

**WAR CRIMES TRIAL
HC order on
petitions
tomorrow**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will pass orders tomorrow on the petitions filed by five detained leaders of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami for quashing the proceedings of International Crimes Tribunal against them in connection with crimes against humanity in 1971.

On conclusion of the hearing on the petitions, an HC bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice AKM Abdul Hakim yesterday fixed the date for orders.

Detained Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Nayebe-e-Amir Delwar Hossain Sayedee, Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and leader Abdul Kader Mollah filed five separate petitions through their lawyers on September 29 this year.

They also prayed to the HC to grant them bail in the war crimes cases.

International Crimes Tribunal has issued arrest warrants against them without framing formal charges, the petitions said, adding that the tribunal cannot issue arrest warrant at this stage.

Barrister Abdur Razzaq appeared for the petitioners, while Additional Attorney General MK Rahman argued for the state.

**8 companies
fined for noise
pollution**

BSS, Chittagong

The Directorate of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined eight establishments Tk 2.5 lakh for the first time in Chittagong for sound pollution.

Director (enforcement) of DoE Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the sudden drive at Pahartali and imposed the penalty on eight establishments for causing health hazard to the public by producing high sound beyond limit.

The establishments are Maa Moni Enterprise, Bagdad Trading, Faruk Enterprise, SI Trading, Ananya Steel, AK Steel Enterprise, Nishan Enterprise and RY Enterprise.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Shehab Uddin, a retired government official, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his Ahmadbagh residence in the city on Sunday night at the age of 75.

He was taken to the nearby Khidma Hospital at Khilgaon as he falls sick where the doctors declared him dead, family members said.

Shehab, founder of Shehab Uddin Degree College, left behind his wife, four daughters, three sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Born in Tangail in 1935, he retired as divisional accountant at Public Works Department.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Ahmadbagh Jame Mosque after Fazr prayers yesterday.

He will be laid to rest at his village graveyard in Tangail after second janaza at Shehab Uddin Degree College in Bhuiyanpur after Asr prayers today.

New Age staff writer AKM Atikuzzaman is one of his sons.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 39th death anniversary of Shaheed Prof Giasuddin Ahmed of Dhaka University, says a press release.

On this day in 1971, Albadar Bahini, collaborator of Pakistani occupation forces, picked him up from his DU residence and killed him with other intellectuals.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his sister Sajeda Banu's Flat # 5/B, House # 9, Eskaton Garden Road in the city after Asr prayers today.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Cleaning of the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Rayerbazar is in progress in the city yesterday on the eve of the Martyred Intellectuals Day to be observed today.

PHOTO: STAR

**Eminent Pak
citizens hail
war crimes trial**

BSS, Dhaka

Several eminent Pakistani citizens welcomed initiatives to try 1971 war criminals as the nation observes with grief the Intellectuals Martyred Day today.

The nation today recalls the killing of leading intelligentsia by Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators ahead of their eventual defeat.

"I strongly condemn war crimes and genocide whether it is done by an army or an ethnic, religious or ideological entity," leading Pakistani politician Advocate Zafar Malik said in an interview with the news agency.

Malik, also a civil society activist, was a member of the International Tribunal constituted by Nirmul Committee earlier to try the cases of war crimes.

A senior leader of Pakistan's National Awami Party (NAP), Malik added, "I am sure that the present Bangladesh government has the resolve and will to try the war criminals."

His comments came as a renewed campaign was apparently being waged in Pakistan to expose the "1971 war criminals" inside the then army leadership of their own country.

Noted researcher Nizhat Sayeed is devoting herself in identifying the culprits responsible for the murders and rapes of unarmed Bangalees and Bangalee women during the war.

"I have written a charge sheet in my book against the Pakistani army generals for their role in 1971," said Pakistani journalist Hamid Mir, who earned repute particularly for his interview of Osama Bin Laden.

Alamdar Raja, the then West Pakistan divisional commissioner of Dhaka in 1971, who later joined the law profession on his retirement after returning to Pakistan, filed a writ with a Pakistani High Court.

The writ sought to redress the Pakistani atrocities "on their own people (East Pakistanis) during the war."

"I don't expect the writ to yield much... but I thought it was a moral responsibility to file the case in view of what I saw during my stay in your country that time," said Raja earlier during a visit to Dhaka.

Malik recalled that after Awami League's election victory by a majority of seats, the vested interest class in Pakistan and the army became upset and gradually the situation worsened, leading to the army action in East Pakistan.

Journalist Hamid Mir said, "I fully support the trial of all those who were responsible for killing innocent people in 1971."

"I think that governments of Bangladesh and Pakistan should join hands for arresting all those who were responsible for genocide in 1971," Mir said.

He recalled that soon after the Pakistan's "1971 debacle", the subsequent government constituted a commission to investigate into the cause of the debacle.

The commission identified General Yahya Khan, General AAK Niazi, Brigadier Muhammad Hayat, General Rao Farman Ali and many others responsible for the genocide.

FRAMING RULES ON IMPORT OF SHIPS FOR SCRAPPING

HC starts hearing on Bela petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday started hearing a petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) seeking its directives on the government to frame specific rules over the import of ships for scrapping in accordance with HC guidelines.

Bela filed the petition on Sunday as a supplementary to the original writ petition upon which the HC had delivered verdict on March 17, 2009.

In the verdict the HC issued some guidelines, directing the government to frame specific rules in the light of labour and environment protection laws and Basel Convention restricting import of toxic and hazardous ships.

But the Ministry of Environment and Forests apparently ignored the HC

order and allowed the ship breakers to import ships with "inbuilt" toxic materials.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain yesterday adjourned the hearing till 2:00pm today.

In the petition the Bela lawyer said the government has made rules inconsistent with the HC guidelines and relevant laws.

Bela sought directives from the court on the ship breakers not to break 22 ships, which were imported in last two months in the country, until the government frames "appropriate rules".

It also prayed to the court to order the government not to issue no-objection-certificates (NOCs) to importers of ships without environ-

mental clearances.

Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Iqbal Kabir Lytton appeared for Bela, while Rokonuddin Mahmud argued for ship breakers.

SHIP BREAKERS' NEWS BRIEFING
Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association leaders yesterday alleged some non-government organisations are campaigning against the ship-breaking industry while the ship breakers are working close to the government in compliance with the regulations.

At a press conference held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity, they claimed they hardly pollute the environment as they bring the scrap ships after getting clearance from the Department of Environment (DoE) and other agencies concerned.

Reading out a written statement,

Hefazatur Rahman, president of the association, said the NGOs neither visited any shipyard nor presented any research analysis on the earth, air or water of the yard.

Asked whether they had any research on it, he said the Directorate General (DG) of Shipping is working on it.

After a long time, 16 ship-breakers had been granted temporary environmental clearance but an NGO filed a writ petition with the High Court in this connection, he said.

When asked why they keep the shipyards restricted to the media, Kamal Uddin Ahmed, former vice president of the association, said the shipyards which got the environmental clearance are open to media from now.

**VICTORY
DAY
CELEBRATION
BEGINS**

**Sammilita
Sanskritik Jote
inaugurates its
three-day
programme on
the Victory Day
celebration
releasing 40
pigeons for peace
at Central
Shaheed Minar
in the city
yesterday.**

Photo: STAR



**Programmes
to observe
Martyred
Intellectuals
Day today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country pays tribute to the martyred intellectuals today on the occasion the Martyred Intellectuals Day when the collaborators of Pakistani army killed the country's prominent intellectuals and professionals in 1971.

Sensing the defeat imminent, Pakistani army and the local perpetrators -- Razakar, Al-Badr, and Al-Shams -- picked up many progressive minds of the country from their house and slaughtered them.

The bodies of the slain academics, writers, doctors, engineers, and journalists were dumped at Rayerbazar, Mirpur, and a few other places in the city.

The martyred intellectuals include Prof Muneir Chowdhury, Dr Alim Chowdhury, Prof Muniruzzaman, Dr Fazle Rabbi, Sirajuddin Hossain, Shahidullah Kaiser, Prof GC Dev, JC Guha Thakurta, Prof Santosh Bhattacharya, Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury, journalists Khander Abu Taleb, Nizamuddin Ahmed, NAM Mannan (Ladu Bhai), ANM Golam Mustafa, Syed Nazmul Haq, Selina Parvin, and many more.

The national flag will be hoisted at half-mast today. The president, prime minister, opposition leader, and leaders from different political parties will place wreaths at Mirpur martyred intellectuals' graveyard in the morning.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and the Leader of Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia gave separate messages on the eve of the day.

Meanwhile, various organisations chalked out different programmes on the day.

Bangla Academy will organise a discussion and cultural programme at Nazrul Mancha at 4:00pm.

Dhaka University teachers and students will place wreaths at the martyred intellectuals' graveyard in Mirpur after placing wreaths at the mausoleum at Jagannath Hall and central mosque graveyard.

Khulna University will also observe the day with different programmes.

**TAHER CASE RETRIAL
Govt gets 24 days
more for hearing**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday allowed the government 24 days to prepare for hearing of the writ petition that challenged the martial law trial and execution of Col Abu Taher in 1976.

An HC bench comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain adjourned the hearing till January 6 following a time prayer by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

Earlier on December 7 the bench gave the government a week's time on the same ground.

Taher's wife Lutfa Taher, his brother Anwar Hossain and Fatema Yusuf, wife of Yusuf Ali Khan who was sentenced to a life term in the same trial, jointly filed the petition on August 22 this year.

During the hearing, Mahbubey Alam told the court that they needed time for replying to the rule issued earlier.

In response to the writ petition on August 23, the HC issued a rule asking the government to explain why Martial Law Regulation No-13 of 1976, under which Col Taher was tried for sedition and executed 34 years back, should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The court asked the government to explain why the orders of the Special Martial Law Tribunal in which Taher and 16 others were convicted should not be declared unlawful.

**Dental college
admission
test result
published**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Result of Bangladesh Dental Surgeons (BDS) admission test under the session 2010-11 was published yesterday.

A total of 11,851 students sat the exam against 210 seats. The admission test was held on Friday (December 10).

There are 100 seats at Dhaka Dental College while Chittagong and Rajshahi Dental Units have 100 seats in all. Some 10 more seats are reserved for the freedom fighters and indigenous people, said the directorate general of health services.

The result is available on the website of the directorate -- www.dghs.gov.bd. The students can see the result entering their college code and registration number.

**2.5 lakh buildings extremely
vulnerable to earthquake**
Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 2.5 lakh buildings of the country are extremely vulnerable to earthquake and tsunami, said Food and Disaster Minister Abdur Razzaque yesterday.

Bangladesh is exposed to the calamities as four active sources of earthquake in the Bay of Bengal can generate tremors up to 7-magnitude on the Richter Scale, he said, adding that a quake of 6-magnitude may cause massive destructions.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a two-day conference on Management of Complex Emergencies organised by Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) at a city hotel.

He said the prime minister would hand over various rescue equipment worth Tk 70 crore to the armed forces division and the fire service department as a preparation to earthquake events.

As per the findings of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP), a total of 2.5 lakh buildings in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet are extremely

exposed to major earthquakes, said Abdur Razzaque.

As many as 90 earthquakes, including nine over 5 on the Richter scale, were detected between 2007 and 2008, the minister said.

He mentioned that cyclone Sidr claimed 3,295 lives and damaged around 2.2 million acres of croplands along with 1.5 million houses in the southwestern coastal belt of the country in 2007. Last year's Aila rendered 50,000 people homeless and exposed 20 million people to post-disaster health hazards.

Razzaque also said Bangladesh being on top of the Global Climate Risk Index has been projected to have 20 million of its population as "climate refugees" by the year 2050.

Alongside the local experts, 12 foreign experts and management practitioners from Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China, Singapore, Afghanistan and Canada are taking part at the conference.

Christoph Vogt, head of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Dhaka, and Urs Herren, ambassador of Switzerland in Bangladesh, were also present at yesterday's conference.