

## Pirate gives death threat to journalist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A journalist received a death threat from a notorious pirate for writing reports on the piracy in the Sundarbans and river routes in the region.

Notorious pirate Zulfiqar Ali called Babul Das, president of Sharankhola Press Club, over his cell phone at 12:48pm on Thursday and threatened to kill him if he does not stop writing reports on piracy.

Babul, also a correspondent of the Jugantar of Dhaka and Dainik Purbanchal of Khulna, filed a general diary with Sharankhola police in Bagerhat at night and sought security of his life.

Babul mentioned in the general diary that the pirate gave him the death threat, as the Purbanchal had recently published a report on the criminal activities of Zulfiqar.

Zulfiqar is wanted in over 100 criminal cases, including murder, extortion, rape, looting and kidnapping.

## White panel wins Kuet election

UNB, Khulna

The BNP-Jamaat-backed White panel won the election to Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) Teachers Association on Thursday.

Campus sources said Prof Dr Golam Kader, Prof Dr Mohammad Masud and Prof Kamal Uddin of the White panel were elected president, general secretary and treasurer respectively.

Prof Enamul Kabir was elected vice-president while Ekramul Kabir assistant secretary and Prof Habibuzzaman sports and cultural secretary.

Dr Abul Khair, Prof Abu Yusuf and Prof Salauddin Yusuf of the White panel were elected members.

# Govt plans to make Alternative Dispute Resolution mandatory

UNB, Dhaka

The government is actively considering introducing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as mandatory trial mode both in civil and criminal courts to remove the logjam of cases to mitigate the suffering of justice seekers.

"It needs amendment to the century-old Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for implementation of the new justice mechanism, which has already proved effective in many countries," said Law Minister Shafigue Ahmed.

In an exclusive interview with UNB on completion of one year of the Awami League-led grand alliance government, the law minister said that the ADR has now been functioning at the Artha Rin Adalat as it was incorporated into the financial loan court law enacted in 2003.

"We now want to introduce ADR in the criminal courts across the country to speedily resolve the compoundable offences punishable under the sections of the Penal Code to get rid of huge backlog of cases," he said.

The compoundable offences include defamation, uttering words intended to hurt the religious feelings of any person, wrongfully restraining or confining any person, wrongful confinement to extort confession or force restoration of property, assault or use of criminal force, unlawful compulsory labour, criminal trespass and house trespass.

Criminal breach of trust, criminal breach of contract of service, adultery, insult intended to provoke a breach of peace, rioting armed with deadly weapons, act endangering human life or the personal safety of others, theft in dwelling house, theft

by clerk or servant of property in possession of master, dishonest misappropriation of property, cheating, using a false trade or property mark, marrying again during lifetime of a husband or wife and eve teasing are also among the offences.

Asked about the law ministry's success in the year that has gone by, the minister said that the government established the rule of law in the country securing the final judgment of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on the long-stalled Bangabandhu murder case by increasing the number of apex court judges.

Mentioning another remarkable achievement, he said the government constitutionally implemented the long-desired task of separating the judiciary from the executive by amending the law through enacting 'The Code of Criminal Procedure

(Amendment) Act 2009' through parliament.

"The subordinate courts are now functioning under the full control of the Supreme Court -- the government has nothing to interfere with it," the minister added.

About the initiatives taken by the government regarding speedy disposal of cases, he said that over 200 newly recruited assistant judges/judicial magistrates, selected through the viva voce and written test under the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission, are awaiting postings at the lower courts.

According to records, about 750,000 cases are pending with the courts of judicial magistracy.

Sources in the apex court said about 500,000 cases, both civil and criminal, are pending with the Appellate Division for disposal, while at least 300,000 cases of similar nature,

including writ petitions, are pending with the High Court division.

The law minister said, "After returning to power, the government enacted 66 laws through the parliament making effective the constitutional institutions and consolidating democracy and the rule of law."

About the much-talked-about trial of the war criminals, he said, "To accomplish some preparatory tasks, we've already amended the specific law (The International Crimes Tribunal (Amendment) Act, allocated Tk 10 crore for the purpose and finally selected the Old High Court building as the venue of the trial."

He said the Old High Court building needs renovation to create a trial-friendly environment.

The process of trial would begin after the renovation work which might take a couple of months to complete, he added.

## 'Use internal resources for economic development'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan called on the people of different professions as well as policy makers to ensure the maximum utilisation of the internal resources for economic development of the country.

"The government is pledge-bound to make the country's economy vibrant through maximum utilisation of its internal resources. We should not neglect any resource inside the country. We will certainly be able to earn profits from every sector by proper monitoring and caring," he said.

The minister was addressing a discussion on 'RoKte Kena Swadhinata' (independence bought by blood) organised by Alem Muktiyoddha Projonmo at the National Press Club in the city on Thursday.

He said Mongla port, second largest seaport of the country, has earned profits more than Tk 1 crore in December, Tk 25 lakh in November, Tk 35 lakh in October and Tk 12 lakh in September.

He blamed the Jamaat-Islami leaders for nurturing militancy and terrorism in the name of religion and vowed to establish Bangladesh as a prosperous and non-communal country with the spirit of the liberation war.

Speaking as the special guest, Principal Moulana Ruhul Amin Khan Uzani demanded execution of death sentences to the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and steps to start the trial of war criminals immediately.

Former director of Islamic Foundation Moulana Fariduddin Masud presided over the meeting where Organising Secretary of Sector Commanders' Forum Maj Gen (ret'd) Masudur Rahman and Moulana Obaidullah Bin Syed Jalalabadi of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra also spoke.

## 1922 women fell victim to violence last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 1922 women fell victim to violence in various ways in the last year, said a report of the women and children affairs ministry.

The report prepared on the basis of the news published in 16 esteemed dailies says 1212 women and children were repressed physically while 538 were sexually abused. A total of 172 fell victim to acid violence.

The report said that physical torture left 283 women and children injured while 779 women died from repression

and 150 were forced to commit suicide.

Rape left 456 injured while 77 were killed after rape and five committed suicide.

Dowry, previous enmity, refusal in love proposal or marriage, land dispute and illicit relationship of husbands were the main reasons behind such incidents.

The report was prepared under the Multi-sectoral Programme to Resist Violence against Women (2nd phase) jointly initiated by the governments of Denmark and Bangladesh.



Students of Dhaka University welcome New Year-2010 amid much fanfare on the campus on Thursday night.

PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

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## Convention of Institution of Engineers begins in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The four-day 51st National Convention of Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) will begin here today with a view to preparing concrete recommendations on different contemporary national and international issues and presenting those before the government.

This year the convention's slogan is 'Sustainable Technology for Digital Bangladesh'.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to be present as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the convention on IEB premises while Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia is expected to be present at the concluding ceremony.

IEB leaders at a press conference in the port city yesterday hoped that around 3000 engineers from home and abroad would participate at the convention.

A national seminar titled 'Vision 2021: Challenges for Engineering Profession', an international seminar on 'Effect of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise on the Countries of South Asia' and three memorial speeches would be held during the four-day convention, they said.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman and Dr Kazi Khaliqzaman would present keynote papers at the national and international level seminars respectively.

A total of 16 papers would also be presented at the convention focusing on different technical issues, they said adding that a book titled '51st Convention Declaration' would be published later compiling recommendations of the convention.

IEB President Dr SM Nazrul Islam hoped that the recommendations would be helpful for the government in formulating policies to materialise the digital Bangladesh.

IEB General Secretary Mesbahur Rahman Tutul, Vice President Md Rezaul Karim, Md Abdur Rauf, Monir Uddin Ahmad and Khan Manjur Morshed were also present.

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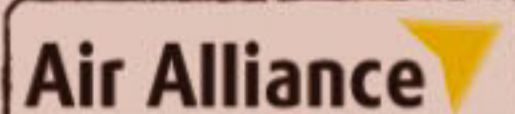
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