

Tribunal hears

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The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice Nizamul Huq, however, did not issue arrest warrant as the prosecution categorically mentioned in their petition that Sayeede is now in custody in connection with other cases filed against him.

"Since the suspect is in jail custody, we are inclined to issue production warrant first asking the jail authority to bring the said suspect [Sayeede] and hear the application [submitted by the prosecution for Sayeede's arrest warrant] in his presence," tribunal chairman Nizamul said.

The tribunal also said hearing on the prosecution's appeal for arrest warrant against Sayeede might take place on August 10. It also fixed August 10 for hearing on the six separate petitions filed earlier by the defence of four other Jamaat leaders, who have been shown arrested in connection with the first complaint case of the prosecution.

Four other top Jamaat leaders - Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, Senior Assistant Secretaries General Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla - were produced before the tribunal in connection with the first complaint case of the prosecution in connection with war crimes.

In the afternoon, Registrar of the tribunal Md Shahinur Islam told The Daily Star that his office already sent the copy of the "production warrant" to Dhaka Central Jail to bring Sayeede before the tribunal on August 10.

During yesterday's submission, Prosecutor Rezaur said primarily it is evident through the investigation, and collected evidence and information that crimes against humanity (as per article 3(2) of International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973) were committed in 1971 at different places in Pirojpur and Sayeede committed those crimes.

Counselors for Nizami, Mojahid, Kamaruzzaman, and Molla also stood for Sayeede yesterday.

At the beginning of yesterday's proceedings, counselors for the defence wanted to submit their Vokalatnama (document stating the name of the attorney for the defendant) before the tribunal for Sayeede but the tribunal asked them to do it later as Sayeede is yet to be produced before it.

After submitting three petitions Monday, counselors for Nizami, Mojahid, Kamaruzzaman and Molla, submitted three more petitions to the registrar on Tuesday.

Of the three petitions filed Tuesday, one was filed seeking stay on all further proceedings of the tribunal, another sought release of Nizami, Mojahid, Kamaruzzaman and Molla from jail while the third for sending back the records of two cases to the court concerned.

The two cases were filed against the four with Pallabi Police Station in 2008, and Keraniganj Police Station in 2007, in connection with crimes during the Liberation War.

On Monday, the defence filed three petitions where they prayed for recalling of the arrest warrants issued against the four, sought certified copies of all the documents of the complaint case against the four, and permission to submit Vokalatnama for the four.

The tribunal also told the defence lawyers that due to space constraint in the courtroom, the tribunal decided to allocate 10 seats to the lawyers appearing for the accused.

"We hope you will cooperate," the tribunal chairman told the defence.

Around 20 lawyers including Golam Mohammad Chowdhury, Helaluddin Mollah, and Tajul Islam were present during yesterday's proceedings.

Tajul told The Daily Star that as per the section 9(1) of the act: "The proceedings before a tribunal shall commence upon the submission by the chief prosecutor, or a prosecutor authorised by the chief prosecutor on his behalf, of formal charges of crimes alleged to have been committed by each of the accused persons."

He said no formal charge has been submitted, so they filed a petition seeking stay on all further proceedings of the tribunal.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SAYEED
Prosecutor Rezaur Rahman at the beginning of his submission gave a brief history of the start of the Liberation War.

He also gave a general description of genocide, crimes against humanity and peace, war crimes committed

by the Pakistani occupation force and their auxiliary forces such as Razakar, Al-Badar, and Al-Shams.

After that he stated specific allegations against Sayeede.

He said a contingent of Pakistan army led by then captain Ejaj went to Pirojpur to perpetrate the most barbaric torture in world history on people seeking independence.

After meeting captain Ejaj, Delwar Hossain Sayeede, son of late Yusuf Ali Sikder, Saudkhali, Indurkani thana (Zia Nagar), Pirojpur, (present address- 914 Shahidbagh, Motijheel) pledged to provide the Pakistan army all out cooperation for "saving Pakistan", he said.

After establishing close links with captain Ejaj, Sayeede had established Razakar, Al-Badar and Al-Shams with people of anti-liberation forces including local Jamaat-e-Islami. This was done to establish themselves as an auxiliary force of the Pakistan army in Pirojpur and its adjacent areas, he went on to say.

They took a stand against freedom fighters and the pro-independence citizens and committed murder, arson, looting, rape and also forced women to go to the Pakistan army personnel so that they could rape them, he said in his submission.

Sayeede and his associates along with the Pakistan armed forces entered the houses of pro-independence citizens - Alamgir Poshari, Mahub Poshari, Chan Mian, Jahangir Poshari and Kanchan Poshari - around 3:00pm on May 8, 1971, looted their money, gold ornaments and valuables.

The criminals also torched their houses.

The offenders on instructions of Sayeede killed more than nine people with the rifles of the Pakistan army and handed over several people to the Pakistani occupying forces to be killed, he said.

Around 10:00am of June 2, 1971, criminals led by Sayeede and associates of the Pakistan forces entered Hindu Para, eastern side to Tengrakhal village, and looted their money, gold ornaments and valuables, and torched their homes.

The perpetrators held the people of the village hostage, tortured them tying them to coconut trees and shot them dead.

They in association with the Pakistan army killed freedom fighters, innocent people, intellectuals and students, hid their bodies, and tortured young women and killed them after rape.

Police notice

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with the order following a writ petition filed by the BNP leaders challenging the legality of the police notice.

Paltan police on July 29 issued a notice asking the BNP leaders to appear at the police station on August 3 in connection with a charge against them of threatening the PM at a BNP rally at Muktangan in city on July 25.

The BNP leaders filed the writ petition with the HC on Sunday challenging the legality of the notice.

Advocate Khandker Mahub Hossain and Barrister Mahub Uddin Khokon appeared for the petitioners.

Tk 2cr swindled

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were brought to Nepal but were not sent to Libya.

On their arrival in Nepal, the agency men managed Nepalese passports for them with false names. They stayed in Nepal for over a month.

"We later came to know that we were provided with fake Libyan visas," he said.

They returned to Bangladesh as the agency failed to send them to Libya.

The agency officials later told the workers that they would be sent to Malaysia with jobs. Five of them, accompanied by agency official Rakibul Hasan, were sent to India.

On his return, Rakbil told the relatives of the five workers that they had arrived in Malaysia.

But Rights Jessor learnt from a lawyer that the five were actually arrested and put in prison in West Bengal. The organisation asked the agency to bring them back but it did not pay heed to the plea.

The detainees were brought back home from India at a cost of Tk 1.3 lakh each.

Nurunnabi said they tried to contact the agency officials but found their phones switched off.

Rights Jessor demanded cancellation of the agency's licence and compensation to the cheated migrant workers.

Kenya votes in for a new constitution

BBC ONLINE

Kenya is voting in a referendum on a new constitution, the centrepiece of measures designed to reform politics.

It limits the powers of the president and sets up a commission to settle land disputes that fuelled violence in the past.

The referendum was part of a deal that ended deadly clashes after a disputed election in December 2007 when more than 1,000 people were killed.

Both the president and the prime minister are backing the "Yes" vote.

And opinion polls suggest the new constitution will be approved.

President Mwai Kibaki has appealed to Kenyans to vote peacefully and in large numbers.

"Security has been stepped up in all parts of the country," Kibaki said.

In a televised address, he said the referendum marked a "defining moment" in the country's history.

He and his rival in the 2007 election, Prime Minister Raila Odinga, have both backed the "Yes" campaign.

Polling stations opened at 0600 (0300 GMT), with long queues already waiting in some places. Some people told the BBC they had been waiting several hours for voting to begin.

The current constitution was negotiated with the British in London in the early 1960s.

104 detained

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food once or twice a day," said Mohammad Yunus, quoting his detained son Sohel Rana, who spoke to his father over the phone.

Algerian army allowed the detainees to contact their relatives, said Ujjal Mahmud, brother of another detainee Hasanur Rashid.

The foreign ministry should directly contact the Algerian government since Bangladesh does not have any mission in Algeria, he said in presence of the relatives of 60 detainees.

Yunus said most detainees went to Libya with work permit. But they either did not get jobs or salaries from their employers. They paid some brokers Tk 4 lakh each on assurance that they would be provided with jobs in Spain.

The relatives of the detainees submitted a letter to the foreign ministry urging it to bring them home immediately, he said.

Abdur Rahim Siraj of Habiganj said he gave broker Sohel Mia in Libya and his mother Diluara Khatun in Habiganj Tk 2.5 lakh, after Sohel promised to take his son Kamal Mia to Spain.

On May 27, Sohel and five others including Kamal left Libya for Spain. But Sohel deserted others in Algeria and went back to Libya.

Algerian army detained Kamal and four others - Mohiuddin, Abbasuddin Rubel, Nazmul Haque and Shahid Ali - for trespassing, he said.

"We came to know about the incident later and asked Sohel's mother to help bring our children home. But she and her son denied any financial dealings."

448 BDR men

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337 accused BDR jawans in a case filed with New Market Police Station by Nayeb Subeder Assistant Khorshed Alam.

So far 202 border guards have been detained in connection with the case filed on various charges including murder, loot and arson. The rest 135 are still doing their job.

After reviewing charges, the court ordered showing the already detained BDR jawans arrested in the case and arrest the rest.

Nayeb Subeder Assistant Solaiman Patwari brought charges against suspected mutineers from the Record Wing.

Prosecutor of case Lt Col Kamrul Islam said jawans of the wing were involved in the killing of their three officers during the mutiny.

Later, Kamrul told newsmen that 32 personnel from the wing were found taking part in last year's mutiny, covering their heads and faces with colourful cloths and carrying arms, sticks and iron rods.

Forty-one BDR men have already been detained in connection with the case while the rest 70 are still serving in different battalions at the headquarters.

Commission trade

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another doctor.

Staff of some pathology centres also admitted to offering commission to doctors in exchange for referrals.

A marketing manager of Labaid Diagnostic Centre said they know that doctors get commission for referring patients to diagnostic centres, but they do not know how the transactions take place.

He also said the test fees vary from centre to centre due to varying prices of machines and equipment.

"If we procure a good quality and expensive machine, certainly the charge will be a little higher," he said adding Labaid charges Tk 4,000 for a CT Scan, and Tk 1,500 for an EEG.

Whereas, CT Scan at Comfort Diagnostic Centre costs Tk 3,580.

Many patients complained that doctors prescribe different tests even for simple fever, cold, and coughing, and also dictate which diagnostic centres the patients should go to.

The situation is so bad that many patients are scared of going to doctors fearing astronomical expense for unnecessary diagnostic tests.

The hospital and clinic section of DGHS, which is supposed to look into the matter, uses manpower shortage as an excuse for weak monitoring.

Sources said during the last interim regime the then health adviser M Shaukat Ali formulated a committee to fix generalised fees for such tests at private diagnostic centres.

Soon after the Awami League government assumed power, the health minister along with other government high ups sent the policy to

Nandan

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from its previous owner Tahmina Ahmed for setting up the commercial establishment.

As per the terms of the lease, proprietor of Nandan Food and Beverage Ltd was responsible for converting the residential plot into a commercial enterprise by paying the required fees to public treasury.

They however constructed the shopping mall and continued doing business evading conversion of the establishment.

This meant the government was deprived of a high amount of revenue.

Despite repeated attempts, Masrur Chowdhury, chairman of Nandan Food and Beverages Ltd, could not be reached.

Masud Rana, a senior executive of the company, said he could not help contact Chowdhury without permission.

Barrister Omar Sadat, a lawyer for the present owners Tasmia and Suhana, yesterday told The Daily Star that Nandan Food and Beverage Industries Ltd couldn't run any business.

Barrister Fahimul Huq appeared for the writ petitioners, while advocate Anisul Huq argued for the owners of the land.

334 NGOs shut

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officials, and nepotism in appointment and governing body formation.

"Some also brought foreign funds showing a project which was really not being implemented in the grassroots level. They only ran some small-scale activities to attract donors," he said.

Insiders say the punished NGOs were supposed to submit annual audit reports to the bureau. But the submitted reports were not comprehensive, especially those related to expenditures, and no-one could get details of where the money ultimately went.

On June 6, the bureau cancelled registration of Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS) for creating chaotic situations in garment industry. The organisation started functioning in 2004 to run two day care centres for working mothers in Badda and Khilgaon.

The project was completed in 2006 but the organisation started two branch offices in Gazirchat in Savar and Ashulia by taking foreign donation without NGOAB's permission.

Investigators found that BCWS was involved in creating instability among garment workers in Narayanganj, Savar, Gazipur and Ashulia.

NGOAB Director (registration) AM Saiful Hasan ordered the Dhaka district administration to seize the moveable and unmovable property of BCWS and froze its bank account.

Officials say the bureau's

DGHS for reviewing. The initiative is yet to bear any fruit.

DGHS Deputy Director (Hospital and Clinic) ABM Lutful Kabir said formation of a policy to control private clinics and diagnostic centres is underway.

"We don't have much to do directly about the commission business and diagnostic tests. Only doctors can say which tests are needed for patients," he said adding, a positive change in institutional practice within the public health sector however may help to improve the situation.

According to a relevant law, civil surgeons are supposed to monitor diagnostic centres at the district level, and in the capital DGHS teams are supposed to do the job, Lutful Kabir said.

But the law does not specify how often the inspectors should visit the diagnostic centres, he added.

Baby killed

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She said Rajib fled with the money and gold ornaments.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Aslam Hossain of Khilgaon Police Station told The Daily Star that in primary investigation Toma denied her involvement in the killing.

Locals informed police about the body yesterday around 1:45pm. Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Bashir Ahmed, caretaker of Toma's building said, when he went to Toma's flat for rent he smelled a stench which made him curious. Asked about the strong unpleasant smell, she said it could be the duck she threw through the window. Looking for the dead duck they found out dead Tanha instead.

Tanha's father Faruk Gazi told The Daily Star that Toma called her over the phone on July 27 around 12:35pm to say that she was leaving him. And since then she kept her mobile phone switched off. He then lodged a general diary with the Pallabi Police Station the next day.

Yesterday around 9:30am, Faruk finally reached Toma over phone. Asked about the Tanha's whereabouts, Toma told him that she was dead, Faruk said, adding that Toma gave him different causes of death each time he wanted to know how their daughter died.

Around 3:00pm he got a phone call from the Khilgaon police that confirmed the recovery of Tanha's body.

A murder case accusing Toma and Rajib has been filed with Khilgaon Police Station.

In a similar incident, Adabar police on June 24 recovered the body of six-year-old Samiul Azam, who also fell victim to extramarital relationship between his mother Ayesha Humayra and one Shamsuzzaman Bakku. Humayra and Bakku were arrested in this connection.

In his confession, Bakku confessed to strangle the child after abducting him from in front of their house on June 22.

mechanism to monitor expenditures of foreign donation is virtually dysfunctional.

One of the three directors of the bureau cited shortage of manpower, lack of accountability of the field administration, and underhand dealings between NGOAB officials and NGO executives as major reasons for misappropriation of funds.

The bureau initiated to shut down these NGOs registration after getting allegations from project areas, beneficiaries and even NGO insiders. Most of NGOs were found with financial indiscipline and contradiction in managing boards, which mainly comprised with family members.

Other cancelled NGOs include the Center for Development Initiative (CDD), Center for Social Development, Bangladesh Palli Unnayan Sangstha, Center for Community Development, Anjuman-Ittehad Bangladesh, Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association, Association for Integrated Development (AID), Shishu Bikash Kendra, Association for Social Development Organization (ASDO), Hillary Foundation Bangladesh, Center for Ethnic Children, and Center for Rural and Social Development.

More NGOs are likely to face the same fate, as the bureau will continue its drive, insiders add.

Mahmudur

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sent on April 19 by the ACC for wealth statement.

The anti-graft watchdog on June 13 filed the first information report with Gulshan Police Station against former chairman of Board of Investment Mahmudur, who has been in detention since June 2.

Later, he was shown arrested in six other criminal cases filed with police stations at Tejgaon, Tejgaon Shilpanchal, Kotwali, Uttara and Biman Bandar for links with militant activities, preventing police from their carrying out their duties and on sedition charge on different dates.

The High Court (HC) on July 12 granted Mahmudur Rahman bail in four criminal cases filed on different dates.

However, on July 15, the Supreme Court stayed an HC order that gave him bail in a case filed on charge of preventing police from discharging their duties.

Food council

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alarmingly because of contaminated food. Effective measures should be taken to end the practice of mixing chemicals with food items," he said.

The government had no proper monitoring system to check out food products in the markets, said the speakers asking for urgent formation of the food safety council.

Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud, the special guest, emphasised that the demand for safe food should be transformed into a social movement.

The POBA Chairman Abu Naser Khan, on the other hand, requested media's cooperation for accelerating the movement.

The seminar was presided over by Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury, founder president of Manas, while Nirapod Development Foundation Chairman Ibnul Syeed Rana addressed it among others.

DMP asks traders

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increase the number of community police in and around the terminals during the time.

The call came at a meeting between the DMP high-ups and the leaders of transport owners and workers at the DMP headquarters Tuesday with DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque in the chair.

To facilitate the city dwellers' reaching home before iftar, a number of decisions were also taken including strict enforcement of lane system and taking stern action against unregistered vehicles plying the city streets.

Police and community police will prevent rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and inter-district buses from entering the city from outside, Shahidul Hoque said.

"The DMP authorities will go tough against the fake drivers and helpers," he added.

Other DMP high-ups and some 40 leaders of transport owners and workers association were also present at the meeting.

Govt seeks help

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DAP to the ministers and made a number of recommendations for its implementation.

Talking to The Daily Star, Khondaker said he informed the committee that DAP was made in full compliance with the 'terms of reference' (mandate and pre-conditions).

He also made a number of recommendations for implementation of DAP including strengthening Rajuk with adequate urban planners to cover 1,528 square kilometres of Dhaka metropolitan area, area-wise action plan, coordination among the concerned agencies, legal amendment and fresh legal provisions.

The government issued a gazette notification approving DAP in June this year.

The ministerial committee will hold more meetings to find out strategies to implement the DAP, Architect Iqbal Habib, a member of the review committee on DAP who was present at the meeting, quoted Ashraf as saying.

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud and Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain are the other members of the committee.

Prof Sarwar Jahan, Prof Nazrul Islam, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Prof Nurul Islam Najem, the other members of the review committee, were present in the meeting.

Rab claims

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Raju and Mohammadpur Ward-42 unit president Mohammad Imran alias Masum.

"Their [the arrestees] task was to collect arms and ammunition from different sources and to carry out violence in processions and rallies in Dhaka and other places," said Commander Mohammad Sohail, director of Rab Legal and Media Wing, at a briefing at Rab headquarters in Uttara.

The commander said Golam Mortuza, social welfare and cultural secretary of Shibir, guides and arranges them funds.

Alamgir contacted one of the banned groups in Pabna as Mortuza gave him Tk 30,000 for purchasing arms, said the commander.

Alamgir Hossain, who claimed himself as a real estate businessman, said he met one outlet Jakir, also a rickshaw puller, to buy ammunition as per Mortuza's instructions.

Claiming that he is no longer with Shibir or Jamaat, Alamgir said he was just carrying out Mortuza's instructions.

On their plan, Alamgir said, "We have no plan and I do not know about Mortuza's intentions either." He added that he does not have any expertise on making bombs.

Rab officials suspect that the arrestees might have a connection with Hizb ut-Tahrir as a book of the banned outfit has been recovered from their possession during the raid. The Shibir men were arrested during a Rab drive launched on Tuesday night.

Sohail said they have information that some quarters are trying to carry out subversive activities in the country after the arrests of the top Jamaat leaders.

He claimed that Shibir has divided Dhaka into four zones for the operation.

Acting on a tip off, Rab arrested Sabid from Ratanpur village under Kaliakoir Police Station in Gazipur Tuesday around 8:00pm.

Sabid told Rab that some handmade bombs and ammunition were hidden under the ground behind Square Hospital in the capital as per Mortuza's direction.

Based on the information Rab raided the place but found nothing.

Commander Sohail said Mortuza also gave some homemade explosives to Ripon to keep those in his house and later asked him to throw them into a pond.

On the other hand, Ripon told the media that Mehedi Hasan Tarek, secretary of the city Chhatra Andolan, asked him to keep a packet of handmade bombs and Ripon hid those on his roof. He also threw the explosives into a pond following Mortuza's direction.

Ripon also said Shibir members hold secret meetings at a few messes in Kalyanpur.

Commander Sohail said on Sabid's information, they conducted raids at different student messes in Kalyanpur and Mohammadpur areas and arrested Imran. The

BNP chief

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showing "childish attitude."

"The party chairperson resolved the crisis," Goyeshwar told reporters after the meeting.

The party chief assured him that party committees in his organisational area will be formed with his consent, he said.

The BNP chairperson also held meetings with Huda and Aman.

Goyeshwar on Monday gave up his membership in the party standing committee following a dispute with Huda and Aman.

Party insiders said Huda and Aman on Sunday announced nine unit committees including a few in Keraniganj in Dhaka district without consulting with Goyeshwar, although a part of Keraniganj is his organisational area.

Huda however said he requested G