

Steps taken to ensure quality education at public varsities

Nahid says at Shamsunnahar Hall Reunion

DU CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the government has taken an initiative to ensure quality education in public universities by raising allocation to its core sectors with the financial assistance of the World Bank (WB).

"We have already collected some funds from the WB for the development of core sectors of education including libraries

and laboratories for research facilities in universities," he added.

Nahid was speaking as chief guest at the reunion of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University (DU) at the Teacher-Student Centre auditorium in the morning.

He said a little portion of the total allocation in public universities is used for research works, laboratories and libraries.

"But to ensure quality edu-

cation improvement of such core sectors is very important," he said, adding that the fund received from the WB would be allocated among the public universities.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique addressed the programme as special guest which was attended by pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Provost Prof Nazma Shaheen, former provosts and former student lead-

ers of the hall.

Criticising the propaganda that recently passed HSC students would be deprived of higher education Nahid said, "It is not correct. They may not get equal standard of education as the quality of teachings is not the same in all institutions."

"Around 4.42 lakh students came out successfully in HSC examinations this year, and after meeting with the vice chancellors of public universities we have learnt that there are some 4.35 lakh seats for HSC passed students to pursue higher education," he added.

Nahid appreciated the women for playing vital role in all sectors of the society and said their number is increasing day by day.

He also stressed the need for establishing equal platform for women in higher education.

Prof Arefin called on former female students of the university to play a pioneering role in the development of women.

On this occasion, hundreds of former students gathered on the hall premises and visited the rooms where they lived during their student life. The hall building was well decorated and the incumbent students organised a cultural programme.



PHOTO: STAR

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid speaks as the chief guest at the reunion of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University (DU) at the Teacher-Student Centre auditorium yesterday.

Tk 100cr 10 priority projects for digital Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Science and ICT ministry has drawn up 10 fresh projects to be implemented in the current fiscal with special priority to compliance with the ruling party's election manifesto that pledged to build a digital Bangladesh.

Official sources said all the projects would be implemented with a lump allocation of Tk 100 crore which has been earmarked in the new budget.

However, officials aired skepticism about successful implementation of the projects through full compliance with bureaucratic process and utilisation of such a huge fund in a single fiscal.

The projects include assistance to secondary and higher secondary-level institutions for computer education, ICT capacity development for public sector human resources, ICT development fund, e-governance application for development and system integration, strengthening Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) through socio-economic infrastructure, establishment of local area network (LAN) and wide area network (WAN), database and web environment in all ministries, divisions, departments and agencies, establishment of public key infrastructure (PKI), research for application of ICT in Bangladesh and establishing ICT university.

The ministry officials said these are fully fresh projects undertaken by the government. So, these projects were not published in the annual development programme. But the funding for these projects was arranged from the Tk 100-crore special allocation mentioned in the national budget.

The main purpose of these projects is to establish necessary infrastructure in the public sector to fully utilise the potential and advantage of the information communication technology (ICT).

Ministry officials said installing a wide networking among the public-sector departments and training of the civil servants got special

attention in the projects in order to ensure e-governance.

Gearing up ICT education in the school and college levels has received priority attention in the projects, said one senior official.

He, however, was in doubt about the capacity for fully utilising Tk 100 crore in a single fiscal.

"It's very difficult to utilise such huge funds through full compliance with the government's project implementation process, because there are a number of ministries and departments which would be required to be involved in the implementation process," the official told the news agency, seeking anonymity.

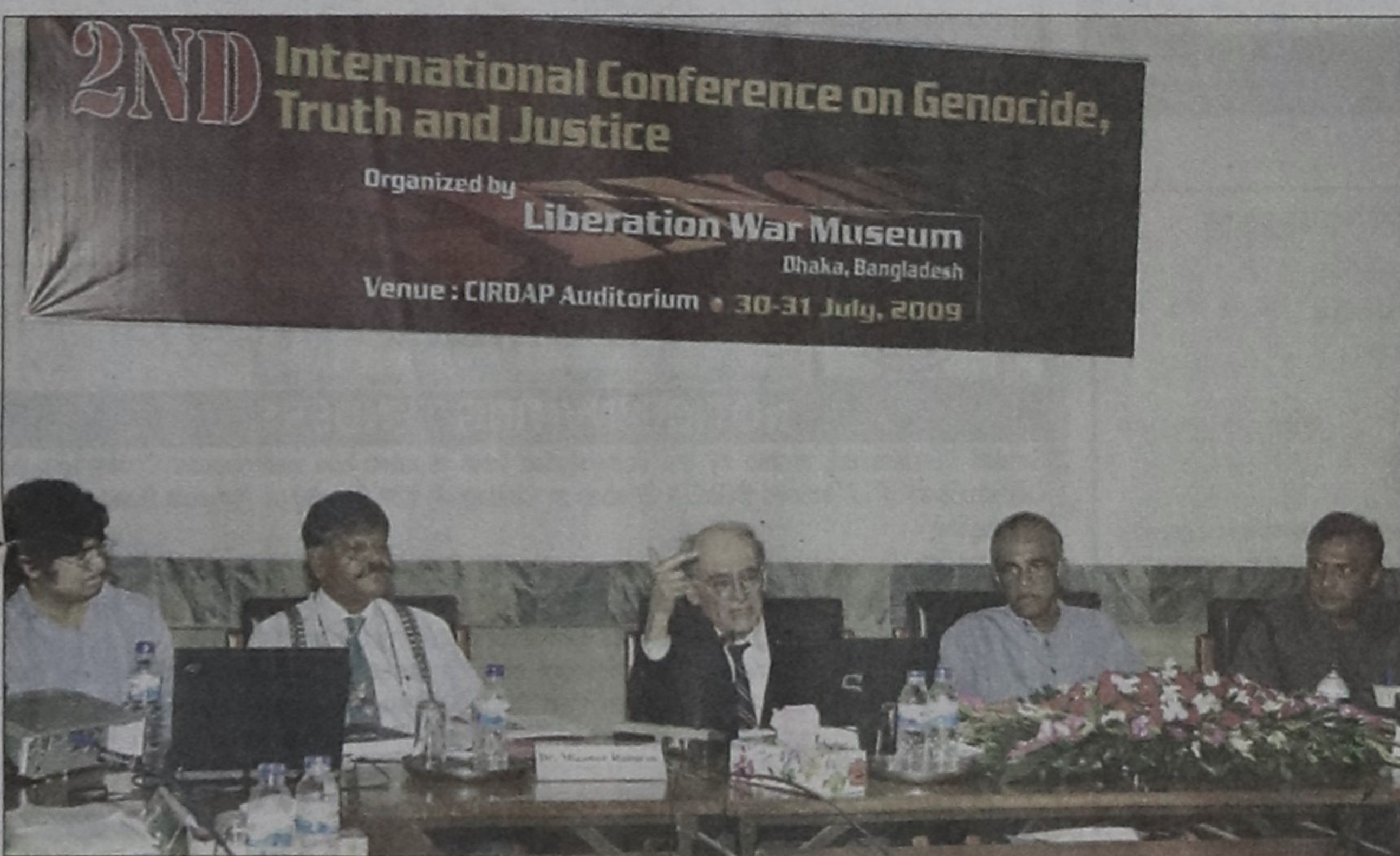


PHOTO: STAR

Dr David Matas of Canada addresses the two-day Second International Conference on Genocide, Truth and Justice organised by the Liberation War Museum at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Dr Mizanur Rahman and SM Masum Billah and on his left are Mofidul Haque and Lt Gen (Retd) Harun-ur-Rashid. (Related story on Page 1)

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

International process to be followed

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is doing everything to make the process of trial of the war criminals internationally acceptable, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed said yesterday.

Addressing the orientation programme of the newly elected executive committee of Manikganj Samity at Engineers Institute in the city he said the trial will not be happened in political consideration and only those who were involved in war crime will be brought under the trial.

He said they are now going forward to form a prosecution and tribunal cell which will be acceptable to all.

He said although they have evidence of war criminals, they are also seeking evidence from international community to make the trial acceptable internationally.

Responding to a question Shafique said the prosecution will be held centrally.

Newly elected president of Manikganj Samity AKM Abdur Razzak presided the programme while State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak spoke at the programme as the special guest.

Zahid Malek MP, general secretary of the Samity Kazi Mohammad Motahar Hossain, former president Tobarak Hossain Ludo, and former general secretary Md Moin Uddin also spoke.

BANGLADESH MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD FFs demand polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad yesterday demanded its general election within the shortest possible time to make it more dynamic than before.

"The current convening committee of the Sangsad is trying to linger the election showing some lame excuses for mysterious reason. We demand holding of the election within the shortest possible time," they added.

They made the demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium.

In a written statement Khan Mohammad Bayelot Hossain, former executive member of the Sangsad and former secretary of the government, alleged that the current convening committee led by Major Gen (ret'd) Helal Morshed is trying to stay in

power illegally by delaying the general election without any specific reason.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered the committee in February to arrange election of the Sangsad as soon as possible. But the committee has adopted dilly dally tactics ignoring her order, as five months have already passed since her directive," he added.

Bayelot Hossain said not only the prime minister but also the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and the parliamentary committee directed the convening committee to hold the election soon.

Md Abdul Khalek Miah, SK Habibullah, Brigadier Gen (ret'd) Shah Md Mohiuddin, Major (ret'd) Wakar Hasan, Advocate Khandaker Enayet Hossain and Salmullah Selim were present at the press conference.



PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

Dhola Khal, a major drainage canal of Dhaka, now stops at Sutrapur in old part of Dhaka, as a part of the canal was filled up and road constructed over it.

TB detection rate in Bangladesh higher than WHO target

UNB, Dhaka

The present detection rate of Tuberculosis, a common infectious disease that kills nearly 70,000 people in the country every year, is 72 percent, 2 percent higher than the target set by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for Bangladesh.

"The success rate of treating TB patients in Bangladesh is even higher -- 92 percent," Prof Dr Pravrat Chandra Barua, line director, National TB Control and Leprosy Elimination Programme, told UNB.

He said the government always keeps medicines in stock for some 1.5 lakh TB patients as buffer stock medi-

cal resources.

Describing Tuberculosis as a curable disease, he said free TB treatment facilities are available in all upazila health complexes, district hospitals and public and private medical colleges of the country.

He said the government in the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) has given top priority to checking the number of new TB patients. The programme also aims at reducing by half the number of TB patients by 2015 from the ones found in 1990.

Terming TB as not an 'isolated disease', Prof Pravrat said socio-economic condition of the country is involved with the TB patients and its spread. "The disease can be controlled by

improving the lifestyle of people and their socio-economic condition," he added.

He said the government is working in public-private partnership by involving NGOs in awareness campaign against the disease.

Describing the progress of the NTP, the line director said the government has already appointed some expert consultants who have started their relentless monitoring to build the capacity of the national programme.

Meanwhile, Public Health Watch, an open society institute, in its TB policy in Bangladesh said tuberculosis is a leading cause of adult mortality and preventable death in Bangladesh.

It said an estimated 70,000 individuals die of TB each year -- one death in every 10 minutes. "TB hits hardest the poor and most economically productive age group, casting a devastating impact on the economy."

Public Health Watch suggested that the partnership with communities should be enhanced to promote ownership of response to TB and ensure communication materials and behavior changes.

It said Bangladeshi NGOs must take up the responsibility to build effective partnership with affected communities for coordinated advocacy and social mobilisation that emphasize access to TB treatment services.

Bangladesh-US joint medical camps in Kurigram

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and US Armed Forces will jointly organise free medical camps for 10 days in Kurigram district beginning today.

The first five-day camp begins at Ulipur Health Complex while the second camp will be held at Chilmari Health Complex on August 6, and August 8-11.

A number of specialist doctors from Bangladesh and US Armed Forces will provide medical and dental treatments to the people free of cost, said an ISPR release.

The camps will remain open from 8:30am to 11:00am and from 1:00pm to 5:30pm on the scheduled days.

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