

NIZAMI'S CASE
Order on
adjourning
hearing today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal will pass an order today on Jamaat-e-Islami leader Motiur Rahman Nizami's petition to adjourn the hearing on charge framing against him in connection with crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

The tribunal yesterday fixed the date of order as Nizami's chief counsel, Barrister Abdur Razzaq, moved the adjournment petition seeking four weeks, saying that they were not prepared to place arguments during the charge framing.



A visually challenged girl reads a book in Braille at the stall of Sightsavers, a non-government organisation (NGO), at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AMAR EKUSHEY BOI MELA

Joy for visually impaired

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Once the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela did not mean much to Jannatul Nayeem, a visually impaired student, except hearing the buzz of bookworms and visitors on the Bangla Academy premises.

This year the fair has brought something for her.

She now has the choice to get into the amusement of reading stories, poems, and other books, as a stall has brought 15 titles in Braille for visually impaired people.

"This fair should not be the place of excitement only for normal people...scope should be preserved for visually impaired persons like me", said Jannatul, an honours student at the city's Eden Girls' College, who was visiting the fair yesterday afternoon.

Sporsha Braille Corner, a voluntary organisation, has created such scope with a set of Braille books covering different sections of literature.

"Many visually challenged persons visit our stall everyday and read these books here",

said Nazia Jabeen, one of the patrons of the organisation. "But this is not enough. Only 15 books in Braille in the world of literature are nothing in reality", she added. She expected that other publishers would bring out books in Braille.

A non-government organisation (NGO), Sightsavers, has come up in the fair with various equipment for the visually challenged as part of its effort to raise public awareness about these special needs people.

It also has brought books on primary level education in Braille.

"Our target is make both the visually impaired and others familiar with the equipments available for the visually challenged persons", said Mahbubur Rahman, one of the staff at the stall. The stall has also created the scope for using computers with a special screen-reading-software, he said. "With this software, visually impaired people will hear everything on the computer screen and then they will be able to use the computer".

Meanwhile, a total of 112 new titles hit the fair yesterday.

\$36m WB support for wildlife conservation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and other South Asian countries will jointly implement a project for endangered wildlife conservation by preventing illegal trade of wild animals and ensuring better management.

The five-year "Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia Project" was launched at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh is the first to join the World Bank supported scheme and Nepal, Bhutan and India soon will follow suit. Other South Asian countries would also be included in phases.

The World Bank funds \$36 million for the Bangladesh part while the government here contributes \$3 million.

The Department of Forests will implement the project that planned to create a new wildlife crime control unit and hire additional patrol and conservation staff.

"This will be a milestone in regional cooperation for wildlife conservation in South Asia," said Hasan Mahmud, minister of environment and forests, at the event.

"We cannot live without wildlife; it is

crucial for protection of ecosystems," he said, adding that population pressure and development activities have already seriously affected the wildlife.

Illegal poaching of tiger, elephant, deer, reptiles, bird, and damaging of corals are the most severe threats to biodiversity in Bangladesh and other South Asian countries, according to the WB.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and

Nepal, Bhutan and India will join the World Bank-supported project soon

Nepal are home to over 65 percent of around 3,000 wild tigers of the world, and Bangladesh faces severe conservation challenges, it said.

Around 4-5 percent of faunal species and about 10 percent of floral diversity of Bangladesh have become extinct in the last century, said officials at the forest department.

"Now cross-border cooperation will

help reduce illegal wildlife trade and conserve habitats across different countries," Sanjay Kathuria, WB's acting country director, said.

He said regional cooperation has been very complex in South Asia, and this is the first time the WB has taken up such a project.

Once there were tigers in 17 districts of Bangladesh, but now they are found only in the Sundarbans, said Tapan Kumar Dey, project director.

The government under the project will design a national ecotourism strategy and plan of action for development of 34 protected areas and 15 prospective tourism and wildlife habitats.

A wildlife centre cell will be set up to train forest officials, students, researchers and the people. A virtual regional centre will maintain regional communications, he said.

Andrey V Kushlin, programme coordinator of Global Tiger Initiative, said consumers of wildlife are outside South Asia and its demand is high.

Yunus Ali, chief conservator of the forests, the project's team leader Smith Pilapitiya, Professor Anwarul Islam of Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, WB official Herbert Acquay spoke on the occasion.

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WIN A LAPTOP EVERYDAY

Starting this 10th January, 2012, Pepsodent launched its nationwide campaign "Pepsodent Win a Laptop Everyday". During this promotional campaign, consumers have to buy a Pepsodent Germi-check 200g pack and SMS the 7 digit unique code on the back of the pack as per the given rules. They get a question in return and by answering the question correctly, one lucky winner will get an Acer laptop every day, for 100 days.

This campaign has become very popular among the consumers in a short time. The winner's name is announced on "Pepsodent Night Brushing Hour" every Saturday to Wednesday from 10 pm to 11 pm on [radio today](#). Already two laptop handover ceremonies were held and the winners of the first 15 days have been given their laptops. On January 23rd and 29th, 2012, the two laptop handover ceremonies were held in the Unilever pavilion of Dhaka International Trade Fair.

This is what some of the winners had to say upon winning their laptops:

Asif | Student, Dhaka
I could never imagine that I would get a laptop. Now I can use my laptop at home and with friends during adda. I feel really good. As a good toothpaste, I have always used Pepsodent. Moreover, I am a regular listener of "Pepsodent Night Brushing Hour" on Radio Today.

Rinty | Student, Chandpur
It feels really good to get a laptop. This is MY laptop. I would really like to thank Pepsodent for presenting this campaign. I play games, listen to music and use dictionary on my laptop. And I am a regular user of Pepsodent.

Sajeda Nasrin | Student, Dhaka
This is a great feeling to get a laptop absolutely free with Pepsodent. Now I can use a laptop all the time. And I never miss "Pepsodent Night Brushing Hour" on Radio Today.

Md. Salekuddin | Service holder, Khulna
I am really happy. I really needed a laptop and right then thanks to Pepsodent I got one, absolutely free. Everyone in my family uses Pepsodent regularly. I am not a regular listener of radio programs. However, my elder daughter listens to "Pepsodent Night Brushing Hour".

Hundred TK.100 per laptop!

The "Pepsodent Win a Laptop Everyday" campaign, which started on January 10, 2012, has announced the first 30 winners. Of the 30 winners, 15 of them have already received their laptops. The laptops are from the world renowned brand - Acer. However, the good news is that 70 laptops are still left. That means, consumers still stand a chance to win a laptop for themselves from the 70 laptops that are left.

Pepsodent Laptop Offer on Facebook:
To know more about this offer, visit the offer's facebook page: www.facebook.com/PepsodentLaptopOffer
There are more than 3,000 fans on this facebook page already. Names of the daily winners, details of the offer and other relevant details can be accessed by any facebook user on this page.