

# Revive Middle East peace process

President Hamid urges at OIC meet

UNB, Istanbul, Turkey

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged all concerned to revive the Middle East peace process and adopt a constructive approach to it under a two-state solution.

Mentioning that the latest US announcement recognising Jerusalem as the Israeli capital will jeopardise efforts towards finding a durable solution to the Palestinian question, he made the call.

"The unwelcome announcement of December 6, 2017, has come as a shock and outrage to Islamic feelings. The announcement may trigger grave consequences and threats to international peace and security by inflaming the Muslim world and raising new waves of tension, hostility and violent extremism in the already volatile region of the Middle East," he said.

The president said this while addressing the 6th Extraordinary OIC Summit held at Istanbul Congress and Exhibition Centre.

This is also a blatant violation of international law and a number of UN Security Council resolutions, said

Hamid, adding, "In the widely held view, the decision has drastically reduced the credibility of the US Administration as an honest mediator in the Arab-Israeli peace process."

About the role of OIC in the USA move, he said, "We believe the OIC cannot remain a bystander at this hostile action. We must engage the international community proactively, with immediate action by the Ministerial Group on Al Quds, to reach out to important state capitals as well as with activation of OIC ambassadors in New York, Geneva and Brussels, and mobilise international pressure on Israel for halting and reversing its policies and practices. We must also go ahead with practicable OIC decisions made so far on Al Quds in a focused manner."

The people of Bangladesh stand in full solidarity by their Palestinian brothers and sisters facing this travesty of fairness and justice, he said.

"Bangladesh reaffirms its unswerving position in favour of establishing the state of Palestine on the basis of pre-67 borders with East Jerusalem-

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Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan welcomes President Abdul Hamid at Istanbul Congress and Exhibition Centre where the extraordinary meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation was held yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

# Abuse of power by mobile court not acceptable

HC cautions Laxmipur ADC, magistrate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cautioned the additional deputy commissioner (general) of Laxmipur and an executive magistrate for punishing a former acting civil surgeon through a mobile court.

The HC stated that while mobile courts are necessary in the social and state contexts, its abuse of power is not acceptable at all.

A mobile court conducted by Executive Magistrate of Laxmipur Sadar Nuruzzaman sent Salah Uddin Sharif, a former acting civil surgeon of Laxmipur, to three months in jail after a brawl between Salahuddin and ADC (general) of district Sheikh Murshidul Islam Murshidul on December 4.

Salah Uddin later obtained bail and was acquitted of the charge.

The HC yesterday termed the actions of ADC Murshidul and Executive Magistrate Nuruzzaman as 'abuse of power' and asked the government to post mobile courts in places where there will be no opportunity for such abuse of power.

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# Question leaks failure of state machinery

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assistance to the education ministry to stop illegal use of vehicles of different projects

Regarding private universities, the commission said that they will meet the demand for higher education but there are allegations of corruption against them.

"If they [private universities] fail to meet the criteria of The Private University Act, 2010, the activities of [the] respective universities can be stopped," said ACC.

## QUESTION PAPER LEAKS

The government officers and staffs are involved in every stage of the question

paper, from preparation to distribution. Leaking of the papers by government employees is a criminal misconduct, which is a scheduled offence as per the ACC act.

However, the commission says since it is difficult to find documentary evidence of such crimes, preventive methods should be put in place.

ACC recommended employing honest and meritorious teachers in the preparation of questions, reducing the number of exam centers and keeping those in upazila towns.

Question papers should be kept in a lockbox with a double lock and opened only in the presence of the

deputy commissioner, read the letter.

Since money transaction is involved in the leaks and often technology is used, cases can be filed against the perpetrators either under the money laundering or ICT act, said ACC, adding that if the government employees are found involved in such offence, the commission could file case against them for criminal breach of trust.

The commission said the textbook manuscript reaches guidebook publishers and a section of dishonest NCTB officials are involved in it. As a result, on January 1, when children get

the new books for free, they also have to buy these low-standard guidebooks at a high rate.

"In this case, both NCTB authority and the ministry could take steps of strict monitoring," said ACC.

The commission opined that contents of textbooks, especially the mathematics and science related subjects, have been reduced drastically.

"There are no examples of math problems in the textbooks of different classes. Generally, students usually solve problems following these examples. But due to the reduction, it is not possible for them to do so without the help of teachers or guidebooks," read

the letter.

## REGULAR TRANSFER, E-TENDERING

The commission recommended forming a commission like Public Service Commission for the recruitment of teachers.

ACC also suggested regular transfer of teachers to stop the coaching business.

Saying that irregularities took place at the tendering process for textbook publication, ACC asked the National Curriculum and Textbook Board to follow e-tendering. "If any officials participated in the tender process, steps should be taken. To ensure a standard textbook, the supervising

authorities work is needed to be monitored strictly," read the letter.

Saying that gross corruption take places during the tender process in Education Engineering Department (EED), the commission asked the ministry to monitor the activities of EED strictly and complete tender process through e-tendering.

The letter signed by ACC's secretary Dr Md Shamsul Arefin, was sent to secretaries of the cabinet division, primary and higher education division, education ministry, chairman of national curriculum and textbook board, and chief engineer of education engineering department.

# Internal feud

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reception accorded to her by the France Awami League at the Intercontinental Paris Le Grand on Tuesday night.

She said everybody would have to be alert so that none can conspire against the AL's victory in the 11th parliamentary polls, scheduled to be held in December next year.

"It will be possible for the conspirators to hatch conspiracies if there're differences [of opinion] among ourselves. If we remain united, nobody will be able to harm us by hatching conspiracies. Everybody has to remember this."

The PM hoped her party would be re-elected and the country's progress would continue.

She stressed the need for strengthening the party and resolving all the differences among the party men through talks.

Hasina said everybody must remain alert so that those who had handed over the national flag to war criminals and given jobs to the killers of the Father of the Nation can't return to power.

Praising the expatriate Bangladeshis for greatly contributing to the country's economy, she called upon them not to do anything which might tarnish the country's image.

The PM blasted the BNP-led 20-party alliance who had "burnt hundreds of people by hurling petrol bombs, torched 582 polling centres and hundreds of copies of the holy Quran at the Baitul Mukarram national mosque" in the name of resisting the 2014 national polls.

About the huge influx of Rohingyas to Bangladesh, Hasina said her government sheltered the Myanmar citizens on humanitarian grounds as over one crore Bangladeshis had taken refuge in India during the Liberation War in 1971.

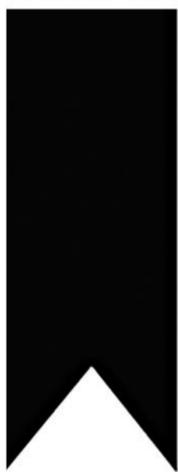
She said her government was trying to resolve the Rohingya problem without harming the friendly ties with Myanmar.

Mentioning the huge international support to Bangladesh on the issue, the premier said a Bangladesh-Myanmar joint working committee has been formed and its members from the Myanmar side will visit Bangladesh this month to discuss the issue.

She said her government would send back the Rohingyas to their homeland.

The PM highlighted various successes of her government and said the people of Bangladesh get something when the AL stays in power.

# Still not war heroes



Munier Chowdhury



Serajuddin Hossain



Dr. Alim Chowdhury



Mofazzal Haidar Chaudhury



Shahidullah Kaiser



Dr. Fazle Rabbi



Nizamuddin Ahmed



Anwar Pasha



Syed Nazmul Haque



Syed Abdul Mannan



Dr. Abul Kalam Azad



Ghyasuddin Ahmmed



Rashidul Hasan



Dr. MAM Faizul Mahi



Dr. MA Khair



Zahirul Haq



Selina Parvin



Santosh Chandra Bhattacharya



ANM Mustafa

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government has yet to make a final list of the intellectuals who were victims of such targeted killing in the final hours of the 1971 Liberation War.

They include university teachers, journalists, litterateurs and doctors, who were targeted not only because of their work in their own fields, but also because of their firm commitment to Bangalee nationalism and Bangladesh.

Since the partition of 1947, they gave a strong intellectual leadership in the secular and democratic movements. And when the Pakistan military began the genocide on March 25, 1971 under "Operation Searchlight", they kept alive the spirit of Bangalee nationalism, many covertly, through their activities.

The nation honours the martyred intellectuals with due respect by observing Martyred Intellectuals' Day every year, but their families think these luminous citizens should be regarded as the freedom fighters.

"It is a shame for the nation. Even so many years after the independence, the martyred intellectuals are not recognised as the freedom fighters," said Roquaiya Hasina Neely, daughter of martyred intellectual SMA Rashidul Hasan.

Rashidul, who taught English at Dhaka University, was picked up from his house and killed on December 14, two days before the victory.

She said the Biranganas (war heroines) and the artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra were recognised as freedom fighters, but not her father and other martyred intellectuals.

"The names of the martyred intellectuals were not included in any gazette. There is nothing more unfortunate than this. How would the nation move forward if we cannot give due honour to the people who sacrificed their lives for the country's independence?" she said.

Roquaiya, also noted Tagore artiste, said many families of the martyred intellectuals needed financial assistance.

"Maybe my family doesn't need any help, but what about the families that need help? How would the families seek assistance or how would the government offer help if their names are not in any record, such as a gazette?" she asked.

Al-Badr, mostly comprising the members of Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha, intensified its atrocities in December. It systematically rounded up teachers, writers, doctors, lawyers, journalists and other professionals from their houses in Dhaka, tortured and killed them en masse and dumped the bodies at different killing grounds.

According to Banglapedia, around 991 academics, 13 journalists, 49 physicians, 42 lawyers and 16 other intellectuals were killed during the war.

Among them were journalists Serajuddin Hossain, Syed Najmul Haque, ANM Golam Mostafa, Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Selina Parvin, Shahidullah Kaiser, Dhaka University professors Giasuddin Ahmed, Sirajul Haque Khan, Dr Abul Khayer, Dr Faizul Mohiuddin, Rashidul Hasan, Anwar Pasha, Santosh Chandra Bhattacharya, Munier Chowdhury and Mofazzal Haidar Choudhury, physicians Mohammad Martuza and Fazle Rabbi.

Tawheed Reza Noor, son of martyred journalist Serajuddin Hossain, said it was unfortunate that the martyred intellectuals were still not given state recognition.

Their contribution should be seen from as far back as 1947 since when they played a crucial role in the secular and democratic movement, he pointed out.

After the Pakistan army swooped on the unarmed Bangalees on March 25, 1971, this group of people continued to play their active role in moving forward the battle, said Tawheed, founding general secretary of Projonmo '71, a platform of children of the martyrs in the war.

"It is essential to give state recognition to the martyred intellectuals as they are the people who inspired the nation to dream big and helped people to go in the right direction with their far-sightedness," he added.

Tawheed's father Serajuddin was news editor of the then leading Bangla

national daily Ittefaq. He became the target of the local collaborators for his write-ups on the sufferings inflicted on unarmed civilians through the atrocities committed by the collaborators of the Pakistan army.

Rabiul Aftab, son of Anwar Pasha, a professor of Bangla at Dhaka University, said the contribution of the martyred intellectuals to the nation could not be compared with that of any other group, and that they should get due honour.

Anwar Pasha wrote "Rifle, Roti, Aurat", the first novel on Liberation War, between April and June in 1971. He was picked up from his home on December 14 and then killed.

Contacted, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque said most people of the country had contribution in the 1971 war, but they all cannot be recognised as freedom fighters.

"They are the martyred intellectuals; they are respectable persons and the nation respects them. But the government does not have any plan to give them freedom fighters' status," he told The Daily Star.

About a list of martyred intellectuals, the minister said they were yet to complete it as many districts could not send the list.

"We hope that we will be able to complete it before March 26 next year," Mozammel Haque said.

# HC orders fake doc, clinic to pay Tk 9 lakh to surgery patient

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fake doctor of Patuakhali, who made headlines for leaving cotton inside the belly of a woman during surgery, and the clinic where the surgery took place, have been ordered to pay Tk 9 lakh to her.

Rajon Das, whose original name is Arjun Chakraborty, has to pay Tk 5 lakh, while the owner of Niramoy Clinic in Patuakhali's Baufal has to give Tk 4 lakh by January 15 next year.

The High Court passed the order yesterday during hearing a suo moto rule issued earlier by it on this issue.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque set district civil surgeon to oversee the transfer of the money to the victim Khaida.

The bench also fixed February 28 next year for passing further order on the issue.

# Minister's son

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in a car of a public prosecutor at around 12:30pm. Police tried to stop the car in front of the court but it sped up, hitting two law enforcers, the police official added.

ASI Shahed Hossain and constable Jahangir Hossain were injured in the incident.

Tomal, also the president of Ishwardi upazila unit Jubo League, along with 25 to 30 of his supporters attacked four journalists at Shahpur Natunhat in Ishwardi upazila on November, 29, the day before the arrival of the prime minister for inaugurating Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

The four -- Saikat Afroz Asad, Pabna correspondent of Somoy TV, Rizvi Joy, local correspondent of ATN News, Partho Hasan, DBC News correspondent, and Milon Hossain, camera person of ATN News -- came under attack when they were capturing videos of Tomal's men attacking his rivals' vehicles. The attackers also snatched laptops, mobile sets and cameras from the journalists.

Later, a case was filed against Tomal and 30 others with Ishwardi Police Station.

Eight people have been arrested in connection with the attack.

Meanwhile, Pabna Sangbadpatra Parishad held a protest rally on the Pabna Town Hall premises yesterday morning. Journalist leaders demanded exemplary punishment of the attackers.

Journalists also brought out a protest procession from the Pabna Town Hall premises and submitted a memorandum to the prime minister and the home minister through the local administration to press home their five-point demand, including arrest of attackers of journalists and their punishment and ensuring security of journalists in performing their professional duties.