

DEATH SENTENCE
Nizami asks lawyers to appeal against verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three counsels of convict Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami met him at Kashimpur jail yesterday, for the first time after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on October 29 sentenced him death for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

The lawyers are Nazib Momen, also Nizami's son, Motiur Rahman Akand and Asad Uddin.

"He [Nizami] still believes that he is innocent and asked us to file appeal [against the verdict]," Asad told The Daily Star last night.

He also gave some instructions about some documents and testimonies of witnesses, which would be required to file the appeal, Asad said.

"His physical condition is almost sound," added the defence lawyer.

The tribunal sentenced Nizami, the chief of infamous Al-Badr force, an auxiliary force of Pakistani army, for four charges including the planned killing of intellectuals in the last part of the Liberation War in 1971.



Cargo carriers which ply inland waterways lie anchored by the Karnaphuli river while workers sit idle, inset, following an indefinite countrywide strike they called yesterday after seven people aboard a fertiliser-laden lighter vessel went missing in Laxmipur the night before following what they said a robbery.

PHOTO: STAR

DMP tried to misinterpret NHRC chief's comments

Says the commission
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission yesterday issued a statement saying the Dhaka Metropolitan Police had tried to extract a "different meaning" from the commission chairman's comments on his recent visit to an injured youth at DMCH.

"It is unethical and unfair to interpret the meaning of a statement differently, avoiding its core subject matter, reads the statement.

NHRC Chairman Mizanur Rahman on Thursday visited an alleged Hizb-ut Tahrir activist Mohammad Nafiz, 32, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Nafiz was allegedly shot point-blank in his left leg and lower back during a police raid in Mohammadpur on October 17.

After the visit, Mizanur lashed out at police for the "shooting" and said, "One [police] cannot shoot a person point-blank in the leg or waist—no law of Bangladesh gives this right to any agency."

Earlier the DMP in a statement said his visit to an alleged militant might encourage militancy.

ATTACK ON IMTIAZ
Four DU students suspended

DU CORRESPONDENT

Four Dhaka University students, also alleged Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Shahidullah Hall unit, who reportedly assaulted photographer Imtiaz Alam Beg and his two nieces on the campus on November 5, were suspended yesterday.

The four, all first year students, are Faruq of botany, Masum of physics, Zisan of statistics and Johir of mathematics.

The suspension will remain in effect till a final decision is taken based on a report, to be submitted on Thursday by a committee formed to probe the incident, said DU acting proctor Prof Amzad Ali.

PM for more training of BAF members

UNB, Ctg

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed improved training for members of the Bangladesh Air Force for attaining professional excellence saying they will have to develop themselves as efficient and ideal air force personnel.

She was addressing a function of awarding the National Standard to BAF Base Zahurul Haque in Chittagong.

Terming the country's air force as a traditional one, the prime minister said it had a glorious history of sacrifices during the country's Liberation War and its members with only one Alouette helicopter, One DC-3 and one Auster Biman fought with unprecedented efficiency against the occupation forces.

Two modern Maritime Research and Rescue Helicopter AW-139 will soon be added to the air force which will be conducted from this base, the prime minister said.

New units under the air force are being set up increasing its manpower while step has been taken to set up Bangabandhu Complex at the Air Force Academy in Jessore to provide improved training and research facilities for the force, she said.

During the national standard award ceremony, Hasina witnessed the parade at the parade ground of Air Base Zahurul Haque.

During the parade, the prime minister was given "National Salute" while a helicopter flew past with the national flag.

LOADING, UNLOADING, CARRYING OF CARGO
All activities suspended for workers' strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The workers of all cargo carriers plying the inland waterways across the country launched an indefinite strike yesterday after seven people aboard a fertiliser-laden lighter vessel went missing in Laxmipur the night before following what they said a robbery.

Though police claimed that it was an incident of internal fighting among the crew, they could not confirm what actually happened. Ten people were on board MV Karnaphuli-5, when it was headed towards Baghabari from Chittagong on Friday night. Three were rescued.

After the news spread, the lighter vessel workers at Chittagong Port and 16 private jetties of the Karnaphuli River stopped working, demanding security on the inland waterways which, the strikers said, is infested with frequent robbery, extortion.

The strike gradually spread to other parts of the country including Mongla and Narayanganj, and by the afternoon, around

three lakh workers of 20,000 cargo carriers including lighter vessel, coaster vessel, bulkhead, tanker, and barge, in the country joined it, said Chowdhury Ashikul Alam, general secretary of Bangladesh Noujan Sramik Federation.

He said the strike, which brought to a halt the transportation of cargo by river all over the country, would continue until the rescue of the seven.

Ashikul said robbery and extortion were common but police hardly cared about their safety. The strike is an outburst of their grievances, he told The Daily Star.

The protest started off at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port at 8:00am, said a staff of Water Transport Cell, a private organisation that coordinates lighter vessels.

Md Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Kamalnagar Police Station in Laxmipur, said it was not a case of robbery but an internal clash between the crew and workers of MV Karnaphuli-5.

Locals found the vessel abandoned

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

SUCCESS IN QUICK CASE DISPOSAL
District courts to get CMC: Chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Having succeeded in aiding the quick disposal and reduction of the huge backlog of cases, Case Management Committees (CMCs) are being formed in the remaining 61 district courts alongside in five metropolitan session courts, Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain said yesterday.

The Supreme Court Special Committee for Judicial Reforms took the decision in September, he told a national seminar on CMCs, organised by Judicial Strengthening Project (JUST) at the Supreme Court auditorium in the capital.

JUST has been jointly implemented by Bangladesh Supreme Court and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Functioning as pilot schemes in Dhaka, Kishoreganj and Rangamati district courts since February 2013, CMCs have been monitoring case flow management, identify causes of delays and taking necessary remedial measures to reduce delays and ensure speedy disposal.

The huge backlog was one key constraint of Bangladesh's judiciary, creating considerable pressure on the justice delivery system and hindering access to justice, said the chief justice.

SM Kuddus Zaman, national project director of JUST, said around 2.7 million cases had pending around the country.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Ainun Nishat gets Nature Conservation Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water resource and climate change specialist Prof Ainun Nishat has got the Prokriti O Jibon

Foundation and Channel i "Nature Conservation Award 2014" for his contribution to the conservation of biodiversity, environment and nature of Bangladesh.

At an award ceremony held yesterday in Channel i Bhaban in the capital, Hasneen Muktaadir, director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd, handed over a cheque of Tk 1 lakh to Nishat while Dr Sarder A Nayeem, chairman of Japan-Bangladesh



Prof Ainun Nishat, centre, holds the Prokriti O Jibon Foundation and Channel i "Nature Conservation Award 2014" at a ceremony in Channel i Bhaban in the capital yesterday. From left to right, Muqeed Majumdar Babu, director of Impress Telefilm Ltd/Channel i and also chairman of the foundation, Deputy Environment and Forests Minister Abdullah Al Islam Jakob, Environment and Forests Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, and Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Impress Telefilm Ltd/Channel i, were also present.

PHOTO: STAR

PLANNED URBANISATION
Political hindrance main spoiler: Ivy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political hindrance is the foremost cause that foils any attempt for planned urbanisation in the country, said Narayanganj city Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy at a seminar in the capital yesterday organised marking the world town planning day.

"We cannot protect rivers, canals, ponds and wetlands from being grabbed by real estate developers despite repeated public pledges by the prime minister for conservation of those... Are the real estate companies more powerful than the government?" she asked.

In many instances she said to have failed to implement schemes for planned urbanisation primarily due to impediments either created by powerful political quarters or resource constraints and lack of manpower. The Bangladesh Institute of Planners

(BIP) organised the seminar on inclusive urbanisation based on equality at the institute's auditorium.

"I really feel helpless in running the city corporation with the local government's power centralised at the ministry," said Ivy, who has served as an elected chairman of Narayanganj municipality for eight years and as the mayor for the last three years.

She stated to have written 40 letters to the authorities during tenures of three governments -- one led by BNP and two by Awami League -- to save a 17-acre water body in the heart of Narayanganj.

"Finally, I took it upon myself as the mayor to save the water body at any cost no matter whether the central government cooperated or not," she said.

Pointing at similar political interferences, SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Be vocal against violation of law
Dr Kamal urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain has urged all the citizens to raise their voice against any form of violation of law.

Independent judiciary, freedom of speech, and protection of citizens' fundamental rights by the state are the key components for ensuring the rule of law, he viewed while delivering a lecture organised by the Department of Law and Human Rights of the University of Asia Pacific (UAP) in its seminar room in the capital yesterday.

"We have got many elected parliament members since 1991. Did they discharge their duties properly? We should raise voice in this matter," he said. Talking about arresting any person on suspicion, he said the law enforcers should have particular grounds for suspicion before making an arrest.

He also said, "153 lawmakers were elected unopposed in January 5 polls but if a situation occurs someday when all 300 lawmakers are elected unopposed, would it be democracy?"

So, some provisions in the constitution should be amended and therefore discussions engaging people from all sections should be arranged for suggestions, he stressed.

"We will have to rethink about the electoral system, party's function and other issues," he viewed.

The UAP Vice Chancellor Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury chaired the session, while different faculty members, students and officials of the university attended the function.

President urges increased

FROM PAGE 3 disaster risk reduction. He invited Xi to visit Bangladesh anytime next year to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and China.

Lauding Bangladesh for its economic and social development, the Chinese president gave assurance of continuing its grant and assistance for the development of Bangladesh.

He also appreciated Bangladesh's role in various international and

regional forums, and said his country would invite 100 young people from Bangladesh to visit China.

President Abdul Hamid also addressed the "Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership", at Fang Hua Hall in Beijing. He said Bangladesh, India, China and Myanmar-Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) had the potential to open up opportunities for social and economic progress for millions of poor and marginalised communities and ethnicities.

"Physical linkages connect territories and communities," he said.

For China, BCIM-EC will help revive the ancient southern Silk Road, the president said, adding that for other countries, the BCIM-EC connectivity would offer improved livelihood options and create pathways for sustainable development of an impoverished economic landscape.

"Bangladesh would stress that our collective efforts and investments in the development of connectivity should be tailored and routed as such," he added.

Make the law effective or face

FROM PAGE 3 to soon face the draft of the Formalin Control Act, approved by the cabinet on June 30, in the parliament.

Poba also suggested not keeping any provision of tolerable level of formalin in the act.

Among 14 other recommendations of Poba, introducing and encouraging organic farming and use of integrated pest management were also mentioned.

Speaking as a special guest Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, member of the Law Commission, noted that farmers,

wholesalers and retailers should be made aware of the harmful use of chemicals at production and distribution levels.

He also suggested increasing the punishment currently stated in the Safe Food Act.

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman said mobile courts only punish the retailers but the real criminals remain out of the reach of the law.

Referring to the youth, allegedly a Hizb-ut Tahrir activist, who was shot point blank in the leg and waist,

Mizanur said law enforcers do not have any right to shoot even a terrorist or a murderer point-blank. It is the court that has the authority to convict an accused, not the law enforcers, he said.

On the other hand, Law Commission's Chairman ABM Khairul Haque said the Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch are more concerned for protecting the rights of accused rather than victims, children who had lost their parents or women who were raped in different times.

Students still out

FROM PAGE 3 Guides Association filed a petition. The government then filed a civil petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, which gave a stay order on October 30 on the HC's earlier decision.

"It is shocking that a school is dying right under the nose of policymakers, while the government has taken an initiative to construct primary schools in all villages of the country," said Rasheda.

Asked for comments, Syeda Rehana Imam, national commissioner of the Girl Guides Association, said the land belonged to the association, and it would continue the legal battle for the land.

Finished Apartments at UTTARA

Call: 9857230 - 4
01713 048556, 01714 039844, 01713 065055

