

German neo-Nazi trial delayed

BBC ONLINE

The trial of an alleged German neo-Nazi for the murders of 10 people has been delayed following a row over limits on access to Turkish journalists.

The trial of Beate Zschaepe was due to start on Wednesday but has been put back to 6 May so that media passes can be re-allocated.

Turkish media were furious they had no trial access, even though most of the murder victims were ethnic Turks.

Germany's constitutional court last week said the media process was flawed.

"In view of the Constitutional Court ruling... a new accreditation process is necessary," the Munich court which will hear the trial said in a statement on Monday.

4 nations eye

FROM PAGE 1

sites -- nine in India, seven in Nepal and four in Bhutan -- in the Ganges and the Brahmaputra river basins.

Officials added that they wanted to add electricity from there to the national grid.

Of the nine sites in India, two will be in the Teesta, one in the Maini river and another in the Umiam river in Meghalaya while the rest are in the Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers, ministry sources said.

"But this is nothing final. We will finalise the project sites at the meeting," an official of the water resources ministry told The Daily Star yesterday, requesting anonymity.

The meeting will not, however, discuss the Tipaimukh dam as a Bangladesh-India joint survey on the project is underway, he added.

Asked about the topic of discussion at Thursday's meeting, the ministry source said the delegates would discuss implementation of long-term and sustainable projects for economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The members will also explore technically and geographically feasible means for augmentation and equitable distribution of water and power.

Development issues and financing of projects in the Ganges and the Brahmaputra river basins are also high on the agenda.

Replying to a query, ministry sources said multinational development partners are likely to provide funds and that the Bangladesh government needed not to bear any cost.

According to a report in The Hindu, the joint initiative will contribute to poverty eradication and better socio-economic integration.

The initiative came under a clause of the joint communiqué signed by Bangladesh and India in 2010, ministry sources said.

Tougher law

FROM PAGE 1

imprisonment and taka five lakh in fine for fraudulent practices of the recruiting agencies, said the secretary, Murtuza Ahmed.

The draft contains provisions to ensure justice in case of the offences relating to overseas employment.

The proposed law (when enacted) would replace the existing Immigration Ordinance 1982 to check forgery, deception and other illegal practices of the recruiting agencies to protect the interests of the overseas job seekers and migrant workers, he said.

It provides that aggrieved persons can file cases against recruiting agencies with court. It also has specific guidelines about filing of cases, acceptability of the cases, bail and compensation.

The draft proposed that a case should be disposed of within four months with two more months in certain circumstances, said Murtuza.

Contacted, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said the draft law would be placed in parliament after it gets final approval of the cabinet.

"We have prepared the draft with necessary provisions to ensure rights of the migrant workers. We want that they get justice if they become victims of any kind of fraudulence in going abroad for jobs," he said.

When the kidneys were tested in the laboratory, urine production reached 23% of natural ones.

JUDGES' SALARY HIKE SC unhappy at delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday expressed dissatisfaction with the government for "delaying" compliance with its order to raise the salary of lower court judges.

The Appellate Division of the SC told Attorney General Mahbubey Alam that this behaviour on the government's part was unacceptable.

In response to the attorney general, the six-member Appellate Division bench, headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, made the remark.

This court is needed for all people, whether they are in power or not, it added.

The court asked the attorney general to file the time petition by yesterday and fixed today for passing an order on the case.

The attorney general's office, however, will file the petition this morning, said the office sources.

Prof Yunus

FROM PAGE 1

the honour to the Bangladeshi microcredit pioneer.

According to Yunus Centre, the Nobel Laureate -- who is currently in the USA to receive the award -- is scheduled to deliver a speech afterwards on issues like social business and poverty elimination.

Prof Yunus has dedicated this honour to the people of Bangladesh.

"It is a matter of sheer joy and pride as the House and Senate leaders of the US have jointly decided to award me the highest civilian award," he told News World.

The medal represents the Congress' highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievement and contribution.

In 2009, Yunus received the USA's highest civilian award Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work as an agent of change.

The recognition of the Congressional Gold Medal has made Yunus the 7th person in the history to have won two US awards.

Lab-grown kidney

FROM PAGE 20

A study, in the journal Nature Medicine, showed the engineered kidneys were less effective than natural ones.

But regenerative medicine researchers said the field had huge promise.

Kidneys filter the blood to remove waste and excess water. They are also the most in-demand organ for transplant, with long waiting lists.

The researchers' vision is to take an old kidney and strip it of all its old cells to leave a honeycomb-like scaffold. The kidney would then be rebuilt with cells taken from the patient.

This would have two major advantages over current organ transplants.

The tissue would match the patient, so they would not need a lifetime of drugs to suppress the immune system to prevent rejection.

It would also vastly increase the number of organs available for transplant. Most organs, which are offered, are rejected, but they could be used as templates for new ones.

Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital have taken the first steps towards creating usable engineered kidneys.

They took a rat kidney and used a detergent to wash away the old cells.

The remaining web of proteins, or scaffold, looks just like a kidney, including an intricate network of blood vessels and drainage folds.

"They've addressed some of the main technical barriers to making it possible to use regenerative medicine to address a really important medical need."

He said that being able to do this for people needing an organ transplant could revolutionise medicine. "It's almost the nirvana of regenerative medicine, certainly from a surgical point of view, that you could meet the biggest need for transplant organs in the world - the kidney."

It was kept in a special oven to mimic the conditions in a rat's body for the next 12 days.

When the kidneys were tested in the laboratory, urine production reached 23% of natural ones.

ROHINGYAS IN MYANMAR Dhaka for giving them due rights

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

selection grade after five years of service and submit a report to it on compliance of the order by yesterday.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday morning told the court that the government would submit a time petition before it.

In response to the attorney general, the six-member Appellate Division bench, headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, made the remark.

This court is needed for all people, whether they are in power or not, it added.

The court asked the attorney general to file the time petition by yesterday and fixed today for passing an order on the case.

The apex court on March 14 had directed the government to increase the pay scale of the judicial officials (lower court judges) by 30 percent instead of 20 percent proposed by the government.

It had also directed that the government provide all the district judges with a

microcredit movement and helped hundreds of millions of people around the world come out of poverty.

In 2010, the US Senate unanimously approved a bill to award Yunus the medal. The bill recognises the Nobel laureate as a leading figure in the effort to fight global poverty.

Former recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal include George Washington, Sir Winston Churchill, Elie Wiesel, Pope John Paul II, Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King.

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Trials at final stage

FROM PAGE 20

conspiracy, planning, incitement and complicity to commit genocide and crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Kamaruzzaman was indicted on seven charges which include murder and torture of unarmed civilians and complicity in other crimes against humanity during the war.

It also urged the Myanmar authorities to ensure that the minorities get back their nationality rights and live as Myanmar citizens in safety and with dignity.

The call was made by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and the OIC contact group meeting at its headquarters in Jeddah on Sunday.

She called upon the international community to encourage the Myanmar government to promote dialogues between the Muslims and Buddhists in the Rakhine state and other sectarian flashpoints.

The foreign minister stressed the need for neutralising the radical elements within both the communities.

The OIC could play the role of a facilitator for holding inter-communal and inter-faith dialogues to reinforce mutual respect and understanding, she said.

Dipu Moni went on, "We must send out a clear message to our Muslim brethren in Myanmar that we shall continue to stand by them and never give up till we find a lasting solution to their problems."

Referring to Rohingya's irregular movements at sea from the coasts of Myanmar and Bangladesh, mostly towards Malaysia and Thailand, she said a large number of them, including women and children, are reportedly falling prey to trafficking and smuggling networks operating in the region.

She called for cooperation among the regional countries to prevent such irregular movements and provide necessary support to the victims.

Hunger strike clashes at Guantanamo

AFP, Washington

Guards at the Guantanamo Bay prison fired non-lethal shots to quell prisoner unrest Saturday as they relocated inmates into individual cells, US military officials said.

Officials at the US-run prison met with resistance from some inmates as they moved before dawn to relocate inmates from communal housing into individual cells.

"Some detainees resisted with improvised weapons, and in response, four less-than-lethal rounds were fired," according to a statement from Robert Durand, a spokesman with Joint Task Force Guantanamo, which runs the prison.

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