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SAYEDEE'S TRIAL  
Defence begins quizzing witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence lawyers of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee began cross-examining the first witness at the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday in the case filed in connection with his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The court proceedings were, however, adjourned prematurely as the defence lawyers did not place a certain piece of evidence

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BANGABANDHU BRIDGE  
Cracks come under fixing

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Tangail

The repair of cracks on Bangabandhu Bridge is now going on in full swing with a target to be completed by June next year.

Traffic on the bridge has got slower as vehicles instructed by various signs are diverted at two points for the repair work that began last month.

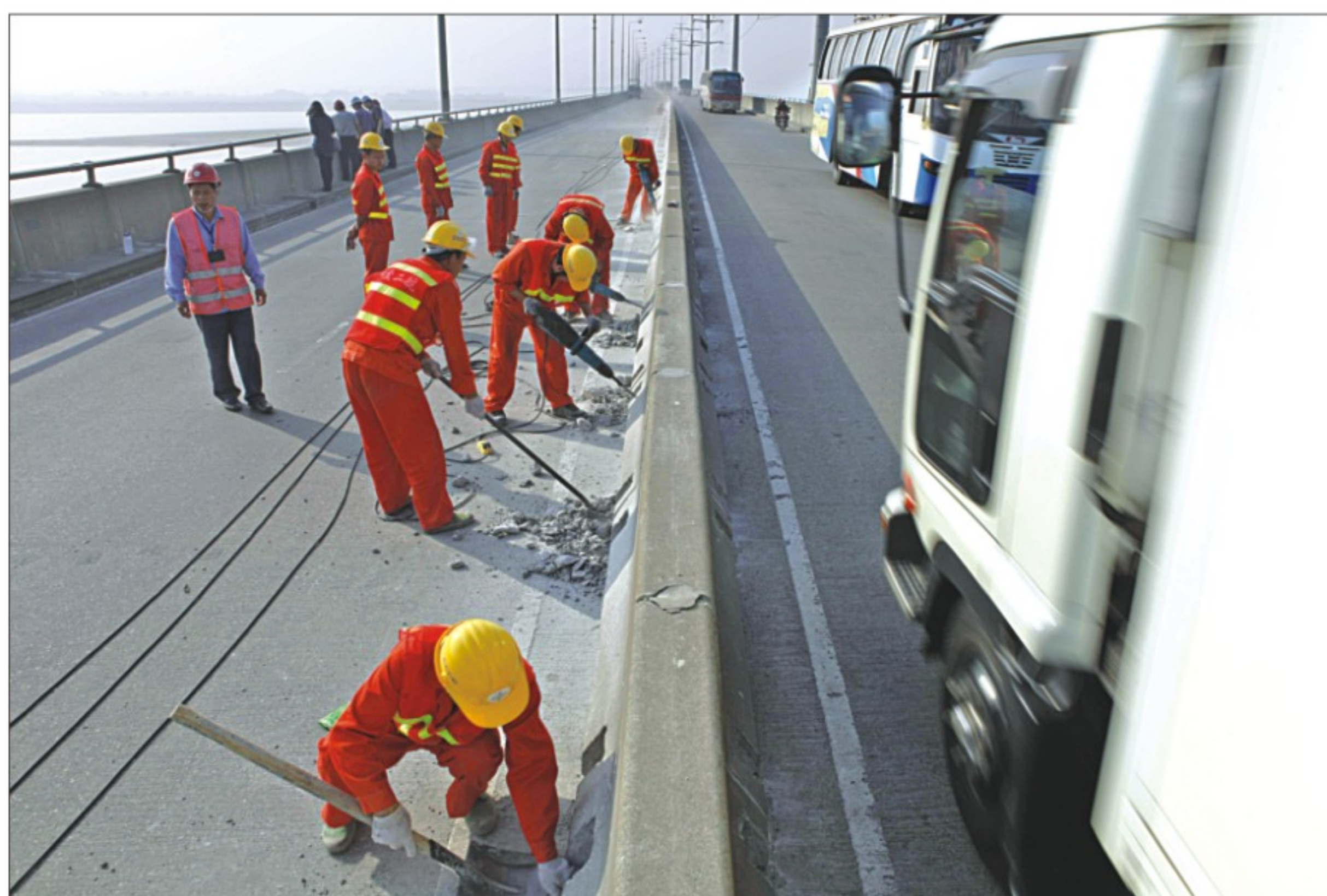
On an average, 15,000 vehicles use the country's largest bridge built on the river Jamuna.

In 2006, a team of experts detected numerous cracks on the bridge and asked the authorities to urgently fix those to ensure the bridge's 100-year lifespan is not shortened.

The government in May this year picked China Communication Construction Company (CCCC) for its repair under a Tk 243 crore project.

Many locals and international experts fear a delay in

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Workers repair the cracks on Bangabandhu Bridge closing down one side of the dual carriageway.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUJON

Bangladesh among top rice-eaters

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh stands fourth in per-capita rice consumption in the world, show data prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Brunei Darussalam tops the list with per-capita rice consumption of 245 kilograms a year, according to Faostat, a regular food supply data prepared by the FAO, reports BSS.

Vietnam is in second position with an annual rice consumption of 166 kilograms

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think BNP leader Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir's allegation that government is filing cases against Khaleda Zia to implement a plot to keep her away from the next general polls is justified?

Yes (49.6%)  
No (48.7%)  
No Comments (1.7%)

TOTAL VOTES: 827

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with prime minister that when in power BNP forgets everything and remembers everything when it is in the opposition regarding the issues with neighbouring country?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
www.thedailystar.net  
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT  
facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING December 12

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15 5-50
Zohr	12-45 1-15
Asr	3-45 4-00
Maghrib	5-19 5-22
Esha	7-00 7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

DRAFT SHIP-BREAKING GUIDELINE  
SC directives ignored

PINAKI ROY

The industries ministry has drafted a guideline on ship breaking and recycling without complying with the Supreme Court directive to follow the environmental laws for preparing such guideline.

Experts say some sections of the draft that allows import of ships with hazardous substances go against many rules and laws for preventing environmental pollution and ensuring workers' safety. The Supreme Court, however, gave directives to prepare the guideline in line with the laws.

The draft is based on the abolished Factory Law, 1965 and the Hong Kong Convention that will not take effect before 2015.

"They cannot follow the Factory Law, which was abolished in 2006 through formulation of Bangladesh Labour Law," said Iqbal Kabir, a lawyer of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association.

The draft allows import of warships, nuclear-powered ships and large passenger vessels. But the existing laws prohibit imports of these ships.

The draft will be placed in the cabinet today for

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Muggers shoot 3, snatch Tk 20 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot three and snatched Tk 20.20 lakh in two incidents in the capital yesterday.

In Chankharpul, three employees of Agrani Trading Corporation, a distribution agency of Unilever Ltd, were going to deposit Tk 12.20 lakh to a nearby branch of Pubali Bank around 11:30am when eight muggers on three motorcycles waylaid and attacked them.

As the trio resisted, the gang opened fire on them and made off with the money.

Of the three, accountant Khaleque Mollah, 50, was shot in the legs and store assistant Md Sayem,

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Compare AL rule with BNP-Jamaat's PM asks people at a rally in Natore

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Natore

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged people to compare the present government with the 2001-2006 BNP-Jamaat rule to figure out which is better for the country.

"The last BNP-Jamaat government resorted to killings, lootings, patronising militancy and siphoning of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

DU STUDENT FRAMED Sue Khilgaon OC HC asks police chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the IGP to immediately file a case against Khilgaon Police Station OC in connection with torture of Dhaka University student Abdul Kadar in custody.

The order followed the submission of probe reports by the law secretary and the police authorities to the HC.



Helal Uddin

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OPENING AND MAINTAINING OF FOREIGN CURRENCY ACCOUNT WITH AUTHORIZED DEALER BANKS DEALING IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE

INFORMATION TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Information regarding opening of Foreign Currency (FC) account is described below in brief for kind information of general public:

- 1. Private Foreign Currency (FC) Account :**
  - Private FC Account may be opened in Authorized Dealer banks by (a) Bangladesh nationals working/residing abroad (b) foreign nationals residing abroad or in Bangladesh (c) Foreign missions and their expatriate employees (d) foreign firms registered abroad and operating in Bangladesh or abroad (e) Bangladesh nationals working in foreign/international organizations in Bangladesh with entitlement to receive salary in foreign currency. No prior approval from Bangladesh Bank is required to open such account.
  - Bangladeshi nationals proceeding abroad for employment/immigration/self-employment may open this account even without initial deposits.
  - The account opened by non-resident Bangladeshis may be maintained as long as the account holder desires even after their return. Accountholders may operate the accounts themselves or nominate other persons in Bangladesh for this purpose.
  - Remittance from abroad through banking channel may be sent to this account. This account may be credited with transfer of fund from other foreign currency accounts. In addition, cash foreign currency brought into Bangladesh by the account holder while on visit may be deposited in this account.
  - Foreign currency deposited in this account is freely convertible into Taka. Deposited foreign currency may easily be sent abroad through banking channel. Moreover, foreign currency in cash may be taken from this account while visiting abroad.
- 2. Resident Foreign Currency Deposit (RFCD) Account :**
  - Persons ordinarily resident in Bangladesh may open RFCD account with foreign exchange brought in at the time of their return from travel abroad.
  - Resident persons may open this account at any time after their return to Bangladesh. However, amount in excess of US\$ 5000/= or its equivalent brought in with declaration to customs authority in FMJ Form should be deposited in this account within 30 days of arrival. Up to US\$ 5000/= or its equivalent may be deposited in this account at any time after return to Bangladesh.
  - Foreign currency deposited in this account is freely convertible into Taka. Deposited foreign currency may easily be sent abroad through banking channel. Moreover, foreign currency in cash may be taken from this account while visiting abroad.
- 3. Non-Resident Foreign Currency Deposit (NFCD) Account :**
  - NFCD Account may be opened in Authorized Dealer banks by (a) Bangladeshis working/residing abroad (b) Bangladeshis having dual nationality residing abroad (c) Bangladesh nationals serving with missions of Bangladesh in foreign countries (d) officers/staff of the government/semi-government organizations /nationalized banks and employees of body corporate posted abroad or deputed with international and regional agencies in foreign countries against foreign currency remitted through banking channel or brought in cash.
  - NFCD account is in the nature of term deposit maturing after one month, three months, six months and one year. This account may be opened in US Dollar, Pound Sterling, Euro or Japanese Yen with a minimum deposit of US\$ 1000 or pound sterling 500 or equivalent.
  - Foreign nationals/firms/investors may open this account with a minimum deposit of US\$ 25,000 or its equivalent.
  - This account is interest bearing. The interest is exempted from tax.
  - Foreign currency deposited in such account is freely convertible into Taka. Deposited foreign currency may easily be sent abroad through banking channel. Moreover, foreign currency in cash may be taken from this account while visiting abroad.

Mentionable here that Non-resident Bangladeshis and other non-resident foreign nationals may, besides opening of private FC accounts and NFCD accounts as stated above, invest in US Dollar Premium Bond, Investment Bond and Treasury Bond (in Taka) of Bangladesh Government. In addition, investment may be made in shares/securities listed in stock exchanges through opening of Non-Resident Investor's Taka (NITA) Account. Non-resident Bangladeshis may also invest in Wage Earning Development Bond in Taka.

Bangladesh Bank website [www.bb.org.bd], Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Transactions, (Vol-I, Ch-13)] may be visited for additional information and relevant explanation. In addition, Authorized Dealer bank branches or General Manager, Foreign Exchange Policy Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka, Phone: 7120668, 7512607, 7120375, Fax: 7120660, 9566212, email: gm.fepd@bb.org.bd may be contacted for further details.

**BANGLADESH BANK**

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FLEXING MUSCLES



A man, marked at the far right, was hit by a microbus carrying some policemen at Karwan Bazar yesterday. When the man reacted, the plainclothes policemen from the vehicle beat him up, and tried to force him into the vehicle. However, locals foiled their attempt. People on the scene questioned why a sticker that read "police" was stuck to the windscreen of the microbus when the police headquarters forbid sticking such labels on vehicles that are not owned by the police department. A policeman is seen holding the 35-year-old man by the collar, circled. The law enforcers finally let the man go. Kripa Sindhu Bala of Tejgaon Police Station denied that the microbus hit the man and that policemen beat him up.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL