

Everything related to '71 to be preserved

Says PM; hands over Independence Award

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that everything related to the great Liberation War will be preserved for the next generation.

"The future generation will be able to know the facts about the Liberation War," she said at a ceremony marking the distribution of the Independence Award at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The premier said that even now many mementos of the Liberation War are being recovered. The mass killing grounds used during the Liberation are still being recovered in different parts of the country, she added.

Hasina said, her government is committed to preserving the glorious history of the country.

"All these mementos of the Liberation War will enable the future generations to realise the glorious past of the country."

On the trial of war criminals, she said that such trials were held in all countries



Winners of the Independence Award pose for photograph with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

around the world that have experienced war crimes.

The government has already passed in parliament a bill titled 'The International Crimes Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2009', she mentioned.

"Very soon the process for the trial of war criminals will start," she said.

REWARDS FOR FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND FAMILIES

The PM said, the govern-

ment has decided to allocate abundant government property to the family members of martyred and wounded freedom fighters.

"Necessary directives have been given in this connection," she said.

The government has also increased the allowances for the Bir Shrestha family members, liberation war wounded and martyred freedom fighters' family members, she

mentioned. Hasina said, the retirement age for the freedom fighters in public service has been increased from 57 years to 59 years.

She said that it pained her when she saw the freedom fighters of the country were living miserable lives. Her government would take all possible measures for the welfare of the freedom fighters.

Hasina mentioned that her government would build the country as per the objectives of the Liberation War.

In this connection, the PM urged everyone to work in a united manner to build a poverty- and hunger-free 'Golden Bangla' imbued with the spirit of the War of Liberation.

Hasina said the time has come now to stand united against those perpetrators

who are trying to distort the history of the War of Independence.

INDEPENDENCE AWARD 2010

Earlier the premier gave away the Independence Award among 10 eminent personalities and one institution for their outstanding contributions to the country, Liberation War and in social welfare. Cabinet Division organised the function.

The recipients are: Awami League Presidium Member and Deputy Leader of the Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, A K M Shamsul Haque Khan and Belal Mohammad for their contributions in the war of Liberation; Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and Professor Jatin Sarkar in education; Romena Afaz (posthumous) and Dr Mostafa Nurul Islam in literature; and Wahidul Haque, Alamgir Kabir (Posthumous) and Ferdousi Priyo Bhasini for their contributions in culture.

Besides, Bangla Academy has been awarded as an institution this year.

2 'war criminals'

FROM PAGE 16 the offences in a village named Dhalhara, while Karim had aided and abetted Butchery and his accomplices.

The defence however argued that it would not be logical to try the collaborators who had been the "second line perpetrators" while the real invaders who had been the "first line perpetrators" of the crimes were not being tried.

The defence also raised questions about the trial's acceptability as it was being held under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973.

Barrister Amirul Islam who was appointed as the amicus curiae, said a crime is always a crime, which must be tried.

Terming different other incidents like the killing of Bangabandhu and his family, and the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally as different manifestations of genocide, he said war crimes should be tried in order to put an end to such crimes.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman, and former dean of the Department of Law at DU Prof Dr M Badruddin were the other two judges.

Rokej Chowdhury Rekha and Tanzina Sharmin of DU, Tabassum Makhduma of Chittagong University, and Sanjib Joy of Brac University were the prosecution lawyers, while Manzur Rabbi, Rashedul Haque Shajib, Sayeda Nasrin, and Gazi Shangita Farzana of DU were the defence counsels.

Dr Mizanur Rahman of the Department of Law at DU, leaders of Sector Commanders Forum, freedom fighters, and other students were also present at the trial.

Bhola By-polls

FROM PAGE 16 delegation of BNP met the EC and demanded deployment of army to ensure a free and fair election.

The election commissioner yesterday said EC does not usually deploy army in a by-election except under special circumstances.

He said the officials including the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and the officer-in-charge (OC) of police would be changed, so nobody can question the credibility of the polls.

The EC in last February declared Bhola-3 constituency vacant following a Supreme Court (SC) verdict.

The SC in its verdict declared Maj (ret'd) Jasim Uddin, who was elected MP in the December 29 national polls on AL nomination, disqualified for contesting the poll before five years of his retirement from the defence service.

PARTY REGISTRATION The EC has asked 14 political parties including Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami to correct their charters and submit those to the commission by April 30.

The Jamaat constitution still contains some provisions contradicting with the country's Constitution. A political party cannot get registration if its charter contains any provision contradicting with the country's Constitution according to the Representation of the People's Order (RPO).

"We will take necessary steps if any party fails to meet the deadline," said Sakhawati.

The 13 other political parties' charters also contain provisions contradicting with the Constitution and the RPO.

NAHAR TEA GARDEN

Khasia people resist felling of trees again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khasia people once again prevented loggers from felling unmarked trees in Moulvibazar in Srimangal yesterday.

M/s Salim Timber and Traders felled 30 trees in Aslom Punji near Nahar Tea Garden before being forced to halt their activities.

The ethnic Khasia community depends on the trees for betel leaf cultivation, which is their major source of income.

Dibarmin, a Khasia from Aslom Punji said, "They backed off again because we prevented them from felling unmarked trees."

"But we fear a reprisal from the men of the timber trade."

The Khasias also submitted an application to the deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar yesterday to prevent further felling of unmarked trees.

Ferly Surong, Khasia headman at Nahar Punji-2, said there are very few trees left in Aslom Punji and his people are facing the loss of their livelihood.

However the manager of the Nahar Tea Garden, Pijus Kanti Bhattacharjya, claims that only marked trees are being felled.

In February this year, the forest department gave Salim Uddin Mohalder, the owner of M/s Salim Timber and Traders, a fresh permit to continue tree felling in the area.

However the court directed the timber trader not to cut 450 trees in Khasia Punji and slapped an enhanced royalty on the trees.

The timber trader began felling trees on March 13 after the High Court directed the forest department authorities and local administration to allow 3,550 trees to be cut down, apparently without taking into account 1,200 trees already felled.

By March 22, 1,650 trees in Kailin Punji were cut down, but protests by the local Khasia community and environmentalists led to the activities of timber traders in the area being suspended.

Salim Uddin had already felled 1,200 trees in Aslom Punji immediately following a government permit in 2008.

River dredging a must to increase hilsa output

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

River dredging will contribute to the increase in hilsa production by protecting sanctuaries and breeding places.

Rivers have silted up over the years reducing navigability that forced hilsa fish to change its natural habitats, and eventually the hilsa production suffered, said experts yesterday at a seminar, Needs for Preservation of the Hilsa Sanctuaries and Reproduction Areas to Develop Hilsa Resources.

Hilsa constitutes around 12 percent of the country's total fish production.

Indiscriminate fishing for jatka and mother hilsa is another reason for decrease in hilsa production, they added.

As part of the programmes of Jatka Preservation Week from March 21 to 27, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) organised the seminar at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council auditorium.

The speakers said, about 60 to 70 percent jatka are netted between March and April every year. To prevent fishermen from catching jatka, the government imposed a ban on fishing at

three sanctuaries-- downstream of the Meghna, the Shahbajpur channel and the river Tetulia-- during the period.

In the Andhar Manik river, fishing is banned from November to January.

Mohammad Anisur Rahman, senior scientist of BFRI, reading out a keynote paper said, the programme has succeeded to some extent, as hilsa production increased by 35 percent over 2001-02.

Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury at the seminar talked about some understanding with businessmen, which, she believes, can disuade fishermen from catching jatka.

She also said the government will take steps soon to dredge the rivers as it is necessary to protect the habitats of hilsa fish, and the dredging programme will begin with the river Jamuna.

Minister for fisheries and livestock Abdul Latif Biswas said, "The government is maintaining four sanctuaries covering 330 kilometres of the rivers and one more sanctuary will be declared soon. A total of 1,65,000 fishermen who cannot catch fish from February to May are provided with 20,000 metric tons of food grains. They also come under training programmes for alternative jobs," he added.

Man dies after inhaling toxic gas in manhole

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day-labourer died inhaling toxic gas after he went down into a manhole to clean it without wearing a mask in the city's Tejojan industrial area yesterday afternoon.

The identity of the 30-year-old victim could not be known immediately.

The victim, hired by a contractor of Wasa for cleaning the manhole at North Begunbari,

was not a professional.

Officer-in-Charge of Tejojan Industrial Area Police Station Omar Faruq said five workers were working under a contractor when the youth went down at around 2:00pm.

Personnel from the Fire Service and Civil Defence recovered the body from the manhole after an hour.

The contractor and his four other co-workers left the spot leaving the body.

2 car lifters arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police on Wednesday night arrested two alleged car lifters, who allegedly took away a private car killing its driver on March 1, from the city's Kamarpara under Turag Police Station.

Identified as Hemayet Sikder alias Hamid and Hannan Bhuiya, the two were taken on a three-day remand yesterday.

Assistant Commissioner Mohammed Mokhesur Rahman of DB Police told The Daily Star that the arrestees were members of a professional car lifters' gang.

Stage set for war trial

FROM PAGE 1 High Court Division Judge Md Nizamul Huq has been made the chairman of the tribunal. Its two other members are High Court Judge ATM Fazle Kabir and retired District Judge AKM Zahir Ahmed.

Advocate Golam Arif Tipu will lead the 12-member prosecution team, which also has lawyers Syed Rezaur Rahman, Golam Hasnain, Rana Das Gupta, Zahurul Haque, Syed Hayder Ali, Khandaker Abdul Mannan, Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, Jiad Al Malum, Sultan Mahmud Semon, and ruling AL lawmakers Sanjida Khanam and Nurul Islam Sujan.

The seven-member investigation agency was formed under section 8(1) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973. Former additional secretary Abdul Matin, who was also a district judge, will lead the agency.

Other investigators are former inspector general of police Mohammad Abdur Rahim, former deputy inspector general Qutubur Rahman, Major (ret'd) ASM Shamsul Arefin, Additional DIG of the Criminal Investigation Department Mir Shahidul Islam and CID inspectors Mohammad Nurul Islam and Mohammad Abdur Razzaque Khan.

The investigation agency will probe offences mentioned in section 3 of the Act: crimes against humanity, crimes against peace, genocide, violation of any humanitarian rules during armed conflicts as laid down in the Geneva Convention of 1949, any other crimes under international laws, attempt, abetment or conspiracy to commit any such crimes and complicity in or failure to prevent commission of any such crime.

The offences will be considered as individual responsibility.

The government formed the tribunal as per section 6 of the Act, reads a law ministry notification.

The section empowers the government to "set up one or more tribunals, each consisting of a chairman and not less than two and not more than

four other members" to try and punish people for committing offences mentioned in the law.

The tribunal has been formed in consultation with the Chief Justice, the law minister said at a press conference while announcing the formation of the three bodies.

"He [Chief Justice] has approved the appointments," the minister said.

The law ministry sent the files on formation of the three bodies to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The premier approved the files and sent those to President Zillur Rahman yesterday for approval. The president gave his nod to the appointments and sent back the files to the law ministry, the law minister said.

Shafique said if necessary the number of prosecution

team members would be increased.

He said the investigation would be conducted at home and abroad. It might take time to complete the task as the agency officials would have to collect a lot of documents from various corners of the country and other nations to probe the crimes committed during the Liberation War.

Official documents, newspapers, magazines, television footages, and public statements, among others, would be the major source of information for probing the crimes, he said.

The minister said different countries including the USA would assist the government by providing it with necessary documents and information on the 1971 war crimes.

The government announced that the historic

trial of war criminals will be held at the old High Court building.

Soon after the announcement, Maj (ret'd) AKM Shamsul Arefin, member of the investigation agency, told The Daily Star that the investigators' first task would be to collect evidence at home and abroad on crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. On collection of primary information, they would move forward to this end in line with the tribunal's directive.

He said they would collect evidence and information from people.

Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, one of the prosecutors, said they would start working from next week.

"We shall formally sit on Sunday to determine the nature of our task," he said.

Career Opportunity

Fakir Apparels Limited, the largest 100% export oriented WRAP, ISO 9001:2000, Oeko-tex & control union certified composite Knit garments industry in the country having Knitting, dyeing, sewing, printing, embroidery unit. We are looking for a number of energetic self-motivated young men for the following positions for factory at Narayangonj.

Position	Post	Requirements
01	Manager (Admin, Safety & Security)	Must be retired Armed forces officer in the rank of Lt.Col/Major.
01	Asst. Manager (Admin, Safety & Security)	Must be retired Armed forces officer in the rank not below Captain

All the above positions are based in the factory at BSCIC Industrial Area, Fatullah, Narayangonj. Fakir Apparels Limited offers attractive compensation package and good career prospect for the deserving candidates. The candidates who are willing to take up challenges in a performance-based organization are requested to apply with a detailed CV, and a copy of recent passport size photograph within 10(ten) days from publication of this advertisement to the HR&Admin, Fakir Apparels Limited, 142-145A, BSCIC I/A, Enayt Nagar, Sashangaon, Enayt Nagar, Fatullah, Narayangonj-1400 or career@fakirapparels.com

emiratesgroupcareers.com

With our operations growing steadily and our fleet rapidly expanding, we are looking for smart, confident and dedicated individuals to join our dynamic team. As a member of our Cabin Crew you'll join a diverse group of people from over 150 different countries, receive on-going training and education, visit some of the world's most spectacular destinations and get to live in the cosmopolitan city of Dubai.

We offer exciting career opportunities and lifestyle benefits that include accommodation and a tax-free salary.

Register your interest by applying online at emiratesgroupcareers.com before 3rd April 2010. Alternatively please mail your CV along with a passport sized and full length photograph to S.A. Tower, Plot # 1, Road # 134, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Suitable candidates will be shortlisted and contacted to meet with us for the selection process in Dhaka.

Join Emirates. Discover your future.

Cabin Crew.

Now recruiting the world's best.

emiratesgroupcareers.com

With our operations growing steadily and our fleet rapidly expanding, we are looking for smart, confident and dedicated individuals to join our dynamic team. As a member of our Cabin Crew you'll join a diverse group of people from over 150 different countries, receive on-going training and education, visit some of the world's most spectacular destinations and get to live in the cosmopolitan city of Dubai.

We offer exciting career opportunities and lifestyle benefits that include accommodation and a tax-free salary.

Register your interest by applying online at emiratesgroupcareers.com before 3rd April 2010. Alternatively please mail your CV along with a passport sized and full length photograph to S.A. Tower, Plot # 1, Road # 134, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Suitable candidates will be shortlisted and contacted to meet with us for the selection process in Dhaka.

Join Emirates. Discover your future.