

Syria forces killing civilians systematically: Amnesty

Spate of blasts, clashes kill 52 across the country

AFP, Damascus

Amnesty International yesterday accused Syria of committing crimes against humanity to punish communities supporting rebels, as monitors reported a spate of car bombs and clashes which killed dozens more people.

The London-based rights group called for an international response after claiming it had fresh evidence that victims, including children, had been dragged from their homes and shot dead by soldiers, who in some cases then set the remains on fire.

"This disturbing new evidence of an organised pattern of grave abuses highlights the pressing need for decisive international action," said Amnesty's Donatella Rovera on the release of the 70-page report entitled Deadly Reprisals.

The advocacy group interviewed people in 23 towns and villages across Syria and concluded that government forces and militias were guilty of "grave



Amnesty International activists demonstrate in front of the Russian embassy in the Hague calling for an end to Russian President Vladimir Putin's support of the Syrian regime.

human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law amounting to crimes against humanity and war crimes."

The report comes a day after the government said it had "cleansed terrorists" from Al-Haffe, a Sunni

enclave in northwest Syria that had been a bastion of the rebel Free Syrian Army, and as monitors reported dozens of people killed since Wednesday.

At least 52 people were killed in violence across Syria yesterday,

including 10 in the central province of Homs, and as car bombs exploded in Damascus and the northwest city of Idlib, monitors reported.

A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-packed vehicle in a suburb of the capital, wounding 14 people and damaging one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines, state media and witnesses reported.

At least 77 people were killed across Syria on Wednesday, including 49 civilians, 21 soldiers and seven rebels, the watchdog said.

More than 14,400 people have been killed in the 15-month revolt in Syria, the majority of them civilians, according to the Observatory.

On the diplomatic front, a mistranslation Wednesday of remarks made in Tehran by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov threatened to further heat a diplomatic row between Russia and the United States.

Lavrov was quoted in Iranian media as accusing the US of supplying weapons to rebels who are battling the regime.

Curbs on coaching

FROM PAGE 20

divisional towns, districts and upazila levels, Nahid told reporters after the meeting.

The government's policy came in the wake of widespread "coaching business" of a section of teachers who are making easy money out of this practice by shirking their classroom duties and creating situations where the students are forced to take tuitions beyond school hours.

The government started dealing with the issue after the High Court on October 17 last year issued a rule asking

the government to explain why it should not be directed to stop the teachers working for coaching centres.

The HC issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Ziaul Kabir Dulu, president of Obhobhabok Oikya Forum, a platform of guardians.

The education ministry finally came up with the policy yesterday.

According to the policy, no teacher will be allowed to have direct or indirect involvement with any coaching centre that is being operated commercially.

Teachers, who will pro-

vide tuition at their residences, will have to submit the list of their students in detail to the head of their institutions.

The policy also said the head of an institution will arrange extra classes for the weaker students before or after the main classes upon requests from the guardians. But, a teacher will have to take at least 12 extra classes on each subject per month.

Students of metropolitan cities will pay Tk 300 per month as extra tuition fee while students of district towns will pay Tk 200 and

upazila levels Tk 150. The fees will be collected upon issuance of receipts to the students.

The tuition fees will be kept in a fund under the supervision of the institution's head. Ten percent of the collected amount will be allocated for the institution's expenses while the rest will be disbursed among the teachers concerned, it said.

Punitive action will be taken if any teacher from both public and private school, colleges and madrasas is found to have violated the guidelines, the

policy added.

"Coaching business, which has been continuing for decades and now turned into a big problem, can't be stopped overnight," said the education minister.

He also urged all to cooperate with the government in stopping the coaching business.

Noted educationist Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, who was present at the meeting, said the practice of coaching has to be stopped immediately, otherwise commercialisation will engulf the education.

Tribunal rejects

FROM PAGE 20

The three-member tribunal led by its Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, however, replaced the words "and also for" with "or in the alternative" in the second paragraphs of every charge framed against the Jamaat leader to avoid "cumulative charging".

On May 28, the tribunal indicted Quader Mollah on six counts of crimes against humanity charges, including murder and mass killings, during the Liberation War. It had fixed June 20 for the trial to begin with the opening statement from the prosecution.

But Quader Mollah's defence sought review of the indictment order.

In the review petition, defence counsels said the prosecution had neither

mentioned Quader Mollah as a member of Al Badr force (a collaborator force) in the formal charges nor had it produced sufficient evidence to prove the claim.

But the tribunal described the accused as an Al-Badr member in the indictment order.

They also said the tribunal framed "cumulative charges" against their client as he was charged for "participating" in war crimes as well as for his "complicity" in the crimes.

Mohammad Ali, the conducting prosecutor of the case, told The Daily Star yesterday that there was no legal bar to hold the trial against the Jamaat leader following the tribunal order yesterday.

Meanwhile, the tribunal

fixed June 19 to pass an order on a similar petition in the case against another Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

The tribunal, on June 4, indicted the assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami on seven counts of crimes against humanity charges.

The tribunal fixed the date after the defence and the prosecution completed their arguments on the review petition filed on June 11.

During yesterday's argument, Abdur Razzaq, chief defence counsel of detained Jamaat leaders, said the tribunal charged Kamaruzzaman with "participating" in war crimes. At the same time he was charged with "complicity" in the crimes.

"This type of cumulative charging is not permissible in the act [International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973]," he headed.

Razzaq said the allegations brought against Kamaruzzaman do not fall under the purview of crimes against humanity, as the prosecution did not mention that the attack was "widespread and systematic" against civilians.

Opposing the review peti-

tion, Prosecutor AKM Saiful Islam said the investigation officer of the case revealed that Kamaruzzaman was chief organiser of Al Badr force of greater Mymensingh district during the war and worked as camp commander of several camps.

Claiming that the attacks on civilians were made in a planned way, Saiful said, in some case, Kamaruzzaman was present on the scene of atrocities.

Anti-pollution

FROM PAGE 20

Solutions" at its conference lounge in the capital.

The discussion began around 12:30pm, two hours beyond schedule, showing an excuse of the late arrival of the chief guest.

The industry leaders placed their allegations against the DoE after the chief guest, Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud arrived.

They urged the government to take some measures so that they would not face any immediate action for polluting environment.

They also said the DoE officials behave rudely and often demand toll in case of delay in depositing the fined amount, a claim protested and challenged by the DoE officials present at the function. The industry leaders, however, immediately could not place any particular evidence of such act.

Mohammad Shahjahan, general secretary of Steel Mill Owners' Association, Mohammad Jasimuddin, vice-president of the incumbent Board of Directors of the FBCCI, and the representatives of other three organisations spoke.

"As the DoE officials are penalizing the industries huge amount of money and showing us the threat of police and Rab, many mills and factories have been closed and thousands of labourers have become unemployed," alleged an enraged Shahjahan.

He also pointed out that the DoE did not warn them,

neither gave any guideline, a decade ago when they started business.

Jasimuddin demanded that before taking any stringent action against the industries, the government must take effective measures to establish planned and separate industrial estates with central effluent treatment plants (CETPs) installed there.

However, the minister said it was not possible to stop the enforcement activities, but assured them of considering not shutting the industries following drives.

Hasan said the environment ministry would take measures with regard to establishing CETPs for reducing the cost of the industrial units after discussions with the concerned government bodies and provide the industries with required guidelines.

He also pointed out that the industries ministry is supposed to see the matters of setting up CETPs for businesses.

Regarding the pollution of river Buriganga, the minister said a comprehensive plan was needed to save the river and shifting the industries operating near the riverbank.

DoE Director General Monowar Islam said the DoE was compelled to fine the alleged industries "as the level of pollution has crossed the limit of the DoE rules".

He said the regulator usually charges the polluting industries minimum fines.

US, India see progress with nuclear deal

AFP, Washington

The United States and India sought Wednesday to dispel doubts over their relationship as a US company signed a deal on nuclear power, long a source of disappointment between the countries.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who once called US affection for India an "affair of the heart," said that the world's two largest democracies had entered a "new and more mature phase" in their partnership.

"With respect to affairs of the heart, they usually have ups and downs, but that does not make them any less heartfelt or any less of a commitment," Hillary said as she held annual talks with India's Foreign Minister SM Krishna.

Hillary called the agreement "a significant step toward the fulfillment" of the landmark US-India nuclear agreement, but acknowledged that the deal was preliminary and there was "still a lot of work to be done."

NEWS IN brief

Assange loses extradition appeal

AFP, London

Britain's Supreme Court yesterday rejected an application by WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to reopen his appeal against extradition to Sweden over alleged sex crimes.

The decision means the 40-year-old Australian creator of the whistleblowing website has exhausted all his legal options in Britain, although he could still take his case to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg.



Julian Assange

Peres gets highest US honour

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama praised President Shimon Peres Wednesday as the "essence of Israel itself" as he awarded the Israeli statesman America's highest civilian honor.

Obama hosted a dinner for Peres, attended by guests including former president Bill Clinton, in a show of respect and affection for the president that reflects close US-Israeli relations.

Obama lauded Peres, 88, for working with every American president since John F. Kennedy in the 1960s, and said that the "bonds" between the United States

India factory blast kills 10

AFP, Hyderabad

At least 10 people were killed and several others seriously injured in an explosion in a steel factory in southeastern India, a local government official said yesterday.

A spokesman for the plant who declined to be named said that first reports suggested that the explosion occurred in a control room, but that the cause of the blast was uncertain.

Gaddafi praise law revoked

BBC ONLINE

Libya's supreme court yesterday overturned a law that criminalised the glorification of former leader Muammar Gaddafi, his regime, his ideas or his sons.

The court ruled that the law, known as Law 37, was unconstitutional.

Law 37 was originally passed in May by the National Transitional Council's Legal Committee.

Libya's Human Rights Council and civil society groups appealed against the law, which was also



Muammar Gaddafi

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following post. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website: www.unicef.org.bd

Administrative Specialist(NOC), Admin Section.

Last date of receiving applications: **28 June 2012**

Please mark on the envelope the post applied for. Only short listed candidates will be invited for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.

Application with CV and a copy of filled in P-11 form should be sent to the Chief, Human Resources, BSL Office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Shahbag, Dhaka.

UNICEF IS COMMITTED TO GENDER EQUALITY IN ITS MANDATE AND ITS STAFF. WELL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES, PARTICULARLY FEMALES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

UNICEF is a non-smoking working environment

www.unicef.org.bd

unite for children



Career Opportunity

BRAC is one of the world's leading development organisations, dedicated to alleviate poverty and empower the poor. BRAC Internal Audit Department is looking for competent and self-motivated individuals for the following regular positions:

Assistant General Manager/ Senior Manager, Internal Audit

Job Description :

- To supervise the audit of BRAC Programmes, Social Enterprises and Departments as per annual audit plan.
- To supervise the work of Managers.
- To assist in the formulation of the audit techniques, audit guidelines, audit programme and checklist for the performance of audit work.
- To develop executive reporting.

Professional and Educational Qualifications:

- Masters in Commerce/MBA from any reputed University. Minimum two first Class/Division/ CGPA 3.00 is required. No third Class/Division/below CGPA 2.00 is acceptable.
- CA (Professional Examination-II) passed from reputed Audit Firm.

Additional Job Requirements:

- Excellent Report writing ability
- Strong communications skill in English
- Computer Literacy is must
- Good Presentation & Analytical Skill

Age : Maximum 35 years.

Experience : At least 3 years Managerial skill in audit related field will be preferred.

Salary : Negotiable.

Job Location : Head Office, Dhaka.

Other Benefit : Staff Security Benefit, Festival bonus, Contributory Provident Fund, Gratuity and others.

Please send your detailed CV with mobile number and a cover letter justifying your qualification for the position and photocopies of all academic certificates, National ID Card and two recent passport size colour photographs to BRAC-HRD, RDA Section, BRAC Centre (5th floor), 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 no later than June 30, 2012. Please mention the name of the position and AD# 40/12 on top of the envelope. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

BRAC is an equal opportunity employer



Career Opportunity

BRAC is one of the world's leading development organisations, dedicated to alleviate poverty and empower the poor. Legal and Compliance Department is looking for competent and self motivated individuals for the following regular position:

Senior Legal Counsel

Job Description:

- Vetting documents.
- Providing legal opinions.
- Drafting petitions.
- Pursuing court cases.

Job Specification:

- LLM with LLB from any reputed university with 1st division/ class/ minimum CGPA: 3.00 in all academic examinations.
- Applicants should have at least 5 years of experience as a Legal Practitioner in Bangladesh.
- Excellent communications skill in English.
- Computer literacy in MS Office and Internet.

Age : Maximum 35 years.

Salary : Tk. 75,000/- per month.

Job Location: BRAC Head Office, Dhaka.

Benefits: Staff Security Benefits, Festival Bonus, Contributory Provident Fund, Gratuity and Others.

Please send your detailed CV mentioning mobile number and a cover letter justifying your qualification for the position and photocopies of all academic certificates, national ID card and two recent passport size colour photographs to BRAC-HRD, RDA Section, BRAC Centre (5th floor), 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 no later than June 30, 2012. Please mention the name of the position and AD#39/12 on top of the envelope. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

BRAC is an equal opportunity employer