

War crimes trial must be completed within tenure of this govt

Say influential ministers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The war crimes trial will have to be completed within the tenure of this government, said five influential ministers of the government at a discussion in the city yesterday.

They said the trial would not be completed if Awami League does not come to power again.

The ministers were speaking at the discussion titled 'Conspiracy to foil the trial of war criminals: Responsibilities of government and civil society' organised by Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee at the WVA auditorium.

They said the government is committed to conduct the trial and it has been taking necessary steps on this regard.

The ministers also said no one from the government, especially ministers, should comment on the war crimes tribunal procedures.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said I believe that we will be able to finish the trial on time. The government has formed the tribunal for the trial and there are still some problems, to be addressed soon, he said.

The finance minister urged the countrymen to unite and foil every attempt of the supporters of the war criminals, who are trying to pre-

vent the trial.

The government is committed to ensure the trial to be fair, neutral and independent, he said.

Planning Minister AK Khandaker, who was also the deputy chief of the Liberation War, said the government is one hundred percent serious about the trial and it should be completed within its tenure.

"If the present ruling party can not come to power again then the war criminals and their supporters will not spare those demanding the trial," he said.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said the government is working to fulfill its election pledges. It has taken up the trial of war criminals, knowing that it won't be an easy one, she said.

She said the ministers should not comment on the trial procedures.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs ABM Tajul Islam spoke at the discussion.

Presided over by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, the meeting was also spoken by justice Golam Rabbani, barrister Tureen Afroz and journalist Shahriar Kabir.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Uniform approach stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at the inaugural session of a workshop yesterday called for a uniform mechanism to deliver Non-Formal Education (NFE) to achieve universal literacy by 2015.

The two-day workshop styled "Developing an NFE Delivery Framework in Bangladesh" was organised by Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE), Unesco and JICA at BNFE auditorium.

The government and non-government organisations (NGOs) have been working in the NFE sector for last 35 years but progress is affected due to use of different delivery approaches like reading materials and curricula, they said.

The chief guest, Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan, secretary-in-charge of Primary and Mass Education Ministry, said, "We need to set up a uniform mechanism and institution so that the government and NGOs can work in a coordinated and coherent manner."

BNFE has been working with the ministry on a project called Basic Literacy & Continuing Education Project-1 to provide basic literacy and life skills, said Rezaul Quader, director general of BNFE.

Government programmes like Reaching Out of School Children, Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Children and Post-literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development in the NFE sector are working to eradicate illiteracy.

According to NFE Mapping Report 2009, there are 36.86 million illiterate people aged 11 to 45 in Bangladesh.

Derek Elias, officer-in-charge of UNESCO, Dhaka, and Dr Takao Toda, chief representative of JICA, also spoke on the occasion.

Around 30 participants representing UN organisations, NGOs, and government agencies are taking part in the workshop.

44 ACC staffs rewarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday rewarded its 44 officials in recognition of their contribution in different corruption cases, said a press release.

Tk 1.99 lakh was given to the officials at the office of

ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman.

The people who were jailed following cases filed by ACC officials include chief forest conservator Munsu Anwarul Islam, Sucheta Sarker of Brac Bank Ltd and lecturer of Faridpur Medical College Dr Sohel Mahmud.



OBITUARY

Eminent businessman Farook Ahmed (Tipu), son of Late FR Ahmed, died at a New York hospital in the USA on July 24 (Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un). He was 49.

He left behind his son, wife, and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death. His namaz-e-janaza will be held on July 28 at Azad Masjid Gulshan after Asar prayers while his Qulkhani will be held on July 30 at the same venue after Asar prayers.

Relatives, well-wishers, friends are requested to attend and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



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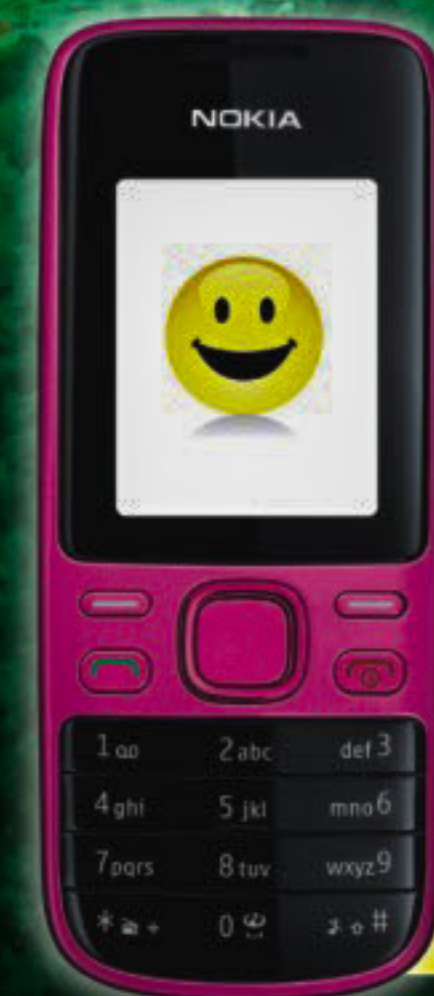
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