

Defence accused of threatening witness

FROM PAGE 20
leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee accused the defence of intimidating him at his home in Pirojpur.

"They [defence counsels] went to my house and threatened me," said 14th witness Abdul Halim Babul, pointing his finger at the defence counsels of Sayedee.

"Some 300 to 400 people went there and intimidated me," said the 55-year-old village doctor when he was being cross-examined by the defence lawyers after he had testified before the tribunal.

"We were tortured in 1971 [during the Liberation War]. Even now [they] are intimidating me."

The defence counsels were silent in court after the witness made the claim.

Later, before journalists, they denied the allegation.

Lawyer Tajul Islam, a defence counsel who visited Pirojpur to prepare for the case, said the allegations are "not true". He claimed that in

December Babul had misbehaved with them when they went to his home to make a map of the location.

"We have the footage to prove it," he said.

Meanwhile, prosecutor Rana Dasgupta told The Daily Star that the allegation made by the witness was true.

He said a group of defence lawyers with 300 to 400 activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its front organisations visited some parts of Pirojpur to collect information to defend Sayedee before the trial began.

"We came to know that they also went to the houses of some prosecution witnesses and threatened them," he said.

The state is providing protection to the witnesses and victims of crimes against humanity as per constitutional obligations, he said.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Nizamul Huq finished recording the deposition and cross-examination of

Babul yesterday.

It prematurely adjourned yesterday's proceedings at 12:10pm, as the next witness could not be produced due to his illness. The tribunal is supposed to record the testimony of the 80-year-old witness today.

Sayedee has been accused of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971. He was present in the dock during yesterday's proceedings. He is among six Jamaat leaders, including former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam and two BNP leaders, facing charges of crimes against humanity before the tribunal.

Babul in his seven-minute testimony told the tribunal that Sayedee along with other collaborators and Pakistani soldiers looted and torched his house in Pirojpur on June 2, 1971.

He was standing on the street in front of his house in Nalbunga village when he heard that Pakistani soldiers

and collaborators were approaching towards the area, he said.

"We used to live in fear of the Pakistani soldiers and Razakars [collaborators]," said Babul, "I entered my home and told everyone to leave."

"They [family members] went into hiding. So did I."

From a distance, they saw Delawar Hossain Sayedee, Danesh Mollah, Moslem Moulana and some other armed collaborators and Pakistani soldiers entering his house.

"They looted the house and set it ablaze," he said.

Later, the Pakistani soldiers and collaborators, including Sayedee, went to the nearby village of Sankarpasha and set fire to the houses of Khasru Miah and Amir Khan.

"I also heard that they went to Hindupara of Umedpur village, torched many houses and killed people," said the witness.

After Babul finished his

deposition at 10:47am, defence counsel Mizanul Islam began cross-examining the witness.

At one point, Mizanul told Babul, "Now, I'm going to ask some unpleasant questions as per my professional responsibilities. You answer if they are true."

Judge AKM Zaheer Ahmed, a tribunal member, then told the counsel, "Do not ask any scandalous questions."

Then, Mizanul asked the witness whether he had secured bail in a theft case filed by one Aklima Khatun from Nalbunga village.

Babul responded that it was not true.

Mizanul then read out the details of the case, including its number (CR-1160, 1982).

At that point, Babul became agitated and stood up in the dock. He sought permission to say something to the tribunal.

Babul said the case had been filed against him to avenge a case he had filed

against Aklima in connection with assault on him, which left black marks on his body.

The witness told the court he could show the marks.

It was then that the witness told the court he had been intimidated by the defence counsels.

Babul said the lawyers went to his house in seven or eight cars along with hundreds of people without any prior notice and intimidated him.

The tribunal then asked Babul to sit down and recorded the fact that the witness had received bail in the theft case against him but that the case was a counter to a case Babul had earlier filed.

Defence counsel Manjur Ahmed Ansari concluded by saying that Babul, a supporter of the Awami League, had made a false statement against Sayedee in the instructions of his party leaders.

Babul denied the accusation.

Serve rural people

FROM PAGE 20
In this regard, she asked the ministries concerned to take necessary measures for issuing a circular on tax rebate on donations for flourishing education and health sector.

The premier announced that two more government hospitals will be set up in the capital to ensure medical services for its growing population.

A process is underway to increase the number of beds of Suhrawardy Hospital to 850 from the existing 375, Hasina said.

Five medical colleges have been set up in five least developed areas of the country, she said adding that healthcare services are being provided digitally to people in line with the election pledges of the government.

In this regard, the premier mentioned about the installation of web-cameras at district level hospitals, healthcare services through cell phone up to upazila-level hospitals, and medical consultation with specialised doctors through video

conferencing.

Later, the premier laid the foundation stone of a 10-storey building of Dhaka Shishu Hospital on the hospital premises.

Speaking on the occasion, Hasina called upon the physicians to provide healthcare services to children, especially the poor and hapless ones with the passion of parents.

The premier also called upon the private hospitals and individuals to supplement the government effort in improving health services.

Terming the Shishu Hospital as one of the best hospitals and academic institutes, Hasina said its expansion, establishment of child cardiac centre, and opening new branches at Gazipur and Rajshahi will help improve the quality and scope of treatments.

Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhul Haq, Adviser to the premier Prof Syed Modasser Ali, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Irene Khan takes over

FROM PAGE 20
Development Law Organization (IDLO) in Rome on Monday.

She was elected by the IDLO's Assembly of Member Parties at their annual general meeting on November 17 last year, says a release of the international inter-governmental organisation.

The IDLO is dedicated to promoting the rule of law and good governance in developing countries and countries in transition or emerging from conflict.

"Whether it's climate

change or public health, building peace or fighting poverty, the need for good governance is clear. From the Arab spring to 'Occupy Wall Street' protests, people are demanding fair and effective laws and systems that create social and economic opportunity for all," said Irene Khan, who was involved with this newspaper as consulting editor prior to joining the IDLO.

"As the only inter-governmental organisation solely devoted to promoting good governance through

the rule of law, the IDLO is in a unique position to enable governments, civil society and the international community to meet these challenges at global- and national-levels.

"It is a great privilege to lead the IDLO at what promises to be an exciting and defining moment for the world and also for the organisation as it looks to mark its 30th anniversary next year," she said.

"These are tough times but the growing demand for equality and justice around

the world creates an opportunity for new ideas, new partnerships and new ways of working," said Irene Khan, noting that one of her first tasks will be to explore strategic alliances with governments, international organisations, civil society actors, business and foundations.

"As the first woman to hold this position and comment from a developing country, I am keen to expand IDLO's work on gender and development," she said.

Irene Khan is globally

acclaimed for her work on human rights, social justice and women's issues. She was the secretary general of Amnesty International from 2001-2009 and prior to that, worked for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for more than two decades.

Upon her election, US Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, also current president of the IDLO Assembly of Parties, welcomed Irene Khan.

"It is my distinct pleasure to welcome Irene Khan as the new director general. I know I speak in unison on behalf of the Assembly of Parties when I say that we are confident that Ms. Khan will be pivotal in moving the IDLO forward," said Cousin, who is also the US permanent representative to the UN Agencies in Rome.

Bibiyanan bid draws

FROM PAGE 20
venture of Japanese Marubeni and Korean Hyundai, and a joint venture of Hel-Etern-CCCC.

Earlier, Chinese bidder CMC-ZGPT dropped a proposal with financing to set up a 150MW plant in Koddia of Savar for a joint venture company comprising the PDB and Rural Power Company Ltd.

Other tenders, expected to be opened within a month, are: Ghorashal 300-450MW combined-cycle plant, Shahjibazar 300MW, Bholia 225MW and Barapukuria 250MW second unit coal fired power plant.

A top power board official said the government was looking into all kinds of options to ensure power generation, from rental power plants for short term solution to public sector dual-fuel

plants and private sector gas and coal based plants.

The idea of inviting bids from contractors, who would arrange for the funding to set up a plant for the government, was new and it freed the government from the stress of finding project finances. "Besides, we have been hearing criticism that we have awarded too many private power contracts. We hope this bid would create a balance between public and private sector power generation," said the top power board official.

Happy with the response in the Bibiyana third phase bid, he added that the power board aims to sign the contract within the next six months. The PDB also aims to launch the power plant partially within 20 months of the deal signing and launch the full combined cycle plant

within around three years.

The new move of floating tenders, where bidders take care of finance, came after the failure of a private sector bid in Bholia to generate 225MW and uncertainty looming over financing of three large private projects awarded to local Summit Group.

Summit is supposed to complete financial arrangement for the first two phases of Bibiyana power plants and another in Meghnaghat within February. But so far, the government remains unsure about completion of this arrangement. However, Summit chief Muhammad Aziz Khan told The Daily Star that his company has made an "interim" financial closure of the Meghnaghat project and by February 16, it would close both the Bibiyana power projects.

Two chief ministers

FROM PAGE 1
which would have been the showpiece of India-Bangladesh relations after the Ganges accord in 1996 (when the then West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu had played a key role in facilitating the Ganges water-sharing agreement) Sarkar generously offered 100MW of power from Tripura's quota of 196 MW from ONGC's Palatana project in the state, provided the central government approves of it. The 726MW power project will start generating electricity in a few months and Sarkar is too well aware that its construction was facilitated by the Hasina government through allowing use of Ashuganj port to ferry equipment for the project in a shorter time. Sarkar made the offer in the presence of Hasina in Agartala and the Bangladesh prime minister too expressed the hope that it would get the nod of the Indian government to help Bangladesh meet its acute shortage of electricity.

Besides, Sarkar said the 104MW Monarchak power project in Tripura would start generation soon and a portion of that power could be sold to Bangladesh. The Tripura chief minister has clearly made the right moves to enhance India-Bangladesh relations for which power is going to be a key driver.

Mamata may have had her own compulsions to oppose the Teesta agreement and it may be argued that the water-sharing deal is not the same as electricity-sharing and that the former is much more complex and has implications for a much wider section of the population. Mamata has often been accused by Indian neighbourhood policy analysts of having missed the big picture by refusing to endorse the Teesta treaty. But to be fair to her, can she afford to rush into the big picture without first ensuring the interests of her own state? Where can the line be drawn between the two? While that debate may go on, the

incontrovertible fact remains that Manik Sarkar has seized the opportunity provided by the current upswing in relations between India and Bangladesh to position his state as the economic bridge between the two countries.

Tripura's geographical location gives it a unique advantage to be North-East India's gateway to Bangladesh. Work is in progress on a rail link between Tripura's capital Agartala and Akhaura in Bangladesh and land customs stations are being built on both sides of the border for trade. Infrastructure, particularly road, in Tripura is expected to get a big leg up as Bangladesh has allowed the use of Chittagong port, which is just 75km from away from the state's Sabroom town. The commercial importance of Tripura is going to rise once Ashuganj port becomes operational as a multimodal transshipment point.

Sarkar, during his visit to Dhaka along with

Manmohan Singh, had met Bangladesh's leading business and industry leaders and sought to know their requirements in a bid to sell the state as a key commercial transit point for north-eastern India and Bangladesh and a key link between north-eastern India and the rest of India. Tripura can also become a key transit point for trans-border electricity trade between India and Bangladesh as also evacuation of power from the north eastern states, which hold the immense potential of hydropower, to the rest of India.

If Mamata is letting go of the initiative to help put India's relations with Bangladesh on a new trajectory, Manik Sarkar has clearly fully used the window of opportunity. While an increased flow of Teesta water cannot for now nurture India-Bangladesh ties, a liberal offer of electricity from the Tripura chief minister should power them on.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BANGLADESH

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP Bangladesh has outcome areas in the capacity building for governance, economic development, achieving MDGs, private sector development and sustainability and disaster risk reduction. As part of a continued effort in advocating for change and improving our service delivery in Bangladesh, UNDP Bangladesh is looking for qualified professionals to maintain a pool of candidates for immediate and future needs.

Applications are invited for the following positions:

- Driver/Messenger
- Administrative and Finance Associate
- Project Secretary
- Project Assistant
- Advocacy and Communications Officer
- Monitoring and Evaluations Officer

After a screening process, suitable applicants will be invited for a written test and interviews and placed in HR Roster. These pre-qualified candidates can be further contracted by UNDP CO to support the implementation activities of UNDP projects.

Only pre-qualified individuals will be invited to participate in the possible subsequent contracting exercise as and when required. Nothing in this EOI shall be taken to form a binding legal Contract.

The suitable candidates are requested to submit their applications before closure of business on **04 February 2012 (5 p.m. Bangladesh time)**.

For details Job Description of positions please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>.

Driver cum Messenger :

Duties and Responsibilities : The incumbent will drive the project vehicle within / outside Dhaka city to meet the transportation requirement of the project, day-to-day maintenance of the vehicle, maintain a log book, arrange repairs where necessary, collect / deliver mail or documents when required


Qualifications and Experiences : The incumbent should have at least secondary education or equivalent level, with at least five years of relevant experience. The incumbent must have a valid heavy / light vehicles driving license. Good knowledge of road network in Dhaka and surrounding areas and adequate knowledge and skills in vehicle maintenance and minor repair are essential. She / he must have working knowledge of communicative English. Experience of UN, international organizations or government organizations would be an asset;

Submission of Application : Application should be marked 'Confidential' and the position applied for i.e. Driver-cum- Messenger – UNDP Roster should be clearly written on the A4 Size envelope. Application including curriculum vitae, photocopy of valid driving license and a recent passport-size photograph should be sent to the HR Cluster, UNDP-Dhaka, GPO Box: 224, Dhaka-1000, or deposited at the Deposit Box at the IDB Bhaban (Ground Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 by February 04, 2012.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

UNDP Bangladesh
Human Resources Unit



INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)

TENDER NOTICE

ADDITIONAL WORKS FOR BIO-CHEMISTRY AND MICROBIOLOGY LAB OF IUB CAMPUS AT BASHUNDHARA

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide contractors for Additional works including supply & installation of Additional Plumbing & Ventilation, False Ceiling and Electrical works for the Bio-Chemistry and Micro-Biology lab of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Bashundhara Campus, Aftabuddin Road, Plot # 16, Block-B, Bashundhara, Dhaka. The bidders shall be required to submit complete offers.

1. An earnest money of 2.5% of the bid amount must be submitted together with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay Order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh valid for 6 (six) months from the date of submission of tender in favor of the Independent University, Bangladesh without which the tender will be rejected.
2. The bidders shall apply in their letterhead to the undersigned along with the following documents in support of their eligibility to obtain tender documents.
 - I. Copies of documents evidencing several years of experience in similar nature of works.
 - II. Copies of satisfactory completion certificates from the Employer for the similar kind of works.
 - III. Copies of the up-to-date Trade License, Income TAX Certificate (TIN) and VAT Registration Certificate.
3. Tender document shall be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of non refundable cash of TK. 500/- (Taka five hundred only) between 18 January to 26 January 2012 during office hours.
4. The tenders will be received at the office of the undersigned up to 2.30 p.m. of 7 February 2012 and shall be opened at 3.00 p.m. on the same day at the same place in presence of the bidders who may like to attend the tender opening.
5. The IUB reserves the right to accept only the technically responsive Tender without any consideration of lowest bid and may reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.

Deputy Director, Planning & Development
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