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SAYEDEE'S TRIAL

Tribunal told of brutal torture

Witness also recounts killing by Pak soldiers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Witness Mofizuddin Poshari yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee along with other collaborators had tortured him in a collaborators' camp at Parerhaat of Pirojpur in 1971.

The collaborators broke his finger, injured him on his legs, pelvis, and slammed him on the cement floor which left him with bloody lips and broken teeth, Mofizuddin said.

Mofizuddin Poshari, 72, made his deposition before the three-member tribunal led by its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq. He is the seventh of the 68 prosecution witnesses scheduled to testify in a case against Sayedee regarding crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War of 1971.

He also narrated how Pakistani soldiers shot Ibrahim Kutti on the Parerhaat Bridge after consulting with Sayedee. Mofiz's cousin, sixth prosecution witness Manik Poshari, had also narrated to the tribunal how Mofiz and Kutti were captured and how Kutti was killed.

"I heard a gunshot and Kutti screaming out 'maa' [mother] behind me. I looked back and saw that they had shot Kutti," he told the tribunal, "I was shivering in fear.

"I looked back again and saw the Pakistani soldiers kicking Kutti's body towards the canal."

Sayedee's counsels began cross-examining Mofiz yesterday. They will resume the cross-examination on Sunday.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Demanding trial of war criminals, the ruling AL-led grand alliance holds a mass rally in front of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, in the capital yesterday blocking the street from Matsya Bhaban to Shahbagh triggering citywide traffic jams.

Rabindra Utsav begins in Dhaka

BSS, Dhaka

A three-day Rabindra Utsav began in the capital yesterday marking the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Music school Shurer Dhara, run by eminent Rabindrasangeet singer Rezwana Chowdhury Banya, organised the festival.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the festival at Bangabandhu International Convention Centre in the afternoon.

On the occasion, Shurer Dhara has released an album series of 2,222 songs, dance drama and opera in 22 DVDs.

Eminent economist and Nobel laureate

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Congress fails to get anti-graft bill passed

Rajya Sabha adjourned after heated debate; bill's future now uncertain

AFP, New Delhi

India's government and ruling Congress party failed to pass its proposed flagship anti-corruption law yesterday as the legislation stalled in the upper house of parliament amid fierce opposition.

The draft law to create a new ombudsman tasked with investigating public officials was approved by the lower house of parliament yesterday, but faced an uphill task to clear the upper chamber.

Congress, which does not have a majority in the Rajya Sabha, lobbied furiously behind the scenes, but was ultimately unable to unite its coalition partners, particularly its unreliable regional ally the Trinamool Congress.

The 243-member upper house adjourned at midnight amid scenes of

shouting and disorder after 14 hours of debate -- an ignominious end to an extended session of parliament called especially to pass the legislation.

The future of the bill is now uncertain, but will most likely have to be revised and again presented to lawmakers.

But yesterday's failure to pass it deals a bitter blow to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's administration, which had to withdraw another major reform earlier this month allowing foreign supermarkets to operate in India.

"We are trying to our best to get the bill passed," claimed Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pawan Bansal in the final minutes of the debate, shortly before the speaker called an end to proceedings.

Opposition members in the upper

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

REMOVAL FROM GB Yunus seeks review of SC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking a review of its earlier order which upheld Bangladesh Bank's decision to remove him from the post of managing director of Grameen Bank he founded three decades ago.

The petition, which was filed on December 15, is yet to be moved before the chamber judge of the Appellate Division for a date to be set for a hearing before its regular bench, Barrister Sara Hossain, a lawyer for Prof Yunus told The Daily Star.

The seven-member

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Final report on transit by Jan 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government core committee on transit and transshipment will submit its final report within January 15, the committee chairman has said.

The committee, headed by Bangladesh Tariff Commission Chairman Mozibur Rahman, held a meeting at his office in the capital with other members and stakeholders to finalise the report yesterday.

After the meeting, Mozibur told journalists the committee held the meeting after the government sought 36 clarifications from it.

In the revised report, the committee kept both the options -- transit and transshipment -- open for the participating countries, he added.

"We can submit the report to the commerce ministry by January 15 as we are at the final stage now."

The tariff commission chief also said Bangladesh and India would both be benefited if transit and transshipment are allowed, because the Indian vehicles would have to pay fees and charges to Bangladesh for using the facility.

On the other hand, both the distance and cost in cargo carriage will reduce significantly if the Indian trucks,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think government officials will respond to the Anti-Corruption Commission's call to provide information on corruption along with evidence?

Yes

(11.5%)

No

(88.0%)

No Comments

(0.5%)

TOTAL VOTES: 374

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support BNP's conditions, such as placing caretaker Government restoration bill and creating 'congenial' atmosphere in the House, for returning to parliament?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT

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PRAYER TIMING

December 30

Azan

Jamaat

Fajr

5:30

6:05

Juma

12:30

1:15

Asr

4:00

4:15

Maghrib

5:27

5:30

Esha

7:00

7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation



The mother, left, of Mamunur, inset, in tears after hearing of her son's death in a bomb attack. The photo was taken from Mamunur's Badda home yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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BRANCH

ফরিদপুর

আলোকিত শহর ফরিদপুরে

বেসিক ব্যাংক-এর ৪৫ তম শাখার মুকতিদ্বার করা হয়েছে।

বেসিক ব্যাংক ফরিদপুর শাখার শুভ উদ্বোধন করেন

ব্যাংকের সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান জনাব শেখ আব্দুল হাই বাচ্চু।

এ সময় উপস্থিত ছিলেন বেসিক ব্যাংকের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সদস্য জনাব প্রফেসর ড. কাজী আখতার হোসেন ও জনাব মো. আনোয়ারুল ইসলাম (এফসিএমএ), ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব কাজী ফখরুল ইসলাম, অতিরিক্ত ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব শেখ মনজুর মোর্শেদ। উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে আরও উপস্থিত ছিলেন এ এইচ গ্রুপের ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর জনাব আবুল হোসেন, বিশিষ্ট ব্যবসায়ী ও রাজনীতিবিদ খন্দকার মোহতেশাম বাবর। এছাড়া উপস্থিত ছিলেন বেসিক ব্যাংকের উপ-ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালকবৃন্দ, মহাব্যবস্থাপকবৃন্দ, উর্ধ্বতন কর্মকর্তাবৃন্দ, গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তিবর্গ, স্থানীয় উদ্যোক্তা এবং ব্যবসায়ী ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীরা।

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