

### BHRC concerned over contempt of court charges against HRW

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC) of England and Wales expressed concern yesterday at the contempt charges brought against Human Rights Watch (HRW) by the chief prosecutor of International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in Bangladesh.

"The current charges against HRW amount to a chilling attempt to silence criticism of the ICT," reads a statement of the BHRC signed by its chairwoman, Kirsty Brimelow.

The statement adds that the charges relate to a report by HRW on August 16, 2013 criticising the trial and subsequent conviction of Ghulam Azam as "falling far below international fair trial standards".

Criticism of the ICT proceedings as "widely voiced internationally", says the statement.

It also claims that US Ambassador at Large on War Crimes Issues Stephen J Rapp has publicly stated, with respect to earlier verdicts given by the ICT, that "these convictions are not yet final."

"(These) issues are being raised in the submissions of the defendants in the appeals pending. It is not too late to get these things right in the Supreme Court or to adopt the [se] principles (of fair trials in accordance with international standards)," the statement quotes Stephen J Rapp.

The BHRC statement also reads that the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders states that human rights defenders have the right "freely to publish, impart or disseminate to others views, information and knowledge on all human rights and fundamental freedoms".

The statement finally adds that "BHRC urges concentration upon examining those aspects of the trials and convictions that are criticised with a view to ensuring due process compliance rather than pursuing detractors".



Shards of broken glass of vehicles lie strewn across New Airport Road at Joar Sahara in the capital yesterday following vandalism and a road blockade by garment workers of Nassa Group, James Design Ltd and Euro Zone Fashion demanding lunch allowance and other benefits. Inset top, long tailbacks created on the road during the agitation forced many, including this woman, inset bottom, to let go of their vehicles and risk their lives while crossing the divider to walk the rest of the way to their destinations on foot.



PHOTO: STAR

### Labour law serves owners' interests

*Allege garment workers' leaders*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Instead of being protective of workers' rights, the newly passed Labour Law 2006 serves the profiteering owners' interests, said garment workers' leaders yesterday.

Yielding to the unethical influences of the owners, the government has forgotten that the role of the law is to protect workers' rights, they claimed.

They were speaking at a press conference of Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council (BGWUC) held at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

According to a section of the law, a worker will not be given any compensation if he/she is accused of vandalism, arson, riot or unruly behaviour in the factory, said Salauddin Shapon, secretary general of the organisation.

"We fear that the owners will abuse the section of the law to deprive workers of their dues and harass them with criminal cases," he said.

He went on to criticise other sections of the law that afford owners the leverage to dismiss workers from factories.

He added that there was a "dark section in the law that allows termination of workers without any specific reason or fault."

BGWUC urged the government to immediately scrap the anti-worker sections and sub-sections from the law and amend it at the next parliamentary session.

An amendment of the law will not only protect workers' interests but also ensure future development of the industry, they said.

### BUSTED BOGRA MILITANT DEN Meaning of BEM, weapons source still a mystery

**STAR REPORT**

Law enforcers are yet to discover what stands for BEM, a new organisation mentioned in books and documents seized during a raid on a militant den in Bogra on August 22, and the source of sophisticated weapons found there.

However, police seized 500 grammes of gunpowder, a pistol, three toy pistols, eight homemade bombs, a dagger, 15 masks and some books on Jihad from another Bogra house on Saturday.

The seizure was based on information gleaned from Rafiqul Islam Rubel, one of three suspected militant BEM members arrested during the August 22 raid at a house in Thonthonia Paschim Para.

During Saturday's drive at the Malgram Adarsha Para house, police arrested its owner, Rezaul Karim, and his son Yusuf but suspected BEM members managed to flee.

Rafiqul is the brother of one Sohel, involved with banned militant organisation Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh

(JMB) since 2006, said Bogra Superintendent of Police (SP) Mozammel Haque.

Rafiqul had tried to mislead law enforcers by pretending to be one Nahid and that he hailed from Dinajpur. He actually hails from Fulbaria in Mymensingh.

Police filed three cases under the explosives substances, arms and anti-terrorism acts with Bogra Sadar Police Station yesterday, reports our Bogra correspondent.

It was against the three arrested BEM members, Sanaullah Mollah of Shahjahanpur upazila in Bogra and Rafiqul and Barha Sheikh Babu of Gaibandha; Rezaul Karim; and four to five unidentified others.

Police are now interrogating the three, each placed on a 10-day remand on Saturday, in the case under the anti-terrorism act.

SP Mozammel said Sanaullah is probably the group's leader but he has kept mum.

"We are planning to send them to a

Taskforce for Interrogation cell in Dhaka tomorrow for intensive grilling," he told The Daily Star last night.

He said they had already found code names of around six more BEM activists and were verifying those.

Talking to Sanaullah's neighbours in Fulcoat village under Shahjahanpur upazila, The Daily Star found that Sanaullah is a member of the youth wing of Ahale Hadith Andolan Bangladesh.

Many JMB members were from the organisation.

Sanaullah, who tried to mislead law enforcers by claiming to be one Firoz from Dinajpur, is also the founder and headmaster of a Qawmi madrasa at Durbadanga in Shahjahanpur.

Rabbi, a student of the madrasa, said, "Huzur (Sanaullah) seldom visits the madrasa." The madrasa has around 60 students studying in classes I to V.

Sanaullah married a second time following death of his first wife a few years back and is the father of two daughters and a son.

### Police admin reshuffled

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

In a reshuffle at the police administration, the government yesterday transferred 14 top officials.

Md Shamsuddin, police commissioner of Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP), was given appointment as police commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) of which current Police Commissioner Md Shafiqur Rahman was transferred to the same post in Chittagong.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shafiqul Islam took over charge in Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, replacing his predecessor SM Monir-uz-Zaman, reappointed as deputy inspector general (DIG), Khulna range.

Acting DIG of Criminal Investigation Department Shaibal Kanti Chowdhury was transferred to the post of Police Commissioner, BMP.

SM Fazlur Rahman was appointed as the deputy police commissioner of KMP, Md Morshed Alam as SP of Police Bureau of Investigation, Dhaka; and Md Sibgat Ullah as captain (SP) of the 5th Armed Police Battalion, Dhaka.

Md Kamrul Ahsan and Md Asaduzzaman were transferred to Police Headquarters, Dhaka as additional inspectors general.

Debdas Bhattacharya was transferred to Bandarban as superintendent of police (SP), AKM Nahidul Islam as Meherpur SP, Md Mofazzel Hosen as Highway Police SP (Madaripur zone), Md Mushfequr Rahman as Sylhet Metropolitan Police deputy police commissioner.

### Traders blockade road for arrest of extortionist in Ctg

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Traders of Pahartali Wholesale Rice Market in Chittagong yesterday blocked DT Road for about an hour demanding arrest of an alleged extortionist.

Witnesses said over a hundred traders closed their shops and demonstrated on the road. They demanded arrest of one Iqbal who has been allegedly extorting money from them for three years.

They claimed he extorted money from drivers of rice-laden trucks on Saturday night as well.

On information, police yesterday rushed to the spot and assured the traders of arresting Iqbal. However, the traders were firm in their demand and refused to budge.

The road was freed after police detained Tauhidur Rahman, Iqbal's younger brother, said AKM Azizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Pahartali Police Station, adding that Tauhidur was also accused of extortion.

He said police were looking for Iqbal.

### Death anniversary

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Today is the 25th death anniversary of advocate Chittaranjan Das.

He was the president of Chittagong Bar Association and Rotary Club of Chittagong. He was also the member of the first Law Commission, said a press release. On the occasion, a prayer will be held today at his village Kalampani in Raozan upazila of Chittagong.

### Bangladesh fails to attract Malaysian investors

*Says envoy*

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Malaysian High Commissioner in Dhaka Norlin Binti Othman yesterday expressed dismay over the prevailing atmosphere for business in Bangladesh, saying it was not welcoming and apparently discouraging for her country's investors.

Although Bangladesh had immense potentials, a negative perception has emerged among Malaysian investors due to a lack of coordination among Bangladesh's government bodies and a lack of adequate infrastructure and communications system, she said.

She was addressing the Country Lecture Series on Malaysia organised by the Bangladesh International Institute of Strategic Studies (BISS) in its auditorium in the capital.

"I have personally given up asking my friends to come and visit," Norlin said.

On manpower export, she said under a recently signed government-to-government agreement, Malaysia was recruiting some 10,000 workers from Bangladesh for tree plantation jobs.

She informed that the first batch of 198

workers had already reached Malaysia and the second batch of 174 will be going soon.

Norlin admitted that the process of sending workers was bit slow as her government was maintaining a strict but transparent system in recruiting manpower.

"The government will ensure a minimum wage of 900 Malaysian Ringgit per month," she said.

On removing the trade gap, Norlin suggested product diversification and analysing the type of products Malaysia wants.

On Malaysia My Second Home Programme, she did not give any figure on the number of Bangladeshis availing it but said now it was open for people of all ages, not only for those above 50.

The programme is an international residency scheme enacted by the Malaysian government to allow foreign nationals to stay in Malaysia on a long-stay visa of up to 10 years.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and BISS Chairman Munshi Faiz Ahmad and Director General Major Gen SM Shafiquddin Ahmed addressed the function, attended by former diplomats, civil servants and academicians.



Activists of two factions of pro-BNP student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra Dal's Barisal unit engage in scuffles during their representatives' meeting in Ashwini Kumar Town Hall in Barisal city yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



Savar municipality authority dumps rubbish beside Dhaka-Aricha highway in Ulail of Savar polluting the environment. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### ATTACK ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE JS body to visit Taindong Sep 4

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs will visit Taindong, a remote village in Khagrachhari, on September 4 to investigate an attack on indigenous people in the area on August 3.

The Jatiya Sangsad body, at a meeting at the parliament building, also recommended that the government buys a helicopter and adequate motorcycles for law enforcing agencies in CHT so that they could rapidly respond to violence.

On August 3, arsonists, which the victims claim were Bangalee settlers from neighbouring areas, torched 35 houses in Taindong and its three neighbouring unions and brutally beat several indigenous people of the area.

"We want to know what actually happened there in Taindong. We don't want to see recurrence of such heinous attack on our indigenous people," a member of the JS body said.

The JS body, led by Mohammad Shah Alam, will submit a recommendation to the government on how to reduce tensions between Bangalee and indigenous people living there.

## MASTERMIND VACANCY

[All candidates must have a minimum of 2 (two) years experience]

### FOR IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT

- 1. FACULTY POSITIONS: (For Uttara & Dhanmondi Branch)**  
**English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Accounting, Commerce (Male/Female)**  
 Candidates must be smart, fluent in English and capable of teaching up to A-Level.  
 Minimum qualification : Masters. English medium background will be preferred.
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF : Female only (For Uttara & Dhanmondi Branch)**  
 Candidates must be fluent in English, Smart and computer literate.  
 NGO experience will be preferred. **Excellent pay package.**  
 Qualification : Masters (Age not above 40 years.)  
 English medium background will be preferred.

Interested candidates are requested to drop their C.V in the school drop box or Email: [admin@mastermindschool.org](mailto:admin@mastermindschool.org) by **Monday, 2nd September 2013.**

Place : House # 5, Road # 12 (New) 31 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.