

Int'l Criminal Court lauds Bangladesh's commitment to rule of law

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

During Law Minister Anisul Huq's recent visit to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, its President Sang Hyun Song and Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda highly appreciated Bangladesh's unequivocal commitment to the court and the rule of law.

The daylong visit witnessed discussions on further collaboration, bringing an end to impunity globally, and how Bangladesh is determined to pay due respect to war rape victims, says a foreign ministry press release.

Anisul informed them of Bangladesh's deep appreciation for ICC's recently released policy paper on sexual and gender based crimes, and assured further collaboration on implementing it.

Earlier, Anisul held discussions with Dr Abioudin Williams, president of The Hague Institute for Global Justice, on exploring further collaboration and specific project developments.

EWG urges on talks to end political impasse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Working Group (EWG), a network of 28 civil society organisations, through a statement issued yesterday, called upon the government and opposition parties to sit for a dialogue to end the ongoing political impasse.

The EWG, which works for free and fair elections and good governance, expressed disappointment as no meaningful political initiative had been taken to find solutions to this situation following the anniversary of the 10th parliamentary elections, said the statement.

The network is also distressed at the increasing level of violence against common people and law enforcers, it added.

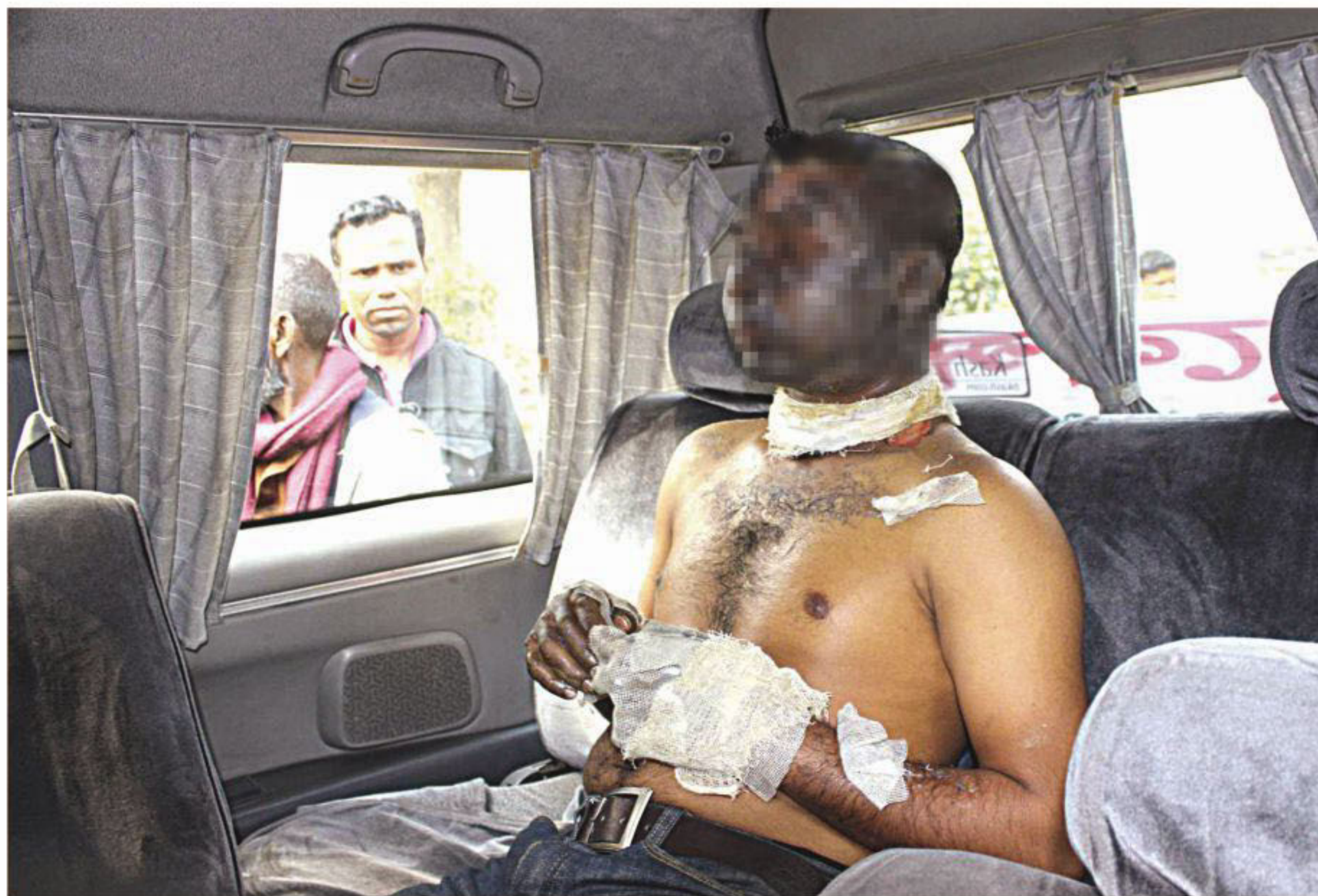
HC continues hearing appeals in BDR carnage case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court for the fourth day yesterday continued hearing the death reference and the appeals in the BDR carnage case, the biggest ever criminal case in the country's history in terms of the number of accused and convicts.

Till yesterday, Deputy Attorney General AKM Zahid Sarwar Kazal has read out 944 pages from the 1014-page charge sheet of the case. He is expected to continue presenting the

PEOPLE BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE



(Clockwise from top left) A pickup driver being brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit from Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital after coming under attack by arsonists on the Thakurgaon-Dinajpur highway at Uotrish Mile village under Thakurgaon sadar upazila early yesterday. A child meets his victimised father at the burn unit. Some of the victims of Friday's arson attack on a bus in Jatrabari recovering there. Unable to use his burnt hands, one victim being fed by his wife. Another wears a shirt for the first time after being grievously injured.

PHOTO: STAR



After recovery, what?

A question that compounds the pain of blockade burn survivors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not only have they been burnt severely, but they are seeing an uncertainty looming over the future, about how they would support their families after they recover.

"Four persons depend on my earning. I cannot afford to stay away from work for a long time," said Siddiqur Rahman, 40, an auto-rickshaw driver.

The father of three who suffered 17 percent burns was one of the several blockade arson victims who talked to The Daily Star at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Siddiqur's respiratory tract was affected in an attack in Mymensingh on January 5, the first anniversary of a one-sided general election, which saw the Awami League win a second consecutive term and when the BNP and its allies launched another spate of

violent protests.

The auto-rickshaw Siddiqur owns would earn him Tk 20,000 a month, he said, adding that he and his family might not have been in such a dire strait had there been no political violence.

Piar Mian, 55, a trucker, who suffered 12 percent burns in an attack in Comilla on January 11, was the sole man earning for his three-member family.

In addition, he was repaying the money he borrowed for sending his son abroad. The son, however, returned empty handed and is still jobless.

Piar's monthly salary was Tk 12,000. Apart from other parts of the body, both Siddiqur and Piar suffered burns to their hands.

Prof Samanta Lal Sen, a burn injury expert, said motor vehicle drivers, who

sustained injuries to the hands, might not sit behind the wheel again, at least in the near future. "The government should rehabilitate such victims in other occupations," he said.

Prof Sen added that those who received below 20 percent burns usually needed three to four months to recover fully, while the condition of a patient with above 40 percent burns was considered serious.

A traumatised Siddiqur is still haunted by the arson attack. When asked if he fears driving the auto-rickshaw again, the man said, "Yes, I do because my body is burnt."

He said that since the incident, his younger brother, who also can drive, had not taken the auto-rickshaw out on the road, fearing attacks. He rents it out to other drivers daily, he said.

According to DMCH sources, 50 arson victims were taking treatment in

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



The Federation of Bangladesh Human Rights Organisations forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding ensuring democracy, protection of human rights and an end to the ongoing political violence centring the blockade being enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

PHOTO: STAR

Govt to be liable for instability in CHT

Pahari Chhatra Parishad on ignoring opposition to opening tech university in Rangamati

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Since the government ignored demands to refrain from opening Rangamati Science and Technology University before the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord's complete implementation, it will be held responsible for any untoward

incident and instability in the region.

Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), an organisation of indigenous students, stated this through a statement issued yesterday.

They said the government published an advertisement on January 15 regarding admission from the current session

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



জীবন ছোট। তাই বলে এতই ছোট? মাত্র ৪৫-এ চলে যাওয়া কেন? তোমার শূন্যতা কী দিয়ে পূরণ হবে? এই হাহাকারে এই মাতমে বাপসা আজ চারধার।

বন্ধু তোমাকে ছাড়া আমি শোকে মোহমান। তুমি ছিলে, তুমি থাকবে স্মৃতিতে অম্লান!

শান্তি কামনা করছি তোমার বিদেহী আত্মার, সমবেদনা জানাচ্ছি তোমার শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি!

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30 Year celebration of Warface A legacy concert. Date: 30th January 2015. Venue: Gulnaksha Hall, International Convention City, Bashundhara, Joar Shahara, Khilkhet, Dhaka. Entry: 2:30 pm. Entry pass available at all Dhaka Robi outlets and Samsung Smartphone Cafe @ Tk.499. Visit: f/RobiFanz or www.robicom.bd