



President Abdul Hamid signs the visitors' book at an officers' mess of Bangladesh Army in Saidpur Cantonment yesterday. He visited the place on the occasion of the 5th reunion of the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (EME).

PHOTO: PID

President for tech-savvy military

BSS, Nilphamari

President Abdul Hamid yesterday called upon the Bangladesh Army to prepare themselves with high quality trainings and hard work to face the challenges of the ultramodern technologies. "Military all around the world now uses ultramodern weapons and equipment... So there is no alternative to quality trainings in military life," he said while addressing the 5th reunion of the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (EME) of Bangladesh Army at Saidpur Cantonment. Referring to different

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Mahbubur indicted for RP Shaha killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed three charges against a Tangail man for alleged wartime crimes including the abduction and killing of philanthropist Ranada Prasad Shaha and his son in 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam also set April 22 for the trial's commencement when recording testimonies of prosecution witnesses will begin, Prosecutor Tureen Afroz said.

The accused -- Mahbubur Rahman, 69, from Mirzapur in Tangail -- after being arrested on November 7 in 2015, pleaded not guilty and demanded a fair trial.

Mahbubur, a Jamaat adherent, ran for the chairman post of Mirzapur Union Parishad as an independent candidate three times,



RP Shaha

but was defeated each time, investigators said.

The prosecution on January 10 pressed charges against Mahbubur for allegedly abducting and killing Ranada, widely known as RP Shaha; his son Bhabani Prasad Shaha and five others.

Mahbubur was also charged with abduction and killing of 55 others in two separate incidents in 1971.

According to the first charge in the case, Mahbubur, along with local Razakars and some 20 to 25 members of the Pakistan army, raided RP Shaha's home in Khanpur of Narayanganj on May 7 of 1971.

From there they abducted seven people including Ranada, his son, his associate Gour Gopal Shaha and four others and took them to Adamjee Burma Eastern Oil Depot.

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Humiliation instead of redress

PDB staffer asks aggrieved consumer to jump off building when he inquires about extra billing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Abu Bakar was worried as his electricity bill had far more units than the actual reading the meter at his residence showed.

So the resident of New Mooring area in Chittagong city went to a local office of the Power Development Board (PDB) last month to inquire about the extra charge.

The officials there suggested him to contact the meter reader in his area -- Mohammed Omar.

As Bakar failed to find him at the office, he collected Omar's phone number and contacted him regarding the issue.

"I told him that there were 345 extra units in my bill. I wanted to know the reason and a solution to the issue," he said.

But the answer he received was completely unexpected as well as disconcerting. "Omar told me to jump off the roof of a high-rise and said that would be the solution."

Bakar was venting his frustration at a hearing on resisting corruption yesterday. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Corruption Resistance Committee, Chittagong organised the hearing at the head office of Chittagong PDB in the port city's Agrabad area.

"It felt humiliating and offensive when

he asked me to commit suicide rather than addressing the problem," he said.

Like Bakar, 38 people lodged complaints on extra billing.

Abul Bashar, a resident of Agrabad area, said he lodged complaints with a local PDB office over being charged extra but did not get any solution.

Sirajul Islam, a resident of Kalurghat area, said there are differences of at least 1,000 units in his bill and in the meter. "The units accumulate over the years through extra-billing..." he said.

"I contacted the local PDB office several times regarding the issue but to no avail."

ACC Commissioner Dr Nasir Uddin Ahmed asked the PDB chief engineer to investigate the complaints of extra billing and address those.

"How can a meter reader ask a client to commit suicide!" he said. He asked the PDB chief engineer to look into the issue and take necessary steps.

Contacted, PDB Chief Engineer Prabir Kumar Sen said Omar was not a permanent staff. "He was appointed on an ad-hoc basis."

"We have taken the allegation into account very seriously and would take punitive actions if it is found to be true," he said.

Bangabandhu-1 leaves today for testing in US

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangabandhu satellite-1, the first geostationary communications satellite of Bangladesh, is scheduled to leave its manufacturing station in France today for Cape Carnival Launch Pad in Florida, USA.

"It will take off from Nice Airport onboard the Antonov on March 29 (between 6:00 to 8:00am local time). After a layover in Bostin on March 29, it will arrive in Cape on March 30," said the manufacturer of the satellite, Thales Alenia Space's plant in Cannes, in a tweet. Bangabandhu satellite-1 Project Director Md Mesbahuzzaman said, "Within 3 to 4 days, the authorities will let us know the satellite launching schedule."

AmericaSpace, a daily US space news provider, in a recent report said SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket will launch the satellite for Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

ROHINGYA CRISIS

Dhaka to seek Moscow support

Foreign minister to meet counterpart April 2 in Russia; also to discuss 'poisoning' of ex-spy, daughter

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will seek Russia's support in addressing the Rohingya crisis during Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali's official visit to Moscow on April 2 when he will hold a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

Diplomatic sources said the foreign minister will leave for Moscow on April 1 for the two-day visit.

The ministry officials have expressed hope that the visit will improve bilateral relations between the two countries and strengthen ties.

They said there are a host of issues to be discussed but the Rohingya issue will come up prominently since Russia along with China had blocked a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) statement on Myanmar recently and opposed UN criticism of Myanmar over the Rohingya issue.

Officials said Foreign Minister Ali will hold the meeting with Lavrov on the current state and prospect of bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern, importantly the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

They said both the countries have been working on signing two dozens of agreements and memorandums of understanding. Half of them are already at final stage.

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Stand by them

Visiting US interfaith leaders urge int'l community; acknowledge persecution of Myanmar nationals a 'textbook case of genocide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of interfaith leaders of the US yesterday called upon the international community to stand in solidarity with the persecuted Rohingyas, saying "textbook case of genocide" was committed in Myanmar against them.

The religious leaders stressed the need for holding the world leadership accountable for the gruesome violence.

"We believe what Rohingyas are experiencing is a textbook case of genocide where an indigenous community, living in their own ancestral land, is being systematically annihilated by the military, political and religious establishment of Myanmar," they said in a joint statement.

"We call upon the world to invoke the [UN] Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide to protect Rohingyas from this genocide," they added.

The statement was issued during a press briefing at a city hotel yesterday.

The leaders of four major religions under the banner of "Faith Coalition to Stop Genocide in Burma" arrived in Bangladesh on



Nicolee Ambrose, spokesperson of the delegation of US interfaith leaders, speaks at a press briefing at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Monday. They visited some Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar on Monday and Tuesday.

The delegation will leave Bangladesh today.

Some 700,000 Rohingyas fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state and have been living in Bangladesh since August last year. They joined some 300,000 Rohingyas who fled similar violence in the past.

The religious leaders said they support Bangladesh's call for restoring Rohingyas' land in Myanmar, urging the UN to defend Rohingyas and bring the perpetrators to justice.

They also called upon world leaders to impose full sanctions on

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USAID gives contraceptives for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided 622,800 doses of injectable contraceptives to the Bangladesh government for Rohingya refugees.

Responding to a request from the health and family welfare ministry of Bangladesh, USAID handed over the health products on Sunday bringing the total contribution from the United States to nearly one million doses valued at US \$901,232, read a press release of the US embassy in Dhaka.

USAID also donated

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Free Registration from 29th March to 4th April 2018
Free Consultation on 6th April 2018

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