

War crimes

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discussed one is that of the killing of Nutan Chandra Singha, a philanthropist in Chittagong. It was mentioned in the Liberation War Documents, a government publication in the 80s.

An independent research on 1971 genocide also revealed his involvement in torture and killings of many freedom fighters during the 1971 Liberation War.

Post-war probes found that Salauddin, son of former speaker of Pakistan Fazlul Quader Chowdhury, tortured and ordered the killing of more than a hundred freedom fighters.

A platoon of Pakistan army was deployed in front of their Goods Hill residence in Chittagong.

Prafulla Chandra Singha, son of Nutan Chandra Singha, founder of herbal medicine factory Kundeshwari Oushadhalaya, testified to the probe committee that Salauddin on instructions of his father Fazlul Quader brought Pakistani army to their residence on April 13 in 1971. They killed Nutan Chandra.

After the Liberation War, a case was filed against him, his father and their associates under the Collaborators Act 1972 on charge of collaborating with the Pakistan occupation forces in Chittagong. He was also charged with the killing of Nutan Chandra.

Based on the deposition of the witnesses, investigators submitted a charge sheet against all accused in Nutan Chandra murder case filed in 1972.

The trial of the case began on January 29, 1972. Of the accused, Salauddin's father and five others were put behind bars while the rest five including Salauddin had been on the run.

The government on March 26 formed a special investigation agency under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 to probe the crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

War crimes investigators and the prosecution in September this year found evidence against Salauddin in his involvement in the killings of Hindus during the Liberation War in the port city.

The BNP leader was arrested early yesterday in a case filed for creating anarchy and arson attack on a car on the eve of the BNP-enforced June 27 hartal. Faruk Hossain, who was aboard the car, died in the incident.

Hours before Salauddin's arrest, the investigators sought the tribunal's permission to detain the BNP leader for his alleged involvement in war crimes.

A People's Inquiry Commission, headed by Begum Sufia Kamal, published a report in the 90s on "The Activities of the War Criminals and Collaborators during the Liberation War of 1971."

The report stated that Salauddin from Gahira village of Raozan in Chittagong with his father Fazlul Quader and brother Giasuddin Kader Chowdhury mobilised a number of collaborators against freedom fighters and pro-liberation people during the independence movement in 1971.

Bangla daily "Dainik Bangla" published a report on January 8, 1972 featuring the activities of Salauddin and his family.

The commission cited the Dainik Bangla report that says, "Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and his father Fazlul Quader Chowdhury brought a good number of

Izharul

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court will hear the remand prayer on Sunday, said Nikhil Chandra.

MA Latif, sub-inspector of the police station, has been appointed investigation officer.

Commanding Officer of Rab-7 Lt Col Sazzad Hussain said Abul Kalam, one of the five arrestees, is a personal assistant to Mufi Izharul.

Kalam has long been involved with Huji. He is an accused in a number of cases, including one filed in 1998 under the Explosives Substances Act, Sazzad said.

Asked whether the detainees had any plan to carry out any subversive activities, he said they are yet to start quizzing them.

Earlier at a press conference on Wednesday the IOJ faction chief said the arrestees were not Huji members and Abul Kalam was a public relation officer of his party.

young freedom fighters to their Goods Hill residence in Chittagong and unleashed repression on them. Salauddin in association with Pakistan army killed Omar Faruk, a student leader, at his residence on July 17, 1971.

The report mentions, "A platoon of Pakistan army was deployed in front of Salauddin's residence throughout the war."

"The common people caught his [Salauddin's] father when he was trying to flee to Myanmar with a maund of gold on December 18, 1971, two days after the Pakistan army surrendered to the joint forces."

The report also cited excerpts from a book, Torture Cells and Killing Grounds in Chittagong during the Liberation War.

In the book its author Shakhawat Hossain Manju writes about the Goods Hill residence of Salauddin's family.

The house became a centre for torturing freedom fighters and pro-liberation forces caught from different parts of the city. Salauddin was directly involved in those activities.

"The torture centre was being led by extremists of Muslim League."

Another book titled Bangalir Muktiyudhher Itibritto written by Mahbul Alam describes the torture. On page 69, the author writes about freedom fighter Nizamuddin, who was caught by collaborators on July 5 and taken to Fazlul Quader.

The author quotes Nizamuddin saying, "I was tied and beaten for five hours at a stretch by Fazlul Quader's son Salauddin and associates Khoka, Khalil and Yousuf. I became unconscious. I was sent to the stadium on July 6. Until then, I was given neither food nor water. Once I wanted water, they said you had become a Hindu, we will not give you even water."

In the book, the writer also writes, "Principal Nutan Chandra Singha was murdered in the Kundeshwari Bhaban on April 13.

"Two jeeps followed by four tanks had driven to Kundeshwari Bhaban. Salauddin was accompanying the Pakistani soldiers."

On page 254-255, the author mentions, "The principal made the soldiers understand what he had done for the people of that area and what his future plan was. The military went back. But Salauddin again brought them back saying this Malaun (infidel) should be killed as per his father's orders."

"They fired three gunshots, the principal fell to the ground near the temple and died praying. Both the Muslims and Hindus were shocked at the killing, but Salauddin asked the Muslims not to deplore the death of a Malaun. Then Salauddin gang killed two more people, including one college student Dayal Hari Biswas in Gahira."

Sheikh Muhammad Jahangir of Chittagong told the commission that Salauddin in association with Pakistan army killed his father Sheikh Muzaffar Ahmed, a freedom fighter, and brother Sheikh Alamgir near Hathazari military camp on April 17, 1971.

After the independence, Jahangir filed a case against Salauddin and his gang.

Kitchen fire kills baby

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A child was burnt to death in a fire yesterday at Alibahar area in the capital's Kadamtoli.

The deceased was a three-year-old boy Shaon, son of Shah Alam, a factory worker in the same area.

Fire fighter sources said the fire originated from a gas stove of a kitchen at around 12:20pm and soon spread to the adjacent shanty of the area.

Three units of the fire department rushed to the spot, and it took them an hour to douse the flames. They found the baby's body in smouldering ruins.

Sub-inspector Abdul Ahad of Kadamtoli Police Station said the victim was asleep and his mother was in the toilet when the fire broke out. The mother could not enter the room as flames had already engulfed it.

City holding tax

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planning to cut holding tax of the freedom fighters in the city by seven percent," the mayor said.

The comment came following a demand of a freedom fighter at a reception arranged for the freedom fighters of Dhaka yesterday. DCC organised the programme at Osmani Udyan marking the 40th Victory Day of the nation.

Freedom fighters Maj Gen (ret'd) Ainuddin, former minister Shahjahan Omar Bir Uttam, Maj (ret'd) Syed Mohammad Mizan, among others, recalled some memorable moments of the war on the occasion.

Just before the programme ended, a few freedom fighters demonstrated as the speakers did not speak about war criminal.

DCC Chief Executive Officer Abul Kalam Azad delivered the welcome speech at the function attended by several hundred freedom fighters and some artists of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro.

"Neither the mayor nor any other speaker on the dais talked about the trial of war criminals. But this should have been the top priority demand of a freedom fighter," said freedom fighter Abul Kashem.

He, along with some other agitating freedom fighters, demanded increased allowance for freedom fighters.

Talking to the journalists after the programme, the mayor said, "Forty years have passed since independence, and several governments assumed office during the long period. But the war criminals are yet to be tried. We all are liable for this failure."

India plotted

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Besides, acting secretary general ATM Azharul Islam said at the discussion the then "elected chairmen" from Awami League, and not Jamaat, formed "Razakar" and "peace committees" in '71.

Earlier at a discussion on Tuesday, he alleged that the murders of intellectuals were plotted by the Indian army.

But the following day, the party in a rejoinder to his reported speech said the reports distorted his speech.

"A brigadier of Indian army was with Zahir Raihan (film maker) when he went out of home. There were many documents with him [Zahir] on what many Awami League leaders did when they stayed in India during the Liberation War," Maqbul said quoting the wife of Zahir.

He however did not give details.

"Abusive words like Rajakar, Al-Badr were being used against us every year when martyred intellectuals day and Victory Day are observed. But real information in this regard is surfacing gradually," Maqbul said.

Acting chief of city Jamaat and lawmaker Hamidur Rahman Azad alleged that the Awami League leaders who stayed in India during the Liberation War were "agents" of that country.

Jamaat collaborated with the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War.

Ashura

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President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages on the occasion called upon all to resist injustices in our national life and establish truth and justice reflecting the great teachings of Holy Ashura.

"The significance and message of holy Ashura inspire us to raise voice against injustice and oppression and also to follow the path of truth and justice," they said.

Different religious organisations, including Islamic Foundation, have chalked out various programmes to observe the day, a public holiday in Bangladesh.

Shi'a Muslims will bring out the largest procession known as Tazia in the city from Imam Bara at Hoseneer Dalan of Old Dhaka. Besides, several processions would be brought out from the city's different areas including Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Purana Paltan.

In the processions, the Shi'a Muslims will express mourning and grief by flagellating themselves on the back with chains, beating their heads intending to connect them with Imam Hossain's (RA) sufferings.

Dewanbagh Darbar Sharif at Arambagh in the city will hold an Ashek-e-Rasul conference on this occasion.

Textbook distribution

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However, a major part of textbooks for the next academic session has already been sent to districts and the authorities concerned hope all the students will get the books in time.

The government has aimed at distributing around 23.18 crore textbooks for over three crore students of primary (class I-V), secondary (VI-X), ebtada'i (primary level of madrasa) and dakhil (secondary level of madrasa) and vocational classes of 2011 academic year on January 1.

Of them, 10.48 crore copies are for primary students and 12.75 crore for secondary level.

Around 85 percent of secondary-level books have already been sent to district headquarters, according to the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) stats. And 97 percent of dakhil and ebtada'i books have reached districts.

But records show, only 65 percent primary-level books

\$100b trade

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The two men discussed a number of sensitive issues, including a long-running border dispute.

Both sides said they need more time to sort out the border question.

The BBC's Sanjoy Majumder in Delhi says that the Chinese premier's visit amounted to a strong endorsement of the economic relationship between the two Asian giants, even though contentious issues remain.

Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao arrives in Delhi on 15 December 2010 Mr Wen's delegation in India was much larger than those headed by leaders of the US and UK

These include China's military build-up on the border and India's support for the Dalai Lama.

The two countries signed some 50 deals in power, telecommunications, steel, wind energy, food and marine products worth \$16 billion at the end of a business conference attended by Mr Wen in the capital, Delhi, on Wednesday evening.

This overtakes the \$10 billion of agreements signed between Indian and American businesspeople during the recent visit of US President Barack Obama.

"There is enough space in

V-Day celebrated

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homage to freedom fighters and commemorate the sacrifices of those who are living with the memories of 1971.

Air force jets staged a spectacular fly past while the army, navy and other armed forces including police staged Victory Day parade at the National Parade Square.

President Zillur Rahman took the salute while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was among thousands to witness the function.

The veterans of the Liberation War later attended a function at Suhrawardy Udyan, the then Race Course Maidan, in Dhaka where on this day in 1971 Pakistani army surrendered to the allied Bangladeshi and Indian troops.

As many as three million Bengalis died in the Liberation War led by the interim Bangladesh government in exile.

From the early morning, parts of the city wore a festive look. Many buildings, vehicles, main thoroughfares and road islands were decorated with national flags of different shapes and sizes along with banners inscribed with 'Happy Victory Day'.

Popular patriotic songs played through loudspeakers in many streets and shops throughout the day as the pedestrians and bystanders hummed along the tunes.

While the city streets seemed deserted in early morning, traffic queues crept into many thoroughfares as enthusiastic people carrying banners of different political, social, cultural and professional organisations, and singing patriotic songs flooded the streets.

But the traffic jams did little to dampen the spirit of day.

Dressed in red and green clothing, men, women and children flocked into at various monuments, parks, the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban area and many other public places to participate in the many cultural programmes across the city.

"I took my children to the National Mausoleum at Savar to pay tributes to the war

have been sent to districts.

This year, the government for the first time took initiative to print over 5.70 crore copies of textbooks for class I, II and III through international bidding.

Of the books, Indian printers got the contract for over 3 crore copies.

Around 1.70 crore books printed from India have already reached to the upazilas. And in Petrapole port of India, trucks carrying another 1.50 crore books are stranded in jam.

Primary and mass education ministry, foreign ministry and NCTB have requested Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi and Deputy High Commission in Kolkata to take necessary steps to release the books.

"We hope the books will be arriving in the country within two or three days. On arrival, the books will be directly sent to upazilas," said Prof Abul Kashem Miah, member (text-book) of NCTB.

the world for the development of both China and India and there are enough areas for us to co-operate," Mr Wen told the business conference.

Mr Singh - speaking after his 11th meeting with Mr Wen in the last five years - said that a strong partnership between the two countries "will contribute to long-term peace, stability, prosperity and development in Asia and the world".

The communique said that the two sides had decided to establish a "mechanism of regular exchange of visit between heads of state and government".

"They welcomed the opening of the telephone hotline between the prime minister of India and the Chinese premier and agreed on regular consultations between the two leaders on issues of importance to both countries," it said.

"They also agreed to establish the mechanism of annual exchange of visits between the two foreign ministers."

China's premier also met India's External Affairs Minister SM Krishna and the ruling Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi.

Mr Wen travels to India's nuclear-armed neighbour and rival, Pakistan, for a two-day official visit today.

heroes. They need to take part in the celebrations to understand the significance of the day," said Md Al Amin, who was seen returning to the city with his three children after a visit to Savar.

To mark the glorious day, newspapers have published special supplements while television channels and radio stations broadcasted special discussion and cultural programmes.

Meanwhile, Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam yesterday, after placing wreath at the National Mausoleum, said, "The government is committed to the trials of war criminals. The trial will start in two to three months and will be completed within the tenure of this government."

Any conspiracies to impede the trial will be dealt with an iron hand, added Ashraf.

Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sazed Chowdhury also said that the war crimes trial would be finished in one year.

By doing so, AL will be able to fulfil one of its major electoral pledges, she said addressing a brief rally prior to AL's Dhaka unit Victory Day procession from Engineering Institution to Dhanmondi road No.32.

BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia said government has put the independence at stake by serving others instead of protecting country's interest. She urged the people to be up against it.

Assange free

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But the question of who decided to appeal against the granting of bail remains cloaked in contradiction.

A CPS spokesman said on Thursday "The Crown Prosecution Service acts as agent for the Swedish government in the Assange case. The Swedish Director of Prosecutions this morning confirmed that she fully supported the appeal."

But earlier Nils Rekke, from the Swedish Prosecutor's Office, claimed it was "a purely British decision".

Sweden probes blasts, no new threat level

REUTERS, Stockholm

Sweden sees no need to raise its terrorism threat level despite reports that further attacks could be planned in Europe and the United States after a terror bid in Stockholm, the Security Police said yesterday.

Police are still wading through a mass of evidence after the failed attack in the Swedish capital on Saturday, when a bomber, Taimour Abdulwahab, blew himself up by accident. This prevented him setting off more explosives in a much deadlier attack.

"There is no new information at the current time that would necessitate a further raising of the threat level, but we continuously analyze this threat level," Security Police director of operations Anders Thornberg told a news conference.

He spoke after a Swedish newspaper carried a report quoting an Iraqi minister as saying that militants in jail had said the Stockholm attack was part of a planned series of attacks over the Christmas holiday period.

A militant on Monday also delivered an online threat of more attacks if Western troops did not withdraw from Afghanistan.

Officials at the news conference said investigations of the Stockholm blasts had led to the type of explosive used being identified, though they declined to say what it was.

They said 400 tips had come in from the public, which were being followed up.

An autopsy of the body had been carried out after which they hoped to be able to identify the bomber for certain.

Police have previously said they were only "98 percent" sure it was Abdulwahab.

It's Dec 16

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the government," she said while talking to The Daily Star in front of the Detective Branch (DB) headquarters.

DB police early yesterday arrested Salauddin in connection with torching a vehicle at Moghbazar on June 26 that left a person killed.

Farhad alleged that the law enforcers arrested Salauddin on false charges and without any warrant. She claimed that her husband was tortured in custody.

Meanwhile, war crimes investigators on Wednesday sought permission from the International Crimes Tribunal to detain him in connection with crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Farhad Quader said the allegations brought against her husband for his role in 9171 are not true as he was out of the country during the Liberation War. So the allegations are baseless, she added.

It was alleged that Salauddin was involved in the killings of Nutan Chandra Kundu, founder of herbal medicine factory Kundeshwari Oushadhalaya at Raozan in Chittagong, on April 13, 1971, and 107 others during the Liberation War.

Mentioning the killing of Nutan Chandra, Farhad said it was not true as he was a friend of Natun's elder brother.

Criticising the role of the Sector Commanders, she said they did not speak about BDR Mutiny of 2009 but now they are propagating against her husband's role in 1971, a matter 40 years' old.

When Salauddin was produced before the court yesterday he told the court that he could not say anything about June 26 incident as he was in Chittagong then.

He also told the court that after his arrest, Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel tortured him at the DB office.

"The torture tarnished the image of all the lawmakers including the honourable speaker of the parliament," he said.

"Were Sheikh Mujibur Rahman alive, I would not be placed in remand! Said Salauddin, adding, "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is not aware of my torture."

To the magistrate, he said he was unable to move due to the torture and showed a bloodstained tissue paper.

SQ Chy sought bail and rejection of his remand to the court. The court rejected his appeal.

New insulin

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across the world.

Senior Vice President of International Operations Jesper Høiland, Vice President Asia Sanjeev Shishoo, Bangladesh Diabetic Association President Prof AK Azad Khan and Eskayef Director Simeen Hossain were present at the inaugural.

Kingo said producing insulin drugs in local settings has become important for Bangladesh, as the number of diabetic patients has increased in the country as elsewhere in the world.

"With Eskayef as our partner, we will continue to work to improve the lives of the people in Bangladesh," she said.

Simeen Hossain said the joint venture represented a milestone in the history of Eskayef. "There would be no compromise in delivering quality products," she assured.

Jesper Høiland said there would be proper technology transfer under the joint venture, as Novo Nordisk believes in uniform global standard.

He said the tie-ups among Novo Nordisk, Eskayef and Diabetic Association would make a significant difference in looking after patients with diabetes.

Novo Nordisk officials were

in Dhaka yesterday to attend the inauguration of the insulin making plant.

During the ceremony, they also expressed confidence that the plant would be able to make quality insulin matching global standards.

They also inspected Eskayef's various departments and facilities, particularly the manufacturing unit, quality control measures and water treatment plant and expressed satisfaction.

The partnership deal signed in 2009, has facilitated establishment of the hi-tech plant to make these sophisticated biotechnological products in Bangladesh.

The plant, the third set up by the company in Asia after China and India, opened at a time when nearly 6 million Bangladeshis are said to be suffering from diabetes.

The number is expected to cross 10 million in the next 20 years due to changes in lifestyle, rapid urbanisation, obesity, lack of physical work and ageing of people.

Novo Nordisk enjoys more than 80 percent share in the insulin segment of diabetic care market in Bangladesh.

A Rajan Kumar, managing director of Novo Nordisk Pharma Pvt Ltd, and general managers of Eskayef were also present on the occasion.

SQ Chy remanded

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war-crimes investigators sought permission from the International Crimes Tribunal to detain him in connection with crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. The court is supposed to hear on this application Sunday.

When Salauddin was produced before a Dhaka court yesterday, he told the court that members of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and Rab tortured him at the DB office after his arrest. He said that was why his bloodstained string vest was taken off.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain at a press conference at BNP's Naya Paltan office also claimed that Salauddin was tortured after his arrest and he termed the arrest part of the government's blue print for one-party rule. He said Salauddin was arrested without warrant.

His wife Farhad Quader Chowdhury told The Daily Star that her husband was tortured so much that police had to rush him to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for treatment.

However, Deputy Commissioner of DB Md Monirul Islam, who led the arrest drive, ruled out the allegations of torture and said nothing illegal was done during the arrest.

"They took Salauddin Quader Chowdhury to BSMMU as he suffers from asthma. The doctors provided him with an inhaler that solved the problem," the DC of DB told The Daily Star.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun said Salauddin was arrested following due legal procedures.

However, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam said the BNP leader was arrested in connection with his involvement in war crimes.

He called Salauddin "hateful war criminal".

Awami League Advisory Council member Suranjit Sengupta claimed that Salauddin was not arrested due to political enmity and with his arrest it has been proved that none is above the law. Suranjit said the BNP leader would have to face trial on war crimes charges.

According to sources, a team of DB in association with Rapid Action Battalion and Gulshan police arrested Salauddin at one of his relative's home in the capital around 2:00am.

After the arrest, he was taken to Cantonment Police Station and from there to BSMMU after he fell sick. He was taken to the DB police headquarters on Minto Road after an hour.