



Visually impaired children take part in a rally organised at the city's Manik Mia Avenue by the social welfare ministry on the occasion of World White Stick Day yesterday.

SIRAJGANJ INCIDENT

BNP plots to foil war crimes trial

Says Qamrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam yesterday said the Sirajganj accident was pre-meditated and a part of BNP's plot to foil war crimes trial.

Khaleda Zia and BNP have killed the six persons by arranging the rally so close to railway track, said Qamrul. Khaleda should be indicted on charge of the killing, he added.

Qamrul said, "The incident was pre-planned. How could Khaleda Zia address the rally when the train was burning just beside her."

"BNP has taken the path of sabotage to thwart the war crimes trial; the incidents of Natore, Chittagong and Sirajganj prove the motive."

"BNP used to say that they also want war criminals to be tried, but they have unmasked their true face now and say that the government wants to divide the country by holding the trial."

"Those who are trying to save the war criminals are actually bigger criminals than the war criminals."

Qamrul as the key speaker was addressing a discussion

on "unity in favour of the trial of war criminals and preventing obstacles" organised by Janatar Pratyasha at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city.

He said the explanation by a British legal expert that the international crimes tribunal act 1973 is inconsistent with

the constitution of Bangladesh is wrong.

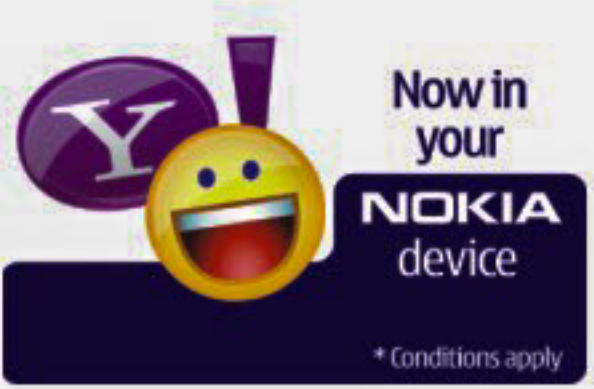
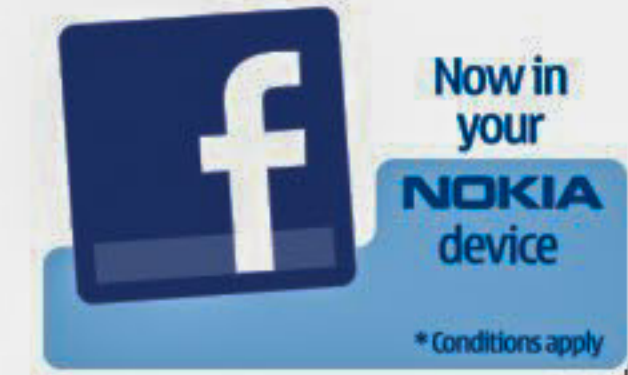
With amendment to the law in 2009, the accused are given the opportunity to appeal to the Supreme Court; no other laws in the world on war crimes trial contain the provision, added Qamrul.

The chief guest at the discussion, Jute and Textile Minister Abul Latif Siddique, said the four-party alliance is rather led by Jamaat than by BNP, so BNP is very keen to save the war criminals.

"The very existence of BNP would be threatened if the war

criminals are tried, because the party now relies more on Jamaat", he said.

"If the war criminals are tried, the nation will be free from stigma; no chance is there for the nation to be divided."



Nazrul blames PM, minister for train crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday blamed the prime minister and the communications minister for the Sirajganj train accident, as they are the top administrators of the railway authorities.

"BNP is not responsible at all for the incident as the railway department is under control of prime minister and communications minister," he said to reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman with the newly elected leaders of Garments Sramik Dal, a pro-BNP organisation.

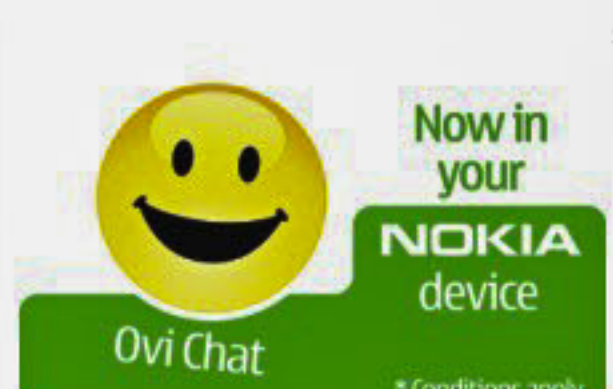
Nazrul also ruled out the ruling party leaders' comment that BNP had no permission to hold rally on a rail track. The presence of law enforcers during the rally proves that it was held with due permission, asserted the BNP leader.

The local administration and railway department were informed timely, he said adding, "Now the government is saying that there was no permission for holding the rally, though publicity and campaign were going on at least three days before the rally."

Replying to a question, Nazrul, also president of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, said anti-government programmes would be announced stage by stage and the like-minded parties will be involved in this process.

He said the government did not ensure treatment of the injured and no compensation was given to the families of the victims, while investigation is going on for burning train compartments.

He demanded the government provide adequate compensation to the families of the victims.



Man kills brother in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly hacked his younger brother to death at Kafrul in the city yesterday following a dispute over sharing family property.

The deceased was identified as Imran Hossain Mithu, 22, of Old Kachukhet in Kafrul.

Imran's mother-in-law Minara Begum said his elder brother Elias Kanchan Munna chopped Imran with a knife on his leg at around 2:30pm over sharing ancestral land and a six-storied house in the area, leaving him seriously wounded.

He was rushed to National Institute of Traumatology, Orthopedic and Rehabilitation where he succumbed to his injury.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Ashraf Haque of Kafrul Police Station said Elias fled after the incident.

World White Stick Day observed

METRO DESK

The World White Stick Day 2010 was observed in the country yesterday.

The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) observed the day to commemorate the achievements of its visually impaired students, said a press release.

The programme consisted of distribution of certificates for its 7-month Arabic Language course in Braille and 4-month long Advanced IT Training course.

The Advanced IT course enabled the students to browse and download materials from the internet and print them in Braille printers. Such training are provided by the institute in its fully equipped Braille computer lab.

The President of the Institute Nooruddin Khan distributed the certificates.

The programme ended with distribution of white sticks among all the visually impaired students.

