

A pivotal step towards recognition

Canadian museum reviewing submission testifying to 1971 genocide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR), the world's first such museum, is reviewing a submission from Bangladesh that testifies to the Pakistani occupation force's genocide in the country in 1971.

CMHR is currently reviewing the submission, said the Bangladesh High Commission in Ottawa in a press statement yesterday.

As part of the review process, Jeremy Melvin Maron -- curator of CMHR's Holocaust and Genocide Content and in charge of reviewing and recommending submissions to the authorities concerned of CMHR for acceptance -- is visiting Dhaka from February 6 to 12, the statement read.

The Bangladesh High Commission in Ottawa -- in collaboration with Bangabandhu Centre for Bangladesh Studies in Canada; Liberation War Museum, Dhaka; Centre for Genocide Studies of Dhaka University; and the Conflict and Resilience Research Institute Canada -- made the submission last year to recognise the genocide.

During his stay in Dhaka, Maron will visit some of the sites where genocide took place, and meet the victims' families and survivors.

He will also visit Liberation War Museum, Bangabandhu

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Queen Mathilde of Belgium speaking to a worker at a garment factory in Narayanganj yesterday. The Queen, who is on a three-day visit to Bangladesh in her capacity as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals advocate, arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Queen Mathilde of Belgium in town

To visit Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar today

UNB, Dhaka

Mathilde, the Queen of Belgium, will visit the Rohingya camp Kutupalong in Cox's Bazar, which hosts more than a million Rohingyas, today.

The Queen, who is paying a three-day visit to Bangladesh in her capacity as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) advocate, visited a garment factory in Narayanganj and a Unicef school in Dhaka yesterday.

Earlier, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen received her upon her arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday morning.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, Ambassador of Belgium Didier Vanderhasselt and Ambassador and Special

Lawmaker Moslem Uddin passes away

STAR REPORT

Moslem Uddin Ahmed, Awami League leader and lawmaker from Chattogram-8 constituency, died at a hospital in Dhaka early yesterday.

The 75-year-old AL president of Chattogram South District unit breathed his last while being treated for cancer around 12:30am, said family sources.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock and sorrow at his death, reports UNB. In a condolence message, the PM said, "Awami League has lost a dedicated leader in the death of Moslem Uddin."

The parliament yesterday unanimously adopted a condolence motion expressing deep shock at the demise of Moslem.

Moslem left behind his wife, four daughters and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death. His first namaj-e-janaza was held at the Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka in front of Awami League central office at 11:00am yesterday, said Ezaz Mahmud, a nephew of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Remove graffiti, posters from Dhaka flyovers in 2 weeks: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed grave concern over pasting posters on the walls of structures, including the flyovers in Dhaka.

"We feel pain when we see that the walls of the flyovers are filled with posters, though there is a law against such actions. The posters must be removed..."

"Every citizen has a right to open space. Those who are responsible have to clean the spaces," the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Ahmed Sohail said



while hearing a writ petition.

The bench ordered the authorities concerned of the seven flyovers in Dhaka to remove all the graffiti and posters from their walls in two weeks.

The court also directed the authorities to take appropriate legal action against those who are responsible for such activities and form a monitoring committee in this regard. The authorities have also been asked to submit a report in two weeks.

At the same time, the HC bench issued a rule asking the respondents to show causes why their inaction in stopping pasting posters on the walls of the flyovers should not be declared illegal.

Secretary at the ministry of local government, rural development and cooperatives (LGRD); chief engineer

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Short-circuits, cigarettes, burners still top 3 causes

Bangladesh saw 24,102 fire incidents last year, says fire service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 24,102 fire incidents took place last year, killing around 98 persons, including 13 firefighters, according to data released by Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence yesterday.

Besides, 407 were injured in the incidents. While the number of deaths is lower than 2021's (219), more fire incidents were witnessed in 2022, as 21,601 fires were witnessed the previous year.

Fire officials, however, said the number of deaths might be higher, as many injured who died at hospitals later on remained out of their count.

Electric short circuits were the leading cause (38.48 percent) of fire incidents, while fire from thrown away lit cigarette butts accounted for 16.08 percent.

Burners, the third-highest reason for blazes, were responsible for 13.98 percent of the incidents.

Fire officials said fire incidents from cigarette butts ranked second or third in the last couple of years, as most of the smokers drop lit butts here and there.

Behavioural changes and public awareness are needed to bring down the number of such incidents, they said.

Properties worth around Tk 342.58 crore were damaged in fires, while firefighters saved goods worth Tk 1808.32 crore.

2022 IN NUMBERS	
»	24,102 fire incidents occurred
»	98 (13 firefighters) died
»	407 were injured
»	38.48pc of fires due to short-circuits
»	16.08pc because of lit cigarette butts
»	13.98pc originated from burners
»	Properties worth Tk 342.58cr damaged
»	Firefighters saved goods worth Tk 1808.32cr

The highest number of fire incidents (6,558) took place at houses and multi-storey residential buildings, while 2,287 fires originated at kitchens, and 2,114 in shops and business outlets, according to the data.

The statistics show that fire officials last year inspected 5,869 establishments and buildings, including government ones, and found 617 buildings "very risky" and 1,606 "risky" as per the fire-safety compliance.

In 2021, fire service data revealed that between 1999 and 2020, the number of fire incidents increased by four times,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Can't recall if Khaleda stated that'

Says law minister on BNP chair's undertaking to abstain from politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said he does not know whether BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia has given any undertaking, in the application for her release order, that she will abstain from politics.

"I cannot remember at this moment whether such an undertaking was stated in the application. I suppose there was not any such clause, but I will have to check it again," said the minister.

"However, I came to know from media reports that her [Khaleda Zia] brother Shamim Iskander asked BNP leaders not to involve her in any of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

No one has the right to ridicule Hero Alom: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No one, including leaders of the ruling Awami League and opposition BNP, has the right to ridicule Ashraful Hossen Alam alias Hero Alom, who was a candidate in recently held by-elections and above all, a citizen of the country, said Transparency International Bangladesh.

Ittekkharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, in a statement yesterday expressed his frustration at the recent comments made by top leaders of Awami League and BNP regarding Hero Alom.

Alom took part in by-polls to Bogura-4 and Bogura-6 constituencies held on February 1. He lost in both seats.

However, he lost the Bogura-4 by-polls by only 834 votes, which drew public attention.

Alom, who contested the by-polls as an

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Strict security for Feb 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said close circuit television (CCTV) and night vision cameras will be installed at the Central Shaheed Minar and its adjoining areas as a part of the security measures on the occasion of International Mother Language Day.

Archway will be installed at the entry and exit points of the Shaheed Minar along with video surveillance, said the minister.

He made the remarks after a meeting on law and order at the secretariat.

The home boss said President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will pay their tributes this year. "Law enforcers will ensure adequate security measures for the president and prime minister," he said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will take measures for traffic movement and a traffic guideline will be informed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A girl, accompanied by her friend, inspects a book that piqued her interest at the book fair yesterday. With many new titles arriving at different stalls, booklovers are garnering quite the crowd on the sixth day of the Ekushey boi mela.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Crowd gets bigger at book fair

DIPAN NANDY

Monowarul Islam was looking at the books in the stalls at Suhrawardy Udyan. He suddenly stopped in front of Anyaprokash and picked up Humayun Ahmed's "Badshah Namdar".

"A lot of new books have arrived. I love going from stall to stall to check them out. My favourite writer is Humayun Ahmed, and I collect his books whenever I can," he said.



On the sixth day of the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday, 121 new books came out. Since the second day, a total of 424 new books have arrived.

At the end of the weekly holidays on Friday and Saturday, the fair premises were full of visitors, buyers, writers and readers.

Milan Nath, publisher of Anupam Prakashani, said, "The design of Boi Mela is comparatively better than last year's. Lots of new books have arrived. But due to the increase in the price of paper and publishing materials, I think the total number of books is decreasing."

Meanwhile, on Saturday, State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid, along with the taskforce committee, visited the pavilion and stalls. During the visit, the state minister gave some instructions to the taskforce on different issues on the fair premises and its food zones.

Among the instructions were -- emergency repair of the road next to the Shishu Chattar, removal of water from the information centre and the stalls where water accumulates from TSC to Doyel Chattar, ensure adequate lighting facilities for the safety and security of visitors, among others.