

CONTEMPT OF COURT Do positive criticism

Int'l tribunal asks
New Age editor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday asked the editor of New Age to make positive and constructive criticisms of its proceedings, ensuring that public sentiment is not hurt and the court's image is not blemished.

The advice came when New Age Editor Nurul Kabir was placing his arguments during the hearing of a contempt of court rule issued for publishing an article written by foreign journalist David Bergman in the English daily.

The tribunal issued the rule on October 3 asking the editor, publisher and the journalist of the newspaper to explain why contempt of court charges should not be brought against them for publishing the article headlined "A crucial period for International Crimes Tribunal" the previous day.

Defending them, Nurul Kabir yesterday told the court that New Age published the article to assist the tribunal in holding trial of crimes against humanity committed during the country's Liberation War in 1971 in a fair and neutral manner.

In response, the tribunal said, "Mr Nurul Kabir, David Bergman is a foreign journalist and he writes articles in his own style in your daily. Please, look at things from Bangalees' point of view while editing his articles and reports."

ASM Shahidullah Khan, publisher of the daily; and David Bergman were also present before the tribunal's three-member panel led by its Chairman Justice Nizamul Huq.

After concluding the day's proceedings, the court fixed December 20 for further hearing on the rule.

Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan argued for Shahidullah Khan and David Bergman.



Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, speaks at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday after unveiling the annual corruption perception index by Transparency International. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Main provisions yet to be

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people is yet to be activated. The government has not withdrawn all temporary army camps from the hills, formed hill police force, civil administration and police are yet to be transferred in hill district councils (HDCs). Land settlement is yet to be done.

It has not activated the CHT peace accord implementation committee and CHT refugees affairs task force committee, given powers to CHTRC for coordination and supervision on CHT Development Board, HDCs and municipalities are yet to be handed over, cases against PCJSS members are yet to be withdrawn and 'quota' for indigenous students are still unrealized.

However, as per the deal, the government formed the CHT Peace Accord Implementation Committee, established the CHT affairs ministry, CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission, 25-member CHT Regional Council for interim period, Task Force on Rehabilitation of Jumma Refugees Returnees and Internally Displaced Indigenous People.

It has enacted CHTRC act-1998, amended three hill district councils act (1989)-1998 and CHTLRC act 2001, said the book published by the PCJSS.

As per the agreement, some 683 members of PCJSS got jobs in the police department. The government is providing monthly rations to 1,966 families of PCJSS. They also got Tk 50,000 in cash for each member as lump grant.

Strong political goodwill is needed for resolving these longstanding problems, said Sultana Kamal, co-chair of CHT Commission, adding "As the CHT problem is a political

one, it has to be solved politically".

Sanjib Drong, secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum (BAF), said distance was increasing between the rulers and hill people as the government had not been keeping the pledges that it made for full execution of the treaty before the last national election.

Noted right activists, while visiting the CHT recently, observed that both Bangalees and indigenous people no more want such turmoil in the hills. They want an end to the problem.

Saching Prue Chodhury, chief of Mong Circle in Khagrachhari, said, "We expected much of this government for implementation of the accord fully. But it did nothing on the issue over the last three years".

However, they are still hopeful that it will execute the deal properly in the interest of the hill people, said the Mongchief.

"Frustration is running high among our people due to non-implementation of the deal," said Prakriti Ranjan Chakma, president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, CHTunit.

Santu Larma, chief of PCJSS, said problems were arising anew in the CHT due to non-execution of the deal fully. New settlements of Bangla speaking people from the plains were still going on in the hills and grabbing of land owned by the indigenous community by the settlers was rampant.

The government has no sincerity concerning a full execution of the deal. The socio-economic conditions of the hill people had not improved as vital clauses of the accord had not been implemented, Santu alleged.

PCJSS has, however, taken

up different programmes, including holding of rallies and discussions in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts to mark the anniversary of the agreement.

The anniversary will be observed in Dhaka centrally on Friday, with ruling party ministers, MPs and left-leaning leaders expected to attend the programme.

In State Minister for CHT Affairs Ministry Dipankar Talukder's view, "Our government is very sincere for full implementation of the accord. But I think government is not enough. So, all pro-peace quarters have to come forward with a positive attitude and only then can we overcome the problems".

Full execution of the deal will be possible if the land dispute in the hills is resolved, Talukder added.

The main problem in the CHT is land dispute. Though the current government reformed the Land Commission, the work of this commission has almost been stymied by a number of limiting factors.

The chief of the anti-peace United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), Prasit Bikash Khisa, in a press release issued on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the peace deal, has said that without full autonomy, the problems of the CHT cannot be resolved.

He termed the accord as a document of surrender for the defunct Shantibhagini, now PCJSS.

Since the signing of the pact, nearly 1,000 leaders and activists of both groups have been killed, about 1500 injured and many more abducted in the decade-long fratricidal clash in the region, sources in different intelligence agencies, PCJSS and UPDF have said.

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Prof Kayser passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr M Kayser Hussein, former professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University, passed away at a city hospital at the age of 89 yesterday.

He had been suffering from old age complications, says a press release. Hussein left behind his wife, three sons, and seven daughters to mourn his death.

He was also the pro-vice chancellor of Asian University and a member of Bangladesh Economics Association. He also served as a chairman of Grameen Bank.

Prof Kayser was buried at Sector-4 graveyard in Uttara yesterday.

A doa mahfil will be held at Sector-7 mosque in Uttara today.

DU Prof Razia Akter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr UAB Razia Akter Banu, professor of political science department at Dhaka University (DU), died of cancer at a hospital in Singapore yesterday at the age of 63.

She left behind her husband, two sons, and one daughter to mourn her death, says a press release.

She will be buried today at her family graveyard in Tongi after namaz-e-janaza at DU central mosque after Jumaa prayers.

Banu was wife of Dr Talukder Muniruzzaman, ex-professor of the same department of DU.

Born in 1948 in Jhalokathi, she joined DU as a lecturer in 1980.

CTG OIL SPILLAGE

DoE serves notice on local agent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

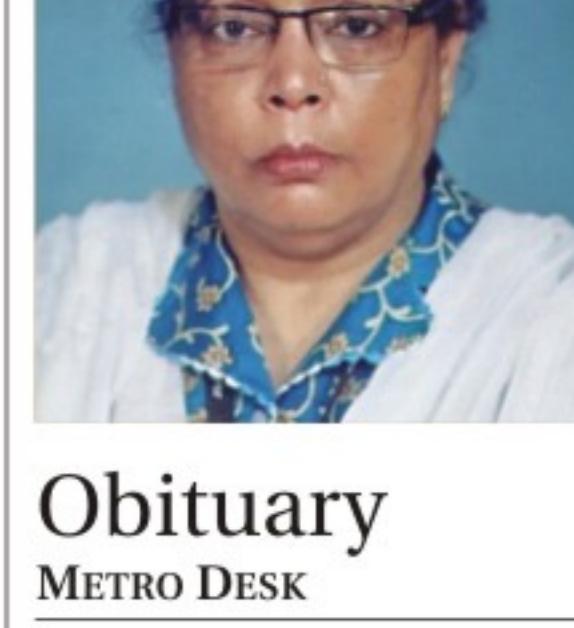
The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday served a show cause notice on the local agent of foreign vessel MV Golden Tulip regarding oil spillage at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port.

The notice asked the agent Elite Shipping Lines to explain within December 5 why legal action would not be taken against it for the oil slick, said DoE sources.

A team of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) found proof of oil spillage at the outer anchorage of the port. The vessel polluted the Bay, which is an offence according to Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, mentioned the letter.

Local office of DoE has also sent a copy of the notice to CPA and asked them for details about the owner of the Mauritius-flagged vessel, DoE Assistant Director Tazminur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Contacted, Prabir Sinha, manager of Elite Shipping Lines, said the master of the ship SS Aziz in an e-mail sent to them yesterday denied any oil spillage from his vessel.



Obituary

METRO DESK

Rafeya Mufty, a former employee of The Daily Star, passed away at Green Life Hospital in the city on Wednesday due to cancer. She was 54.

She left behind her husband, one daughter, one son, three grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn her death, says a press release.

Her qulhwani will be held at her residence at 446/C at Chowdhurypara of Khilgaon in the city on December 2 after Asr prayers.

She was buried at the Azimpur Graveyard in the city.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Begum Sufia Majid, mother of artist Rafi Haque.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at her village home in Kumarkhali of Kushita after Maghrab prayers today.

Her relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad.

Technician dies in motor fall in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A technician was killed and five others were injured when a motor of the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 at Dhalpur of Jatrabari in the city fell on them yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Anwar Hossain, 42. The injured, Jahid Hasan, 30, Shaon, 20, Alauddin, 28, Amirul Islam, 28 and Jamal Miah, 30 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Anwar was setting the motor on the tower of the plant with the help of a lift while the others were assisting him. When the accident occurred, the lift also went down slightly injuring others.

In another incident, a worker, Kamruzzaman was electrocuted when he came in contact with live electric wire around 10:30am while setting up a billboard near Ad-Din Hospital at Moghbazar.

ATTENTION: HER EXCELLENCY HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA
Upazila Parishad Association of Bangladesh (UzPAB)

Grateful

On behalf of UzPAB, we extend our heartiest felicitations to the Honorable Prime Minister for her commitment to empowering the upazila parishads and curbing the power of the bureaucracy in her statements at Gono Bhaban on Saturday, 15 October 2011.

Shocked

We were shocked at the passage of the amendment to the Upazila Act on 29 November 2011 which is regrettably more retrogressive than progressive and does not address critical obstacles to making the Upazila Parishad function effectively.

Hopeful

We are still hopeful that legislative and ministerial steps will be taken to:

- Include a guarantee to stop the issuance of those ministerial circulars that undermine the empowerment of the Upazila Parishad [and retain those that do not].
- Remove the controls of the bureaucracy over the Upazila Parishad that undermine its ability to make independent financial and planning decisions to improve services to the people
- End the obligation of the Upazila Parishad to follow the advice of the MP in all decisions

We are demoralized but not disheartened. We still want to believe that the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Parliament will take further steps to strengthen the Upazila Parishad in accordance with their election manifesto.

(Md. Foyzur Rahman Fakir)

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President, Dhaka Division
Chairman, Mymensingh
Sadar Upazila Parishad

(Md. Golam Mortuza)

(Md. Golam Mortuza)
President, Khulna Division
Chairman, Jibonnagar
Upazila Parishad, Chuadanga

(Alhaz Azizul Haq Akkas)

(Alhaz Azizul Haq Akkas)
President, Barisal Division
Chairman, Barisal Sadar
Upazila Parishad

(Md. Mohibur Rahman)

(Md. Mohibur Rahman)
President, Sylhet Division
Chairman, Bishwanath
Upazila Parishad, Sylhet

(A K M Ataur Rahman Khan)

(A K M Ataur Rahman Khan)
President, Rajshahi Division
Chairman, Godagari Upazila Parishad, Rajshahi

(Mohammad Hossain Fokir)

(Mohammad Hossain Fokir)
Secretary, Rangpur Division
Vice-Chairman, Gobindaganj Upazila Parishad, Gaibandha

(Rasheda Akter)

(Rasheda Akter)
Vice-Chairman, Choddogram
Upazila Parishad, Comilla

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• Age Limit- not more than 40 years

Manager - HR & Administration:

- MBA (HR) or Masters with PGDHRM with minimum 8 years experience in the field of HR & Administration in any large national or multinational company.

• Age Limit- not more than 40 years

Preferred Industry-Telecom or any similar industry