

Witness narrates killing

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A collaborator then shot Bisha Bali, who had been tied to a coconut tree, Altaf said.

Mahbubul Alam Hawlader and Mahtabuddin Hawlader, the first and fifth prosecution witnesses, had also narrated how they saw Sayedee order a collaborator to shoot Bisha Bali.

Altaf Hossain Hawlader, 58, the ninth prosecution witness, yesterday completed his deposition in a case filed against Sayedee in connection with crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

Sayedee, Nayeb-e-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, is among five Jamaat and two BNP leaders who are facing war crimes charges at the tribunal.

After the deposition, the three-member tribunal headed by its chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq, began recording the cross-examination of Altaf.

His cross-examination will continue today.

The court started its proceedings yesterday at 10:37am

in the absence of Delawar Hossain Sayedee, who was earlier taken to the hospital for his scheduled physiotherapy. He arrived at the court at around 10:45am.

Altaf began his 25-minute deposition at 10:55am.

On June 2, 1971, Altaf was on his way to his maternal uncle's house at Umedpur village of Pirojpur, he told the court.

Sometime between 10:00am and 10:30am, he saw a group of Pakistani soldiers and collaborators, including Delawar Hossain Sayedee, enter Hindu Para in Umedpur village.

"I hid behind a bush beside the road to see what was going on," he told the court.

According to the witness, the soldiers and collaborators, including Sayedee, looted the houses in Hindu Para and afterwards torched around 18 to 20 houses.

"Meanwhile, they captured a person named Bisha Bali and tied him to a coconut tree. The collaborators then beat him up," he said.

Sayedee spoke to some Pakistani soldiers and it was then that he gave the order to shoot Bisha Bali.

"After he [Sayedee] gave the order, a collaborator shot him [Bisha] with a long gun. I'm not sure whether it was a rifle or a pistol. Bisha Bali screamed, 'Maa [mother].'"

Having witnessed the murder, a terrified Altaf made his way deep into the woods and later reached his uncle's house in the village.

Later that afternoon, many villagers gathered at Hindu Para to take a look at the burnt-down houses.

Altaf also went there and heard the villagers talking about the body of Bisha Bali.

"They were saying if Bisha Bali had been killed, what happened to his body?"

"There was blood where he was killed. I saw the blood as well," he said.

"Then the village women were saying that his body had been thrown into the canal," Altaf said.

Altaf said he went to

Parerhaat Bazar to buy groceries on a day in mid-June 1971.

He saw Sayedee along with other collaborators and people dismantling the store of Madan Saha in the northern end of the market. They took the goods of the store to Sayedee's father-in-law's house in a boat.

Earlier, the witness told the court that Pakistani soldiers came to Parerhaat on May 7, 1971.

Some six or seven days before they came, a Shanti Committee (Peace Committee) was formed in Parerhaat with Delawar Hossain Sayedee, Moslem Mawana, Danesh Ali Mollah and other collaborators of the area under the leadership of Sekandar Sikder, he said.

The same people then went on to form the Razakar (collaborators) Bahini under the leadership of Sayedee, he added.

They looted around 30 to 35 shops and houses in Parerhaat. The Pakistani soldiers set up camp at Rajlakshmi High

School, while a collaborators' camp was set up at the home of Fakir Das, Altaf said.

"All the atrocities, including arson, plunder and rape committed in Parerhaat and nearby villages was conducted under the leadership of Delawar Hossain Sayedee," he said.

After the witness finished his deposition, defence counsel Mizanul Islam began cross-examination at 11:28am.

Mizanul Islam asked Altaf whether he knew about the People's Court formed in 1992.

Altaf replied in the negative.

Mizanul then went on to list the names of 59 eminent personalities, including Jahanara Imam, who is known as Shaheed Janani (mother of a martyr), and asked Altaf whether he knew them.

Altaf said that he did not know them but had heard of them.

The counsel asked whether any of the people or anybody else on behalf of them had interviewed him about the incidents in 1971.

The witness said he could

not recall any.

During the cross-examination, the witness said he was the Awami League secretary of a ward in Parerhaat Union and he knew Sayedee since around six to seven years before the Liberation War.

He also admitted to the counsel that he did not try to find out the name of the collaborator who shot Bisha Bali forty years ago.

Witness Altaf was asked whether he had been convicted and fined for stealing the fish of one Chitto Shadhu, and chickens of Zainab, wife of Zainuddin.

The witness strongly denied the claim.

The court rejected the question after the defence pleaded that it reflected the credibility of the witness while the prosecution argued that they were merely personal scandals.

The day's proceedings ended with the defence submitting a petition to the tribunal to retain the rejected question in the records.

Govt seeks extension

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extend the loan agreement.

"The bank is planning to start new projects by wrapping up the ongoing ones," an official told The Daily Star.

In 2004, Bangladesh and ADB signed a loan agreement of Tk 1223 under the Networks Improvement and Maintenance Project (RNIMP-II) to improve a number of roads through repair and expansion.

As per the agreement, to receive the fund Bangladesh would prepare groundwork for the roads, timely project the necessary components and make satisfactory progress to implement them. Besides minor repair of other roads, six were chosen for major development under the project.

However, only the Panchagar-Banglabandh road including Tetulia bypass road is expected to be completed by end of 2012, the deadline for the ADB loan.

Of the remaining five roads, 2.8 - km Gaforgaon-Hossainpur-Kishoreganj, 33-

km Parbatipur-Fulbari-Madhyapara and 16-km Nandail-Kishoreganj road will be half-done due to slow progress.

Construction work for the 5-km Chittagon-Dohazari road is yet to start, as its contractor Islam Trader Consortium Limited, took no initiative to repair the road, leaving it in a sorry state.

Inefficiency of concerned officials, bureaucratic tangle and land-acquisition-related complications are responsible for failure to improve the roads in seven years, said communication ministry officials.

In the meeting, upgrading the Joydevpur-Chandra-Tangail-Hatikumrul road into four-lane was also discussed.

The ADB team revised an estimated \$250 million for the four-lane project. Earlier estimated cost was \$190 million.

Feasibility study of the project has been completed. Construction work is expected to begin by June this year after completing design of the road.

Little progress in police reform

FROM PAGE 1

Hawlader in his testimony.

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Sayedee order a collaborator to shoot Bisha Bali.

Altaf Hossain Hawlader, 58, the ninth prosecution witness, yesterday completed his deposition in a case filed in the force to keep it free from corruption and away from influential quarters. And that is why, the implementation of the draft

Police Ordinance is a prerequisite.

A high official in the home ministry wishing anonymity said, "Reforming police force requires a decision from the policymakers. The ministry has nothing to do without the nod from the government."

The draft ordinance sought to create an independent National Police Commission to recommend appointment of the police chief and posting of other high-ranking officials.

It also has a provision for an independent Police Complaint Commission to check crimes within the force.

Usually, transfers and appointments in the force widely depend on bribe and lobbying with the ruling political parties. So police officers remain loyal to political leaders rather than their department, several police high-ups said.

The draft ordinance sought to stop this practice and stated, "Direct or indirect influence in police investigation, law enforcement operation, recruitment, promotion, transfer, posting or any other function in an unlawful manner shall be a criminal offence."

A source said a sub-inspector (SI) in the haor areas needs to pay around Tk 1.5 lakh to Tk 2 lakh as bribe to have posting in nearby police stations like Bhairab, Narsingdi and Joydevpur.

Apart from the lack of proper policy, the police department is also limping with poor logistics and inadequate manpower, although Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pledged to solve those.

The premier in her speech in the Police Week-2011 made a series of pledges including solving the vehicle and housing crisis, introducing special allowance for Special Branch and CID and opening several wings like tourist police, marine police, and security and protection battalion.

She also spoke of taking steps to create 10 more grade-I posts in the force, upgrade the rank badge of the inspector general of police (IGP), raise the post of SI and sergeant to class-II while of inspector to non-cadre class-I.

In a latest development, the government yesterday upgraded the posts of inspectors, SIs and sergeants.

However, several high officials of police said most of the pledges the PM made has

remained unfulfilled.

M Mahbub Alam, assistant inspector general of police, said, "We have only 6,000 vehicles -- half of which are motorbikes -- against a requirement of 20,000. Of the vehicles in hand, the incumbent government bought around 650 double cabin pickups and motorbikes over the last three years."

As for instance of poor logistics, police station in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital, has only one double cabin pickup and four motorbikes for its 100 staff including the officer-in-charge (OC), 21 SIs, 11 assistant sub-inspectors.

OC Asaduzzaman of the police station said they have five other ramshackle vehicles, which are literally out of order. The station needs at least 10 double cabin pickups and 20 motorbikes, he added.

Sources in the police headquarters said they had sent the home ministry a proposal last November for providing eight double cabin pickups and 19 motorbikes for each police station having over 80 staffs while five pickups and 11 motorbikes for the ones having lesser number of police personnel.

Residential facility for police officers has been another problem that the government in its three years' time so far failed to solve.

Police headquarters sources said in the capital 92.23 percent police officers entitled to government quarters are living in rented houses. Against 33,545 personnel entitled for housing there are only 2,605 government quarters, number of which has not increased over the last three years.

Contacted, several SIs preferring not to be named said they receive Tk 3,500 to Tk 4,000 as house rent while they have to spend around Tk 7,000 to Tk 10,000 for rent which eats up a good share of their salary.

With this problem breathing down the neck, the government has created 20,000 posts as part of its move to recruit 32,000 more personnel. It has so far appointed over 17,000 police personnel.

Sources in the police headquarters said the incumbent government by this time introduced Industrial Police Unit, Armed Police Battalion (APBN) training school and Rangpur Range.

Meanwhile, the police department undertook

Security beefed up for polls

FROM PAGE 1

security blanket, and the authorities have already completed their preparation to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections.

A leading mayoral contender alleged that his agents are being harassed by the law enforcers. Police, however, denied the allegation.

According to locals, it would be a great challenge for the mayoral candidates to resolve the existing problems like traffic jam, water logging, drug peddling, incoherent development of infrastructure and deterioration of law and order in the city.

"They [leading mayoral candidates] have led the Comilla politics for last three decades. Some of them even headed the now defunct Comilla municipality but did not do anything. How will they run a city corporation?" Tarek Mahmud, a local resident, questioned.

Meanwhile, mayoral and councillor candidates gave their best to draw public attention during the last-moment campaign that ended last midnight.

All the candidates attended huge number of small rallies and meetings at different areas of the city.

Besides the deployment of Ansar members, 1200 Rab and over 2,000 police personnel will perform their duties to ensure peaceful voting.

Twenty seven executive magistrates and nine judicial magistrates will also work round the clock in consultation with nine election officials.

Election officials said 24 members of law enforcement agencies will be deployed in 24 vulnerable poll centres each while 22 members in normal centres.

The Election Commission has identified 47 out of 65 polling centres as vulnerable considering the previous records of the candidates of the respective wards.

A special team of Rab consisting 30 members and another reserve force of police will be deployed in every two centres on the voting day, said Returning Officer Abdul Baten.

No motor vehicle from

outside will be allowed to remain in the city after Tuesday midnight while non-residents will not be allowed to stay in the city, he said, adding that law enforcers have already started working to set up a number of check posts in different areas of the city.

Despite all these security measures, last moment allegations and counter allegations by the rival candidates and their representatives are creating tensions among the voters.

Prominent singer Asif Akbar, also leader of Comilla BNP alleged that law enforcers are harassing Sammito Nagorik Committee-backed candidate Monirul Hoque Sakku's polling agents in different ways.

"Police raided houses of some of our polling agents to harass them," he told The Daily Star yesterday. Police and election commission officials, however, denied his allegations.

Raising doubt on the capabilities of the candidates, Rafiqul Islam, a businessman of town hall market, said "These political leaders allowed illegal vehicles on city roads which later caused chaos on the streets."

Some aides of ruling party-backed candidate Afzal Khan said if Khan wins the poll they will be able to solve the exiting crises in the city through necessary cooperation from the government.

While Sakku said that he will forge movement if the gov-

ernment does not co-operate him after winning the polls.

MOBILE COURT ACTION
A mobile court has sentenced a person named Abul Kalam Azad to two months in jail for wooing people with money to vote for a mayoral candidate.

He was caught by police in the city's ward No-24 area while distributing money among voters yesterday.

Police Super Mokhesur Rahman said Azad worked for the contestant backed by Sammito Nagorik Committee.

Monirul Haq Sakku, the candidate, however, said the incident was a plot against him and Azad was not related to him anyway.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation
BTMC Bhaban
7-9, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
Web site: www.btmc.gov.bd, E-mail: btmccho@yahoo.com

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Ministry	Ministry of Textiles & Jute.
Agency	Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC)
Procuring Entity Name	Chief Engineer, BTMC, Tel: 8121859
Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, BTMC Office.
Source of Fund	BTMC own fund.
Expression of interest for short listing of the consulting firms.	For construction of 9 th to 13 th floor of BTMC Bhaban & 5 storied Garage.
EOI Ref. No.	BTMC / Unnayan / 650 / 2012 / 06 dated 2.1.2012
Procurement method	Quality & cost based selection (QCBS)
Development partner	None
Name of the Project	BTMC Bhaban (9 th to 13 th floor) & 5 storied Garage.
EOI closing date & time	18.01.2012 Up to 2-30 P.M.
Brief description of assignment	Design, Drawing with full time Supervision including Electrification Plum-bing, mechanical and other Ancillary works.
Experience resource and delivery capacity required	a) 10 years experience in 15 storied assignment, b) Adequate and appropriate resources to carryout the assignments, c) Up to date VAT, IT clearance, Trade Licence & Bank Solvency Certificate, d) Professional qualification & experience and resources to carryout the assignment, e) Administrative strength and financial capability to carryout the project.
Other details	Interested consulting firm(s) are invited to provide the following information: a) Background with brochures, area of expertise to perform the services, b) Descriptions of similar assignment with documents, c) Experiences in conducting full time supervision for similar nature of works, d) Manpower, logistic and financial capacity of the firm, e) Other necessary documents.

Phase	Phasing of services	Indicative start date	Indicate complete date
P-1	Site survey, Architectural & Engineering Design, Drawing.	1 February-2012	30 March-2012
P-2	Preparation of tender documents & tendering activities	10 April-2012	25 April-2012
P-3	Full time Site Supervision & submission of progress report (each month)	June-2012	December-2013
P-4	Project completion report according to Drawings & Design.	June-2012	December-2013

Name & Designation of the official inviting EOI : Engr. Enamul Kabir Haider, Chief Engineer, BTMC

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Chief Engineer,
BTMC, Dhaka.

Vacancy Announcement Re-Advertisement

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces the vacancy for the post of **Project Coordinator for the Civil Service Change Management Programme Project.**

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 17:00 pm, 18 January 2012.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
Female candidates are encouraged to apply.



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Schedule for receiving Initial Public Offering (IPO) Share Application forms

	For Resident Bangladeshi	For Non-Resident Bangladeshi (By hand)
DATE & TIME	JANUARY 08, 2012 TO JANUARY 12, 2012	JANUARY 08, 2012 TO JANUARY 12, 2012 (10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM)
Venue	Bankers to the Issue as mentioned in the Prospectus	Dhaka Zilla Krira Sangstha, Jheelpar, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000 (instead of Company's Head office).

- For Non-Resident Bangladeshis subscription closes on January 21, 2012 (By Post office/Courier service only).
- subscription sent by Post/Courier will be received in the Company's Head office only.



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