

# \$29m deal with WB to create jobs for women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday signed a \$29 million Northern Areas Reduction of Poverty Initiative (Nari) project with the World Bank aiming to create jobs for women.

World Bank Country Director in Bangladesh Ellen Goldstein and Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Iqbal Mahmood signed the agreement on their respective sides at the ERD conference room.

The project would support employment and successful migration of around 11,000 poor and vulnerable women from the Monga-prone districts namely Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, and Rangpur in garments sector, a press release said.

"The Nari project is the first World Bank-financed operation in South Asia with a specific focus on the empowerment of vulnerable women through employment in a formal sector," said Goldstein.

"It has the potential of fundamentally changing the lives of thousands of poor rural women, and possibly many more once the pilot is scaled up to other parts of Bangladesh and other sectors, if successful," she added.

ERD Secretary Mahmood said, "The project directly contributes to the government's pro-poor growth vision. It would support linking the lagged-behind northern region to country's growth poles in eastern region along with enhancing women's participation in work force."



## Arrest of Ghulam Azam, Mir Kashem demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad (BMS) Chittagong district unit command yesterday demanded immediate arrest of Ghulam Azam and Mir Kashem Ali, the alleged war criminals who committed crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971.

They also demanded immediate completion of the ongoing trial of the war criminals.

The demands were made in a memorandum sent to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by BMS via the Chittagong deputy commissioner (DC).

As part of their month-long countrywide campaign on the issue, the command handed over the memorandum to the city's acting DC Ehsan Elahi, following a rally on the Zila Parishad premises.

Freedom fighters, at the rally, said some influential quarters are plotting to hinder the ongoing trial process and save the war criminals.

They urged the people to stand united against the war criminals in this month of victory.

The command's Convenor Bashirulla Majumdar, Joint Secretary Mozaffar Ahmed and Organising Commander AKM Sarwar Kamal Dulu also addressed the rally presided over by its district Commander Mohammad Sahabuddin.



## HARTAL DISRUPTS LIFE

Police are seen in action against pickets in several areas in the city during the daylong hartal, called by main opposition BNP yesterday. The pickets also set fire to a police van at Metropolitan Session Judge's Court premises while the law enforcers cordon off BNP MPs in Sangsab Bhaban area. Awami League activists chase BNP-backed lawyers in the court area.

PHOTO: STAR



War crimes charges false  
Claim Sayeedee's lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The war crimes charges against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedee have been grounded in a "false investigation report," said his counsels yesterday.

At a press briefing at Supreme Court Bar Association, Tajul Islam, a lawyer for the accused Jamaat leader, also said the prosecution had talked to a selected group of Awami League men in Pirojpur and made the probe report upon which the International Crimes Tribunal framed charges against Sayeedee.

Twenty three people including eight of Sayeedee's lawyers on December 2 visited some areas of Pirojpur to gather information about the alleged offences brought against Sayeedee, he said.

But they failed to do so as the local administration did not assist them, Tajul said. Rather, they faced obstruction while collecting information.

He urged the tribunal and the administration to get an investigation into the allegations against Sayeedee done by a neutral probe committee.

The tribunal on October 3 framed 20 accounts of war crimes against the Jamaat leader, including genocide, killing, abduction and torture committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

Asked about the claim of Tajul, Prosecutor Zead Al Malum told The Daily Star that defence lawyers' comments were not a matter of concern for them as the war crimes trial was proceeding in accordance with the law.

Munshi Ahsan Kabir and Tanvir Ahmed Al Amin, among other defence lawyers, were present at the press briefing.

## BNP's demand to stop ICT conspiratorial: Left parties

BSS, Dhaka

Different political parties reacted sharply to the main opposition BNP's demand for shutting down the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), saying that raising such an audacious, heinous and conspiratorial demand, BNP has taken a clear stand to protect the identified war criminals.

The political leaders termed BNP's demand tantamount to the crimes committed by the war criminals who were not only involved in killing, rape and torture but also collaborated with the Pakistani occupation forces in perpetrating crimes against humanity during the War of Independence in 1971.

On Saturday, BNP demanded stopping all proceedings of the war crimes

tribunal constituted on March 25, 2011 to hold trial of war criminals, a demand that had remained unfulfilled since 1971.

"The BNP has no confidence in this tribunal. It believes that in the existing legal structure, the tribunal is nothing but a servile, rubber-stamp organisation," said Barrister Moudud Ahmed, one of the influential policymakers of BNP.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu), Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB) strongly opposed BNP's demand for cancelling the proceedings of the ICT and urged the people from all democratic forces to unitedly resist any conspiracy against the ICT and its operation.

Taking to the news agency, JSD

President Hasanul Haq Inu, MP, demanded immediate arrest of Moudud for what he said trying to obstruct the trial of war criminals.

"As a political party, Jamaat-e-Islami had directly opposed the Liberation War and its leaders were directly involved in crimes against humanity such as killing, rape and torture," Inu said, adding, "These people must be tried. The ongoing trial must take its own course."

Strongly opposing BNP's demand, CPB general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said BNP is trying to save the war criminals but the countrymen would unitedly foil such a heinous conspiracy.

"BNP's demand is audacious. We strongly oppose and reject this demand," said the politburo of Workers Party of Bangladesh.

## 5 hurt as doctors clash in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least five people were injured in a clash between the two groups of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chittagong unit at its annual general meeting in the port city yesterday.

Both the groups are of pro-Awami League doctors' organisation, Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad.

The clash ensued when the society life member Dr Minhajur Rahman, in his speech, brought an allegation of corruption against the existing committee Vice President Dr Shafiqul Azam.

At one stage, some members loyal to Azam snatched away the microphone and forcibly pulled Minhajur down the stage.

Panchlaish Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Ismail Hossain said the two groups engaged in altercation and scuffled at the meeting held at a community centre.

Central Board Member of the organisation, Nurunnabi Chowdhury was present as the chief guest while Shafiqul Azam was in the chair.

Of the injured, general members Dr Noren Kumar Das and Dr Parijat were admitted to a private clinic.

When contacted, Azam denied any sort of corruption in the organisation.

Prof Rashid made IMC principal

METRO DESK

Prof Mamanur Rashid, former student of Notre Dame College, has taken over as principal of Ibrahim Medical College (IMC).

A graduate of Dhaka Medical College, Rashid joined IMC in 2005 and had been serving as vice principal since the beginning of this year.

Rashid completed his Masters and postdoctoral fellowship from Columbia University and PhD from Cambridge University.

### DHAKA TODAY

#### Seminar

Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry will organise a seminar. Venue: Westin Hotel, Time: 3:00pm.

#### Human chain

Bangladesh Dignity Forum will form a human chain. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:30am.

#### Rally

Communist Party of Bangladesh will arrange a flag rally. Venue: Mukti Bhaban, Purana Paltan, Time: 3:30pm.

#### Workshop

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a workshop. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

#### Discussion

Amra Bangladeshi will hold a discussion. Venue: On its mazar premises, Time: 8:00am.

#### Human chain

Sharee will form a human chain. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

#### Discussion

Muktijoddha Forum will hold a discussion. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

#### Roundtable

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers

## Next polls vital for nation: Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said his party only wants sharing of ideology not sharing of power.

He made the remark as the chief guest at a citizen mourning meeting of Professor Nuruddin Jahed Manju, a central leader of JSD, who died on October 25.

Awami League city unit president and former mayor A B M M o h i u d d i n Chowdhury chaired the meeting at Muslim Institute Hall in the port city.

Terming the next general election vital for the nation, Inu said, "If we (the grand alliance government) fail to win in the next polls, the war [trial against war criminals] will remain incomplete."

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 12th death anniversary of H a j i M o h a m m a d S e l i m, a politician and social worker, says a press release. He was former president of Dhaka city Convention Muslim League of the then East Pakistan, former acting administrator of Dhaka City Corporation and chief adviser of the Weekly Joyjatra.

#### Golam Rahman Mati

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Golam Rahman Mati, former president of a panchayet committee in old part of the city, says a release.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence in old Dhaka after Zohr prayers today.

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