

# KIBRIA KILLING CID gets time for further investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Sylhet

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal of Sylhet yesterday re-fixed April 11 for filing the report on "further investigation" into the killing of former finance minister SAMS Kibria after the authority concerned failed to submit it yesterday.

Special Public Prosecutor Kishore Kumar Kar prayed yesterday for time extension so that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) can finish the further investigation, court sources said.

The CID failed several times to file the report during the last three years.

The then Investigation Officer (IO) of the case senior

ASP of CID Munshi Atiqur Rahman through a petition informed the Tribunal on March 7, 2007 about the necessity of further investigation.

As he had gone on retirement after months, CID's ASP Md Rafiqul Islam was assigned as IO of this case.

SAMS Kibria, his nephew advocate Shah Manzurul Huda, local Awami League leaders Abdur Rahim, Abul Hossain and Siddique Ali were killed in a grenade attack at a public meeting at Baiddar Bazar of Habiganj Sadar upazila on January 27, 2005.

ASP Munshi Atique filed charge sheet in the case on March 20 that year against 10 persons.



A banner inscribing 'No gas in main line' was posted in front of a CNG refuelling station near Mirpur stadium in the city as the station has been suffering from huge scarcity of gas for the last one month. The photo was taken yesterday.

## Mojaheed's new tactic to evade questions!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami has resorted to age tactic for evading questions from young journalists about its role during liberation war in 1971.

"Everybody knows about our role in 1971, it's nothing new to say," said Ali Ahsanul Haque Mojaheed, secretary general of the party, at one stage of a press conference yesterday.

When asked to comment on Jamaat leaders being members of Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams in 1971, he shot back asking, "You were not born in 1971. Then how could you know that?"

Mojaheed, however,

remained silent when he was reminded of the history books and newspapers of that time, especially Jamaat's mouth-piece the Daily Sangram.

During the last caretaker government, the Jamaat leaders shocked historians, saying: "Anti-liberation forces never existed on this soil."

# More int'l support vital to remove illiteracy by 2014

Nahid says at int'l conference on EFA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day international education conference styled 'Fifth Meeting of Unesco's Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA)' began at a city hotel on Monday.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid inaugurated the meeting organised by Unesco in collaboration with Campaign for Popular Education (Campe).

Around 100 representatives from international, regional and national non-government organisations (NGOs) attended the meeting that focused on marginalisation and the impact of financial crisis on education.

The collective consultation of NGOs on EFA is a mechanism created by Unesco to reflect the recommendations of Dakar Framework for Action and facilitate reflection, permanent dialogue and joint action between NGOs and Unesco in the area of EFA.

On the second day yesterday, the NGO representatives exchanged expertise and

experiences on policies, approaches and practices to protect marginalised groups from the worst effects of the crisis.

They also discussed the key findings of the recently released Unesco's global report on EFA which warns that the after-shock of financial crisis threatens to stall or even reverse progress in basic education in some poorest countries, creating a lost generation of children denied an opportunity for schooling that could lift them out of poverty.

Even before the financial crisis struck the world was not on track for goals like universal primary education with 72 million children still out of school, one third of whom live in South and West Asia, the report said.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen yesterday said the government has taken initiatives to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by ensuring 100 percent enrolment at primary level and improving adult literacy rate.

"A remarkable achievement at the

primary level is attainment of equality in enrolment of boys and girls," he said, adding that the country has become a leader in terms of ensuring gender parity in primary schools.

At the opening ceremony, Nahid said despite these progresses, Bangladesh needs more international support to root out illiteracy from the country by 2014.

Mentioning some steps, including school-feeding programme, free distribution of textbooks, he said the government has taken a good number of steps to reduce dropout of students at primary and secondary levels.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive director of Campe, said budgetary allocation for education sector should be increased to achieve success in education.

Olav Seim, director, EFA International Coordination Team of UNESCO, spoke also at the inaugural ceremony.

The meeting ends today with a press briefing in the evening.

# 'Flaws in Int'l Crimes Act may hinder war crimes trial'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Exclusion of the perpetrators of Pakistani occupation army from war crimes trial will make the process incomplete, claims the War Crimes Facts Finding Committee, a research organisation based in the capital.

Dr MA Hasan, convener of the organisation, said this at a press conference at his office in Kalyanpur yesterday.

Hasan, who has been pursuing a research on war crimes in 1971 for 25 years, also said there are certain flaws and weaknesses in the amended International Crimes (Tribunal) Act, 1973.

The flaws may hinder the trial process and provide an opportunity for the alleged perpetrators to evade punishment, he observed.

Citing an example, he said crimes against humanity of forced migration have not been included in the law. Besides, the crimes of sexual violence like forced prostitution or sexual slavery were not included. The amended law also missed the crimes against humanity of enforced disappearance of people, he added.

The research organisation expressed

doubt whether the government has any vision regarding objectivity of the trial of war criminals.

"The Pakistani occupation army during the Liberation War committed 95 percent of the total crimes; they were the major offenders. Razakar and other auxiliary forces were formed in September. Two-thirds of the total killings were committed before that," Dr Hasan told the press briefing.

"We express our doubts as to how much the trial will be completed without involving the perpetrators of Pakistani army," Hasan, also a renowned physician, said.

"No fragmented or incomplete trial, we demand a complete and meaningful trial in a bid to ensure justice," he said.

On the tripartite clemency agreement between Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, he said it was an agreement on prisoners of war, nothing related to the trial of war criminals.

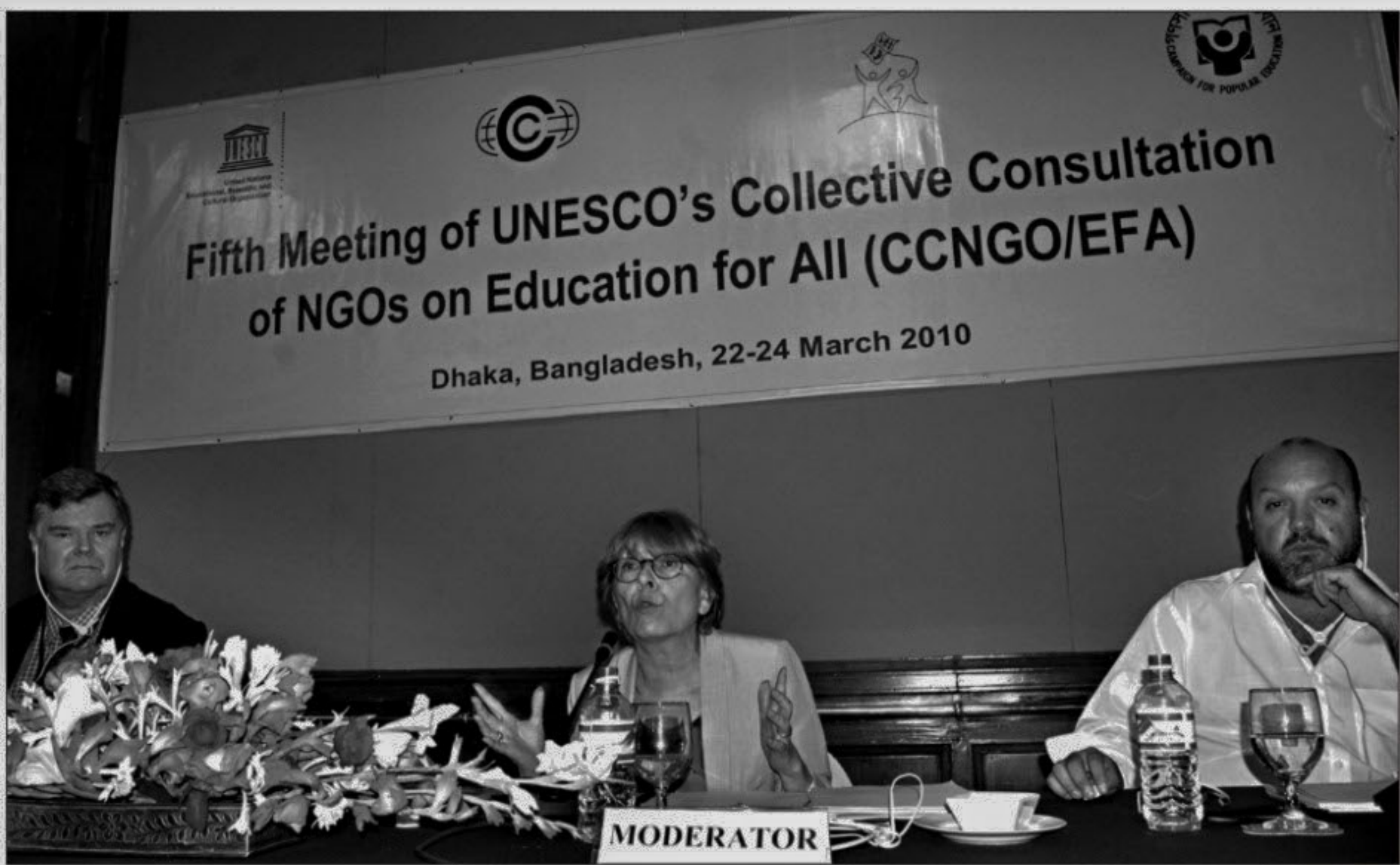
"It was conditional clemency. Besides, Bhutto [Julfikar Ali Bhutto, former Pakistani prime minister] during the agreement assured that he would try those Pakistani perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"As he did not do so, the agreement has become invalid. Moreover, the agreement was not endorsed by parliament and Bangabandhu himself repented and regretted that he had let those criminals get away scot-free," MA Hasan observed.

"Under these circumstances, the government definitely has an option to reinvestigate and bring charges against those 369 Pakistani perpetrators and those who conducted genocide and heinous crimes against humanity which cannot be forgiven by a single person or a state under the international law," he said.

"Even if Pakistan opposes the procedure in any way, it must be informed to the international community for legal actions. If the Middle Eastern countries stand by Pakistan, it should be regarded as a fresh criminal action supporting those crimes which are sharply criticised by the Nuremberg Declaration," said Dr Hasan.

The renowned war crimes researcher also urged the government to record the entire trial process so that the people may see it and take part in it.



Olav Seim, director, EFA International Coordination Team of Unesco, speaks at an international education conference styled 'Fifth Meeting of Unesco's Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA)' at a city hotel yesterday.

# Panic attack by hijras at Uttara: Two hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of hijras (hermaphrodites), who were engaged in raising extortion money from different houses by intimidation, attacked a house at Uttara sector 5 yesterday and injured two security personnel.

The group, consisting five to six hijras, was chased away by the local people with canes and brickbats. During the short chase, one hijra was injured.

The hijras, however, returned to the area with 20-25 ones of the community immediately and attacked people and some houses located on Road No. 3 of the sector.

On information, Uttara police rushed to the spot and tried to take control of the situation, but the hijras ignored their presence and launched their attacks, creating public nuisance.

The hijras made phone calls to their friends to "send more hijras" to the scene.

Panicky residents stayed within their homes while the police tried to calm down the agitating hijras, who claimed that one of their comrades was killed. Traffic movement came to a halt for almost one hour.

With the interference of police, the hijras finally left the area.

Locals said a small group of hijras stormed a six-storey house, went to the second floor, where a family with small children resides, to seek money.

The security guards of the house tried to push out two hijras from the stairway. At that time, other hermaphrodites waiting outside the building attacked the security men.

The injured were taken to a local clinic for treatment.

T O D A Y

**Roundtable**  
Channel i and Save the Children Sweden-Denmark will jointly organise a roundtable on 'Climate change impact to children and scope to involve children in disaster risk reduction'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

**Seminar**  
North South University organises 'Exchange Seminar 2010'. Venue: NSU campus. Time: 9:30am.

**Fair**  
Jute Diversification Promotion Centre in association with Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) organises a seven-day fair of jute products. Venue: BJRI premises. Time: 4:01pm.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Heritage Foundation will hold a discussion titled 'International crimes tribunal and trial'. Venue: Bilia auditorium. Time: 10:45am.

**Condolence meeting**  
Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will jointly organise a meeting to condole the death of noted journalist KG Mostafa. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

# Self-reliance of rural girls a must for empowerment

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for achieving economic self-reliance of female adolescents in rural areas for their empowerment.

Economic self-reliance is prerequisite to empowering female adolescents. So, both the government and private organisations, working for empowering women, should give topmost priority to achieve economic emancipation, they added.

The speakers said this at the seminar on 'Achievement of empowered adolescents as self-reliant peer leaders preventing early marriage and defying repression' organised by Centre for Mass Education in Science (CMES) in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at Chhayanaud auditorium in the

city. CMES Chairman Dr Muhammad Ibrahim said it is impossible to empower female adolescents if they do not have control over economic affairs and technology.

"Our endeavour is to develop quality leadership among the underprivileged female adolescents through achieving economic self-reliance."

He pointed out that restriction on movement, child marriage and social prejudices are major barriers to achieving economic self-reliance of the female adolescents.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said women are playing a major role in the two vital economic sectors -- agriculture and ready-made garments.

"So, there is no way to undervalue the contribution of women to the economic

progress of the country," she added. She underlined the importance of incorporating the issue of repression on women in the academic curriculum to raise awareness of it.

Shaheen Anam further said that a massive campaign should be launched for a change in social as well as public attitudes to ensure equal rights of women and their empowerment.

Jebunessa Lily, country coordinator of Enfants-du-monde, Nomita Halder, project director of Kishori Abhijan Project, and Abdullah Al Mamun, programme manager (governance) of MJF, also spoke at the function.

Three documentaries were screened at the seminar focusing on different successes of CMES to prevent child marriage, repression on female adolescents and achieve economic self-reliance.



Young learners render a song at a seminar at Chhayanaud auditorium in the city yesterday. Centre for Mass Education in Science in cooperation with Manusher Jonno Foundation organised the event.