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War crimes trial to begin in March: minister

Staff Correspondent

The law minister, Shafique Ahmed, on Tuesday said the government would appoint an investigation agency and a panel of prosecutors by the first week of March for the trial of war crimes committed during the 1971 war of independence.

He said the authorities concerned were asked to refurbish the old High Court building with seating arrangements for prosecutors, investigation agency people, media men and observers from home and abroad, among others, by February for the war crimes trial.

'We will be able to appoint an investigation agency and prosecutors by the first week of March to initiate war crimes trial. The old High Court building is being refurbished for holding the trial,' Shafique said.

The minister said he would visit the place on February 24 to see for himself the progress in setting up of the war crimes tribunal.

Asked whether the government had prepared any list of suspected criminals in connection with war crimes, the minister said the investigation agency would identify the persons involved in war crimes in 1971.

He said the government was committed to holding the trial of war crimes as it was a political decision.

'There should not be any confusion regarding war crimes trial.... The government is committed to holding the trial as this is a political decision of the government. The parliament has also approved the proposal for the trial of war crimes.'

He, however, assured all that international standards would be adhered to in trying the war criminals so that no one could question the trial process.

The minister said war crimes trial would be conducted in the special tribunal and it would not take long to complete the process.

Asked whether the government renamed Zia International Airport in keeping the recent Supreme Court verdict which cancelled the fifth amendment to the constitution, Shafique said the government had not received any copy of the verdict as yet.

Transparency, accountability in aid disbursement demanded

Staff Correspondent

Some 21 civil society organizations staged a protest rally on Tuesday to denounce the role of the development partners and their allied 'elite class' and bureaucrats in development process, saying they were responsible for misusing foreign aid.

They [the development partners in Bangladesh, the 'elite class' and the bureaucrats] have made the country increasingly indebted since liberation, the protesters from rights based organizations told the rally.

Bangladesh government on Monday began a two-day dialogue in Dhaka with multilateral lenders and donor countries seeking approval of the poverty reduction strategy, a lender-driven development document.

Parallel to the ongoing BDF meeting, the rights organizations — Arpan, AMKS, Eso, Bangladesh Krishak Federation, CSRL, EquityBD, Kishani Sohva, Lead Trust, On line knowledge centre, Protikrit, Karmajibi Nari, La via campesina, MFTD, Prantik, Purbasha, RCSV, Swadhin Bangla Garments Sramik Federation, Solidarity Workshop, Sirajganj Flood Forum, Uddipan, Voice, and World Development Movement, UK—organised the rally in front of National Press Club in the city.

The organizers demanded sovereign, democratic and responsible financing to ensure that the benefits of aid and loans reach the poor through a transparent and accountable manner.

In a written statement, the organizers mentioned that Bangladesh has the right to have development aid, but a lion's share of foreign aid is misused and repatriated to the aid providing countries in the form consultancy and technical assistance fees.

A study, conducted by economist Abul Barkat, reveals that 30 per cent of the aid goes back to the donor country, 25 per cent goes to the bureaucrats, 25 per cent goes to the local elites and politicians and only 20 per cent reaches the poor.

Such a misuse has been taking place for unexpected control of the financing by the donors and their allied bureaucrats, the rally was told.

They proposed that all aid and loan money have to be discussed and approved in parliament while at present there is no such an obligation in the constitution.

They suggested that all loan and aid agreements have to be transparent and accessible by mass public, but no such provision is there in the recently passed Right to Information Act.

They also proposed for formation of a separate audit commission to audit foreign aid and loan projects and all audit reports on foreign aid and loan projects have to be made public by Comptroller and Auditor General's Office.

'During implementation of foreign aided projects at local levels, participation of the stakeholders and local government representatives and civil society organizations should be ensured,' they said in their statement.

The statement said that there should be a legal limit of receiving loans both from foreign and domestic sources, as in no way it should hinder investment in essential services sectors like health and education.

Mustafa Kamal Akanda of EquityBD, Babdurul Alam of La Via Campesina, Feroza Ahmed from Lead Trust, Farzana Akhter from Voice, Saleha Begum from Kishani Sohva, SM Mamun of Karmajibi Nari, Abdul Kader Hazari of Arpan, Syed Aminul Haque, Md. Shamsuddoha and Rezaul K Chowdhury of EquityBD, among others, spoke at the rally.

Meanwhile in London, another rally was also organized in front of the office of British donor agency, Department for International Development, according to reports reaching here.

The rally was jointly organized by World Development Movement, Jubilee Debt Campaign UK, Friends of the Earth and Christian Aid.

They were critical of the role of DFID as this organization is pressing Bangladesh government to allow World Bank to manage the multi-donor trust fund on climate change.

DCC polls in July: Sohul

Staff Correspondent

Election commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain on Tuesday said the long overdue elections to the Dhaka City Corporation might be held in July as the High Court on Monday stayed the process of the election schedule announcement till February 23.

The Election Commission earlier decided to hold the polls in March and to announce the polls schedule this week.

A High Court bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin

Chowdhury and Justice Borhan Uddin also asked the government and the Election Commission to explain by February 23 why they should not be directed to demarcate Dhaka City Corporation wards based on the latest census before the announcement of the election schedule.

It further asked them to explain why new 17 mauzas under the Dhaka City Corporation should not be turned into wards. The court posted for February 23 the hearing in the matter.

'We cannot hold the Dhaka City Corporation elections by March as the High Court has stayed the process for the schedule announcement till February 23 and we have directed our counsel Shahdeen Malik to resolve the matter legally,' said election commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain as he talked with newsmen in his office on Tuesday afternoon.

'Even if the court delivers the verdict in our favour, we cannot not hold the elections in March. Because we cannot have 45 days in between if we announce the schedule in the last week of February. The Higher Secondary School exams will also begin on April 4 for which we will also not be able to hold the polling in April,' he said.

Sohul said, 'It is not possible to hold the elections before July but we will try to hold the polls to the 79 union councils, which served out their tenure more 10 years ago.'

The elections to the DCC were last held in March 2002 and its tenure expired on May 14, 2007.

AL MP wants law against torture on men

Staff Correspondent

A ruling party lawmaker on Tuesday demanded that a law should be enacted against torture on men as there is a law to prevent torture on women.

'I think the government should immediately enact a law to prevent torture on men. The government has framed a law to stop torture against women,' Fazlul Haq, Awami League lawmaker for a Sherpur constituency, told the parliament as he spoke on a thanksgiving motion on the president's address delivered in the parliament on January 4.

His proposal caused laughter among the lawmakers from both treasury and opposition benches in the House.

'Honourable member, are you a victim of torture at home,' the speaker, Abdul Hamid, who was chairing the session, asked interrupting Fazlul, who also continued with his speech laughing.

'Now, I think there should be a law against torture on men,' the speaker said.

Lawmakers elected in the reserved seat for women at the end of his speech shouted in the house.

Kushtia college BCL activities suspended, 4 expelled

Our Correspondent . Kushtia

The Kushtia unit Chhatra League on Tuesday suspended the organisational activities of the organisation's unit at the Kushtia Government College and expelled four activists.

The expelled are Kushtia Government College students Liton, Dano, Lenin and Kusum.

In a statement, the district unit BCL president, Mazharul Islam, made public the decision and urged the lawmen to take action against the people involved in harassing journalists on the college campus.

The Kushtia judicial magistrate's court on Tuesday sent six Chhatra League activists to jail for assaulting two journalists on the campus. The police arrested them in connection with a recent unrest in the Kushtia Government College.

The Chhatra League activists arrested and sent to jail are Abu Taiyeb Badsha, president of the Kushtia sadar unit, Babu, Sohag, Imon, Tutul and Koyel.

2 lakh cyclone victims still homeless: charities

[Agence France-Presse . Dhaka](#)

Nine months after losing their homes to a powerful cyclone, 200,000 Bangladeshis are living in 'inhuman' conditions on river embankments with no resolution in sight, aid groups said Tuesday.

Cyclone Aila, which tore through southern Bangladesh in May last year, killed 300 people and destroyed 4,000 kilometres of roads and embankments, none of which have been rebuilt, the groups said in a statement.

'More than 100,000 people from Khulna and Satkhira are still living in inhuman conditions... and an additional 100,000 people have been displaced,' the statement from 18 charities, including Oxfam and Care, said.

Southern Bangladesh is criss-crossed with scores of rivers and small canals which flood twice a day, at high tide.

Since the 1960s, the government has built a network of embankments along these rivers and canals to prevent the salt water flooding low-lying areas, allowing millions of people to cultivate the land.

But during Aila, most these embankments were washed away, allowing saline water to flood in, destroying farmland and forcing people to take shelter on the few embankments and roads that remained intact.

'The response and rehabilitation works that we have been continuing in the affected regions (will be) a waste of limited resources unless embankments are reconstructed and repaired by March 2010,' the statement added.

Areas affected by the cyclone still flood twice daily at high tide, which contaminates drinking water and makes farming impossible, leaving families reliant on emergency food and water distribution.

Last year, the government made an international appeal for 1.15 billion dollars to donors for help with post-Aila reconstruction, including rebuilding embankments.

But no reconstruction work has yet begun and with Bangladesh's summer starting in April, which will usher in months of monsoon rains, there is concern construction work will stall until the dry season, starting in October.

'That means more than 200,000 people will have to remain homeless for an indefinite time-period, which is inhuman and a serious issue of human and fundamental rights violation,' the statement said.

The statement was released as Bangladesh's government meets key international donors for a two-day conference, which began Monday.

The government's secretary at the food and disaster management ministry, Mukhlesur Rahman, told AFP: 'We have already invited tender to build the embankments, we hope the work will be completed by March.'

First mutiny trial verdict on May 2

[Bdnews24.com . Rangamati](#)

A special court in Rangamati will hand down the first verdict in a BDR mutiny trial on May 2.

The Special Court 4, at the 12th Rifles Battalion headquarters, set the date Tuesday for the verdict against nine border guards of the battalion.

The nine stand accused of rebellion in solidarity with the bloody mutiny at the BDR headquarters in the capital a year ago.

The BDR headquarters mutineers killed more than 70 people, nearly 60 of them army officers deputed to the border force, during the events of February 25-26 2009. Rebellion spread to other BDR camps around the country.

On November 15, the government formed six special courts, including two in Dhaka, to try some 3,500 border guards accused in some 40 cases around the country.

The first of the BDR mutiny trials began at Rangamati on

November 24 against the nine border guards of 12th Rifles Battalion.

The Rangamati court is also trying 75 border guards in a separate trial. The 75 are accused in three separate incidents of rebellion last February in Longdu, Baghaichari and Barkal upazilas of Rangamati.

Mutiny trials are also being held in Feni, Satkhira and Thakurgaon among other districts.

In the event of a guilty verdict in the trials, the maximum penalty for rebellion is seven years in jail. The six special courts are trying charges of mutiny, looting and arson under BDR law. The killings at Peelkhana will be tried separately under civil law.

Jibanananda memorial hall, library open in Barisal today

Our Correspondent . Barisal

The Barisal mayor, Shawkat Hossain Hiron, is expected to inaugurate today a memorial hall and a library at the parental home of Jibanananda Das marking the 111th anniversary of the poet's birth.

Poet Asad Chowdhury, Barisal Sangskritik Sangathan Samanway Parishad president Syed Dulal and deputy commissioner Mashiur Rahman would attend the programme as special guests, said Parvin Begum, Barisal district council chief executive officer.

The organisers will hold a discussion on the life and achievement of the poet and a cultural programme at the place.

Born on February 17, 1899, Jibanananda Das is arguably the most influential romantic poet of the post-Tagore era. He died in a road accident on October 22, 1954 in Kolkata.

The road on which the house stood was named as Kabi Jibanananda Das Sarak and the foundation of a structure was laid by the city mayor on the 54th anniversary of the poet's death in 2008. The district council later built the structure.

PM calls for making country self-sufficient in food

Agri-input Assistance Card launched

United News of Bangladesh . Netrakona

The prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, has urged farmers to go workaholic to make Bangladesh self-sufficient in food as her government launched a new helpline to assist the peasantry in cash and kind.

'Make best use of all facilities sponsored by our government. Increase food production to build a food-sufficient Bangladesh so that we do not have to rely on others for food. If we want to save the country, our farmers and agriculture will have to be saved,' she said.

The prime minister was addressing the inaugural function of the newly-introduced Agri-input Assistance Card and Cash Assistance programme for the country's farmers on Balikandi Madrassah premises in Teligati union in Atpara upazila of Netrakona on Tuesday.

The function virtually turned into a grand rally as thousands of people — farmers, women and children and Awami League workers — thronged the venue and the adjacent paddy fields.

To begin with, the prime minister distributed cards among 20 farmers. A total of 1.82 crore farmers of the country will get the incentives under the recipe.

With the Agriculture Input Assistance card, the farmers will receive money from banks as cash subsidy to buy diesel. For drawing the subsidy and monetary transactions, the farmers can open bank account for only Tk 10.

Moreover, the condition for keeping minimal money with a bank account also has not been tagged to operating the farmers' accounts. Also, the farmers need not have any

identifier to open the account. The agriculture-assistance card will be considered final identity for the farmers.

Under the scheme, first-ever such agriculture-welfare agenda in the history of Bangladesh, some 10 million Boro farmers will be given money through banks as direct subsidy on diesel used for irrigating croplands for the dry-season rice farming.

Marginal farmers will get Tk 800 and big farmers Tk 1,000 as cash incentives.

The prime minister also pledged proper distribution of khas land and providing homeless people with houses for free under the people's welfare agenda.

Agriculture minister Matia Chowdhury, Manjur Kader Koraisi MP, agriculture secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed, Department of Agriculture Extension director-general M Sayeed Ali also addressed the function. A farmers' representative and a FAO representative also spoke on the occasion.

The prime minister in her address hoped that such banking facilities would be used for further facilitating the farmers in future.

Hasina gave directives to officials and field-level workers under the ministry concerned to take necessary steps so the farmers don't have to face harassment in getting the assistance card.

'Any sort of corruption and irregularity in this sector, like in other spheres, will not be tolerated,' the prime minister said in a strong note of warning.

She said if any government official was found guilty of neglecting farmers, they would have to face stern punitive action.

She ordered the authorities concerned to ensure timely supply of quality seeds and fertilisers to the farmers for smooth farming.

Separate land commission for ethnic minorities demanded

Staff Correspondent

Academics, lawyers, lawmakers and human rights activists on Tuesday demanded formation of a separate land commission for the people of the ethnic minorities living on the plains in order to ensure their rights to land as well as their constitutional recognition.

In order to solve the land problems of these ethnic minorities as per the electoral commitment of the Awami League, the present government should withdraw the false and motivated cases that have been filed against certain persons of the ethnic minorities in various places in the country, the discussants told a roundtable.

The Jatiyo Adivasi Parishad, Kapaeeng Foundation and Gram Bikash Kendra jointly organised the roundtable on 'Land Problems of Indigenous People of Plain Land and the Way Forward' at the CIRDAP auditorium.

State minister for land affairs Mustafizur Rahman, Dhaka University teachers Dalem Chandra Barman and Sadequa Halim, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum's general secretary Sanjeeb Drong, JAP's general secretary Rabindranath Saran, ActionAid's country director Farah Kabir and Kapaeeng Foundation's vice-chairperson Dipayon Khisa, along with others, spoke at the discussion with JAP's president Anil Marandi in the chair.

Sanjeeb Drong expressed concern at the government's role in ensuring the ethnic minority people's rights, saying, 'The government has passed one year in office but is yet to sit for a discussion to resolve our manifold problems.'

State minister Mustafizur Rahman said that the government would solve their land problems before the end of its present tenure.

'You have to trust the existing system to resolve the land issues,' he pointed out.

Mustafizur said that the Vested Property Return

(Amendment) Act 2009 would be passed in the ongoing session of the Parliament.

'Five-member committees will be formed at district and upazila levels to settle the land-related disputes,' he said.

Besides, the land ministry will set up a tribunal headed by a retired justice to settle the disputes, he said.

A researcher on ethno-botany and biodiversity conservation, Pavel Partha, presented the keynote paper.

He put forward 10 suggestions, including a separate land commission for the ethnic minorities and changing the existing land transfer system.

Bangladesh is home to about 30 lakh ethnic minority people living in south-eastern hills and plains.

Heated argument between Tuku and Juba Dal leaders

Staff Correspondent

The state minister for home affairs, Shamsul Huq Tuku, got locked in a heated argument with leaders of the Jatiyabadi Juba Dal on Tuesday when they met him to hand over a memorandum demanding punishment of the killers of their fellow-member, Dhaka city unit's leader Ahmed Hossain.

Tuku lost his temper when Juba Dal president Barkatullah Bulu and general secretary Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal sought a guarantee that Ahmed had died a natural death.

'Were there any guarantee of natural death during your regime? You did not take any action against the killers of Shah AMS Kibria or Ahsanullah Master,' said the minister angrily.

Tuku, after receiving the memorandum from Juba Dal leaders, told them, 'I have already sent a message to the police asking them to take action against the killers. Please provide us with information if you have any.'

The minister also ridiculed the Juba Dal leaders when they mentioned Ziaur Rahman as the proclaimer of independence. 'Ziaur Rahman himself would have been ashamed if he heard such a claim. Why do you not mention that he made the announcement on behalf of our great leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman?' he asked.

The Juba Dal leaders also deplored the government's partiality in taking action against criminals, citing the nationwide combing operation to nab the killers of a Chhatra League leader and the sluggishness of effort to arrest the killers of Ahmed Hossain and Abu Bakr.

After the departure of the Juba Dal leaders, Tuku told reporters that the government has provided Khaleda Zia with the security measures she deserves as the leader of the opposition. He also said that the government would investigate and find out who had hidden the bomb-like objects in front of the BNP chief's office.

Several hundred leaders and activists of the BNP and its associate organisations, especially the Juba Dal, brought out a procession from the BNP's central office in Naya Paltan, chanting anti-government slogans and blaming the ruling party for the death of their leader Ahmed Hossain who was killed by unknown assailants on February 9.

The police stopped them at Paltan Square but a delegation of the Juba Dal, led by Bulu, was allowed to submit the memorandum to Tuku.

Death anniv of Serajul Hossain Khan today

Staff Correspondent

The third anniversary of the death of politician and journalist Serajul Hossain Khan, also a former minister, will be observed today.

The programmes to mark the day include placing wreaths at his grave at 9:00am, holding a prayer session at Baniachang in Habiganj and a discussion meeting on the Susan Kindergarten School premises in the district.

The Serajul Hossain Khan Smriti Cricket Tournament will be held at the local Eralia playground on the same day.

A discussion meeting on the life of Serajul will be held on February 26 at 3:00pm at the National Press Club in Dhaka.

RU teachers demand ban on religion-based politics

Our Correspondent . Rajshahi

Rajshahi University teachers on Tuesday demanded a ban on religion-based politics and trial of Shibir activists in connection with the killing of Chhatra League activist Faruk Hossain and violence on the university campus.

About 300 teachers teamed up under the banner of the Progressive Teachers' Society made the demands at a rally in protest at Faruk's killing.

They earlier brought out a procession on the campus in protest at the killing of Faruk and attacks on Chhatra League activists by Islami Chhatra Shibir on the campus in February 8-9.

The teachers, at a rally later at Shabash Bangladesh on the campus, called on the government and the university authorities to ban the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and its associate body of students Chhatra Shibir.

The organisation's steering committee member Jalal Uddin demanded early war crimes trial and said Jamaat and Shibir leaders and activists were trying to destabilise the country as the government was going try war criminals.

The teachers also demanded suspension of pro-Jamaat teachers and employees recruited at the university during the BNP-Jamaat government.

They also decided to publish a list of the teachers and employees of the university who were involved in war crimes in the independence war.

They urged countrymen to stand united against the forces that were against the country's independence in 1971 and demanded punishment for Faruk's killers. The teachers also demanded a fair investigation of the killing.

Professor Entazul M Haque, Professor Zehadul Karim, Professor Mizan Uddin, Professor Chitta Ranjan Saha Mishra, Professor Moloy Kumar Bhowmick, Professor Shamsuddin Elias, Professor Dulal Chandra Bishwas, Professor Ananda Kumar Saha, Mustak Ahmed, and Hasibul Alam Prodhon also addressed the rally.

One more killed in city 'crossfire'

Staff Correspondent

Another man was killed in 'crossfire between his associates and the Rapid Action Battalion' at Kafrul in Dhaka early Tuesday.

Tuesday's incident took to 155 the total number of extrajudicial killing in incidents such as 'crossfire', 'encounter' or 'gunfight' after January 6, 2009 when the Awami League-led alliance government assumed office.

This is the sixth extrajudicial killing after the High Court on December 4, 2009 asked the authorities not to kill any more people in 'crossfire' or 'encounter' until it hears a rule it issued suo moto on the government in connection with extrajudicial killing. The first such killing after the High Court order took place on January 9.

The man killed on Tuesday was Mohammad Parvez also known as Behai Parvez, 34, a resident of Puratan Kachukhet at Kafrul. He was an operative of the local gang called Ibrahim Bahini, the police said. Parvez was from Gongrapur at Hijla in Barisal.

RAB 4 operation officer Flight Lieutenant Nafis Ahmed told New Age a patrol team of Battalion had conducted a raid on the Kafrul Balurmath Muktijoddha Market area on information that a gang was holding a meeting there about 3:00am.

As the team approached, Parvez and his associates fired into the law enforcers, who fired back.

Parvez died on the spot after being caught in the line of fire, the battalion said. The body of Parvez was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for a post-mortem examination.

After the gunfight, the police had seized a revolver, four bullets and a Chinese axe from the scene.

The Kafrul police officer-in-charge, Delwar Hossain, said Parvez was accused in several cases, including murder, extortion and snatching.

Multi-Donor Trust Fund Govt to thrash out differences with donors

Staff Correspondent

The government will resolve its differences with donors on how to administer the Multi-Donor Trust Fund in the next two weeks, said the state minister for environment on Tuesday.

Hasan Mahmud told newsmen at a briefing on the Bangladesh Development Forum's meeting that the government would receive grants from external donors and aid agencies for implementing projects on climate change adaptation.

The Multi-Donor Trust Fund, floated in 2008, was supposed to be administered by the World Bank — an arrangement agreed upon by the interim government that sparked off widespread criticism.

'Bangladesh will be the owner of the Fund, and we hope to resolve the differences in the next two weeks,' said the state minister.

When asked if the development partners would object to authorise the government to operate the Fund, Chris Austin, co-chairman of the Local Consultative Group, said it was already agreed that the government would have the final say in allocating the money for its projects on climate change.

Hasan Mahmud said the donors had appreciated the government's climate change initiatives and Bangladesh's international stance.

Mohaiminul denies being involved in Mohiuddin killing

Staff Correspondent . Chittagong

Mohaiminul Islam, remanded in custody for five days in connection with the killing of Chittagong University student Mohiuddin Masum, has denied being involved in the incident which took place on February 11, the police said on Tuesday.

Sources in the seven-member interrogation team, headed by additional police commissioner Abdul Jalil Mandal, said Mohaiminul had admitted witnessing the killing and had said the attackers also injured him.

Sources, quoting him, said he was waiting for a shuttle train at the Sholashahar railway station standing by Mohiuddin and the gang had first attacked him.

'I ran away leaving behind the bag stuffed with my books when a group of four to five hit me in the head. From a safe distance, I later saw the attackers hacking Mohiuddin,' Mohaiminul is quoted to have said.

Mohaiminul, a second-year student of business administration, who went into hiding after the incident, surrendered to the police on Sunday night.

The chief judicial magistrate, KM Shamshul Alam, on Monday allowed him to be remanded in custody for five days on a petition filed by the investigation officer Shahid Ullah, also a GRP officer-in-charge.

16 named for Kabi Abu Zafar Obaidullah Award 2010

Staff Correspondent

Obaidullah Award-2010 for their contribution to art and culture, literature, education, journalism, research, fine arts, social work and the Language Movement.

The recipients are language hero Abdul Mateen (Language Movement), MRA Taha (history preservation), AKM Nurul Fazla Bulbul (sports organiser), Rasheda K Chowdhury and Kazi Sirajul Islam (education enhancement), Rafiqul Islam (herbal treatment), M Motiur Rahman (banking), Syed Mahbub (literature), Muhamad Abdul Mannan (juvenile literature), Saiful Ahsan Bulbul (research), Mahmud Al Faisal (media), Abdul Hay Siddique (journalism), Sharfuddin Ahmed (medical treatment), Shajahan Alam Saju (organiser), Abu Taleb (engineering) and Khaliqzaman (social work), a release of Kabi Abu Zafar Obaidullah Foundation said on Monday.

The award will be distributed soon in a function, the organisers said.

Kabi Abu Zafar Obaidullah Foundation has been distributing the award since 2005.

Two PBS officials held

United News of Bangladesh . Sylhet

A joint team of the Rapid Action Battalion and Anti-Corruption Commission detained two officials of Palli Bidyut Samity at Darbasta Bazar in Jaintapur of Sylhet on Monday while taking bribe from a businessman.

The joint team raided the PBS Sylhet -2 office at Darbasta Bazar and caught its general manager Mofazzal Hossain and deputy general manager Dilip Chandra Chowdhury red handed while taking bribe.

Death anniv of Kazi Aref observed

Staff Correspondent

The 11th death anniversary of Kazi Aref Ahmed, one of the founders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, was observed on Tuesday.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations, including JSD, Kazi Aref Parishad and Kazi Aref Foundation, observed the day through elaborate programmes.

Party flags were hoisted at 6:00am at JSD offices at half mast with black flags atop and flowers were placed at the grave of Kazi Aref at the freedom fighters' graveyard in Mirpur at 9:00am.

The JSD faction, led by ASM Abdur Rob, also placed flowers at the grave at 8:00am and held a rally there.

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