

BERGMAN VERDICT War crimes tribunal clears another of contempt

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday cleared of contempt of court charge another eminent person, the 25th among 49 who had in a statement expressed concern over the sentence of Dhaka-based British journalist David Bergman for demeaning it. Led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam, the tribunal also fixed April 1 to pass further order on the remaining 24 signatories. Now abroad, Dina M Siddiqi, through the foreign ministry, tendered her unconditional apology, as had expressed the previous 24 for the statement, said the tribunal sources. On December 2, 2014, the tribunal found

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POLITICAL VIOLENCE PUSHING UP COST OF BUSINESS

Taking to the sky to avoid the risk of arson on highways, two foreign buyers of clothing company Bestseller yesterday insisted for a ride on this helicopter for a mere 20-kilometre journey from Dhaka to Savar's Karnapara to see the work environment at garment factory Al-Muslim, as per a factory official seeking anonymity.

PHOTO: STAR

Abul Mansur Ahmad's ideals still relevant

Noted intellectuals tell discussion; Kaler Dhoni unveils compilation of 73 new articles on his life and works

It is pertinent even today to follow the ideals of noted satirist and politician Abul Mansur Ahmad for people's social and economic emancipation, eminent intellectuals told a discussion yesterday. He is still relevant politically and socially, said Golam Kuddus, president of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote. The political consciousness of Abul Mansur Ahmad was for a language-based nation state, and it evolved around literature, politics and economy of then East Pakistan, which is now Bangladesh, said poet Asad Chowdhury. "His ideals and thoughts can still pave the way for people's emancipation," he said. Kaler Dhoni, a literary magazine and publishing house, organised the discussion at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, marking the 36th death anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist and politician of the sub-continent. A special issue of Kaler Dhoni titled "Durlow Kathak", a collection of 73 articles featuring Abul Mansur Ahmad and

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PM orders turning all CHT primary schools residential

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the officials concerned to turn all the 228 primary schools in the Chittagong Hill Tracts into residential ones in phases. She also asked the officials to take effective steps for maintaining the achievements in the country's education sector. She gave the directives while addressing the first meeting of the "National Taskforce for Execution of the Commitment to Enroll All Children in Primary School and Building Illiteracy-free Bangladesh" at the Prime Minister's Office, said PM's press secretary AKM Shameem Chowdhury after the meeting. The prime minister, who is also the adviser of the taskforce, asked the officials to put in their best efforts to increase the attendance of students in

schools in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. She asked the officials for incorporating subjects on different rural professions in primary education curricula so that students can learn about their predecessors' professions in schools. The meeting was informed that the enrollment rate of children at primary level was around 97.70 percent in 2014 against 93.90 percent in 2009 while the dropout rate decreased to 20.90 percent in 2014 from 45.10 percent in 2009. The prime minister mentioned that the success in education sector was achieved as the government had taken various steps for widening the scope of education for all, particularly the formulation of the national children policy and creating pro-education atmosphere for all, including girls. In this connection, Hasina mentioned that the government has taken initiatives to set up separate toilets for female students in each school.

She said a total of 26,193 registered primary schools and services of around 1,03,845 school teachers were nationalised while around one lakh new teachers were recruited. Hasina also asked the authorities concerned for the continuation of midday meal for students and taking initiatives with the help of local people and guardians to create a fund voluntarily in every school to serve midday meal according to the students' choice. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Primary and Mass Education Minister Mustafizur Rahman Fizar, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, State Minister for Science and Technology Yafes Osman, State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Bir Bhadrur and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki, among others, attended the meeting.

TORTURE, CUSTODIAL DEATH (PREVENTION) ACT HRFB also urges open rejection of police proposal for change

Says it will exempt law enforcers from accountability
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Expressing concern over police's recent proposal to amend the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act 2013, a network of 19 rights bodies yesterday demanded that the government openly announce the scrapping of the recommendations, which it said ran counter to the constitution and would exempt law enforcers from accountability. Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), in a press release, said the government should make it clear that impartial and credible investigations would be conducted into the allegations of torture against anyone. No-one will be let off the hook if they are found guilty, it read. Torture and death in custody is a sheer violation of human rights, and it is worrisome when the law enforcers facing such allegations make the recommendations of changes, the release added. In the act passed in 2013, the

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Passengers keep dry raising a plastic sheet as the seemingly nonchalant rickshaw-puller pedals by Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University yesterday amidst a brief spell of rain right in the middle of spring or as per the Bangla calendar on the fourth of Chaitra.

PHOTO: STAR

STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the Star Weekend will have an array of articles for your reading pleasure. We have a special spotlight focusing on Water Conservation day, which is on March 22. Our stories will not only tell you about various ways to conserve water, but will also help you learn about the importance of water. We have an article that will teach you the know-hows of keeping your skin, your hair and yourself happy and healthy this season. There will be a hilarious satiric piece on an aspiring social worker. Be sure to pick up your copy of the Star Weekend this Friday. Don't miss it!

STAR WEEKEND

CELEBRATING WORLD WATER DAY

ELITA KARIM

This year on March 22nd, let's remember that there are millions of people in Bangladesh who alone have almost zero access to clean water. According to an online research, more than 800 million people lack access to clean safe water every day. A trip to Lalbagh and its connecting areas will show how rampant water is a luxury where thousands share a limited water supply, especially in the developing nations, where thousands die from a water-related illness, in the form of cholera and amongst another child dies from a water-related illness, which comes in parts of rural Bangladesh and amongst communities suffering because of no water supply and also ways to tackle the problem.

There is good news however, which comes in parts of rural Bangladesh and amongst communities suffering because of no water supply and also ways to tackle the problem. Even though it is an age-old practice in parts of rural Bangladesh and amongst communities suffering because of no water supply and also ways to tackle the problem. The indigenous groups, many in the urban areas of the country are still using the practice or are still trying to look for ways to save rainwater. Turn to pages 8-9 and check out this week's spotlight on water wastage statistics and communities suffering because of no water supply and also ways to tackle the problem.

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