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PHILIPS

Dovish dolphin cries for help

By Morshed Ali Khan, back from Sirajganj



MORE THAN A POUND OF FLESH: Playful mammal, dolphin, is being butchered by lustful mammal, man. — Star photo by Amran Hossain

The gangetic dolphin, one of the endangered mammals of our rivers, and protected by the law, is a regular selling item at the Matin Saheber Ghat, a marketplace by the river Jamuna in Sirajganj town. Fishermen and the market officials said everyday several dolphins were being brought in by the fishermen for sale in the market that starts early morning and finishes by mid-day. When this correspondent arrived in the market on Wednesday last, a brown gangetic dolphin, measuring about five feet was up for sale. The fishermen demanded Tk 1,200 for the mammal. They said the shushuk (gangetic dolphin) is a good catch for them because there is a demand for its oil and

meat for bait and medicinal use. Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) (Amendment) Act, 1974 strictly prohibits hunting, killing or capturing of the gangetic dolphin. Anyone contravening or attempting to contravene the provisions of the law shall be punished with a maximum imprisonment of one year and a maximum fine of Tk 1,000. At Matin Saheber Ghat, the dolphin was eventually sold for Tk 750. The buyers dragged the animal to the bank of the river and started to cut it down. They said the oil is used as a very effective bait to catch big fishes in the river. It is also good for making medicine. Its meat is delicious and consumed mainly

by the fishermen community. They said the dolphin was in abundance in the rivers few years ago. "We used to catch several at a time and sell them here but now the demand is high but we cannot find the fish as much as before," said one of the fishermen who traded the protected mammal. When asked whether they were aware that it was illegal to hunt or kill the shushuk, the fishermen replied they were and that the shushuk is a friend of man. "The policemen come here and collect their undue tips. They don't bother about shushuk," the elderly fisherman said. None of the district forest officials was available for comment.

Khaleda demands trial of AL leaders for 'high treason'

TONGI, Oct 13: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia today accused the Awami League government of 'high treason' and demanded its trial for anti-state activities, reports UNB. She told a big public meeting here this afternoon that the government had entered into an unwritten agreement with the tribal insurgents for eviction of Bengali settlers from Chittagong Hill Tracts.

This was done in addition to written agreement to hand over one-tenth of the country's territory to the insurgents backed by the neighbouring country, she added.

All this activities, Begum Zia claimed, tantamount to treason on the Awami League government, and they should be brought to trial.

The public meeting was arranged in the industrial belt of Tongi in connection with the joining of local leader Hasanuddin Sarkar in BNP. An active front ranking leader of Ershad's Jatiya Party, Sarkar has recently resigned dubbing Ershad as the 'B' team of Awami League.

The trial of Awami League should be held first for endangering the country's territorial integrity and independence," Begum Zia said.

Referring to arrest of BNP MP Alamgir Kabir in Naogaon, the BNP chairperson blasted the government for arrest of her party leaders and workers in the name of trial of killing. "This must be stopped," she asked the government.

The former Prime Minister told the audience that the government is busy implementing the subservient policies selling out the interest of the nation. "It wants to make Bangladesh a part of India and perpetuate the power by annihilating the opponents. It is destined to destroy the domestic mills and factories to serve the interest of its alien masters," she said.

"We fought the war of liberation and achieved the independence at supreme sacrifices not for turning the country into a vassal state of India. The evil designs of the ruling party would never be allowed to be executed as long as the patriotic people are alive," Begum Zia said.

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Jubo League leader chopped to death

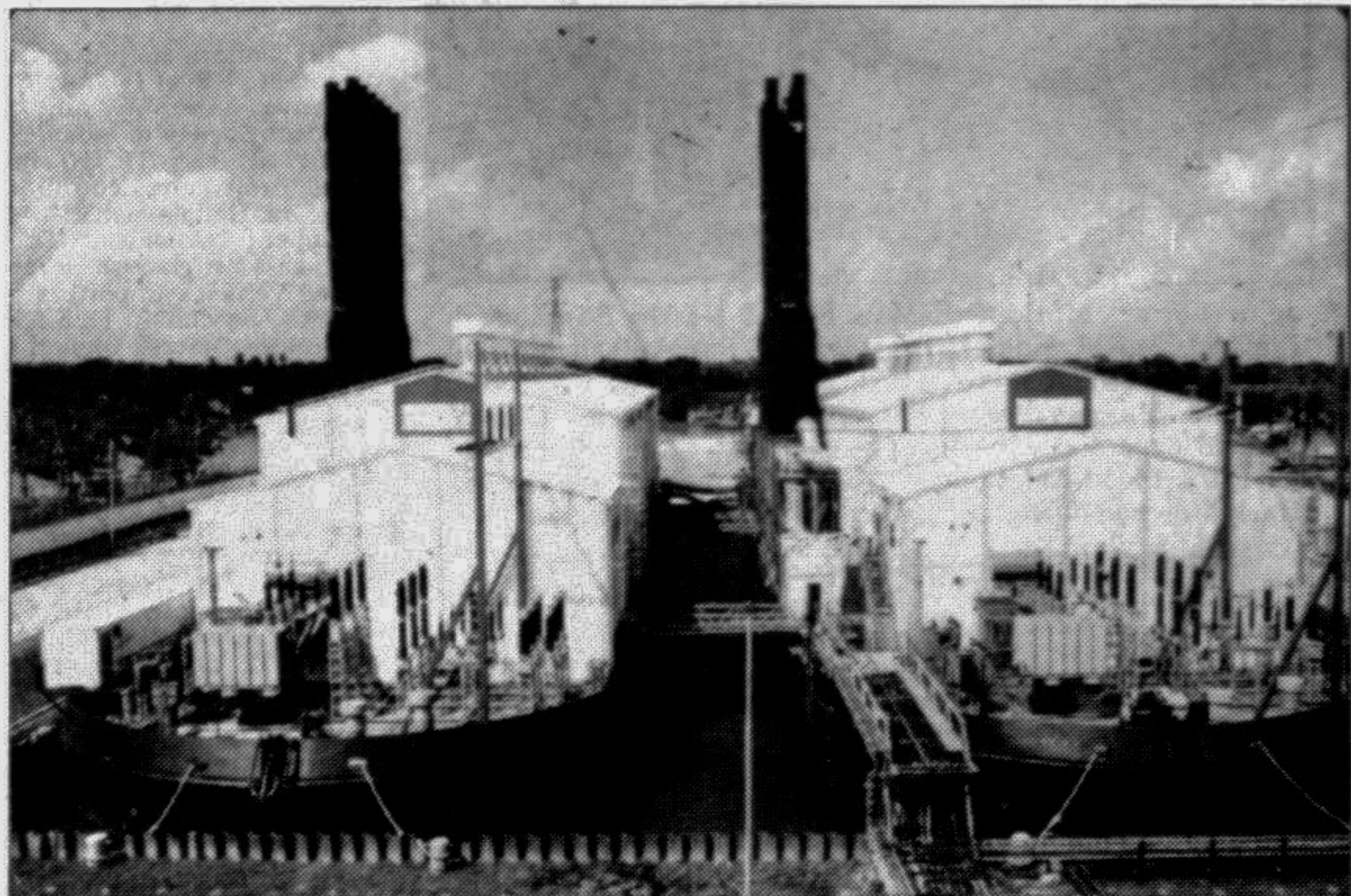
From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 13: Israfil, 32, a leader of Jubo League, youth front of ruling Awami League, was brutally killed by a group of assailants at his residence at Lamapara under Fatullah thana in the district at around 5:30 am today.

At least 20 people including Israfil's relatives and neighbours were injured as the assailants stormed into the house of breaking the door, fired shots indiscriminately and used lethal weapons. The inmates were asleep when they attacked the house, police and witnesses said.

Of the 20 injured, nine were bullet-hit and one of them was rushed to DMCH in a critical condition. Others were taken to local clinics and hospitals. The armed goons dragged Israfil out of his house, chopped him to death and picked the body, making wild jubulations for around 90 minutes.

The attackers fled the scene by firing shots indiscriminately when police and the villagers unitedly rushed to the spot at around 7 am.



Power plant on barge doing fine, promoters plan another

By Staff Correspondent

The country's first private power unit, Khulna Power Company Limited (KPCL), has been generating power in full swing since October 2, adding some 110 MW of power to the national grid.

Commissioning of this new power unit may have solved the power crisis but has somewhat eased the sufferings of the people. The level of shortfall, which was 300 MW to 400 MW everyday earlier, has now been reduced by about 110 MW.

Built by multinational power company Wartsila, American company Coastal Power and two Bangladeshi companies — Summit Industrial Corp and United Group — the power plant is situated beside the river Bhairab at Coalpara in Khulna district.

The KPCL invested about 103 million dollars in the plant, set on two barges. The 19 generators in this plant can produce 114 MW of power using imported duty-free heavy fuel oil. Under a 15-year contract, PDB will purchase this power at an average rate of 5.2 US cents (about Tk 2.6) per kilowatt

hour. This rate will decrease only if KPCL is provided with cheaper gas supply. Chairman of KPCL Muhammad Aziz Khan told a group of journalists who visited the plant on Monday. The plant came into commercial operation about 45 days behind schedule due to various reasons.

The PDB has sent a letter to KPCL authorities asking for a fine of 10,000 US dollars per day for the delay. KPCL, on the other hand, claims that as per the terms of the contract between it and PDB, it did not delay implementation of the project.

Aziz Khan however said, "we will sit with PDB in this regard very soon."

Questions were raised on the noise and pollution created by the power unit. However, during the visit to the plant, this correspondent found the noise level reasonable and exhaust negligible.

"We have a sludge treatment unit in the plant site to treat the remains of the Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO). At that unit, we burn the HFO wasted during the power

generation. Nothing, except water used in the plant, goes to the river," he said. "As KPCL has taken loan from IFC (World Bank's sister concern), we are bound to comply with the World Bank's environmental rules," he said.

HFO is a high pollutant fuel which has severe environmental impact. The government has future plans to provide KPCL with a gas line so that KPCL can be replaced with gas. When KPCL will use gas, the price of its power will go down to 4.6 cents per unit.

"The current demand for power in the western region is 350 MW," Aziz Khan said. The companies involved with KPCL are negotiating with the PDB to set up another 110 MW plant in Noapara. "We hope that an agreement would be signed next month," he said.

Vijay Sirse, a top executive of Coastal Power that currently owns 74 per cent of KPCL, told the newsmen that his company was looking forward to invest in power plants and pipeline systems in Bangladesh.

Charge sheet expected

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sources said. The two dead and 14 absconders are also among the 24 people chargesheeted in the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Four national leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Mansur Ali and A H M Kamruzzaman — were killed inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

The seven persons detained in connection with the Jail Killing Case are: K M Obaidur, Nurul Islam Manjur, Shah Moazzem, Taheruddin Thakur, Lt Col Syed Faruk Rahman, Lt Col Syed Sahrieh Rashid Khan and Major Khairuzaman.

Obaid, Manjur and Moazzem were arrested on September 29. The four others have been detained since August 1996 and three of them except Khairuzaman are now facing trial in the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

The CID interrogated all the detained accused during the course of investigation of the case. Among the detained, accused Faruk and Shahrieh have so far made judicial statements in connection with the Jail Killing Case.

The 14 absconding accused are: Lt Col (dismissed) Khondokar Abdul Rashid, Major (ret'd) Bazul Huda, Lt Col (ret'd) S H M Nur Chowdhury, Lt Col (ret'd) Shariful Huq Dalim,

BNP MP

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nearly two hours, creating heavy traffic jam in the town. Later, Naogaon BNP leaders held a rally there and called for a half-day hartal in the town on October 15 to protest the arrest.

The authorities sent Kabir to Rajshahi jail under a tight police security.

Kabir was brought to the court at about 9 am. Many people crowded the court premises and surrounded the BNP lawmaker.

Rouf to sue Beximco papers

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He said he would place written complaints before the Press Council seeking punitive actions against the newspapers.

"This was a very dirty, shameful and disgraceful effort to undermine me," he told reporters and added he would go to court later.

The reports, he said, narrated an 'incorrect' story of his past life and relations with his close relatives. "It is written in a manner which reflects a very bad taste," Chowdhury said.

He told reporters that a responsible person owned both the papers in which the reports were published.

"Salman F Rahman is bluntly trying to influence election. No matter what the cost is. This is the most disgraceful abuse of press privilege. They have published a totally baseless story. No reporters' name mentioned, no source identified and no document referred to..." he said. The two papers that published the stories are owned by the Beximco Group of which Salman Rahman is vice chairman.

"All the big 25 defaulters of the country have formed a club to defeat me at any cost." Chowdhury also charged the FBCCI Election Commission with committing anomalies. He also criticised the current leadership of getting involved in election campaign. "Its against normal practice and decorum."

PCJSS blames govt for not implementing peace accord

From Page 1

BANDARBAN, Oct 13: PCJSS Chairman Jyotindra Bodhipriya Lama alias Shantoo Lama today accused the government of non-implementing the CHT peace accord, reports UNB.

The way the government is implementing the agreement is frustrating, he told public meetings at Bangahalia, Antol and traffic crossing in Sadar thana.

Chairman designate of the 22-member CHT Regional Council Lama embarked on a 2-week campaign in favour of reconstituting the Regional Council excluding three members nominated by the government, a demand he has been insisting on.

He said the government is delaying implementation of the peace agreement and the delay was creating new problems in the hill region.

Lama also accused the government of keeping the army camps in the hill districts and delaying updating the voter lists. He said certain quarters, both tribal and non-tribal, are creating hindrance in implementing the peace accord in its letter and spirit.

He said PCJSS had fought for 26 years to achieve the rights of tribal people and the Bangali settlers.

Replying to a question, he claimed that around 92 per cent of the earnings to the company went to the government exchequer as duties, taxes and VAT.

Smugglers

From Page 1

lar brand, 'Gold Leaf', Rahman said.

"We know there is a wholesale market of the London brand Cigarettes at Riazuddin Bazzar in Chittagong from where it is distributed to other areas of the country," he said.

"But the government is yet to take any action against the smugglers though the Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong and local offices of Bangladesh Rifles, National Board of Revenue and all other agencies concerned were informed," he said.

Rahman said, sale of Gold Leaf in Chittagong region declined by about 13 million sticks in four months from May to September this year.

Replying to a question, he claimed that around 92 per cent of the earnings to the company went to the government exchequer as duties, taxes and VAT.

FBCCI tribunal evades verdict

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after the election if any of the contestants lose the battle for leadership by a margin of 10 votes.

"Any contestant losing the election by a margin of even 10 votes would claim that if the genuine voters were allowed to exercise their right to franchise they would have voted for me and I would have been elected," according to a business source.

A member of the Arbitration Committee, however, ruled out such a possibility saying "if the verdict is given after the election, it would take effect and be applicable from the date it is given and not before".

He also said the committee could not give the verdict as one of the members of the committee, Mir Nasir Hossain, was out of the country. "At least three members of the committee must be present before giving a verdict."

When told that there were three other members who were in the country, he said the current vice-president, who is also a member of the committee, was "not available as he is not sitting in the arbitration board".

Talking to The Daily Star

Clarification

A H M Abdul Hye, Secretary of the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives, has sent a clarification relating to the news item captioned "26 Secys spent 877 days abroad during 96-97" published on October 11.

The news report mentioned that the Secretary, Ministry of LGRD spent 94 days abroad during the year 1996-97. He pointed out that the Ministry of LGRD has two Divisions with two Secretaries heading them and added, "As Secretary Local Government Division I spent 56 days during the said year."

Cairn, Unocal

From Page 1

bility that Cairn-Unocal were united over some matters of common interest in investing in Bangladesh," said a source.

Earlier Cairn's chief executive met government's high officials and the Petrobangla chairman over various problematic issues including approval of a work plan submitted by Cairn.

The sources said that Petrobangla, which refused to approve Cairn's work plan to drill an exploratory well in Gilachhart on the ground that the risk factor in that area was over 90 per cent, asked Cairn chief to reduce Sangu gas field's development cost first.

Cairn had enhanced the approved budget for Sangu to 264 million dollars from 178 million dollars. After an initial talk, Cairn lowered the budget to 247 million and said it could not be lowered further.

Transmission

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frequency. Rather, we are the user of frequencies as provided by the Wireless Board of T&T. He declined to elaborate further and denied holding any meeting at Betar regarding the clandestine radio transmission.

An engineer of the Betar, meanwhile, disclosed to The Daily Star that the Monitoring Section of the Betar was examining various radio signals in a bid to trace down the point of transmission. "It is possible that someone may venture to broadcast something from a small transmitter within a limited radius," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Saidee said he wanted the government to act promptly in detecting the transmission point and punish those responsible for what he called the illegal broadcast of his speeches.

When asked whether he himself listened to that transmission, Saidee said, "I read in a newspaper that my speeches are being broadcast for over one and a half months. I have a nine-band radio in my house and my son tried to tune into the frequency but due to too much noise, he could not hear anything."

Saidee claimed his recorded speeches had a global market and people had already access to such audio and video cassettes. "So, why should I do broadcast from an unauthorised transmission?"

Bangabandhu Murder Case

'Presence of an accused in place of occurrence not required to prove guilt'

Presence of an accused in the place of occurrence is not required to prove his guilt in a criminal offence, argued prosecution counsel Serajul Huq in the Bangabandhu Murder Case yesterday, reports UNB.

The prosecution counsel tried to negate some of the defence arguments on conclusion of the lengthy hearing that lasted about 19 months.

The defence had said presence of an accused is a must to implicate a person in a criminal act. The prosecution refuting the defence argument said "nearness or distance cannot effect criminality."

All those who act with a common intention or remain with remote control are equally guilty as of those who were found in the place of occurrence, Huq argued.

He contended that from the evidence only four accused were found carrying the common intention at Bangabandhu's residence at the time of killing. But others, the lawyer said, were involved with the "marriage of mind that is common intention."

He said others who were not seen at Bangabandhu's residence were somewhere with the common intention which ultimately resulted in the killing.

On the question of conspiracy, Huq said conspiracy means an agreement to do a criminal act in a criminal way. Conspiracy itself is punishable, no matter it happened or not.

He said he had showed that four meetings were held under the pretext of 'swanirvar' from where the conspiracy sprouted and 23 witnesses gave evidence on how the conspiracy took place.

Huq argued if it is proved that two or more persons have conspired, then section 10 of the Evidence Act will play. Section 10 said if conspiracy is proved that what one accused said will be treated as evidence for other co-accused.

Quoting confessional statements of Col Farooq, Col Shahriyar, Col Muhiuddin and Taheruddin Thakur, the chief prosecutor said they, in their statements, have confirmed the involvement of other co-accused.

Referring to section 30 of the Evidence Act, Huq said if more persons are jointly tried for committing certain offence, then the court may consider the confessional statement of one against the other.

Refuting defence allegation that a number of witnesses were accomplices of the killers, Huq said accomplice means a partner in crime with knowledge

and intention, but none of them had any knowledge about happening of such incident.

About a video tape and Sunday Times newspaper, Huq said those were authenticated by a notary public of UK.

On a query by Judge Kazi Golam Rasul, the lawyer said Maj Huda was a captain in Comilla and the day he was posted in Dhaka before August 15 was promoted to the rank of major. He did wear the badge of major as he was posted in the military intelligence.

Closing his argument Serajul Huq requested the court to remember the perspective of August 15, 1975 while giving the verdict in the case.

Later, refuting prosecution argument on Martial Law, Col Farooq's counsel Khan Saifur Rahman said, August 15 incident took place under Martial Law and the accused are subject to get protection of the proclamation as radio announcement had mentioned about the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members.

Biman

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four DC-10-30 and two Airbus A 310 aircraft.

Biman will have to pay the US airline company 293,000 dollars a month and another 450 dollars for maintenance of the aircraft as per the initial proposal, the official said requesting anonymity.

A Chase Air delegation is due here shortly to finalise the deal. The deal would also include a spare engine and some other spares, he added.

Biman is also negotiating sale of its two advanced turbo-propellers (ATPs) and procure a Fokker-28-4000 aircraft to replace the one it lost in a crash landing off the Sylhet airport on December 22.

But the ATP sale is yet to be finalised, the official said.

Pak general

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would be matched by Pakistan counter-fund of another 200 million US dollars, the sources added. The total amount of 400 million US dollars would be utilised to undertake construction of accommodations in various locations of Pakistan, Aziz added.

The Pakistan foreign minister said the proposal was still pending with the Rabat.

Taslima Nasrin

Madrasah boys gherao offices of DC, dist judge

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 13: Activists of Sahaba Sainik Parishad, an organisation of madrasah students today gheraoed the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, and the District Judge demanding immediate arrest and hanging of controversial feminist writer Taslima Nasrin.

The agitators began their programme at 8:30 am, put all the gates of the Collectorate and Judge Court buildings under lock and key and held a rally at the Surma Point area. They also put up day-long barricade on the main road in front of the offices of the DC, SP, DIG, Divisional Commissioner and the district judge's court. The barricade continued till 5 pm.

Speakers at the rally, held with Moulana Habibur Rahman, chief of the organisation in the chair, called upon the government to take immediate action against Taslima Nasrin.

Bangabandhu

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have taken shelter in Canada, USA and other countries. The government had sought extradition of Maj Huda from Thailand.

During 19 months of hearing of the case, 61 of the 72 prosecution witnesses listed were examined. The witnesses were mostly army personnel.

Top criminal lawyer Advocate Serajul Huq led the prosecution, assisted by Ranjan Ali Khan, Barrister Anisul Huq, Mosharraf Hossain Kafil, Shahara Khatun and Saifuddin Hossain.

Noted criminal lawyer Khan Saifur Rahman appeared for Lt Col Farooq, Abdur Rezzak Khan for Lt Col Shahriyar and Hony Capt Abdul Wahab Joardar, TM Akbar for Lt Col Muhiuddin and Sharfuddin Mukul for Taheruddin Thakur.