

Witnesses tell of torture at instruction

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Additional SP Motiur Rahman and Inspector Shyamol Chowdhury who were visiting Rajshahi since Friday said the reports contain important information regarding activities of Ghulam Azam and other local collaborators of the Pakistani army.

They visited Daokandi, Harirampur, Jugishow-Palsa and Gagonbaria villages in Durgapur and Thanapara, Sardah Police Academy in Charghat upazila, and Biraldaha in Puthia upazila before leaving Rajshahi yesterday.

In Durgapur, the team talked to a few Hindu families who were forced to convert to Muslims at gun point. They also took Muslim names following threats from the collaborators.

The Daily Star is not disclosing identities of the families on security grounds.

However, all the families converted to Hindus again after the liberation, said the investigators.

"Forced conversion of religion is a serious war crime and equal to genocide. Ghulam Azam's disciples in Rajshahi committed such crimes following his directives that he gave through public speeches several times since the war began", Shyamol Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

Ghulam Azam delivered provocative speeches abusing religion since early April in 1971 and praised occupation Pakistani army for conducting massacres on March 25 night, he added.

Azam and other collaborators held meetings with Tikka Khan in early April of 1971 and genocide took place across the country following the meetings. Azam visited Rajshahi early

July in 1971.

In his speeches, Ghulam Azam called upon his followers to unleash attacks on those who were not Muslim and on those Muslim who felt proud to be Bangalis, witnesses said.

The investigators recorded statements of around 100 survivors who witnessed genocide in Charghat.

It took place at Padma Char, some 900 feet away from Thanapara village and Sardah Police Academy on April 13, 1971. Around 150 men were killed in a firing squad and their bodies were set ablaze.

"The massacre had turned Thanapara into a village of widows," said Raihan Ali, a survivor.

Golam Mostafa, another survivor, said, "Pakistani army separated the Hindus from the queue and killed them first."

"Many Muslims in the

queue were falsely accused of helping the Hindus and helping them go to India," Mostafa added.

Tota Mia, the other survivor of the massacre, has been serving as a cook of Sardaha Police Academy since Pakistan era.

Tota said, "I lost consciousness hit by a bullet. When I regained, I found bodies all around me were burning." Tota later married Jamena Bawa, widow of his brother Shamsheer Ali Faki who died in the massacre.

Rokeya Bawa, 61, became widow at the age of 20 with two minor daughters. Besides husband Yusuf Ali, she lost brothers-in-law Joban Ali and Monnaf Ali. Rokeya's father-in-law managed to recover charred bodies of his sons at the genocide site.

Many others failed to find bodies of their fathers, brothers or relatives after the massacre, they said.

CID seeks 2 more

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The petition today.

CID's Special Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akand, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted a petition before the court seeking two more months as he could not complete the probe by the stipulated time.

Earlier on November 22 last year, the same court granted three and a half months to the CID, which will expire today.

In yesterday's petition, Abdul Kahar said former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, Islamic Democratic Party leader Moulana Sheikh Abdus Salam, Lasker-e-Taiba (LeT) leader Abdul Malek and its member Abdul Majid Butt, Dhaka City Corporation ward councillor Ariful Islam Arif and Lt Col (Rtd) Saiful Islam Duke were shown

Coarse rice price

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an increase in their prices by 60 and 45 percent whereas the prices of lentil, onion and potato fell by 7.5, 12 and 36 percent.

Faruk said the price of coarse rice now stands at Tk 34 to 37 a kg, which was Tk 26 to 28 a year ago. Wheat is sold for Tk 32 to 36 that was Tk 21 to 25 a kg on retail market a year back.

The price of palm oil was Tk 59 to 61 and soybean oil Tk 72 to 74 a litre a year ago. But now palm oil is sold for Tk 96 to 97 a litre and soybean oil for Tk 105 to 108 a litre at retail.

The commerce minister said the price of lentil, however, has come down to Tk 90 to 95 from Tk 98 to 102 a kg at retail a year back.

The government has taken measures including import of essentials by Trading Corporation of Bangladesh to control essentials prices, said Faruk.

He said the commerce ministry, the consumer rights protection directorate and market monitoring team have been conducting drives through mobile courts to

prevent market manipulation at district and upazila level.

The minister said 1,029 unscrupulous traders were identified and fined in the capital's wholesale and retail market in the last one year.

Faruk said his ministry has drafted a law to regulate multi-level marketing (MLM) companies to protect people from deception by any such company.

"The draft will be finalised soon and sent to the cabinet for approval," the commerce minister said in response to a query from an Awami League lawmaker.

AL lawmaker Sadhan Halder in her scripted question said MLM companies have been cheating people, and she wanted to know whether the government would take any step to prevent that.

In a scripted answer to another query, the commerce minister said there are 62 registered MLM companies in the country. Of them, Destiny 2000 Ltd has 45 lakh clients. But the ministry did not have the number of clients of other companies.

Unfinished Swadhinata Stambha

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which were completed six years ago under the first phase of the project.

However, the ministry has yet to set up the office of a curator for the museum or recruit the staff and security personnel to run the 67-acre memorial complex, said Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, who headed the project's experts' committee but resigned recently.

Prof Chowdhury said collecting the exhibits of the Liberation War to be put on display in the museum also remains a far cry.

Under the first phase, the then Awami League government built the VIP and Service Blocks and most of the walkways, water body, mural works and development of south plaza and marble works.

"We have not instituted any separate authority to take care of the memorial," State Minister Tajul Islam said.

The Public Works Department (PWD) would look after the civil works, National Museum will provide services for the underground museum and Bangla Academy for the open theatre, he said.

The experts' committee

recommended an independent authority to run the museum, look after the entire memorial complex and conduct salute and guard of honour to the visits paid by high-profile foreign dignitaries, as the Kemal Ataturk Museum in Ankara showcases life of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and the Turkish history, he added.

Shahbuddin Ahmed, executive engineer of PWD and manager of the project, said they were putting some photographs on the Liberation War to prepare the museum.

The proposed 150-foot glass tower of the memorial is under construction and the ministry intends to complete it by July next year at a cost of Tk 137 crore, said the minister.

The Swadhinata Stambha including the proposed tower is to commemorate the decisive public speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Bangladesh's independence.

The underground museum still remains an auditorium, said Prof Muntasir Mamoon, another member of the committee, who also resigned, adding, it

has not yet been prepared as a museum and the terracotta work is still incomplete.

"All our recommendations and plans were aimed at making the memorial a symbol of our national aspiration. It will not achieve objectives of the master plan unless it is followed properly," he said.

Most of the experts' committee members, who had been devotedly working since 1996 on the project to make it a symbol of national identity and history of liberation, are absent in the scene of opening.

Six eminent personalities of the committee including Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and Prof Muntasir Mamoon, architects Samsul Wares, Mobassher Hossain and Rabiul Husein and artist Hashem Khan resigned more than a month ago over a derogatory comment made by the state minister.

A High Court bench in July 2009, following a writ petition, directed the government to first identify the historic sites including Bangabandhu's March 7 public address and December 16 surrender of

Pakistani occupation forces and protect those and remove any obstructions in doing so.

However, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police control room, Shahbagh Police Station, Shishu Park and scores of flower shops are still within the master plan area of the project, about which the government still sits idle.

The exact sites where Bangladesh's independence was mentioned and Pakistani forces surrendered are now within the enclosed area of Shishu Park, said Prof Mamoon. The mural works as per the original plan, entry gates and parking place are still incomplete, he added.

The Race Course Gallery built by the Nawabs of Dhaka will remain as a heritage.

The minister said the Shishu Park would be relocated preferably to Ramna Park but police presence within the master plan area is necessary for security reasons.

"We'll file an appeal to review the HC directions seeking certain changes," he said, adding that they would complete all the unfinished works by July next.

Bangabandhu's finest hour

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quite know what Bangabandhu, by then the undisputed leader of the rebellious province, would be saying at the public meeting in the afternoon.

Uncharacteristically grave, Bangabandhu climbed the steps to the dais in slow, ponderous manner. The cameras of the local and foreign media were focused sharply on him.

In the event, Bangabandhu's address at the Race Course turned out to be his finest hour. He did not make a unilateral declaration of independence from his belief that such a move would constitute secession and, worse, could lead to harsh, immediate action by the Pakistan army, which remained in a state of alert in cantonments around the country. Neither did he shy away from informing Bengalis and the rest of the world that the objective before the people of Bangladesh was national independence. He spoke without notes. Already one of the foremost orators in South Asian history, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman launched into an address that seemed to rise to a crescendo of ideas --- with no repetitive phrases and no pauses --- the focal point of which was to reassure his people that their interests were safe in his hands. He noted General Yahya Khan's call, made the previous day, for the inaugural session of the National Assembly in Dhaka on March 25. At the same time, he rejection the military ruler's insinuation that the Awami League was responsible for the crisis in the country.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman stated in unequivocal terms that the participation of the Awami League, the majority party, in the National Assembly was dependent on an acceptance of his demands by the regime. The demands were the following:

a) Martial law would have to be withdrawn b) a full inquiry into the killings by the army would have to be instituted c) all soldiers of the Pakistan army would have to be taken back into their barracks d) power would have to be transferred to the elected representatives of the people.

"The struggle this time," declared Bangabandhu, "is the struggle for emancipation. The struggle this time is the struggle for independence."

The die was cast. The Rubicon had been crossed.

Postscript: At the last moment, Dhaka Betar was compelled by the military into staying away from a direct broadcast of Bangabandhu's address from the Race Course. In protest against the action, all Bengali employees of the radio station walked off their jobs. Under public pressure, however, the speech would be broadcast on the morning of the next day, March 8.

No more forced retirement

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57, a demand the bureaucrats have been making for a long time.

The draft also says a civil servant will be allowed to go into voluntary retirement after 20 years in service instead of the present 25 years.

This will create an opportunity for competent officers to leave the government service and take lucrative jobs in the UN and other international organisations. Many officers are eager to leave the civil service, but cannot do so before 25 years of service now, because of the current provision of losing retirement benefits in cases of such departures before that.

"The proposed act will make the functioning of the civil service systematic," Establishment Secretary Iqbal Mahmud told The Daily Star.

He said the draft will be posted on the establishment ministry website soon for opinions from different quarters.

The draft however did not say anything specific about changing the outdated practice of using annual confidential reports (ACR) for civil servants' promotions, but proposes developing a new system to evaluate performances of officers.

"Merit, experience and training will be the criteria for promotions and postings," said the establishment secretary.

The draft proposes a three-tier civil administration -- superior, senior, and junior.

The top tier's job will be "policymaking", while officers in the senior tier will execute the policies. The officers of the junior tier will assist the seniors.

The draft stipulates that civil servants, for the sake of neutrality, will not do any person, group or political party any favour, and will not cause any disparity in services delivered to the public.

Currently, there are some rules and regulations that prohibit all government


officials from getting involved in politics, or to be influenced by any quarter.

"The rules and regulations can't be applied due to the absence of a comprehensive act. Once the proposed law is enacted, it will be legally binding for the officials," observed an establishment ministry official.

The draft also proposes clustering of related ministries for optimum use of officials' experience and expertise. "This will stop misuse of expertise and experience of the officials," said the establishment ministry official.

After the clustering of ministries, civil servants will usually be transferred within the clusters to maximise the use of their gained experiences, he added.

The last caretaker government took an initiative to enact a law for administrative reform. After assuming office, the present government asked the establishment ministry to go forward with that initiative.



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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো
আদমশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা ২০১১ প্রকল্প
পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (২য় তলা)
ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭

নং-বিবিএস/আস ২০১১/গাড়ি ক্রয়/১১/১০১-৮৬২ তারিখ: ২৭/০২/২০১১খ্রিঃ

পুনঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(১) মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	পরিসংখ্যান মন্ত্রণালয়/পরিসংখ্যান বিভাগ।	
(২) সংস্থার নাম	:	বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো।	
(৩) সংগ্রাহক স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	:	আদমশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা ২০১১ প্রকল্প।	
(৪) সংগ্রাহক স্বত্বাধিকারী জেলার নাম	:	ঢাকা।	
(৫) যে জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান	:	গাড়ি ক্রয়ের জন্য।	
(৬) দরপত্রের নং	:	বিবিএস/আস ২০১১/গাড়ি ক্রয়/১১/১০১-৮৬২।	
(৭) তারিখ	:	২৭/০২/২০১১।	
(৮) সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।	
(৯) বাজেট ও অর্ধের উৎস	:	উন্নয়ন বাজেট, জিওবি।	
(১০) প্রকল্পের কোড নং	:	৫১৫০।	
(১১) প্রকল্পের নাম	:	আদমশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা ২০১১ প্রকল্প।	
(১২) দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নং	:	GD6।	
(১৩) দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম	:	গাড়ি ক্রয়।	
(১৪) দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	:	২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১১।	
(১৫) দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	:	০৯ মার্চ ২০১১ পর্যন্ত।	
(১৬) দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	১০ মার্চ ২০১১ বেলা ০২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
(১৭) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	১০ মার্চ ২০১১ বেলা ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।	
(১৮) অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	আদমশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা ২০১১ প্রকল্প, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (২য় তলা), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।	
ক) দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	:	আদমশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা ২০১১ প্রকল্প, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (২য় তলা), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।	
খ) দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	:	আদমশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা ২০১১ প্রকল্প, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (২য় তলা), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।	
গ) দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	:	আদমশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা ২০১১ প্রকল্প, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (২য় তলা), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।	
(১৯) দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	একই প্রকল্পের কাজে গত ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী, আমদানিকারক, সরবরাহকারী এবং উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ। অগ্রাধী দরদাতাদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত হালনাগাদ বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএনসহ হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ, ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদ এবং অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে।	
(২০) মাল্যমালের বিবরণ	:	Double Cabin Pickup & Micro-bus.	
(২১) দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	:	৭৫০.০০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা মাত্র।	
মাল্যমালের বিবরণ	স্থান	জামানতের পরিমাণ	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়
Double Cabin Pickup & Micro-bus	ঢাকা	২,২৫,০০০.০০ (দুই লক্ষ পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র	কার্যদেশ প্রান্তির ১৫ (পনের) দিনের মধ্যে
(২২) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	:	অসীম কুমার দে।	
(২৩) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	:	প্রকল্প পরিচালক।	
(২৪) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	:	আদমশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা ২০১১ প্রকল্প, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (২য় তলা), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।	
(২৫) যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা	:	ফোন নং: ৮৮০-২-৯১১৮০৭৯, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-২-৯১১০৬৪ ই-মেইল: ashimdey@dhaka.net	
বিশেষ দৃষ্টব্য:			
ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।			
খ) আনুষ্ঠানিক দরপত্র The Public Procurement Rule-2008 এর Open Tendering Method মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে।			

অসীম কুমার দে
(উপ-সচিব)
প্রকল্প পরিচালক
ফোন: ৯১১৮০৭৯

জিডি-৯৯০