

Propaganda on to obstruct war crimes trial

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said a quarter is spreading propaganda at home and abroad and filing writ petitions to obstruct the process of war crimes trial.

He said the government is determined to try the war criminals and the process of trial cannot be obstructed through the propaganda and writ petitions.

The law minister said this while he was addressing a meeting of the public prosecutors at Chittagong Circuit House.

There has a misgiving at home and

abroad that the government is holding the war crimes trial out of political vengeance, he said, adding that those who are bringing such an allegation are doing wrong.

He said the government has taken the initiative to try the war criminals to end the culture of immunity after murder and ensure justice for the victims. The war crimes trial is needed to end pain of the victims bearing for the last 39 years and free the country from the stigma, he said.

The minister urged the public prosecutors to build public opinion on the war

crimes trial and play role to establish rights of the general people and ensure justice.

The lawyers in the meeting demanded recruitment of session judges from among the lawyers.

Chittagong City Mayor League President and former mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Sirajul Haque Khan and District Public Prosecutor Abul Hashem were also present at the meeting.

Later, the minister also held meeting with leaders of Chittagong District Bar Association.

THREAT TO PM Shah Moazzam, Rafiqul Islam granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for two months to two BNP leaders Shah Moazzam Hossain and Rafiqul Islam Mia in a case filed for threatening Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

A Dhaka court on Monday issued warrants of arrest against them in connection with the case.

A High Court bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Hussain and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque granted them bail following a petition jointly filed by the accused in the case.

It also issued a rule upon the government to explain why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail in the case. The BNP leaders yesterday appeared before the bench for bail.

Paltan police filed the case on August 14 against them for threatening the prime minister at a BNP rally at Mukhtangon on July 25.

Advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain appeared for the petitioners.

Body of teen-aged girl found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants strangled a teenage girl to death and dumped the body by a drain in the city's Pallabi area yesterday.

The body of the girl, aged about 17 years, was found in a plastic bag in front of a three-storey building at Block-D of Mirpur section 12.

On information, Pallabi police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Afzal Hossain, sub-inspector (SI) of Pallabi Police Station.

There were bruise marks on different parts of the body with her hands and legs tied, the SI added.

After post mortem the body of the girl wearing salwar and kameez was lying in the DMC morgue as none claimed it till 07:00pm yesterday.

A murder case was filed with Pallabi Police Station in this connection.



Mir Nasir Hossain, director of Eastern Bank Limited, hands over a cheque for Tk 50 lakh to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city recently for construction of the Liberation War Museum.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL 'Unite against conspiracy'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Veteran former leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday called upon the people to be united against the conspiracy by the anti-liberation forces to foil the government initiative to try the war criminals.

Speaking at a discussion marking the national mourning day at Diploma Engineers Institute in the capital, former BCL leaders feared that the defeated forces of the Liberation War in 1971 will create anarchy to foil the initiative.

They said the anti-liberation units had brutally killed the father of the nation Bangabandhu and most of his family members on August 15, 1975 to ruin the spirit of the liberation war.

Praktan Chhatra League Foundation, a platform formed by the former BCL leaders and activists arranged the discussion.

The country could not achieve independence if

the nation had not its great son Bangabandhu born, said the leaders many of whom were close to Bangabandhu.

They said they had started working under Bangabandhu to build a hunger and repressions-free country.

"Bangabandhu had united people and he had planted the seed of independence," said former Chhatra League president and incumbent Awami League lawmaker Tofail Ahmed.

Tofail said Bangabandhu had taught his activists politics and turned them leaders.

Convener of the foundation Abdur Rouf said they had learnt other social norms from Bangabandhu and they feel proud being a part of the student body.

Among others, former BCL leaders Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Amir Hossain Amu, Khaled Mohammad Ali, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, MA Rashid spoke with Nur-e-Alam Siddique in the chair.

PHARMACISTS' PROBLEMS Speedy solution recommended

BSS, Dhaka

A committee suggested speedy solution to the problems of the pharmacists in the Family Planning Directorate.

The recommendation came at the 12th meeting of the committee of the establishment ministry held at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with its Chairman Khandakar Asaduzzaman in the chair.

The recommendation was made regarding their (pharmacists') service continuation and preservation of the last salary through a special audit on the basis of the report of the ministry.

At the beginning, the committee expressed

deep shock at the death of Razia Begum, secretary of the women and children affairs ministry and Siddiqui Rahman, chairman of BSCIC and additional secretary, who were killed in a road accident recently.

The meeting also prayed for eternal peace of the departed souls of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other martyrs of the August 15 massacre. Besides, a minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to their memories.

Committee members Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Chief Whip Md Abdus Shahid, ABM Golam Mostafa and Jahanara Begum, among others attended the meeting.

Jail sentence of ex-BNP lawmaker Millat scrapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday scrapped the eight years' jail sentence of former BNP lawmaker M Rashiduzzaman Millat in a corruption case.

A special court, set up on the Sangsad Bhaban premises, on January 29, 2008 handed down the sentence to Millat for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

An HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque yesterday delivered the verdict after granting an appeal filed by Millat against the special court judgment.

Earlier, this bench acquitted 14 people, including 10 political leaders, of separate corruption charges for which they were convicted and sentenced to different terms of imprisonment during the regime of the caretaker government.

ACC Deputy Director Mobara Khanom filed the case concerning illegal wealth on June 3 last year accusing that in the wealth statement submitted to the ACC Millat concealed information about Tk 4.97 crore wealth.

In the first information report (FIR), the complainant mentioned that he also accumulated Tk 5,16,32,098 wealth beyond known sources of his income. Millat earlier got bail from the HC in the case.

Barrister M Badruddoza Badal appeared for Millat.

Healthcare clinic for slum children opens

BSS, Dhaka

A healthcare clinic for the underprivileged children was inaugurated yesterday at Kalyanpur Porabari Basti in the city.

Distressed children and infants of more than 20,000 slum dwellers of this area would get medical treatment and medicines free of cost from the clinic. The doctors would attend the patients six-day a week from 9:00am to 1:00pm everyday except Fridays.

The clinic was set up by Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI) under its Healthcare for Underprivileged Programme (HUP) that is dedicated to the welfare of the

disadvantaged children and infants worldwide. Rights & Sights for Children (RSC), a local voluntary organisation, would assist running the clinic.

Kalyanpur Clinic is the second such clinic under the HUP's, as the first one was set up two and a half years back at Mohammadpur. Organisers said more than 3000 children are taking medical treatment from this centre annually.

Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) President Prof A K Azad Khan inaugurated the clinic formally at a simple ceremony at 63/6 Kalyanpur Maim Road while BSS Managing Editor Azizul Islam Bhuiyan attended the function as the special guest.

DCI Executive Director Dr A Ehsan Hoque, RSC Chief Executive Officer Md Humayun Kabir, Finance Director Abdus Sattar Engineer, Shamsul I Siddiqui, consultant of New York based Dormitory Authority and physician of the clinic Istaiq Ahmed Zahid were present at the inaugural function.



A team of market monitoring cell of the commerce ministry led by magistrate Qamruzzaman realises Tk 50,000 as fines from Akhi Enterprise at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday on charge of taking higher prices from the consumers than the government fixed rate.

Implement Rooppur N-plant: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called for implementing Rooppur nuclear power plant, the dream of late Dr MA Wajed Miah, a reputed nuclear scientist and husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We find the identity of Dr Wajed Miah as a devoted scientist," he said while unveiling 'Sudhasmarak', a memorial book on the noted nuclear scientist by Bangabandhu Education and Research Council, at Bangabhaban in the morning.

The president mentioned that late Wajed Miah was devoted to developing the country and also building the nation through the development of science and its application.

He said Dr Wajed, by dint of his wisdom and sincerity, enabled the Atomic Energy Commission to make more progress. Dr Wajed cherished the concept of building a modern Bangladesh through the expansion of science education.

Dr Wajed wanted to fulfill Bangabandhu's dream

of 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal) through the (Rooppur nuclear power plant) project," said the president.

He mentioned that Wajed Miah had written books on science and political affairs, which would greatly help inform the new generation about science practices and the country's political affairs.

President of Bangabandhu Education and Research Council and also Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, presidium member of the council and also Vice Chancellor of Jagannath University Prof Mesbah Uddin Ahmad and council general secretary Prof Sirajul Haque also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Arefin Siddique said Dr Wajed Miah, staying beside or near the seat of power, had never used power for his own interest, which could be emulated by the young generation.

"Bangabandhu always spoke of golden men for his 'Sonar Bangla.' Dr Wajed Miah was such a golden man wanted by Bangabandhu," he said.

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