milk contains alone around 2,000 ingredients which is a must to increase the body's resistance power of a child as well as to develop its brain and physical structure.

"But ignorantly, we do wrong practice to feed the children

power milk instead of breastfeeding. As a result, hundreds of children die every year due to malnourishment," he added.

Expressing grievance, BBF Adviser Prof MQK Talukder said proper breastfeeding helps reduce child mortality significantly, but no governments

took any effective steps to introduce proper diet for children, especially in terms of breastfeeding.

He alleged that some unscrupulous milk traders and doctors for their self-interest encouraged the mothers to have their children powder milk.

Saying that there is no alternative to breastfeeding for children, Prof Talukder stressed the need to create massive awareness through different programmes to reduce child mortality rate.

Child specialist Sufiya Khatun, who is also the BBF trustee, said, "During disasters, some foreign countries donate powdered milk as relief for the children which should be stopped and instead, those country can send foodstuffs for mother which will help produce milk."

Dr Muhammad Mohsin Ali, nutrition specialist of Unicef, Dr Riad Ahmed of Save the Children, Prof Samina Chowdhury, vice chairman of BBF, and Dr SK Roy, chairperson, also spoke at the briefing.

DCC signs MoU with UPPRP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with UPPRP to work in partnership to reduce urban poverty in the DCC area.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka was present at the signing ceremony at a city hotel yesterday.

The MoU was signed with an aim to improve living standard of the poor especially women and children living in its area.

Richard Geier, international project director of

UPPRP, DCC Chief Executive Officer Nurul Haque, DCC Secretary BM Enamul Haque and DCC Chief Slum Development Officer Khandaker Millatul Islam were present at the programme.

Around 30 lakh urban poor living in 30 cities (six city corporations and 19 municipalities) will come under a project funded by UNDP, DFID and the government. The Tk 816 crore project 'Urban partnership for poverty reduction project' started on October 2008 and will continue till 2015.

HC asks Ershad to allow Eric to meet mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed former military ruler HM Ershad to allow his son Eric Ershad to meet his (Eric) mother Bidisha for two hours on alternate Saturday in every 15 days.

The HC in its interim order said Eric and Bidisha will meet each other in the afternoon from next Saturday at Baridhara residence of Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, a lawyer for Ershad.

A writ petition filed by Bidisha said Ershad has been illegally keeping Eric in his custody for more than four years and not allowing her to meet Eric since January 2008.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui also directed the family court concerned to expeditiously dispose of the case filed by Bidisha seeking her son Eric to her custody.

After hearing the court came up with the directions and disposed of the writ petition. Bidisha's lawyer Dr Shahdeen Malik told The Daily Star that he is hopeful that the family court will dispose of the case filed by Bidisha within three months, following the HC directive.

Ershad's lawyer Advocate Sheikh Muhammad Sirajul Islam said he will advise his client to send his son Eric to meet Bidisha for two hours in every 15 days as per the HC directives.

Bidisha filed a writ petition on May 11 with the HC seeking a direction upon Ershad to hand over Eric to her custody. The petitioner also said earlier they reached a compromise through their lawyers after their divorce in 2005 that Eric would remain in the custody of both of them for one week by rotation.

Driving course for policewomen starts today

UNB, Dhaka

A driving course aimed at creating a pool of drivers amongst policewomen will start today at Rajarbagh Police Line in the city. Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haq will inaugurate the course at 3:30pm. DMP organised the course, says a press release.

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