

NIZAMI'S DEATH PENALTY SC seeks concise statement on his appeal in two weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday asked both the state and defence counsels to submit in two weeks the concise statement on an appeal filed by convicted war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami against his death sentence.

International Crimes Tribunal-1 on October 29 last year passed a death sentence on Nizami on four charges of war crimes, including murdering intellectuals. The 72-year-old was also awarded life imprisonment on the other four charges.

Nizami on November 23 last year filed the appeal with the SC challenging the ICT-1 verdict.

SC scraps two appeals over Ghulam Azam verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday dismissed two appeals, one by former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam seeking an overturn of his prison sentence and the other by the government praying for death penalty for him and a ban on his party.

The petitions have become ineffective after the death of the Jamaat ameer, a bench led by Chief Justice SK Sinha said in its order, following a brief hearing.

On July 15 last year, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced Ghulam Azam to 90 years in jail for masterminding war crimes during the Liberation War. He died about three months later, on October 23, at the age of 92 while serving the sentence.



Laldighi, a large pond, in Cox's Bazar town has dried up gradually and turned into a field, thanks to the indifference of the authorities concerned to digging this historic pond to save it from extinction.

PHOTO: MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

LAND COMMISSION FOR PLAIN LAND ADIVASIS

AL electoral promise still unfulfilled

Indigenous leaders tell press conference, saying two murders, a rape, and an attack on Santal village reported in northern districts in two months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the ruling Awami League has promised twice, before the elections of 2008 and 2014, to form a land commission for plain land indigenous people, it has taken no initiative so far, leaders of the minority communities said yesterday.

In the absence of the commission, the disputes regarding Adivasis' land are becoming more complicated resulting in frequent attacks on them by Bangalees, they told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad and Kapaeng Foundation organised it demanding an end to violence against indigenous people.

"The government should at least circulate a directive to punish perpetrators who grab indigenous people's land by attacking them," said Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

As most indigenous people do not have documents proving ownership of their ancestral land, they often become the target of grabbers, he added.

"The perpetrators simply evict them from their homes and take the land, without having to face justice."

President of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Rabindranath Soren said the attacks had been frequent in the past months in northern Bangladesh.

Only in the space of two months this year, two indigenous men were killed, one woman was kidnapped from home and raped, another was about to be raped, while 60 houses in a Santal village were looted, in the northern districts, he said.

"The impunity enjoyed by perpe-

trators triggers more attacks."

Citing a Kapaeng Foundation report, Soren said about 300 indigenous families living in Godagari of Rajshahi left the country last year in search of a secured life.

"Facing racial discriminations and oppression, many Adivasi families of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions are migrating out of the country," he said.

Oikya NAP President Pankaj Bhattacharya, Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Ruhin Hossain Prince, and Workers Party leader Anisur Rahman Mallik also spoke.

From left, painters Ranjit Das, Rafiqun Nabi, and Samarjit Roy Chowdhury seeing sculptures in Bali, Indonesia. The three accompanied by another artist Hamiduzzaman are on an art trip to the country now, hosted by Galleri Kaya, to draw inspirations from foreign artworks.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Compensation for Rana Plaza collapse victims demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Survivors and families of those who died in the Rana Plaza collapse formed a human chain beside the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar yesterday to press home their long-time demands for compensation and punishment for those accused.

Speaking at the human chain formed under the banner "Bangladesh Garment Workers' Solidarity", Shirina Bala, who lost her daughter Khaleda Akter in the collapse, said almost two years have passed since the tragedy but she is yet to be compensated.

She said there are many families living inhuman lives as the disaster claimed the lives of their breadwinners.

Taslima Akter, coordinator of Bangladesh Garment Workers' Solidarity, alleged the government and BGMEA are wasting time to bury the matter.

She urged the government to meet their demands as it would be problematic for the authorities if the workers take to the street.

Rana Plaza, which housed five garment factories, collapsed on April 24, 2013 killing 1,136 workers and injuring scores others.

HC clears way

FROM PAGE 3

prayed to the HC for staying the case proceedings, Additional Attorney General Momtaz Uddin Fakir told The Daily Star.

Several cases were filed against Tarique, elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, across the country for making derogatory remarks against Bangabandhu and at least seven arrest warrants have been issued against him, as he did not appear before the courts concerned.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Nazrul Islam, a senior journalist of the daily Karatoa, died of a cardiac arrest in Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital yesterday. He was 65. He was buried in his family graveyard.

USTR happy

FROM PAGE 3

query, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said it would be possible to issue machine readable passports (MRP) for 90 lakh Bangladeshis living abroad within the stipulated time.

According to the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the use of MRPs is mandatory for all nationals from December this year.

The minister said MRPs have been issued with the help of outsourcing companies and Bangladesh missions in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and the UAE.

A total of 4,577 Bangladeshis have been arrested in various countries for killing, rape, theft, robbery, fighting, burglary, drug peddling, kidnapping, work permit expiration, overstay, misuse of work permit and non renewal of residential permit, he said.

Bangladesh missions are providing legal assistance for their release and to bring them back home, he added.

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Europa to discuss Bangladesh tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Parliament will discuss Bangladesh issues in Brussels tomorrow and submit a report on the recent visit of its delegation to Dhaka.

The topic, "Feedback from DROI mission to Bangladesh", is on the draft agenda, according to the EP.

A three-member team of EP's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) visited Bangladesh on February 16-20, and sought an immediate end to the growing violence and echoed the international community and Bangladesh civil society's call for solving the political crisis.

The delegation raised its concerns regarding forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, and said peace and stability should not be restored at the expense of civil and political rights.

The team met trade union and business leaders, environmental activists, representatives of local and international civil society, members of minority groups, senior political leaders, the Speaker, and members of the government.

NEWSIN brief

Nurul Haque Mehedi, Protiva

Mutsuddi get Dr Ahmed Sharif Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Politician Nurul Haque Mehedi and educationist Protiva Mutsuddi have been honoured with the Dr Ahmed Sharif Award.

Swadesh Chinta Shangha yesterday organised the award giving ceremony in Dhaka University's business faculty auditorium marking the 16th death anniversary of Dr Sharif.

Samiran Mazumdar, an organiser of the movement for freethinking in Kolkata, India, President of the Shangha Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque and its General Secretary Hasan Fakir spoke at the event and remembered the contributions of Dr Sharif who was an educationist, a philosopher, and a scholar of medieval Bangla literature.

BFUJ faction's council postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The special delegates' council of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), scheduled to be held on Saturday, was postponed yesterday due to unavoidable reasons.

It was decided at an emergency meeting of BFUJ executive committee members at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka with its president Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul in the chair.

MoU signed for DELP project

CITY DESK

The Department of Youth Development and Connect Consulting Ltd signed a memorandum of understanding to launch "Youth Development and Employment Linkage Project for Poverty Alleviation (DELP)".

Anwarul Karim, DYD director general, and Tahia Khalil, CCL managing director, signed the MoU, says a press release yesterday.

Through the three-year project, Sheikh Hasina Youth Development Centre at Savar will be developed into the hub of activities related to youth employment.

Virtual guide to country's restaurants Let's Eat launched

CITY DESK

Multimedia Content and Communication, a mobile app development company, yesterday launched its restaurant searcher application "Let's Eat", says a press release.

With the app people will get detailed information about restaurants in the country including their contact numbers, detailed menus, cuisine specialties, addresses, price listings and customer reviews.

The app can be downloaded free from the link <http://goo.gl/ZQwhGv>

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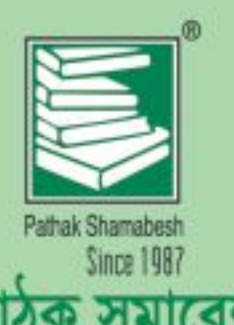
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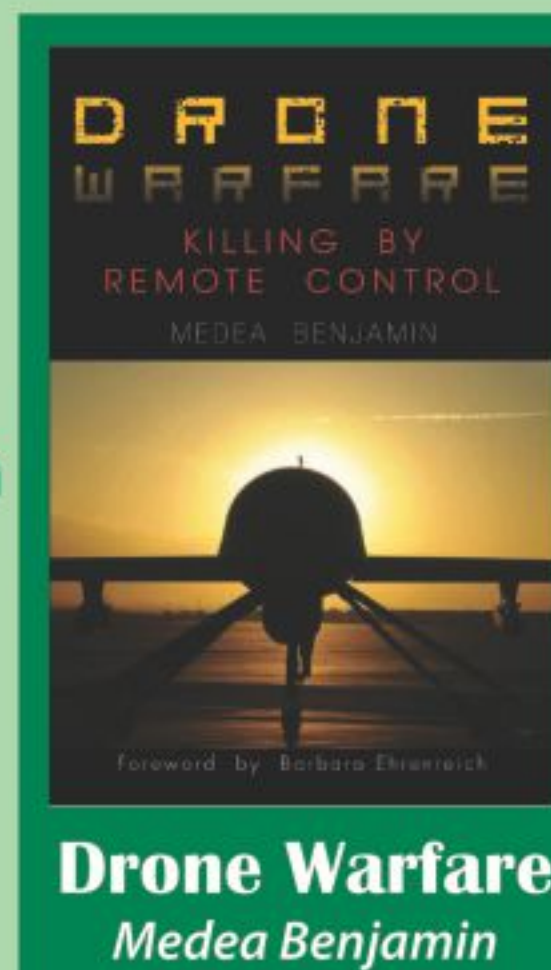
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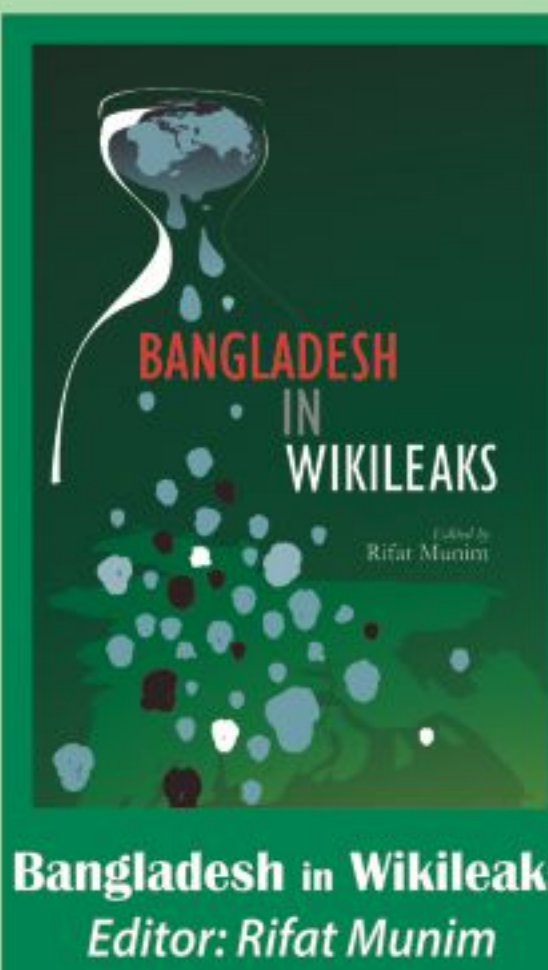
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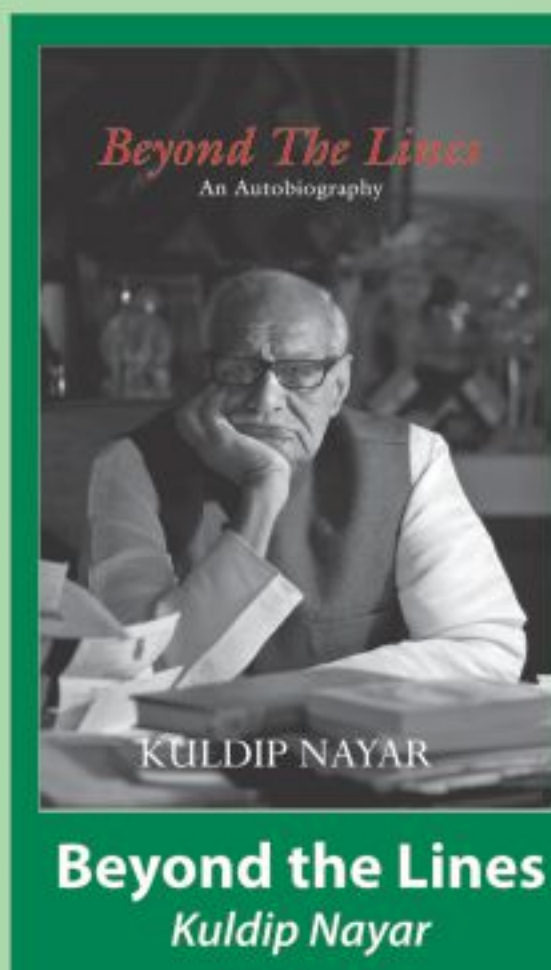
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