

## KILLING OF INTELLECTUALS IN 1971 Existing evidence enough to try killers

ZAYADUL AHISAN and  
SHAKHAWAT LITON

The killers of intellectuals during the Liberation War can be prosecuted on the basis of evidence preserved by the government. It only needs to take a move to resume the long halted process of trial of the intellectuals' murder cases.

Sufficient number of documents and records on the cases have been preserved since 1972 at the home ministry, Criminal Investigation Department, Ramna police station, district and sessions judges' courts, chief metropolitan magistrates' courts and deputy commissioners' offices.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Bodies of unknown intellectuals dumped at Rayer Bazar mass killing field by local collaborators of Pakistan army days before Bangladesh won the Liberation War.

## Martyred Intellectuals Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation pays rich tribute to the martyred intellectuals today amid rising demands for trial of the war criminals, who had systematically killed the prominent Bengalee intellectuals and professionals at the fag end of the war on this day in 1971.

Renowned academics, doctors, engineers, journalists, teachers and other eminent personalities were dragged out of their residences, blindfolded, taken to unknown places to be brutally tortured and slaughtered. Their bodies were later dumped at Rayerbazar, Mirpur and some other killing fields in the capital.

The cold-blooded killing was carried out under a carefully thought out plan to cripple the emerging Bangladesh intellectu-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Govts overlooked filing case under Int'l Crimes Act

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which probed an intellectual-murder case that dates back 10 years, made suggestions to the home ministry in 2001 that the government could file the case under International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973.

No subsequent government, however, took the initiative to that end.

Prof Farida Banu, sister of martyred intellectual Giasuddin, filed the case with Ramna Police Station on September 24, 1997 against two al-Badr cadres—Chowdhury Mainuddin and Ashrafuzzaman—for killing her brother on December 14 in 1971.

The CID submitted the final report of the case in 2001 on grounds that it was filed under "wrong" section of law.

Giasuddin was a history department lecturer at Dhaka University.

The complainant now sees no hope of getting justice as the subsequent political governments and the present caretaker administration have turned a deaf ear to the CID observations.

"The state needs to file a case in order to try and punish the accused," Farida Banu told The Daily Star yesterday.

She said she tracked the development of the case till 2001. "After the BNP assumed power, I found no reason to follow up the case,"

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## People feel safe for armed forces' role to fight graft: CA

UNB, Bhatiali Ctg

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said people have a sigh of relief following the courageous role of the armed forces in building a corruption- and terrorism-free Bangladesh.

He made the remark while addressing combined President Parade of army, navy and air force cadets at Bangladesh Military Academy Parade Ground at Bhatiali.

The CA hoped that the newly commissioned officers of the army, navy and air force would play their role in protecting the sovereignty and security of the state as well as provide services to the nation.

He urged them to uphold the image of Bangladesh as a liberal, democratic, promising and peace-

ful country in the present world.

Cadets of 57th BMA Long Course and 28th BMA Special Course from the army, cadets of midshipmen 2006A batch from the navy and cadets of 56th flight cadet course from the air force took part in the parade.

A total of 229 cadets, including 21 female, have been commissioned in the armed forces. Of them, 178 cadets, including 10 females from the army, 21 midshipmen, including four females, from the navy and 30 flight cadets, including seven females, from the air force joined the forces as commissioned officers.

The CA distributed awards to three all-round cadets from the three services.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## Horrors of cave days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac official Noor Islam, who had been abducted while working in Afghanistan three months back and released on December 7, returned home yesterday and told of horrifying experience of living in dark and fear in a cave.

"Most of the times my eyes were tied with a piece of cloth tightly and I was kept in a place which seemed to be a cave," Noor told journalists upon his arrival at the Zia International Airport by a flight of Emirates at 10:40am.

Noor's abductors released him on the night of December 7 and he returned home under an arrangement of the Brac Head Office in Dhaka.

Brac Director Ahmed Nazmul Hossain, Communications and Public Affairs Director M Anwarul Haq and Programme Coordinator Jalal Ahmed received him.

Noor Islam, 37, went to Afghanistan on December 7, 2004 and worked with Brac in a province until his abduction on September 15 this year.

Noor said he went to office around 10:00am on September 15 when their manager and account-



Noor Islam

ant were out supervising field level activities. Then there were knocks on the door.

"As soon as I opened the door, I saw six armed men, four in police uniform. In local language they asked me to go out with them," Noor said.

The armed men immediately tied Noor's eyes and picked him up in a car and took to an unknown place. He would eat whatever the abductors gave him, mainly bread thrice a day.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

## Jalil's detention declared illegal

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday declared the detention order against Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil "illegal".

A division bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury delivered the judgment and asked the government to release him "forthwith", if he is not wanted in any other case.

However, no case has so far been filed against the Awami League leader.

"There is only a general diary against him under the emergency power rules. So, there is no obstacle to his freedom," said his lawyer ABM Siddique Rahman Khan.

The joint forces arrested Jalil at Mercantile Bank headquarters in Motijheel in the capital on May 28.

On September 25, Jalil's wife filed the writ petition with the High Court. The court issued a rule nisi the next day.

Jalil, a heart patient, is now undergoing treatment at Lab Aid Hospital under police guard.



Firemen carry a body from the partially collapsed Rangs Bhaban in the capital yesterday, six days after the building collapsed trapping many under rubble.

## RANGS BUILDING COLLAPSE

## 4 bodies recovered, many still believed to be inside

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fire fighters yesterday succeeded in recovering the four bodies hanging from the ruins of Rangs Bhaban after efforts to bring down these bodies were suspended the day before on security grounds.

Selim Newaz Bhuiyan, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil

Defence, said the dead bodies -- which have been visible but inaccessible since the day of the cave-in -- were recovered during the course of the whole day.

He said yesterday's rescue operation was carried out under extremely risky conditions and therefore, the speed of the operation was very slow.

"The firefighters wore lifejackets and support belts. They had to cut through rods, and at time break down slabs in order to release the bodies caught between the slabs and rods," Selim said.

He added that the rescue team had to refrain from using any heavy equipment during the operation.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## HC asks govt why its inaction to recover bodies not illegal

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain why its "inaction to recover the bodies of workers trapped under the debris of the partly collapsed Rangs Bhaban should not be declared illegal".

The court also asked the government to show cause why a direction should not be given to use modern

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

## Pasi hopes election will be held on schedule

UNB, Dhaka

US Charge d'affaires Geeta Pasi yesterday said India and China did not put any pressure to delay the arrival of American military forces or accelerate their departure from emergency relief operation in cyclone-battered Bangladesh.

"During the response to this

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Notice

Our today's issue contains a special four-page supplement on the Martyred Intellectuals' Day.

## SC overrules stay on Hasina trial

## Trial at makeshift court to go on

UNB, Dhaka

Endorsing the government plea, the Supreme Court yesterday overruled the High Court order that stayed the trial of detained former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in an extortion case at a makeshift court.

Following a writ petition filed by Sheikh Hasina, the High Court on Sunday stayed the trial proceedings of the Tk. 3-crore extortion case.

The High Court had also issued a rule upon the govern-

ment to explain why the November 26 gazette notification directing the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge to hold the trial of Hasina and two others at a makeshift court "should not be declared without lawful authority".

Following the High Court orders, the trial court judge, M Azizul Haque, postponed the trial proceedings against Hasina for next three months up to March 8, 2008.

Thereafter, the Appellate

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## Waiting for the dead

KAILASH SARKAR and  
SHAHEEN MOLLAH

"I will not go back home without my father's body. If it is not possible to recover the whole body, I will return home at least with a finger and I will stay here until I get it," 25-year-old Alauddin was telling his mother over mobile phone yesterday.

The son finally received the decomposed body of his father Ruhul Amin, 48, at Dhaka Medical College Morgue six days after the building at Bijoy Sarani collapsed.

"I had identified my father's body a day after the collapse from a previous injury mark on his left leg. But we could not take his body for burial as it remained hanging inside the col-

lapsed building," said Alauddin.

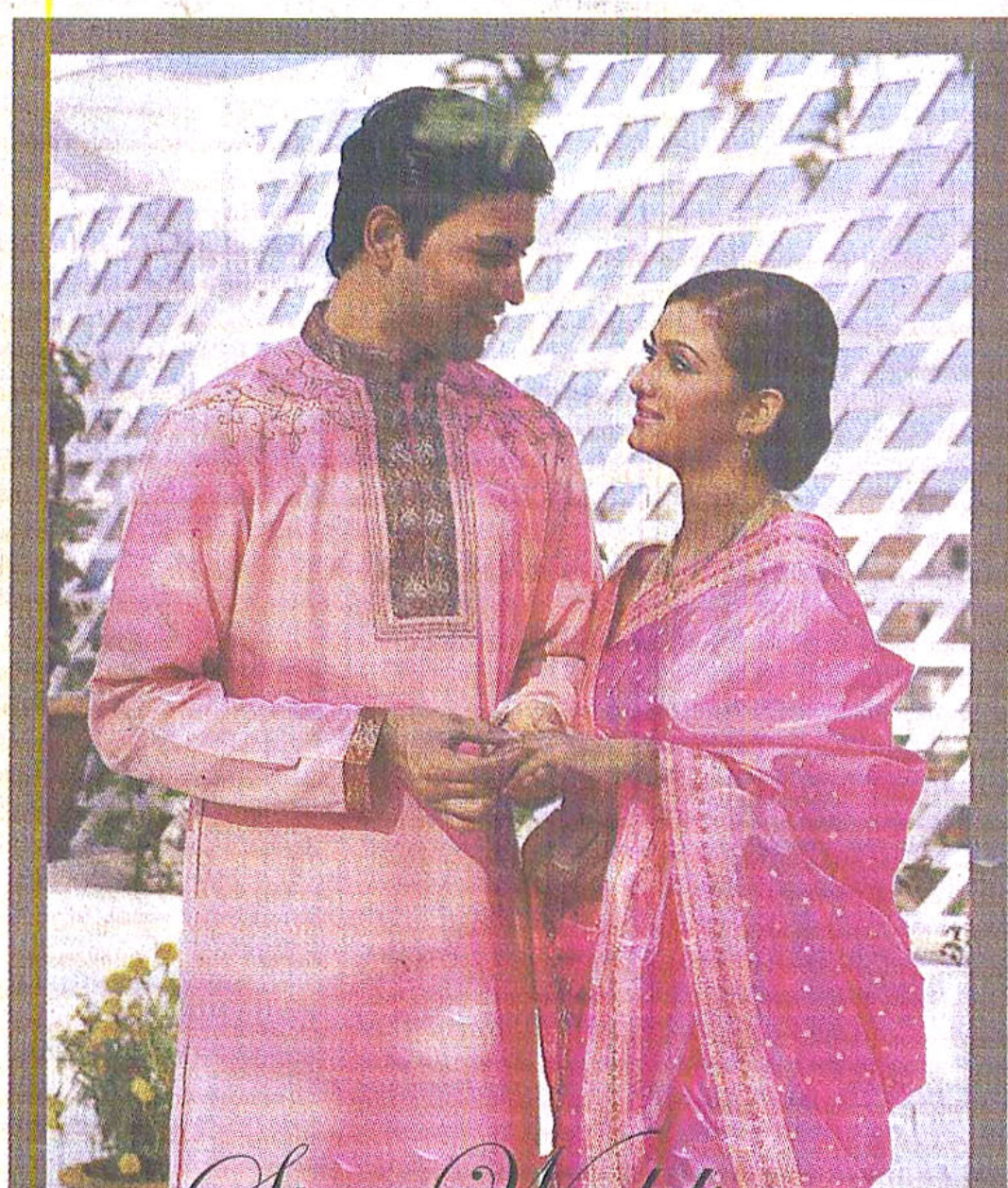
Like Alauddin, Kamruzzaman also rushed to Bijoy Sarani from Savar immediately after the accident and has been waiting since then for the recovery of the body of his younger brother Kaiser Hossain, 26.

Kamruzzaman said, "I have not left the spot even for a while and I will stay here until my brother's body is recovered."

Over 50 people--all are relatives of labourers trapped inside the building--have been waiting around the Rangs building for the bodies of their dear ones.

They said they only want to be able to identify the bodies of their

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



Star Weddings

A special publication of

The Daily Star

COMING OUT ON 17 TH DECEMBER

### TIME ZONE

Celebrates  
New Year with  
Special discount  
on

## RADO

Offer valid till 5 January 2008

RADO. SHAPING THE FUTURE.

Time Zone: The Westin Dhaka

Time Zone: Rifles Square, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Time Zone: Iqbal Centre, Banani, Dhaka

Time Zone: North Tower, Uttara, Dhaka

Time Zone: New Market, Dhaka

Time Zone: Bashundhara City, Dhaka

Time Zone: Rapa Plaza, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Time Zone: 199, Tejgaon I.A., Dhaka

Time Zone: Ameen Centre, Chittagong

Time Zone: New Market, Chittagong

Time Zone: Al-Hamra Shopping Complex, Sylhet

KALLOL GROUP OF COMPANIES  
199, Tejgaon I.A., Dhaka, Tel: 8816004