

TRIAL AGAINST SAYEED Charges not specific Counsel tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence lawyer yesterday vehemently opposed the prosecution prayer to frame charge against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayeede in connection with the crimes committed during the liberation war in 1971.

Sayedee's counsel Tajul Islam told the International Crimes Tribunal that charge cannot be framed against his client as the allegations brought against him are not specific.

The tribunal held the hearing on charge framing against Sayedee and the defence lawyer has completed the first round of argument yesterday.

Sayedee was produced before the tribunal around 10:30am. After around five hours of hearing with a one-hour break, the three-member judges' panel headed by Justice Nizamul Huq fixed tomorrow for further hearing.

Tajul said the prosecutors did not clearly mention the times and dates of committing crimes by Sayedee during the liberation war and even the definition of crimes was not made clear.

"It is neither possible to try Delawar Hossain Sayeede nor frame charges against him on the basis of the allegations brought by the prosecution," said Tajul.

He also said amendment should be brought in the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 in line with the related international laws to make it complete.

Replying to the allegation of the defence lawyer, prosecutor Syed Haider Ali said that the Act is enough to try such crimes and there are enough grounds to frame charges against Sayedee.

Arrested on July 30 last year, Sayedee is accused of killing, torching houses and other war crimes during the 1971 War of Independence.



A run-down portion of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway causing frequent road accidents and suffering to passengers of hundreds of vehicles plying the route every day. The photo was taken from Signboard area yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

GRAFT CASE

Trial against Mirpur cop begins

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of a graft case against Rakibul Hasan, a sub-inspector of Mirpur Police Station, began yesterday with the deposition of the complainant.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 of Dhaka recorded a part of the statement from Anwarul Haque, an assistant director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The judge fixed October 31 for the next hearing, rejecting a petition by Hasan's counsel seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

His lawyer said they have filed a writ petition with the High Court for quashing the proceedings of the case. But hearing of the writ petition remains pending. So they pray for an adjournment of the current hearing, the lawyer added.

Opposing the petition, the prosecution said there is no legal bar to continue trial as the defence could not bring any stay order from the higher court.

Hasan, now on bail, was present in the court yesterday. The same court framed charge against the accused on July 25.

The ACC filed the case against SI Rakibul with the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka on December 19, 2010. The case statement said Rakibul demanded Tk 5 lakh as bribe from one Ferdous Ara to arrest five persons she had brought charges against on December 3, 2010.

A team of ACC caught the sub-inspector red-handed while he was receiving Tk 5,000 as bribe from Ferdous.

Govt out to foil tomorrow's rally:BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday accused the government of obstructing the campaign for tomorrow's grand rally from where Khaleda Zia is set to announce an anti-government agitation programme demanding restoration of caretaker government system.

"Police were arresting our leaders and workers to foil the rally. Even, they arrested many workers while they were setting posters and banners. Many of our party leaders are being threatened," said Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, joint secretary general of the party, at a press briefing at the party's central office in Nayapaltan in the city.

The rally will start at 2:00pm in front of the central office, as the authorities

concerned did not give permission to use the Paltan Maidan for the rally, he said.

Rizvi said the government is not letting them to publicise the programme but BNP will make the planned rally a success to reply to the government's efforts to obstruct it.

Meanwhile, chairperson Khaleda Zia on Saturday night held meeting with the party leaders who had contested in last general elections as party candidate in the capital and its adjacent areas.

She also held separate meetings with senior leaders, former members of parliament and eight like-minded parties at her Gulshan office on Saturday night.

Meeting sources said leaders and former lawmakers of Dhaka and adja-

cent areas assured the chairperson of gathering a huge number of supporters to make the rally a human sea to show their political strength.

Parties under BNP-led four-party alliance and eight like-minded parties will also attend the rally.

The party leaders hoped that few other political parties like Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, Liberal Democratic Party and Kalyan Party will also join the rally to express their solidarity to BNP's demand.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami acting Ameer Maqbul Ahmed and acting secretary general Shafiqur Rahman in a statement urged the people to make the rally a successful.

They also demanded release of their arrested leaders.

One fined for processing toxic plastic waste

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) penalised the owner of a plastic factory in Ishwardi Tk 13.50 lakh and ordered closure of the factory for illegally producing raw materials for plastic products from toxic plastic waste.

Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, director of DoE, called the factory owner, Ratan Kumar Agarwal, to the DoE office in Dhaka in person and handed the penalty.

Utility connections to the factory are to be disconnected today.

The factory Brothers Plastic Industries was set up at Ishwardi Export Processing Zone around four years back without DoE's permission, said Chowdhury.

The toxic plastic waste used to be

imported from the US, though Bangladesh banned its import, while the factory's products were exported to India, said Chowdhury.

More than 100 countries banned import of toxic wastes to prevent dumping of such materials from the developed world to the developing.

Around 150 metric tonnes of toxic plastic waste is used to produce 100 tonnes of the raw material every month.

The owner continued production despite being served several DoE notices asking him to stop, he added.

Toxic gases emitted while processing the waste are hazardous both for human health and the environment, said Chowdhury, citing technical experts.

Gharial found in Rajbari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A juvenile gharial caught in the River Padma was released in a pond of Bangabandhu Safari Park in Gazipur yesterday.

The 4.4 feet gharial was found in the river at Ambaria Char of Sadar Upazila in Rajbari on Wednesday.

Gharial is one of the most critically endangered reptile species living in sweet water.

The scared fishermen hit the gharial, aged about two years, after it was trapped in the fishing net of one Amzad Hossain. Later, Amzad took the injured Gharial to his house.

With the help of members of Jubo Mukti Shangha of Orakanda bazaar, the sadar UNO and local forest officials rescued the Gharial.

A press release of the forest department said it released the gharial after providing it necessary treatment.

In 2004, another baby gharial was rescued and released in Rajshahi Zoo but it died later.

Gharial, surviving for at least two million years, is listed as a critically endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Two workers electrocuted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two workers were electrocuted while setting up network towers of Orascom Telecom at Satmasjid Housing adjacent to Beri Bandh area of Mohammadpur in the city yesterday.

The deceased were Zakir Hossain Mollah and Zakir Hossain, police said.

They along with some other workers were setting up Banglalink network towers around 6:45pm in the area, when the two came in contact with a live wire and died on the spot.

Police recovered and sent the bodies to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A juvenile gharial caught in the River Padma was released in a pond of Bangabandhu Safari Park in Gazipur yesterday.



PHOTO: COURTESY

CANDIDATURE IN 3 UN BODIES UAE will consider support: Dipu Moni

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

United Arab Emirates (UAE) assured to actively consider supporting Bangladesh's candidature for a non-permanent seat at three United Nations (UN) bodies -- UN Security Council (2016-2017), UN Human Rights Council and International Maritime Organisation (2011-2012).

The assurance came at a meeting between Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and her UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in New York on September 24, on the sideline of the 66th UN General Assembly.

Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes was present during the meeting.

According to a foreign ministry press release, Dipu Moni sought UAE support in this regard.

Sheikh Abdullah, leading his country's delegation to the general assembly, assured that the candidature will receive serious consideration as the two countries share excellent bilateral relations.

Mentioning that trade, investment and commercial relations between the two countries are fast developing, Dipu Moni urged UAE businessmen to invest in the fields of power generation, exploration of oil, gas and minerals and infrastructure development.

Sheikh Abdullah assured that on his return, he will sensitise their business community about investment potentials in Bangladesh.

Both foreign ministers discussed issues of mutual interest and about possible expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

They discussed reviewing existing air services agreement between them, cooperation between Chittagong Port and DP Port of Dubai and about the 4th Session of the Joint Economic Commission to be held in Dhaka this year.

Biman's Boeing 777 to arrive Oct 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airline's first 777 airplane, a 777-300ER (extended range), is in the final stages of preparing to exit the 777 manufacturing line at Boeing's Everett factory, says a Boeing press release received here yesterday.

The airplane, the first direct purchase for Bangladesh's flag carrier, will next move to the paint hangar for a coating in the airline's brand new livery and undergo a final inspection before exiting the factory.

Biman already decided a name for the airplane: "Palki", scheduled to arrive in Bangladesh on October 22.

Another 777-300ER, powered by twin engines and containing 419 seats, likely to join the fleet in mid-November, was already given the name "Arun Alo".

The two airplanes will not only ease pressure on the airline's ageing fleet, but also boost its economic strength, said Biman Managing Director Muhammad Zakiul Islam while talking to The Daily Star recently.

They are among the 10 new aircrafts for which Biman signed a procurement deal with the US aircraft manufacturer Boeing involving Tk 17,250 crore during the immediate past caretaker regime.

The aircrafts include four 777-300ERs, four 787-8 Dreamliners and two 737-800s.

The two Boeings will fly on long-haul routes including Dhaka-Manchester-New York, Dhaka-London-Dhaka, Dhaka-Rome-Dhaka and Dhaka-Sydney-Dhaka, said Biman officials.

Recently, a high-profile Bangladesh delegation led by Civil Aviation Minister GM Quader visited the Boeing establishments and discussed handing over of the aircrafts and training of pilots and other staff, said a Biman official wishing anonymity.

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Dhaka

Friday, 28th October
12 noon to 8 pm
The Westin Dhaka
Ballroom 1 & 2, Gulshan 2

Please call to book your appointment today

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