

Help try war criminals

Law minister urges int'l communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday urged the international communities to extend cooperation in holding the trial into the crimes against humanity in the country's liberation war of 1971.

"We make an appeal to the international community -- please help us so that we can follow due process and uphold international standard in the trial", said Shafique Ahmed.

The minister was speaking at the closing ceremony of a training session on CMN (Case Matrix Network) legal tools database search at Judicial Administration Training Institute in the city.

The training programme was arranged to help investigators and prosecutors of International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Bangladesh produce evidences and documents collected from different sources before the tribunal in a scientific and systematic way.

Barrister Shafique said ICT is a domestic tribunal and wants to show the world communities that a domestic tribunal can successfully conclude trial living up to global standard.

"If we conclude the trial successfully, it would be a model for the entire world".

He said the government wants to complete the trial in order to put a stop to the culture of impunity practiced in the country and to establish the rule of law.

About the training programme, he hoped that the training would help the authority concerned of the tribunal deal with the evidences so that international standard can be ensured.

ICT investigation agency coordinator Sanaul Haque and CMN senior adviser Dr Patrick Treanor, among others, spoke at the programme chaired by ICT chief prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo.

MANMOHAN MEETS ZILLUR

Integrated sub-regional ties stressed

BSS, Dhaka

Visiting Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh yesterday observed that an integrated sub-regional cooperation needs to be built among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal for expediting socio-economic development of the people of these areas.

The Indian premier made the comments while paying a courtesy call on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban.

Dr Singh arrived here on Tuesday with a 136-member official delegation on a two-day visit for joining at a Dhaka-Delhi bilateral summit for resolving longstanding frontier problems and easing trade imbalance and cooperation in other sectors.

During the 25-minute talk, President Zillur Rahman said the visit of Manmohan will create a new horizon in the bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and India.

This is the first visit by an Indian head of government to Bangladesh in last 12 years.

The Indian premier apprised the Bangladesh president of various features of agreement, protocols, and memorandum of understandings (MoUs) signed between Bangladesh and India Tuesday.

Dr Singh said a sound cooperation between India and Bangladesh should prevail for implementing effective counter-terrorism strategy in the region.

He said India is keen to increase its commerce relation with Bangladesh through boosting up trading as well as investing at the country's potential sectors. India is also



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

keen to increase its cooperation in agriculture sector for socio-economic development of Bangladesh, he added.

The Indian premier said people of both India and Bangladesh will be benefited in the long run from ongoing new chapter of bilateral relations between New Delhi and Dhaka that was initiated by the India visit of Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina in 2010. He lauded the leadership of Bangladesh prime minister.

Dr Singh expressed his gratitude to the

government and people of Bangladesh for conferring the Bangladesh Freedom Honour, the highest civilian award for foreigners, on former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi as recognition of her singular contribution during the country's War of Liberation in 1971.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to give him a chance to work at Bangladesh planning commission in 1972 just after the independence of the country.

President Zillur Rahman termed India a trusted friend and recalled the crucial support of the Indian government and its people during the country's independence war.

He expressed the hope that the existing excellent bilateral relation between Bangladesh and India would reach a new height in the days to come.

Through the Indian premier, the Bangladesh president invited Indian President Pratibha Patil to visit here in her convenience.

During the talks, Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna, Chief Minister of Assam Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Meghalaya Mukul Sangma, Chief Minister of Mizoram Lal Thanhawla, Chief Minister of Tripura Manik Sarkar, National Security Adviser of India Shivshankar Menon, Foreign Secretary of India Ranjan Mathai, and Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Rajeev Mitter was present on the Indian side.

On Bangladesh side, Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzak, Foreign Secretary M Mijarul Quayes, Secretary of the President's Office M Shafiqul Alam, Military Secretary to the President Major General Kazi Fakhruddin Ahmed, Press Secretary to the President A K M Nesar Uddin Bhuiyan and Additional Secretary to Foreign Ministry M Mustafa Kamal were present.

After the meeting, the Indian prime minister signed the visitors' book of Bangabhaban.

Earlier on his arrival at Bangabhaban, President Zillur Rahman welcomed Dr Singh with bouquet.

Needle removed from man's lung after 20 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Doctors in Chittagong yesterday removed a needle from the left lung of a man 20 years after it accidentally went through his windpipe.

The two inch needle, used by doctors to transfuse fluids into a patient's body, was removed using a process called Bronchoscope, where forceps were inserted down the windpipe to clutch the needle and bring it out.

The man, Md Ibrahim, 24, a day labourer and resident of Naogaon of Rajshahi, is now in good condition.

Ibrahim said he was playing with the needle inside his mouth at the age of 4 when it accidentally went through his windpipe.

He felt occasional pains in his chest until recently, when the pains increased with severe cough. He consulted Dr Zaman on September 4, who discovered the needle in an X-ray of the lungs.

The doctor referred him to chest specialist Dr Md Shahadat Hossain, who carried out Bronchoscope on Ibrahim at Chevron Clinical Laboratory Private Limited.

"It is really a matter of surprise that he had the needle in his lung for nearly about 20 years," Shahadat said.

"The needle was brought out in 25 minutes. It was really mysterious that the needle did no harm to Ibrahim's lung during all these years.

"I brought out a safety pin from the lungs of a girl four months ago but this case is a new and very exceptional experience for me," he added.



PHOTO: STAR

The two inch transfusion needle removed from the lung of Md Ibrahim, inset, 20 years after it accidentally went through his windpipe.



Sayem laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fahimur Rahman Sayem, only son of Jahangir Kabir Nanak, state minister for local government and rural development (LGRD), was laid to rest in the city's Banani Graveyard yesterday following his namaz-e-janaza at Jatiya Sangsad's west ground after Asr prayers. He was 22.

Sayem was killed in a road accident at Chakoria's Bendi Bazar in Cox's Bazar on Tuesday. His body was brought to Dhaka yesterday morning.

He was buried after his sister arrived from London last evening, said Mizanur Rahman, Nanak's assistant personal secretary.

Meanwhile, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Jubo League leader and Deputy Attorney General Motahar Hossain Sajju, Barrister Arifat Hosen Khan, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Murshed Murad Ibrahim, Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan, Municipal Association of Bangladesh, Barta Prabaha and barishalweb.info, in separate messages, expressed profound shock at Sayem's death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

A planned bloodbath

Complainant tells court in BDR carnage case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The intensity of the February 2009 Pilkhana incident, processions in support of mutineers and helping them escape suggest the bloodbath was pre-planned, complainant of the BDR carnage case told a Dhaka court yesterday.

"It was done to destabilise a 49-day old government," Nabojoyoti Khisa, also the first witness, told the makeshift court of Metropolitan Special Judge at Bakshibazar in the capital.

Counsels for the then BDR deputy assistant directors Towhidul Islam, Nasir Uddin, Abdul Jalil and sepoy Selim Reza cross-examined him.

Another accused DAD Mirza Habibur Rahman filed a no-confidence petition against his lawyer and defended himself.

All the accused except the 21 absconding were hauled before the court that witnessed a five-and-a-half hours trial proceedings from 9:40am.

Defence counsels said the complainant, instructed by high-ups, delayed the filing of the case to save the real culprits.

Nabojoyoti, who was the then officer-in-charge of Lalbagh Police Station, denied the complaint.

An apparently disturbed court repeatedly reminded defence lawyers to ask the witness relevant questions as some of them were often making statements rather than asking questions.

The court adjourned the proceedings till September 14 and asked the next three witnesses to be present before it on the day.

Fifty-seven army officers were among the 74 people killed in the February 25-26 bloodbath at the headquarters of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

Later the government renamed the force as Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

A total of 824 BGB jawans and 23 civilians are accused in the case filed on February 28 in 2009.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

City roads return to their former traffic-clogged state after the Eid holidays. The photo was taken from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday.

Int'l Literacy Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has been able to enroll almost 100 percent children in primary schools this year and committed to eradicating illiteracy within 2014.

In a message on the eve of International Literacy Day-2010, the prime minister said there is no alternative to education and skilled human resources for achieving overall development of the country and strengthening democracy.

She said the present government is implementing various programmes to eliminate discrimination in the country's education system. "We are working to create skilled manpower through giving vocational education to illiterate people," she said.

Sheikh Hasina said the government has formulated National Education Policy-2010 and Sixth Five-Year Plan by giving priority to women, backward people, small ethnic groups and rural people in the literacy programme.

"I hope we will be able to attain Vision-2021 through successful implementation of these programmes," she observed.

The prime minister urged all to move forward with united efforts for building a poverty and illiteracy-free Sonar Bangla, dreamt by the greatest Bangalee of all times and the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Another dies in gas blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another victim of the trapped flammable gas explosion at a residential building in the city's Kamrangichar area succumbed to his injuries in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital's Burn Unit yesterday.

Rafiqul Islam, with nearly 55 percent of his body burnt in the explosion on August 30, died in the Burn Unit's Intensive Care Unit around 2:20am, raising the death toll to two.

On the day, when house owner Rafiqul and his tenants took an electric bulb into the water tank that they were cleaning, the bulb broke and ignited the trapped flammable gas, causing the explosion.

The explosion left Rafiqul and seven of the tenants injured.

Mohammad Nasir, one of the tenants, died on Eid day at DMCH while six others were undergoing treatment there. Another victim was admitted to City Hospital in the city.

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