UN rights mission hears gruesome testimony on Gaza war

AFP, Gaza City

A UN human rights mission on Sunday listened as witnesses described in gruesome said. detail the Israeli shelling of the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip during a three-week offensive at the turn of the year.

hold two days of public hearings as part of its investigation at home with his family, savouring into alleged war crimes committed during the 22-day offensive launched in late December, which killed 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis.

The group is headed by Richard Goldstone, a South African judge who previou ly served as chief prosecutor for international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

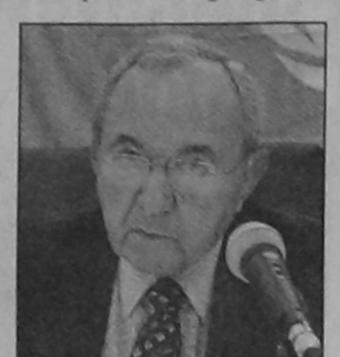
One of the first people to testify was Musa Silawi, a 91year-old man who recounted an air strike on a mosque in the town of Jabaliya that killed 17 people, including his son and four other members of his extended family.

"After the evening prayers Strip.

mosque and we had no idea what happened. We all started screaming, 'God help us!'" he

have never seen anything like this catastrophe."

A young wheelchair-bound The delegation planned to man named Ziad al-Deeb described how he had been sitting a brief pause in the fighting, when



Richard Goldstone, the head of UN human rights mission on devastating war in the Gaza

we heard the shell hit the Israeli forces began shelling his neighbourhood.

"We were shocked when we heard the loud noise coming from the Israeli shelling, then "I am 91 years old and I one of the missiles landed on top of us. There were 11 people killed," he said.

"My legs were cut off, and then I looked and saw my father and my family. Most of them had been killed. The children were screaming."

One of the investigators asked if there had been any : talks between president warning before the strike. "There was no warning,"

we would have left." to look into several allegations: the Gaza Strip in 2007. of human rights violations: that emerged in the aftermath: of the assualt, which Israel said was aimed at stemming Palestinian rocket fire from

"The purpose of the public hearings in Gaza and Geneva is to show the faces and broadcast the voices of victims -- all of the victims," Goldstone said last week.

the Hamas-ruled enclave.

Palestinians launch new round of unity talks

AFP, Cairo

The two main rival Palestinian factions began a new round of talks in Cairo on Sunday, the official MENA news agency reported, facing a 10-day deadline for a reconciliation agreement.

"The two delegations, who had a working dinner on Saturday evening, met (on Sunday) for a sixth round of talks," MENA reported.

Cairo has been mediating Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party and the Islamist Hamas move-Deeb said. "If there had been : ment aimed at healing bitter divisions between the two The mission was expected ; since Hamas seized control of

The factions will also meet intelligence chief Omar Suleiman ahead of a July 7 target date to sign an agreement which will lay out an electoral law, define the makeup of security forces and of a committee that will liaise between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank ahead of an election in 2010.



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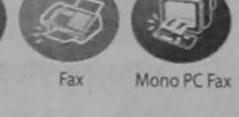
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Opening Ceremony

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Chair: Dr. Atiur Rahman, Advisor, Scholars Bangladesh & Governor, Bangladesh Bánk

Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Thursday, July 02, 2009

Venue: Ball Room

06:00 pm to 06:45 pm

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Special Guests: Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of informatin & Cultural Affairs Tele Film Show at 7.30 pm, Ball Room: "Dik Vranto Nabik" Director: Mr. Al Mansur

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Seminar 02

Seminar 01 Room: Chameli

Friday, July 03, 2009 09:30 am to 12:00 pm

>> Improving the Role of the Foreign Ministry and Embassies of Bangladesh for Better

Services and Protection of our Workers Presented by: Dr. Chowdhury R Abrar, Coordinator of RMMRU Special Guest: Mr. A H Mahmud Ali

Chairman, Parliamentary Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chief Guest: Dr. Dipu Moni, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Foreign

Chair: Mr. Muhammad Zamir, Former Secretary and Ambassador

Seminar 03

Friday, July 03, 2009

Room: Polash 09:30 am to 12:00 pm >> Migration Policy, Building Awareness

Presented by: Dr. MD Mizanur Rahman

Research Fellow, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore Dr. Rozana Rashid, Programm Coordinator, RMMRU Chief Guest: Dr. Hasan Mahmud

Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chair: Prof. Bozlul Mobin Choudhury, VC, IUB

Seminar 05

Friday, July 03, 2009

Room: Chameli 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm >> Providing Bank Loans, Saving Plans & Policies to Bangladeshi Workers Abroad

Presented by: Dr. Abul Barkat

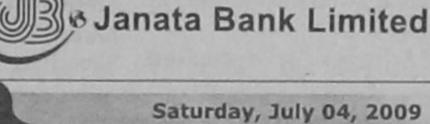
Special Guest: Mr. A H M Mostafa Kamal

Professor, Department of Economics, Dhaka University Dr. Toufic Ahmed Choudhury, Professor and Director, CPGS, BIBM Ms. Syeda Farzana Morshed, CEO & Director, CDCS

Chairman, Parliamentary Committee, Ministry of Finance Chief Guest: Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Finance

Chair: Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank

Seminar 07



Room: Bokul 10:00 am to 12:30 pm >> Current Status of Local Manpower Business: **Present & Future**

Presented by: Mr. Ghulam Mustafa, President, BAIRA Special Guest: Ms. Begum Monnojan Sufian

Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Labor and Employment Chief Guest: Eng. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Chair: Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud

Chairman, Parliamentary Committee, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Seminar 09 Room: Bokul

Saturday, July 04, 2009 02:30 pm to 04:30 pm

>> Overseas Employment Opportunities & Creation of New Labor Market: Questions and **Answers Session**

Presented by: Dr. Arifur Rahman, Saudi Arabia Special Guest: Dr. Hasan Mahmud Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Chief Guest: Eng. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Moderator: Mr. Mohammad Jahangir, Media Personality

Friday, July 03, 2009 09:30 am to 12:00 pm

Room: Bokul >> Non Resident Bangladeshi Workers' Rights: How to Protect at Home & Abroad

Presented by: Dr. Abdul Momen Center for Governance & Strategic Management, Framingham State College, Massachusetts, USA Special Guest: Ms. Begum Monnojan Sufian Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Labor and Employment

Chief Guest: Barrister Shafique Ahmed Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Chair: Mr. Suranjit Sengupta Chairman, Parliamentary Committee, Ministry of Law

Seminar 04 Friday, July 03, 2009 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm Room: Bokul >> Remittance by NRB Workers Inward:

Opportunities & Risks Presented by: Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui, Research Director, RMMRU Special Guest: Dr. Mustafa Kamal Mujeri, Director General, BIDS Chief Guest: Mr. Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju

Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications Chair: Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank Friday, July 03, 2009 Seminar 06

03:00 pm to 05:00 pm Room: Polash >> The Acceleration of a Nation's Prosperity

Through Vocational Skills' Acquisition Presented by: Mr. Mohamed K Haq, CW Institute, Canada Special Guest: Architect Yeafesh Osman

Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology Chief Guest: Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid

Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Education and Primary & Mass Education Chair: Mr. Rashed Khan Menon Chairman, Parliamentary Committee, Ministry of Education

Seminar 08 Saturday, July 04, 2009

10:00 am to 12:30 pm Room: Chameli >> Insurance for NRB Workers: Health, **Unemployment, Disability & Awareness**

Presented by: Mr. Nasim Ali Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer of SBLI, USA Dr. Rozana Rashid, Program Coordinator, RMMRU

Special Guest: Begum Quomaran Nessa Khanam Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare Mr. Safigur Rahman Patoary, Additional Secretary, Banking-Admin. & Policy, Ministry of Finance

Dr. Johur Al Alam, Chairman NRB Forum, UAE Chief Guest: Mr. Enamul Haq Mostafa Shahid Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare

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Saturday, July 04, 2009 02:30 pm to 04:30 pm

Publication Ceremony Room: Chameli >> Bangladesh RMG Industry: Competitiveness

and Productivity Author: Dr. Abu Yousuf Md. Abdullah

Professor, IBA, University of Dhaka Published by: Mr. M E Chowdhury Shameem, Scholars Publishers Special Guest: Professor Hafiz G. A. Siddiqi, VC, North South University Chief Guest: Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Muhammad Farug Khan Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Commerce

Round Table Discussion Saturday, July 04, 2009

Venue: Polash Room

02:30 pm to 04:30 pm

>> Improvement of Airport Services for NRB Workforce & General People

Special Guests: Mr. Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications

Mr. Syed Ashraful Islam, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives

Chief Guest: Dr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Finance

Discussion Raised By: M. E. Chowdhury Shameem, Founder & President, Scholars Bangladesh, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa, President, BAIRA, Mr. M. A. Muhaimin Saleh, President, ATAB, Mr. Toufiq Rahman, First Vice-President, TOAB Special Guests: Mr. Hedayatullah Al Mamun, Acting Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism Chief Guest: Mr. Ghulam Muhammed Quader, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism Moderator: Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury, Chairperson, BRAC BDmail Network Ltd.

Closing Ceremony

Saturday, July 04, 2009

Venue: Ball Room

Chair: Mr. Mamun Rashid, CEO, Citibank, N. A.

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06:00 pm

Chair: Prof. Hafiz G.A. Siddiqi, Advisor, Scholars Bangladesh & VC, North South University **Award Giving Ceremony** > Innovation in Remittance Collection Award 2008

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Date: December 27, 28, & 29, Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. For Information, Registration or Opinion visit www.nrbconference.org.