

## SQ Chowdhury

FROM PAGE 20  
tribunal that he would defend himself at the tribunal. The tribunal, however, appointed M Badiuzzaman, a Supreme Court lawyer, to defend him on December 12.

Yesterday, Badiuzzaman filed a petition before the tribunal claiming that the documents provided by the prosecution have nothing to substantiate evidence against "his client" and Salauddin should be discharged.

However, lawyers Reazul Karim and HM Ahsanul Karim Hena, "on behalf of Salauddin", submitted three petitions to the tribunal yesterday.

One of the petitions was for the cancellation of Badiuzzaman's appointment as Salauddin's lawyer. The other two were for suspending proceedings against Salauddin and seeking relevant documents of the case from the prosecution.

Reazul Karim told The Daily Star that they submitted the petitions with Salauddin Qader Chowdhury's permission.

However, Badiuzzaman told The Daily Star that he had examined the formal charges and documents and found that there is no substantial evidence for trying "his client". He said he submitted the petition through its registrar's office without the permission of the BNP leader, who faces 24 counts of war crimes charges.

"I went to Kashimpur jail on January 7 to meet and consult with Salauddin about the case proceedings against him, but he [Salauddin] refused to meet me. I submitted the petition to the tribunal for discharging Salauddin from the charges, as it is my duty to defend him," said the state defence lawyer.

He said the tribunal may hear the discharge petition on January 15, as it is scheduled to hear the charge framing against the BNP leader on that day.

## Abducted

FROM PAGE 20  
Then the abductors tied his hands and legs, gagged him and left him in a room, Mishuk continued.

Maj Mahfuz, commander of the Rab-12 unit who led the operation, said the smuggler, Bipul, had engaged Mishuk's classmate Rakibul Islam Joy to abduct him.

Rakibul then took two other friends of Mishuk-Mustakin Ahmed, a first year student of Kushtia Govt College, and Ruhin, a class X student of Kushtia Zilla School, to do the job.

Mishuk's father Robiul, who recently returned from Kuwait, told the media that Bipul made the first phone call to him Sunday midnight and demanded a Tk 10 lakh ransom which Bipul wanted him to send to India through hundi, an informal money transfer.

The abductors then phoned him several times, demanding the money and threatened to kill his son if he informed police of the matter, Robiul said. Yesterday was the last date to give the money.

Robiul said he initially had tried to negotiate with the abductors but later contacted local police and Rab.

Rab suggested continuing the negotiation so they could trace their phone calls and find them, said Mahfuz, the commander of the Rab unit.

With information about the place, the Rab team rushed to the spot and cordoned off Aslam's house around 2:30am yesterday.

They rescued Mishuk and arrested Mustakin, Ruhin, Aslam, the house owner; Firoj Sheikh, 38, of Amjhupi in Meherpur; Nipul Islam, 22, and Ariful Islam of Mazampur in Kushtia town, said the commander.

He added the mastermind, Bipul, an accused of nearly 40 cases of smuggling, abduction and other crimes, had left for India soon after the abduction.

The Rab team handed the arrestees to Kushtia sadar police in the morning. A Kushtia court sent them to jail at noon.

Meanwhile, police on Monday rescued Sadekur Rahman, 23, a student of Kushtia Police Lines School and College, from abductors who had demanded Tk 2 lakh as ransom for his release.

## War crimes

## FROM PAGE 1

During proceedings yesterday morning, the three-judge tribunal, headed by its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq, directed the prosecution to submit the formal charges against Kamaruzzaman by 3:00pm through its registrar's office. The prosecution not only missed the 3:00pm deadline, it also failed to submit it before the registrar's office closed for the weekend.

Tribunal Registrar M Shahinur Islam told the prosecution that he cannot accept the charges as they were not placed within the office hours or before the time the tribunal had asked it to submit.

However, during proceedings yesterday, Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Areeff Tipoo told the tribunal that they could not complete rearranging and reclassifying the formal charges against Kamaruzzaman but they would be able to complete the job and submit them by 3:00pm yesterday.

The tribunal gave the prosecution the time but the prosecution missed the deadline.

Meanwhile, a prosecutor requesting anonymity said in the rearranged and reclassified charges, Kamaruzzaman would be accused of 10 counts of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War. The prosecutor said the counts include crimes like killing, torture and looting.

The tribunal on

## Joint venture

## FROM PAGE 1

"I have waited for seeing Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina my whole life. Now I'm very happy and going back home with maximum happiness," said Kishore Datta, a schoolteacher who came from some 10 km away.

Addressing the reception, the prime minister recalled the great contributions of the people of Tripura to Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.

Mentioning Tripura's people as true friends of Bangladesh, she said, "Friends are those who stand beside anyone during bad times and you are the true friends of the people of Bangladesh."

About her being conferred a D. Litt degree from Tripura University, she said, "I don't know whether I'm really eligible for such an honour. The way Tripura has honoured me by conferring the degree, it seems that you have honoured the entire people of Bangladesh once again.

"I'm cheered by your love."

Citing that Bangladesh and India were moving forward more actively than at any time in the past through mutual cooperation, the prime minister said, "There might be problems concerning the two countries, but I don't think those are not possible to resolve. Every problem can be settled through discussions and we have already resolved many problems through such talks."

She said poverty is the common enemy of the region and all would have to be united to fight it. She hoped to help all including India to ensure none in this region could patronise "militancy and extremism."

"Our aim is to keep continue working together," she pointed out.

Hasina said Bangladesh and India were two independent countries. "One might be big and the other small, but our aim is to move forward with our own dignity and mutual cooperation."

She maintained that her government was highly criticised by the main opposition BNP for closely helping India, "but it can't be that we won't help our neighbour."

The transportation of cargo to Palatana power plant in Tripura through Ashuganj had already been completed and officials of the two countries were now working to remove the difficulties detected through the trial transport of cargo, added the premier.

Hasina further said her government had taken administrative steps to open the Sabrom-Ramgarh land port and set up four "border haats" on Bangladesh-Tripura border.

"If the initiatives are implemented, these will play an important role in uplifting the socio-economic situation of the entire region, apart from Bangladesh and Tripura."

She said her government had decided to allow India, Bhutan and Nepal use Chittagong and Mongla ports for expanding commerce and business in the respective countries.

"You can expand business by using the ports," the prime minister urged the Tripura government.

To close her speech, the prime minister said, "The warm love that I have got from you is never forgettable." Reciting poems of Rabindranath Tagore, Hasina said, "I have nothing to give but love to you at the time of my departure."

Chaired by Tripura Governor DY Patil, the reception was addressed by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar. Prafullajit Sinha, chairperson of Agartala Municipal Council, delivered the welcome address while the Tripura chief secretary offered the vote of thanks.

At the beginning of the programme, patriotic songs of Bangladesh were played through loudspeakers. The people listened to them in solemn silence.

Unprecedented security measures were in place at the reception. India's central and state governments coordinated the security measures.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain placed the report to draw the attention of the judges.

Meanwhile, ex-students of

## Jamaat men attack cops

## FROM PAGE 1

As Patrol Inspector Abul Bashan and another policeman rushed to the spot by a jeep, the demonstrators threw brickbats at them. They beat the cops indiscriminately and vandalised the vehicle before setting it on fire.

They snatched away Bashan's pistol loaded with eight bullets.

Within minutes, another police team chased the protesters, charged them with batons and lobbed tear shells. The activists responded by pelting brickbats at law enforcement.

The incident sent a wave of panic through the area halting traffic in Motijheel, Dainik Bangla, Paltan and Fakirpool areas for about half an hour. All the shops in the area put their shutters down during the clash.

On information, a fire fighting unit of Ramma Fire Service and Civil Defence reached the spot and found that policemen had already doused the blaze of the police jeep set afire by the protesters.

Police picked up three Jamaat workers from the spot and brought the situation under control.

The injured cops were undergoing treatment at Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital.

Jamaat sources, however, claimed the party had earlier announced to hold the protest programme. When the "peaceful" procession reached Dainik Bangla intersection, police charged batons on them provoking their retaliation, added the sources.

The International Crimes Tribunal on Wednesday sent former Jamaat-e-Islami

ameer Ghulam Azam to jail on charges of committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

When Jamaat-Shibir brought out a procession defying a ban, said police.

Our Barisal correspondent adds, Pirojpur police yesterday morning detained district Jamaat Secretary General Mawlawi Abdur Rob and activist Md Naim from Kapuria Patti area of the town.

Police have filed two separate cases with Motijheel Police Station against over five hundred persons, six of whom are named, for the attacks on police.

The arrestees include Bagha municipality unit Shibir President Ghulam Hussain and its upazila unit General Secretary Motiur Rahman.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds that five Jamaat-Shibir activists, who were arrested after a clash with police on Wednesday night, were sent to the jail yesterday.

Biswanath police said some unruly Jamaat-Shibir men brought out a procession near Biswanath Police Station. At one stage police clubbed the activists to disperse them and the party men retaliated hurling brickbats at the law enforcement.

Police picked up three Jamaat workers from the spot and brought the situation under control.

The injured cops were undergoing treatment at Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital.

Police picked up the five from the spot.

Three leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir were arrested from the Hawkers Market area in Chandpur town, reports our Chandpur correspondent.

The arrestees are Abdur Rahim Patwari, district Jamaat-e-Islami nayeb-e-ameer, 48, upazila Shibir Organising Secretary Rashedul Islam and activist Alamgir, 20.

The three were arrested

## Biswa Ijtema

## FROM PAGE 20

prayer on January 15. The second phase will start on January 20 and conclude on January 22.

Devotees from 32 districts will join the first phase and the rest will join the second phase.

Around 25,000 devotees from over 100 countries including China, India, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the UK and the US are expected to attend the congregation being organised by Tablig-e-Jamaat since 1967.

The Ijtema features sermons on fundamental issues of Islam, prayer for spiritual adulation, exaltation and welfare of the Muslim community.

Thousands of volunteers are working round the clock to prepare the venue on 160 acres of land to accommodate the devotees.

Shahjahan Miah, state minister for religious affairs, Shamsul Haque Tuku, state minister for home, and Jahangir Kabir Nanok, state minister for LGRD and cooperatives, visited the ground.

Pakistan has been under military dictatorships for about half its history since independence in 1947, its civilian leaders thrown out in a coup.

Speculation over the possibility of another coup filled social media sites on Wednesday, but analysts said it was unlikely, with early elections a more plausible outcome.

"Better sense will prevail. There will be no coup," said analyst Imtiaz Gul. "The centre of gravity basically is the Supreme Court right now and if anything at all (is carried out) against the government will move from within the Supreme Court, it will not come from within the army."

"All the indicators are for early elections," he said.

General elections had been expected in early 2013, but the predicted date has crept forward as the memo scandal has rumbled on and are now tipped for 2012, with some saying they could take place in the first half of the year.

Gilani sought to minimise confrontation in the immediate aftermath of Wednesday's row, but analysts believe the government could see its real test come in court.

Zardari has had difficult relations with the courts since he initially refused to reinstate the chief justice on coming to power in 2008 elections held a month after the assassination of his wife, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

That relationship has only worsened as his civilian administration has clung to power through repeated crises, with the judiciary bent on pursuing a host of long-running corruption cases against Zardari and other government figures.

The government is due to set out its position to the commission on Monday and its findings are expected to be presented by the end of the month.

Selim Hossain, officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Police Station, told The Daily Star that although the situation was calm, additional police remained deployed on the campus.

Two cases were filed in connection with the clash, he said.

Abdul Latif, sub-inspector of the police station, filed a case accusing 17 activists of Jamaat-e-Islami Chhatri Shibir, a pro-Jamaat student body, and 150 unnamed others of vandalism on the campus and assaulting lawmen during the incident.

Members of Bangladesh Chhatri League, a pro-Awami League student organisation, filed another case against some Shibir activists for vandalising student dormitories and also an ambulance of the SUST medical centre.

None were arrested yet, the OC added.

Meanwhile, BCL factions have taken control of residential halls driving out Shibirmen.

Muzahid Rumi, president of SUST Shibir, alleged BCL members in league with police had forced them out of the campus.

The teachers had permission, the vice-chancellor said, when asked.

## Defends 1971 role

## FROM PAGE 20

would have joined the war if it had been conducted without Indian help.

Interestingly, Ghulam Azam, who left the post of Jamaat-e-Islami in 2000, did not mention anywhere in the statement that he or his party had opposed the birth of Bangladesh.

She maintained that her government was highly criticised by the main opposition BNP for closely helping India, "but it can't be that we won't help our neighbour."

The transportation of cargo to Palatana power plant in Tripura through Ashuganj had already been completed and officials of the two countries were now working to remove the difficulties detected through the trial transport of cargo, added the premier.

Hasina further said her government had taken administrative steps to open the Sabrom-Ramgarh land port and set up four "border haats" on Bangladesh-Tripura border.

"If the initiatives are implemented, these will play an important role in uplifting the socio-economic situation of the entire region, apart from Bangladesh and Tripura."

She said her government had decided to allow India, Bhutan and Nepal use Chittagong and Mongla ports for expanding commerce and business in the respective countries.

"You can expand business by using the ports," the prime minister urged the Tripura government.

To close her speech, the prime minister said, "The warm love that I have got from you is never forgettable." Reciting poems of Rabindranath Tagore, Hasina said, "I have nothing to give but love to you at the time of my departure."

Chaired by Tripura Governor DY Patil, the reception was addressed by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar. Prafullajit Sinha, chairperson of Agartala Municipal Council, delivered the welcome address while the Tripura chief secretary offered the vote of thanks.

Its leading figures held a press conference yesterday in the teachers' lounge of the Social Science Faculty under the banner "Shikkhak Samaj - Jahangirnagar Nirjanan O Nipul Birodi Protibadi Shikkhakbrindo". The teachers' association said Prof Mamun adjourned the meeting and attempted to leave although he had been requested to continue.

Meanwhile, VC Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir refused to make any comment on the assault incident.

The fact that decided to boycott academic activities -- pro-BNP and a faction of pro-Awami League and left-leaning teachers -- is known on the campus as the group "disloyal" to the VC.