



Fire service officials trying to recover the wreckage of a microbus that was run over by a bus on Dhaka-Khulna highway near Gopalganj's Mahespur union. Six people, including five of a family, were killed in the accident yesterday morning.

War criminals

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Bangladesh delegation to the meeting, a Supreme Court press release said yesterday.

He said it was unfortunate that war criminals had been involved in trying to destroy evidence and history of war crimes since the country's independence in 1971.

Newspaper reports of that time and some ground-breaking books played an important role in holding the war crimes trial. The newspapers were under the ownership and control of the Pakistanis and their like-minded people, the CJT told the meeting.

He said all the males in a village were killed during the Liberation War in 1971 and later it was known as *Bidhoba Palli* (village of widow). The CJT also made statements to the International Crimes Tribunal during trials.

The international crimes tribunals were set up under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act, 1973 and later, rules were framed with assistance of some international laws, including the Rome Statute, for holding the trials.

After assuming office in 2008, the then government had initiated the process of holding the trials for crimes against humanity and war crimes and constituted the international crimes tribunals, the CJ said.

It is matter of happiness that although our prosecutors, judges and others concerned had no education and training on war crimes trial, they gained vast knowledge and competence by going through the Rome Statute.

The accused had maximum opportunity to defend themselves during the trials, he added.

Terming Bangladesh a secular state, Justice Sinha said being a non-Muslim, he himself is a good example of secularism he has been holding the CJT's office in a country where 90 percent people are Muslims.

ICC President Silvia expressed satisfaction at the war crimes trial system and Bangladesh's support to the Rome Statute.

He said Bangladesh's experience in holding war crimes trial would play an important role in developing its national judicial system.

Justice Sinha visited the Netherlands on July 17-24 at the invitation of Maaike Peters, president of the Netherlands Supreme Court, according to the ICC press release.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is the treaty that established four core international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.

UN agrees on deep cuts

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peacekeeping budget and we're only getting started."

Harshest hit by the cuts will be the UN missions in Sudan's troubled region of Darfur and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the two costliest operations with budgets that run over \$1 billion.

A Security Council diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity said however there will be "cuts across the board" in the 13 peacekeeping missions as a result of US pressure.

Washington pays 28.5 percent of the UN's core budget of \$5.4 billion.

Rights organisation Nari Maitree, with financial support from Concern Worldwide, Bangladesh, runs this centre and also the one at Bangabazar.

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Under the new project, the NGO would continue its work in other areas like ensuring birth registration of homeless people and issuance of national identity cards to them. It was the first to convince the authorities into relaxing rules that require home address for getting NID cards and birth certificates for the street people linked with NGOs. For these people, the NGOs' addresses will be their addresses.

As Smriti began singing rhymes accompanied by gestures, the kids joined her. One rhyme done, they shouted out another rhyme or song to be sung. Younger ones within age two were happy enjoying the show.

Smriti said they accepted children as young as one year old.

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The deal "raises public interest concerns" because it may result in "increased influence" of the Murdoch family over the British news agenda and political process, she added.

The government had announced in March that the £1.4-billion (\$14.7-billion, 12.9-billion euro) bid for pay-TV giant Sky by 21st Century Fox would be probed by Ofcom and the Competition and Markets Authority.

Murdoch's Fox had announced in December last year that it had reached a formal agreement to buy the 61-percent stake in Sky which it does not already own.

The transaction would expand the footprint of the media-entertainment powerhouse run by Murdoch.

However, it also raised fears that it could give the Murdoch family much control over the British media landscape.

British on Wednesday circulated a draft resolution that provides for a two-stage drawdown over the next 12 months, in line with the recommendations of a joint AU-UN report released last month.

The measure would cut UNAMID force levels to 8,735 troops and 2,500 police by June 2018, a 44 percent cut in military personnel and nearly 30 percent in police, according to the draft text obtained by AFP.

The drawdown could be reviewed if the Sudanese government fails to ensure protection in those areas from where the peacekeepers will withdraw.

Under the proposed measure, Guterres will report to the council after six months whether "conditions in the ground" remain "conducive to further reductions."

The draft resolution welcomes a "reduction in military confrontations

PHOTO: COLLECTED

British govt refers Sky-Fox takeover to formal probe

AFP, London

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The draft resolution welcomes a "reduction in military confrontations

between government forces and rebel groups," but rights groups maintain that the conflict in Darfur is far from over.

Human Rights Watch has criticized the proposed cuts as "misguided," saying civilians in Darfur still need protection.

A diplomat has been engulfed in conflict since 2003 when ethnic minority insurgents mounted a rebellion against President Omar al-Bashir, complaining that his Arab-dominated government was marginalizing the region.

The United Nations has shut down its mission in Ivory Coast and is planning to pull its peacekeepers out of Haiti in the coming months.

France late Wednesday circulated a draft resolution on renewing the UN mission in Mali, known as MINUSMA, but no cuts are planned.

The mission would continue to operate with 13,289 troops and 1,920 police, according to the draft resolution seen by AFP.

A vote on renewing the Mali mission could take place today.

Asian migrants

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"Usually the workers travel with Qataris—Qataris employ farmers and travel with their domestic workers and drivers," he told a news conference.

The workers were not allowed to travel in Qatar and now they are living illegally in Saudi Arabia and do not have basic needs.

"They have no shelter and cannot access money."

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain announced they were suspending all ties with Qatar over accusations the emirate supports extremist groups—a claim Doha denies.

The four states closed their airspace to Qatari carriers and sealed off the emirate's only land border with Saudi Arabia, a vital route for food imports.

They also ordered all Qatari and their own nationals to return home.

Qatar uses a sponsorship system which ties workers to their employer. It was not clear exactly where the workers were left behind and why they did not have the right papers to return.

Some 12,000 camels and sheep are reportedly being forced to trek back to Qatar from Saudi Arabia because of the crisis.

AP

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