

# CHARGES AGAINST QUADER MOLLA Hearing today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) is scheduled today for hearings on charge framing against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Molla in connection with committing war crimes in 1971.

The tribunal fixed the date of the hearing on February 19. Quader is charged with seven specific crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971.

His counsel Tajul Islam yesterday told The Daily Star that they (counsels) would move a petition before the tribunal today for deferring the hearing as they could not make preparation for placing arguments to defend their client.

The prosecution on December 18 last year submitted formal charges against Quader before the tribunal, which took the charges into cognisance later on December 28.

The tribunal is also scheduled today for holding deposition of prosecution witness against another Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee in connection with war crimes.



The Daily Star and Health Prior 21 jointly organised a roundtable, "40 Years of Bangladesh Healthcare: Achievements and Challenges", at The Daily Star Centre in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

# 5,008 bottles of phensedyl seized in city: Six arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Police arrested six alleged drug peddlers from the city's Khilgaon area with 5,008 bottles of phensedyl in their possessions on Friday.

Senior Assistant Commissioner of Detective Branch (DB) of police Moshir Rahman said they had got information that a gang will bring two consignments of phensedyl to the city from Shatkhira, Benapole and Jessore.

On Friday, a team of DB took position under the Khilgaon Flyover and stopped a private car around 11:00pm.

Labu Gazi, 41, Gazi Salauddin Khokon, 30, and Ayesha, 30, were arrested from the car with 2,603 bottles of phensedyl.

Later, according to their confessions, the police halted the second car in the same place and seized 2,405 bottles of phensedyl from Amir Hamza, 57, Mahfuzur Rahman, 28, and Sagar Talukder, 23.

The arrestees used to sell drugs to some retailers at different parts of the city, said the police.

Police were trying to arrest the retailers.

# Fight against anti-liberation forces not over: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the struggle launched in 1971 was not over yet, and it would continue as long as the anti-liberation forces kept playing with the people's fate.

"Although the country achieved independence more than 40 years ago, the struggle is still on. Our spirit of liberation got dampened after the killing of the Father of the Nation", she said.

The prime minister made the observation at a seminar on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic March 7 speech at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

She said that after August 15, 1975, the anti-liberation forces became so powerful that they started distorting the history of the country's independence and Liberation War.

About the March 7 speech, she said,

"The historic March 7 speech is still live and logical as we'll have to have our hopes and aspirations fulfilled based on the spirit of the independence".

The prime minister mentioned that the government had started the trial of the war criminals and it would be completed. "Many quarters who don't believe in the liberation are out to save the war criminals, but they won't succeed".

She requested all the pro-liberation forces to come forward and get united against the evil of the anti-liberation forces. "Time has come for us to be united...we'll have to implement the directives of the Father of the Nation given in the historic March 7 speech", she said.

Hasina said the March 7 speech of Bangabandhu was the most-listened speech in the world and this would remain evergreen in the future as well.

She asked the new generation to

learn the real history of the country. "You've to know how the country achieved its independence and who led the country towards independence".

The seminar was organised by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum.

Member secretary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust Sheikh Hafizur Rahman delivered the welcome speech.

Dhaka University's Prof Dr Ashraf Hossain presented the keynote speech while Prof Abul Hasan Chowdhury of Kusthia Islamic University and Prof Shafi Ahmed of Jahangirnagar University took part in the discussion.

Syed Siddiqur Rahman, curator of the memorial museum, also member of the memorial trust, delivered the vote of thanks.

# CPB's 10th congress on Oct 11-13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 10th congress of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will be held in the city on October 11-13 where it will elect a new central committee and update some policies, among other activities.

Before that, the CPB will hold councils of all branches and upazila and district units between June and September, says a press release.

The decision came at a two-day meeting of the central committee, which ended yesterday with Manzurul Ahsan Khan, president of the party, in the chair.

# 2 Bangladeshis die in Qatar road crash

UNB, Chittagong

A Bangladeshi expatriate and his minor son were killed in a road accident in Al-Hur area of Qatar's capital Doha yesterday.

Six other people were injured in the crash. The deceased are Shakil Khaled, 45, senior officer of Qatar Commercial Bank, and his son Hamid Khaled, class IV student of Modern Indian School in Doha. They hailed from Chittagong.

Shakil was the son of late Saifuddin Ahmed, former general secretary of Qatar Cricket Association (QCA).

Shakil's close relative Saif Ahmed, public relations officer of Chittagong City Corporation, told the news agency that eight people, including Shakil and Hamid, were returning to Doha from Al-Hur area by a car.

The speeding vehicle skidded off the road and hit a boundary wall as its driver lost control over the steering, leaving the Bangladeshi banker and his son dead on the spot and six other passengers injured.

Steps are being taken to bring their bodies back to Bangladesh as early as possible, Saif added, quoting the members of the bereaved family who reside at Munsipara of North Tattali in the port city.



PHOTO: PMO

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanges pleasantries with teachers, artists and journalists at her official residence Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

# BSF to return 12 Bangladeshis

UNB, Kurigram

India's Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday said it would return shortly 12 Bangladeshis held from different villages of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts in the last 45 days.

The assurance came at a four-hour flag meeting between BSF and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at the frontier village of Bagabandar in Bhurungamari, Kurigram.

The 12 Bangladeshi nationals are languishing in different jails of Indian state of Paschim Banga.

Shooting of Bangladeshi villagers by BSF without provocation, arrests, kidnap, and other border-related problems came up for discussion.

At the meeting, both the sides underscored the need to reduce firing, curb kidnapping of Bangladeshis, human trafficking, and drug smuggling, said sources.

Rangpur Sector Commander Col Niamul Islam Fatemi and Deputy Inspector General DS Sandhya of BSF Kuchbihar Sector led respective sides at the meeting held at Bagabandar School ground.

# 'Honour Kazi Kamal with nat'l award'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday urged the government to honour Kazi Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, posthumously with a national award to recognise his contributions to the Liberation War and the field of sports.

The meeting was organised by fellow fighters at the city's Liberation War Museum.

The valiant freedom fighter died of cancer on January 16 in a city hospital.

Kamal was a lively and modest person who never ran after power and wealth, things which are very much sought after by most government officials nowadays, said Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman.

Thanking the meeting attendees, he said, "Your (freedom fighters) spontaneous presence at this programme proves that the spirit of the Liberation War is yet to die out."

A former basketball coach, Mahtabur Rahman Bulbul, highlighted Kamal's contribution to the country's sports arena and some valuable memories on the times he had spent with the legend.

"Why was he not given any national award for his contributions to sports?" he questioned, requesting the government to immediately recognise the contributions.

Expressing grief over the state's negligence towards freedom fighters since 1971, Habibur Alam, Bir Protik, said, "It (the suffering of freedom fighters) surpassed everything. My request to the political parties - please let us remain in peace."

"They (political parties) made sweet promises but did not do anything for the freedom fighters."

Kamal, a graduate of Dhaka University and former coach of Bangladesh army basketball team, fought bravely in different operations in Dhaka and Narayanganj during the Liberation War.

He joined the army in October, 1971 but left it after the country's independence. He later became the coach of the national basketball team.

A few years later, he went to Germany and settled there. He returned home after more than a decade and started a business.




Ball Room, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel  
Dhaka on 4-5th March 2012

*Best wishes from*




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