

Quizzing of 19th PW completed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday completed recording the cross-examination of Nayeb Ali, the 19th prosecution witness in the case against war crimes accused Syed Mohammad Qaisar.

Nayeb Ali on Sunday testified that the Pakistani army tortured him in Brahmanbaria in 1971 when Qaisar, the alleged chief of anti-liberation group Qaisar Bahini, identified Ali as a supporter of Bangladesh's independence.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan adjourned the case proceeding until today after Qaisar's lawyer Abdus Sobhan Tarafder completed cross-examining Ali with a suggestion that the witness gave "false" testimony.

Nayeb Ali, however, denied the claim.

Qaisar pleaded not guilty to the 16 charges he faces.

Meanwhile, the tribunal also recorded the cross-examination of Fazlur Rahman Fantu, the 11th prosecution witness in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami

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BYLC launches youth leadership summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) has organised the three-day Youth Leadership Summit-2014 today in a bid to develop leadership quality among the youth.

Around 500 national and international delegates and 50 speakers from around the world, including from renowned universities, are expected to participate in the summit at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

BYLC Founder and President Eijaz Ahmed made the announcement at a "Meet the Press" organised at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

Eijaz said leadership can make the country prosperous.

"This is why we have organised this summit to celebrate the promise and potential of our youth and instil in them values of public service and active citizenship," he said.

UN Resident Coordinator in Dhaka Neal Walker opined that Bangladesh will benefit in a powerful and sustainable way from the energy of its young people.

"I am personally inspired by the many young people I know and

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Floating traders have taken up the whole of this road between Golap Shah Mazar and the Hockey Stadium in the capital's Gulistan and turned it into a marketplace, while vehicles struggle to make way forward in this heavily congested area perennially. It is alleged that law enforcers are routinely bribed by the vendors to continue their business illegally.

ROW OVER LAND FOR PREMIER UNIVERSITY

AL leader Mohiuddin, 12 others sued in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League Chittagong city unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was sued yesterday over setting up of a new campus of Premier University, run by Chittagong City Corporation, on a disputed land in OR Nizam Road area.

Md Nazrul Islam, owner of a departmental store, filed the case with a Chittagong court, accusing 13 persons, including Mohiuddin, also former CCC mayor, said Rezaul Masud, additional deputy commissioner (prosecution) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

Taking cognisance of the case, the court directed the officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar police to record it as a first information report, he said.

Despite injunction from the court, a group of people led by Mohiuddin illegally grabbed the land by creating anarchy and panic in the area, the plaintiff alleged in the case.

Several structures, including

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CONTEMPTUOUS REMARKS HC summons, warns Jamaat top leader Rafiqul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned Jamaat-e-Islami acting secretary general Rafiqul Islam Khan before it on July 7 in connection with a contempt of court rule issued for making a "derogatory and contemptuous" statement about the court.

Yesterday, the HC said Rafiqul would face consequences if he did not appear before it on July 7. The bench of Justice Md Asfaqu Islam and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal also fixed July 7 for delivering a verdict on this issue.

On August 5 last year, another HC bench, led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim, issued the contempt rule against Rafiqul and another Jamaat leader, Md Ibrahim, for issuing the statement on August 1 last year, rejecting the HC verdict that declared Jamaat's registration with the Election Commission illegal.

In the statement, Rafiqul said the government's desire was reflected through the HC verdict, which was against the rule of law, democracy, fundamental rights, and the constitution. The verdict's announcement towards the end of holy Ramadan and on the day before the court went into vacation was a grave political conspiracy, said the statement, which was signed by Ibrahim.

Receiving a copy of the statement, the HC bench led by Justice Enayetur on August 5 also asked them to appear before it on September 16 last year to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against them for issuing such a statement.

Rafiqul and Ibrahim apologised unconditionally to the court for the statement and Ibrahim appeared before the HC but Rafiqul did not, Deputy Attorney General SM Maniruzzaman told The Daily Star.

Earlier, on June 9 last year, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced the Jamaat acting secretary general, Rafiqul, to three months' in jail and fined each of them Tk 3,000 for contempt of court, as he had made derogatory remarks about it.

AMASSING WEALTH ILLEGALLY ACC arrests Shahjahan Mia's asst pvt secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday arrested the assistant private secretary of the immediate past state minister for religion affairs Shahjahan Mia in connection with a case filed for amassing wealth illegally.

The ACC in another move sued the director general of food department for taking bribe from the managing director of a consulting firm for giving undue favours.

Assistant private secretary Sumendra Lal Chandra Soilen was arrested at his residence in the capital's Ramna area.

ACC Deputy Director AKM Mesbah Uddin filed the case against Soilen on June 2 for amassing wealth worth over Tk 1.11 lakh taking advantage of his post.

On the other hand, Director General of the Directorate General of Food Ahmed Hossain Khan was sued on Sunday night for taking bribe from Managing Director of Sthapati Sangsad Ltd Mohiuddin Khan.

ACC sources said Mohiuddin paid the bribe with fund allocated for a World Bank project.

In 2012, Mohiuddin paid the cost of three air tickets from Dhaka to Bangkok as bribe to Ahmed, they added.

Women yet to get due respect Seminar told

DU CORRESPONDENT

Incidents of women still being humiliated in different spheres of life show that the mind-set towards them has not changed yet, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar titled "Clean, Safe and Women Friendly Environment in Education Institutions for Sustainable Development" was organised by the Bridging Institutions and Innovations in Action for Sustainable Development.

They also stressed the need for collective efforts and mass awareness to ensure a congenial academic atmosphere.

At the seminar in Public Library auditorium, Prof Tania Haque said, "Apart from stalking, women are being projected as inferior to men even in the social media".

Different institutions, including universities, have an insufficient number of toilets for females and even hygiene and cleanliness is not maintained in those toilets, she added.

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury put emphasis on introducing an "UGC Award"

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This footbridge in Kamalapur Railway Station area in the capital has been left in this state with several steps missing for a long time while a large number of people, mostly school students, use this every day endangering their lives. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Birsa Munda's anniversary of martyrdom observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The 114th anniversary of the martyrdom of Birsa Munda, who played a key role in anti-British movement in Indian sub-continent, was observed yesterday.

On the occasion, Rokkhagola Gram Samaj Sangathan and Rokkhagola Sangskritik Kendra jointly arranged a discussion in

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Some 400 tribal people bring out a procession to place wreaths at Shaheed Minar in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi yesterday marking the 114th anniversary of martyrdom of Birsa Munda, who sacrificed his life for the cause of independence of the Indian sub-continent during the British rule.

PHOTO: STAR

N'GNAJ-5 BY-POLLS Rafiur goes to court against candidacy scrapping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Santrash Nirmul Toki Mancha Convener Rafiur Rabbi, whose candidacy in the June 26 Narayanganj-5 by-election was cancelled by the returning officer, yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court, challenging the decision.

"I have filed the writ petition because I think the returning officer has cancelled my candidacy irrationally," Rabbi told The Daily Star last evening.

The returning officer cancelled Rabbi's candidature on June 1 on grounds of loan defaults. Later, on June 5, the Election

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DMCH launches Nat'l Fistula Centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday opened a National Fistula Centre.

The centre, with a capacity of 30 beds, would provide capacity development training for doctors, nurses and other health service providers so that women with obstetric fistula can receive treatment in other hospitals as well.

Besides DMCH, only ten government medical college hospitals have the facilities and manpower to treat fistula.

It is estimated that the number of women living with obstetric fistula is between 71,000 and 400,000, said Prof Ferdousi Islam, head of the Department of Gynae and Obstetrics at DMCH.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the centre held at the hospital, she explained that obstetric fistula is where communication is created between the vagina and the bladder or the vagina and the rectum due to prolonged or obstructed labour.

MM Neazuddin, secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said although fistula is completely curable, the aim should be to prevent it through providing skilled birth attendants in all corners of the country, ensuring institutionalised delivery and stopping child marriage.

State Minister for Health Zahid Malek; Prof AK Azad, assistant director general, the Directorate General of Health Services; National Professor Dr Shaila Khatun; and Director of DMCH Mustafizur Rahman, among others, spoke at the event.

SC okays dismissal of case against HC judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday affirmed a High Court verdict that upheld a trial court's order allowing the government to withdraw a case against nine people, including Md Ruhul Quddus, now an HC judge, in connection with the death of an Islamic Chhatra Shibir leader at Rajshahi University 26 years ago.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana passed the order after dismissing a leave to appeal filed against the HC verdict.

Aslam Hossain, a Chhatra Shibir leader of RU, was killed in his room at Nawab Abdul Latif Hall of RU on November 17, 1988. The same day, Nayeb Ali, a classmate of the victim, filed a case in connection with the incident with Matihar Police Station against 18 people, including Ruhul Quddus, but police later dropped nine names.

The government's decision to withdraw the case will remain upheld following the apex court order, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star.

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