

SKYPE SCANDAL

War crimes trial not made questionable

Say 3 of 4 BBC Bangladesh Sanglap discussants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three of the four-member panel at a BBC Bangladesh Sanglap yesterday opined that the leakage of the Skype conversation between Justice Md Nizamul Huq and Ahmed Ziauddin would not raise questions about the ongoing war crimes trial.

The remaining member, Prof Abdul Latif Masum of Jahangirnagar University's Department of Government and Politics, opined that the trial had already become questionable as Justice Nizamul resigned.

Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia; Assistant Prof Tureen Afroz of Brac University's School of Law; and State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam gave the same opinion at the dialogue held in the capital's Bangla Academy.

Justice Nizamul resigned from the International Crimes Tribunal-1 chairman post on December 11. Two days ago, Bangla national daily Amar Desh started publishing "transcript of Skype conversation" of Justice Nizamul with expatriate Bangladeshi Ziauddin, a Brussels-based law expert on international crimes.

Qamrul and Tureen said the leakage was part of the continuous conspiracy against the 1971 war crimes trial.

On the first question, that whether the leakage would make the trial questionable, Mahbub, also the Bangladesh Bar Council vice chairman, said the leakage "tarnished"

the judiciary's image but the trial proceeding would not be hindered.

"It was good not to engage in such dialogue...I am happy that he (Justice Nizamul) stepped down taking the responsibility...however, it (the resignation) would not raise questions (on the trial)," he said.

Tureen thought that the conversation did not contain anything that could raise questions about the trial. "The publication of the conversation is evidence of the continuous plot being hatched against the trial."

On the second question, that whether it was right to publish a person's personal conversation in the name of press freedom, Mahbub and Latif said newspapers could publish such conversations if it was a matter of public interest.

Tureen agreed, but said what was published about Justice Nizamul was not a matter of public interest as he did not mention anything which could influence the trial.

Qamrul said hacking someone's personal conversation and its publication was an offence as per the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006 and investigations were going on to find those involved.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap is a programme where ordinary citizens have open discussions with political leaders and policymakers on contemporary issues.



Artists perform a dance at the cultural event titled *Bijoye Parbone* on Dhaka University central play-ground yesterday. Utshe Bangladesh, a cultural organisation, hosted the three-day programme to celebrate the country's 41st anniversary of victory in the Liberation War.

PHOTO: STAR

INDO-BANGLA RELATIONS

Indian law minister vows best possible one

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Law and Justice Minister Dr Ashwani Kumar reiterated India's commitment to develop the best possible relations with Bangladesh in all fields based on the principles of mutual respect, benefits and sovereignty.

India attaches the highest importance to its relations with Bangladesh, and was committed to resolving all issues through consultation with highest priority, he said.

The Indian minister said this when he called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday, said a press release of India High Commission in Dhaka.

Ashwani Kumar arrived in Dhaka to receive the "Friends of Liberation War Honour" on behalf of his father late Prabodh Chandra.

Sheikh Hasina distributed awards among 62 foreign friends, who made outstanding contributions to the country's Liberation War in 1971, at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

300 FFs given reception in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Marking the country's 41st anniversary of victory in the Liberation War more than 300 freedom fighters of Rajshahi were honoured through a reception yesterday.

Of them, Prof Dr M Shamsul Alam of Rajshahi University, Bodiuzzaman Tunu, Noor Hamim Rizvi and Sayeed Khan are holders of gallantry award Bir Protik.

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) and Rajshahi district administration jointly organised the reception ceremony at RCC's Green Plaza.

RCC Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, who was present at the programme as chief guest, distributed crests and gifts among the freedom fighters.

The mayor announced that RCC has decided to exempt the city's freedom fight-

ers from paying holding taxes on houses belonging to them. He hoped to get government approval on the matter soon.

RCC is also implementing a project of naming several streets in the city after the names of valiant freedom fighters, he added.

Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, Rajshahi district Muktiyoddha Sangsad Commander Saidur Rahman, Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Abdul Mannan and Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner SM Moniruzzaman also addressed the programme while Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner Abdul Hannan presided over it.

Earlier in the day, the freedom fighters held a procession on the city streets marking the victory day that falls today.

JU unit BCL hangs effigy of war criminal

Ctg unit demands faster trials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Chittagong city and Jahangirnagar University (JU) units organised separate demonstrations yesterday demanding that the government expedites the war crimes trial and vowing to ward off anti-liberation forces trying to hinder the trial.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, BCL brought out a procession of trucks from Laldighi Par to Wasa intersection of Dampara.

Inaugurating the procession, Chittagong city unit Awami League President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said the country's expects the verdict of the

trial of crimes against humanity in December, the month of victory.

Our JU correspondent reports, an effigy of war criminals was hung by the neck at JU's Shaheed Minar premises and later at JU's main gate after being paraded around the campus.

BCL organised the demonstration demanding capital punishment for war criminals and protesting the recent Jamaat-Shibir violence.

Progressive Students' Alliance also brought out a procession in support of the December 18 hartal called by Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Shamajtantrik Dal over the demand on banning politics of Jamaat-Shibir.

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এগিয়ে যাবো
লাল-সবুজের প্রেরণায়

এই চেতনা থেকেই রাবি'র রয়েছে কল্যাণমুখী বেশকিছু কার্যক্রম

রাবি'র আলো
প্রভাত এলাকায় রাবি গৌছে দিচ্ছে সৌরশক্তির আলো, সুবিধাবঞ্চিত মানুষ পাচ্ছে জ্বলে ওঠার নতুন শক্তি

ইংলিশহিনমুলস
ডেইলি স্টারকে সাথে নিয়ে রাবি চালু করেছে ইংলিশহিনমুলস কার্যক্রম, সারাদেশের হাজার হাজার শিক্ষার্থী পাচ্ছে আধুনিক ইংরেজি শিক্ষা

নিরাপদ পানি
দেশের বিভিন্ন গুরুত্বপূর্ণ রেলওয়ে স্টেশনে যাত্রীদের তৃষ্ণা মেটাতে, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে এবং ওয়াটার এইড বাংলাদেশের সহযোগিতায় রাবি স্থাপন করেছে ওয়াটার ড্রিটমেন্ট প্লান্ট

ক্লাবফুট কেয়ার
‘জিরো ক্লাবফুট’ প্রকল্পের পাটনার হিসেবে রাবি'র নিরলস প্রচেষ্টায় বহু ক্লাবফুট আক্রান্ত শিশু সম্পূর্ণ স্বাভাবিক জীবনযাপন করছে

কম্পিউটার কর্ণার
প্রভাত এলাকার কলেজগুলোতে রাবি চালু করেছে কম্পিউটার ও ইন্টারনেট কর্ণার, আর শিক্ষার্থীদের উৎসাহ যোগাতে আছেন রাবি পরিবারের স্বচ্ছাসেবকরা

সংগ্রামের সেই দিনগুলোতে আমরা সবাই এক হয়ে পথ চলেছি একটি লক্ষ্যে। শত্রুর বিরুদ্ধে নির্ধ ন্যমাসের লড়াইয়ে যে অর্জন, তারই ধারাবাহিকতায় আমাদের এগিয়ে যাওয়া।

মহান বিজয় দিবসে অগণিত গ্রাহক আর শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের জন্যই বিজয়ের শুভেচ্ছা।

জ্বলে উঠুন আপন শক্তিতে

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