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We mean Business
Good morning, Corporate Bangladesh. We are meeting today with happy news. Every day from now on, The Daily Star Business Section comes out in an exciting 8-page format. From personal finance to heavy industry, from green business to small business, from management styles to real estate, from luxury goods to logistics -- we will be giving you something new to read every day.
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War trial hopes go thru' hoops

Tribunal, investigation limp with poor logistics, confusing approach

EMRAN HOSSAIN

As Bangladesh observes the 40th Victory Day today, the pace of the trials of war criminals still falls far short of people's expectations.

Families of martyrs are still clamouring for justice.

The trial of the war criminals is being delayed; there is a lack of manpower and a systematic approach compounded by poor logistic support.

Experts and people dealing with war crimes committed during the Liberation War criticised ministers' bold remarks about the time of the trials' completion, saying their comments sent the wrong message to the international community that the government has control over the trial.

Families of martyred freedom fighters too called for a stop to the passing of such politically motivated comments and ensuring logistic support and adequate manpower to expedite the trial.

"The government and its ministers must

understand that it is the tribunal that has the authority to comment on the trial period and the accused. The tribunal is independent and it has nothing to do with the statements of political leaders," said Shahriar Kabir, president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee.

MA Hasan, convener of War Crimes Facts Finding Committee, said, "The trial is neither to take revenge nor to persecute members of any political party. The trial is for restoring the values for which millions of people laid down their lives."

They also blamed lack of proper diplomatic efforts to get evidence and the accused hiding in countries like the USA and the UK. They said these criminals are operating as fund collectors for fundamentalist organisations across the globe.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, however, expressed satisfaction over the progress of the trial.

"We are proceeding in the right direction. If we want to try every war criminal employing a

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We're also freedom fighters

Claims Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, the party that was against the liberation of Bangladesh and collaborated with the occupation Pakistani army in 1971, are now claiming themselves "freedom fighters".

ATM Azharul Islam, the party's acting secretary general, yesterday said he and his party leaders should also be called freedom fighters.

"We fought in the same sector that Kabir Chowdhury

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Rejoinder, our reply

Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh in a rejoinder to a report of The Daily Star headlined "India plotted intellectuals' murder" said the speech of its acting secretary general ATM Azharul Islam was published distorted.

In a statement signed by

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Of a mission impossible

The story of a pilot who bombed Pak oil supply

RAKIB AHAMMED

"O boy! You have done it!

These were the words an Indian air force officer for Bangladeshi pilot Shamsul Alam when he landed his aircraft after launching an almost impossible operation during the Liberation War in 1971.

Ft Lt Alam, who had escaped from Pakistan and joined the War, flew a dilapidated Otter from Kailashahor of India and destroyed an oil depot near Chittagong seaport on December 4 to stop fuel supply to the Pakistani occupation forces.

This was one of the successful and memorable attacks by a Bangladeshi pilot inside the then East Pakistan territory during the War.

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FILE PHOTO: COURTESY

Pilot Shamsul Alam

IOJ chief held over Huji link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday detained Mufti Izharul Islam Chowdhury, president of a faction of the Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) for his alleged involvement with a banned militant outfit, Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji).

A team of Rab, led by Commanding Officer Lt Col Sazzad Hussain and Major Samad, second-in-command of Rab-7 detained Mufti from a madrasa at Lalkhan Bazar around 4:30pm.

"We have evidence and documents proving his involvement with Huji's militancy," Lt Col Sazzad told The Daily Star.

"Mufti Izhar did not show up at our headquarters last Monday, despite being officially summoned," Sazzad added.

Mufti had organised a press SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



TOXIC SHIP ENTRY HC asks for expert probe

Framing of rules in 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to frame rules within next three months to ban import of any hazardous ships for scrapping.

The rules must be framed in the light of six existing laws--Basel Convention Act, 1989; Bangladesh Environment Protection Act, 1995; Bangladesh Marine and Fisheries Ordinance, 1989; Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006; Bangladesh Territorial Water and Maritime Zone Act, 1974, and Environment Protection Rules, 1997, according to the HC ruling.

In response to a petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela), an HC bench also ordered the government to form an expert committee within a month to check whether any ships with inbuilt hazardous materials enter the country's territorial waters.

The committee should comprise meteorologist, nuclear SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Clothes saved from Tuesday's blaze at a Ha-Meem factory lie scattered outside the industrial unit in Ashulia. Story on page 20.

Order sought for SQ Chy's arrest

HC rejects Nizami's bail plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes investigators have sought permission from the International Crimes Tribunal to detain senior BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury with links to crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The prosecutors, on behalf of the investigators, yesterday submitted a petition to the tribunal that fixed December 19 for its hearing, said tribunal Registrar Md Shahinur Islam.

In the petition, they sought the court's permission to detain SQ Chowdhury for his alleged involvement in the killings of Nutan Chandra Kundu, founder of herbal medicine factory Kundeshwari Oushadhalaya at Raozan in Chittagong, on April 13, 1971, and 107 others during the Liberation War.

Meanwhile, the High Court summarily rejected a petition of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, who pleaded for quashing the court proceedings against him for alleged crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman told The Daily Star that similar petitions of the other three Jamaat leaders are likely to suffer the same fate.

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My country is the leader among peace mission forces

আমার দেশ আমার গর্ব

Come join us to sing our national anthem 'Amar Shonar Bangla, Ami Tomay Bhalobashi.' Today at 4:30 PM at the South Plaza, National Assembly (Adjacent to Manik Mia Avenue)

All of us from Grameenphone will be waiting for you



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