

TRIAL OF BDR MUTINEERS

Law ministry sends reference to PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law ministry yesterday sent to the premier the reference seeking Supreme Court's opinion on whether the people charged with mutiny and massacre at the BDR headquarters should be tried under the civil code or the military law for forwarding it to the president.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam yesterday told The Daily Star that the president would send the reference to the SC through the law ministry and the SC registrar's office for the apex court's instructions.

The government will hold

the trial as per the SC directives, he added.

However, Secretary of the president's office Shafiqul Alam yesterday said they were yet to receive any draft with the premier's request to the president for signing the reference for SC's opinion.

The law ministry on August 12 finalised the reference drafted by the attorney general's office.

Sources said the reference sought the SC's opinion on whether the accused BDR personnel can be tried under the Army Act 1952.

It also asked for the apex court's suggestion whether it is necessary to issue any noti-

fication if the accused are tried under the Act. And if so, which of the three ministries -- home affairs or defence or law ministry -- will have to issue the notification, sources said.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed earlier said since the BDR Act and conventional laws have some inadequacies in trying the perpetrators of a savagery like the massacre at the BDR headquarters, the government decided to seek SC's opinion on the matter.

The Army Act has no such shortcomings but the government will follow the Supreme Court's guidelines to avoid any argument, he added.



(Left) Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran speaks at the orientation meeting for 'English in Schools' programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and AKTEL, in Sylhet yesterday. Sitting from left are Jafri Ahmad Tambi, CEO and managing director of AKTEL, Syed Fahim Munaim, managing editor of The Daily Star, and Prof SMA Khaleque, chairman of Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education, Sylhet. (Right) Teachers from different schools in Sylhet attended the programme.

STAR-AKTEL JOINT INITIATIVE

'EIS to help enhance English skills to face global challenges'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a programme here yesterday underscored the need for learning good English at the secondary level to face global challenges.

The programme titled 'English in Schools (EIS)', a joint initiative of The Daily Star and AKTEL for enhancing English language skills of the students in secondary schools, was held at a city restaurant.

Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran attended the programme as chief guest while Chairman of Sylhet Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Prof SMA Khaleque was the special guest.

Syed Fahim Munaim, managing editor of The Daily Star, and Jafri Ahmad Tambi, chief executive officer and managing director of AKTEL, and Md Shafiqul Haque, deputy director of secondary education for Sylhet region, were present on the occasion.

Moderated by EIS Consultant Prof Shahin M Kabir of Jahangirnagar University, the programme was participated by about 150 teachers of 77 schools from Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Sunamganj districts.

The speakers said the successful implementation of the unique programme would help much in achieving the nation's goal for 'Digital Bangladesh'.

There is a great need for preparing the teachers and students in a right way to face the challenges of the new age, they said, adding, "Since we lag far behind compared to other neighbouring countries, immediate intervention is a must."

In his speech the mayor stressed the need for learning good English alongside the mother tongue Bangla.

"We shall have to learn English for strengthening our relations with the advanced world as well as to face the challenges of the changing world successfully," he added.

"Learning English will help our students and others exploit the benefits of ICT", said the mayor, adding, "To achieve the national goal of Digital Bangladesh we need adequate knowledge of English."

Lauding the EIS programme he said, "Our students need more guidance and to provide those guidance the SCC will take up a programme in the current fiscal to engage some teachers for enhancing the standard of English

of the city students."

Prof SMA Khaleque said, "Our teachers also need to be trained with modern and effective techniques for teaching English."

He hoped that the EIS programme would help students overcome their barrier in learning good English.

In his welcome address Syed Fahim Munaim said English language is an important tool to advance the society and the country.

He said the EIS programme is covering over seven lakh students and 30 thousand teachers of 1000 schools across the country.

To encourage their habit of reading English, each of these schools will be provided with three copies of The Daily Star five days a week free of cost under the programme, he said.

Besides, a weekly full-page English learning materials, which both the teachers and the students can use inside and outside the classroom, will be brought out.

He urged the teachers to raise the students' interest in learning English properly.

"We are just providing facilities for the students and teachers to achieve the goal," he added.

Jafri Ahmad Tambi said there will be enormous challenges in the near future.

"We shall have to prepare ourselves in a proper way and be equipped with sufficient knowledge of English as well as knowledge of ICT for facing the challenges of the new world," he said.

"Until and unless we achieve much in English and ICT, it would be hard to implement the Vision of 'Digital Bangladesh by 2021', he added.

At the orientation of teachers, Prof Shahin M Kabir highlighted different aspects of the programme and said, "Our teachers need to be better equipped so that they can prepare the students for learning good English."

"We shall have to go a long way and the teaching materials need to be made easier and communicative, she added.

Prof Shahin said the programme also includes, among other things, organising contests on spelling, vocabulary and book reading to help develop English language skills of the students.

It was the last zonal event of the countrywide EIS programme that started on June 8 in Dhaka.



PHOTO: PID

Newly elected executives of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna in the city yesterday.

Set up cardiology dept at govt hospitals: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has ordered the authorities concerned to set up cardiology department at every government hospital with surgery facilities, including special unit for children.

The prime minister gave the order when the newly elected executives of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons met her at her official residence Jamuna yesterday.

She also underscored the need for bringing all medical

colleges under the affiliation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for more effective functioning of the academic ingredients.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

Besides, the prime minister said the doctors in the country need high quality modern training to ensure proper treatment of the people.

The highly skilled physicians have also a growing demand in many countries of the world, she observed.

Sheikh Hasina said exchange of training facilities among the institutions at home and abroad could play a very effective role in making doctors highly skilled and experienced.

As the issue of shortage of doctors in the country came up in the discussion, she said the country needs more doctors to rid them of excessive load of patients.

Referring to the suffering of disabled children in schools, the prime minister also asked the authorities to arrange special facilities for them.

The also laid emphasis on introducing child psychologists at all schools for balanced healthy growth of children.

About the problems of working young mothers, the prime minister said all the government and non-government institutions should have daycare centres so that mothers can continue their jobs in peace.

At the meeting, the physicians informed the prime minister of the problems and prospects of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The prime minister gave them a patient hearing and said that the government will do everything to ensure quality medical facilities for the mass people.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque, Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Prof Nazmun Nahar, Prof SAM Golam Kibria, Prof Sanwar Hossain and Prof Kanak Kanti Barua were present at the meeting.

SAHR slams sentence on Suu Kyi

METRO DESK

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) has condemned the sentence handed down to Myanmar democracy icon and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi was sentenced to 18 months' house arrest in a trial in her country recently. Her previous period of house arrest expired on May 27, and this new term will mean she will remain in detention during the polls, which are expected to be held around May 2010, SAHR said in a statement.

Her conviction has brought international condemnation, and many analysts say the main reason the trial was held was to give Myanmar's military government an excuse to keep Suu Kyi out of next year's planned multi-party elections, it added.

SAHR strongly deplores the sentencing and sees this as yet another terrible blow to a courageous woman, who remains a symbol of principled, dignified leadership.

Aung San Suu Kyi has devoted her life to the cause of freedom and human rights in Myanmar, and has spent 14 years of the last 20 years in prison.

"We join the many individuals and organisations that have called for her immediate release and whilst joining them in applying pressure upon the Myanmar military government, we emphasise that the conditions for free and fair elections in Myanmar in May 2010 cannot be met as long as political opponents to the military regime are in detention and the right to dissent is violated," SAHR said.

SQ Chy to be put on trial for war crimes: Qamrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam yesterday said BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury would be put on trial on charges of war crimes.

"Salauddin was directly involved in the killing of Natun Chandra, proprietor of Kundeshwari Aushadhalaya in Chittagong, during the Liberation War in 1971. We have enough documents and evidence of his involvement," the state minister told reporters at his secretariat office.

The government has been collecting information and evidence against other war criminals, but there is no shortage of evidence against Salauddin Quader, he added.

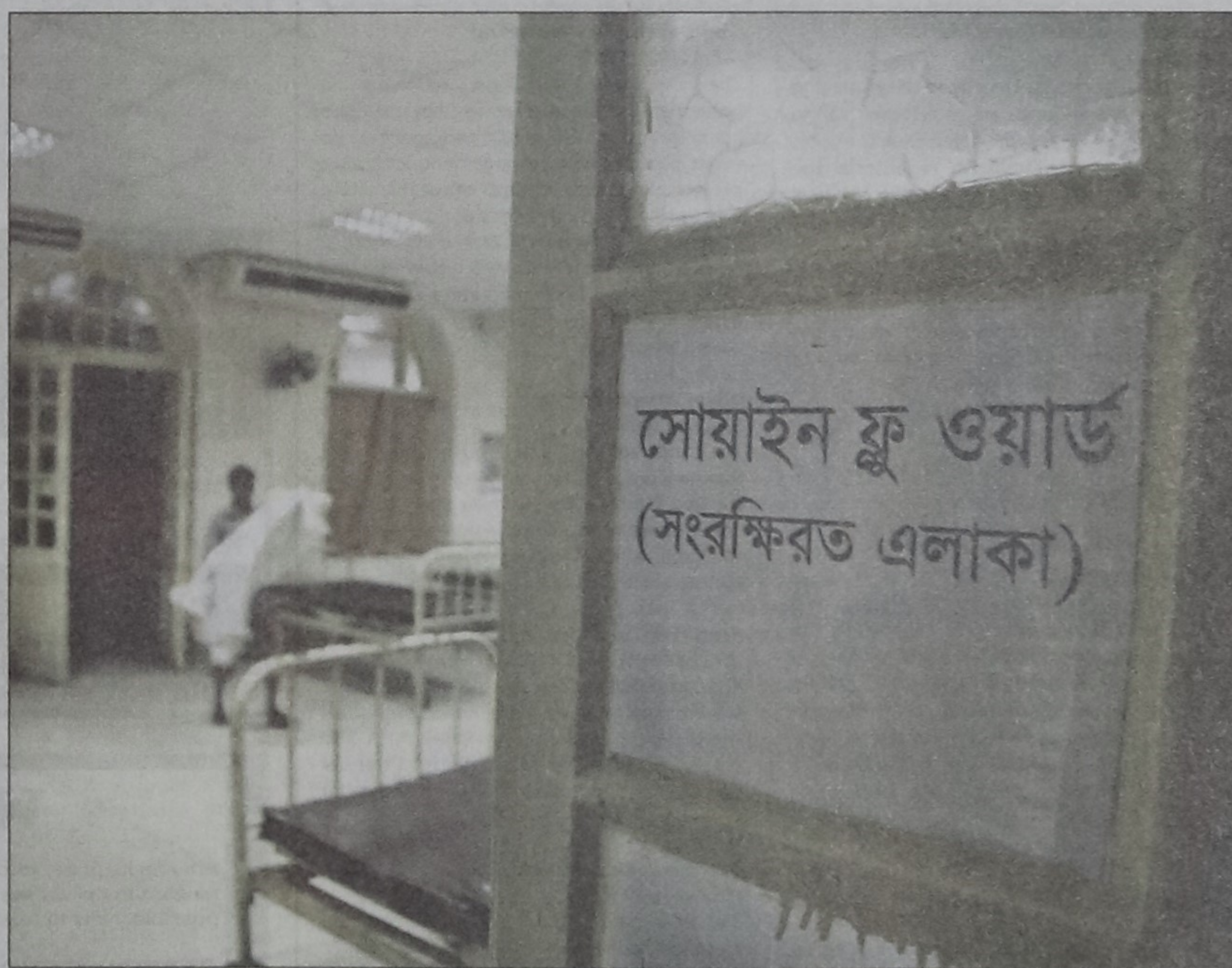


PHOTO: STAR

A worker arranges hospital beds at a newly established 'Swine Flu Ward' at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday as the hospital authorities take preparations to deal with patients with swine flu.

7 stores fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court assisted by Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) officials fined Tk 1,45,000 to seven sales stores for selling adulterated Ghee and having no license in old Dhaka yesterday.

The court fined Tk 20,000 to Manikganj Ghrita Bhandar for having no CM license of BSTI, Tk 20,000 to Bikrampur Ghee Store for the same reason, Luxury Ghee Tk 25,000 as Ghee containers of the store do not bear price and weight levels, Tk 15,000 to Moazzem Khan Ghee House, Tk 20,000 to Lauhajang Ghee House, Tk 20,000 to Kader Ghee House for the same reason and Tk 25,000 to Zaker Ghee House for unhygienic condition in the store.

VIRTUES OF FASTING

Verily the Muslim men and women, the believing men and women, the men and women who are obedient (to Allah), the men and women who are truthful (in their speech and deeds), the men and women who are patient, the men and women who are humble (before their Lord), the men and women who give charity, the men and women who fast, the men and women who guard their chastity and the men and women who remember Allah much - Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a great reward (i.e. Paradise). [Sura Ahzab : 35]

'Tafsir Ibn Kathir' of the Holy Quraan, Translated in Bangali By Dr. Muhammad Mujibur Rahman Available at : Hussain Al Madani Prokashoni, 38 North-South Road, Bangshal, Dhaka. Phone: 7114238, 01915-706323, 01911725920.



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