

**Dr Yusuf remanded**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dr Mohammad Abu Yusuf was placed on a five-day remand yesterday in connection with a case filed against him for assisting war crimes suspect Abul Kalam Azad to flee the country.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Moniruzzaman issued the order after Sub-Inspector (SI) Nizam Uddin of Uttarkhan Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case, produced him before it with a seven-day remand prayer.

Rab arrested Dr Yusuf, a retired National University teacher, from a house at Agargoan on Wednesday.

Dr Yusuf helped Azad, a fugitive war crimes suspect widely known as Bachchu Razakar, to flee to India following the issuance of an arrest warrant against Azad by the International Crimes Tribunal-2 on April 3.



A group of Jahangirnagar University teachers talk to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday over the ongoing instability at the university. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

**HC injunction on 2 housing projects**

*Bela files petitions to save Bayezid Bostami shrine and Madarsha Sreebil*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued an injunction for six months on implementation of two separate housing projects to protect the environment and heritage of Bayezid Bostami shrine and Madarsha Sreebil areas in Chittagong.

In response to separate writ petitions, the HC directed the authorities to stop construction of a housing project on the bank of a century-old pond, where rare species of tortoises are living, near Bayezid Bostami shrine, which is also a national heritage site.

JMG Holding Estate and Developer, a private housing company, is implementing a housing project damaging the pond and its rare species of tortoises, petitioner's lawyer Iqbal Kabir Lytton told The Daily Star.

The rare species of tortoises, which are a part of the national heritage, would go extinct, if the housing project was implemented near the pond, he said.

The court yesterday also ordered for stopping implementation of a housing project at Madarsha Sreebil, a water body and agricultural land area at Hathazari upazila in Chittagong.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim issued the orders after hearing the writ petitions filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) recently.

The court also issued separate rules upon the authorities concerned of the government and projects to explain in three weeks why the projects should not be declared illegal and against the public interest.

In the rules, the court asked the authorities to explain why they should not be directed to protect the environment and heritage of the areas where the housing projects were being implemented.

Bela filed the petitions seeking HC directives on the authorities to save the environment and heritage near Bayezid Bostami shrine and Madarsha areas.

**HILLARY'S VISIT**  
**Joint document likely, says FM**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said Dhaka and Washington are expected to sign a joint document during US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's two-day visit here tomorrow.

The document styled 'Bangladesh-US Partnership Dialogue' will work as a platform to discuss full range of bilateral issues and cooperation for future development, she told a press conference at the foreign ministry.

Elaborating the United States' proposed dialogue, Dipu Moni said it will have two tiers. The first one will be jointly headed by the foreign secretary of Bangladesh and the under secretary of the US State Department and they will meet every year.

"This tier will function as foreign secretary level consultations, an official mechanism that Bangladesh has with different countries," she said,

adding "Foreign minister of Bangladesh and the US secretary of state will head the second political-level tier."

Dipu Moni said at the official talks, Dhaka will ask for duty-free and quota free access of readymade garments to US market, Bangladesh's inclusion in the Millennium Challenge Account and repatriation of Bangabandhu's convicted killer Rashed Chowdhury, who is hiding in the US.

**PRANAB'S VISIT**  
Talking about Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's visit here tomorrow, Dipu Moni told reporters he will come basically to attend the closing ceremony of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

During his visit, Pranab Mukherjee will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, she said adding that he will also hold a meeting with her where they will discuss a range of bilateral issues espe-

cially expediting the implementation of decisions taken during Hasina's visit to India in January 2010 and Manmohan's visit to Dhaka in September 2011.

**ILIAS ALI ISSUE**  
At the press conference, Dipu Moni said the government is not worried about the human rights situation in the country.

Replying to a question about rights bodies' concern over the disappearances of Ilias Ali, Dipu Moni said, "Being a political leader, the missing incident of Ilias Ali is a matter of concern, and of course, we want its solution."

On a question about the proposal of forming a special commission by the Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to find out Ilias Ali, the foreign minister said the proposal can be reviewed.

**Youth stabs one-yr-old boy to death**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A youth hacked a one-year-old boy to death and injured three others in Boktaboli area of the sadar upazila on Wednesday night.

The attacker is a paternal cousin of the victim, Azizul Haque, son of Imam Ali.

The injured are Tanzila, 10, and Tania, 9, two sisters of Azizul, and one of their neighbours, Razia Begum, 32.

The two sisters were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition, while Razia was under treatment in Khanpur 200-bed hospital in the district town.

Police arrested the accused, Shamim, 26, early yesterday, and described him as a mentally challenged youth.

Abdul Matin, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Model Police Station, said that all on a sudden, Shamim entered the house of Imam and started stabbing Azizul with a sharp weapon.

As Tania and Tanzila, two sisters of the victim and their neighbour Razia came to resist Shamim, he stabbed them as well, leaving all of them critically injured, he said.

Shamim fled the scene soon afterwards. Locals rushed the injured to Khanpur 200-bed hospital where doctors declared Azizul dead.

The victims' mother Sultana Begum said the incident occurred soon after she went out of doors. Sultana's husband Imam Ali is an expatriate in Singapore.

**Concern over acid throwing incidents**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday expressed its concern over the increasing number of acid throwing incidents in recent times.

Addressing a get together of women journalists at Sufia Kamal Bhaban, Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said around 40 acid throwing cases were found in 2012 so far which is very alarming.

The number of rape incidents has also increased this year, she said.

Men and women have equal responsibility along with the government to make life friendlier for women, Ayesha said at the get together organised by sub-committee of publicity and mass media of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

**PM urges Russia to expand trade**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underscored the need for strengthening cooperation between the trade bodies of Bangladesh and Russia for boosting bilateral trade and commerce.

She expressed this view when Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander A Nikolaev called on her at her office.

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed journalists after the

meeting.

Hasina recalled the support of Russian government and its people to the War of Liberation of Bangladesh and post-war rehabilitation programmes particularly in minesweeping in Chittagong port.

Mentioning Russian support for the construction of the Rooppur Nuclear Plant, she said the project would be a flagship initiative in strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

**Nizami indictment decision May 28**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 will decide on May 28 if it would indict Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War of 1971.

The three-member tribunal set the date after Nizami's counsel Abdur Razzaq concluded the defence's arguments in favour of an application seeking discharge of the Jamaat chief.

If indicted, Nizami will face trial at the tribunal. Otherwise, he will be discharged.

The Jamaat chief was produced before the court yesterday. He is facing 15 charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the 1971 war.

Abdur Razzaq, the chief defence counsel of Jamaat leaders, yesterday argued that the charges against Nizami were "too vague".

The counsel referred to some charges, which mentioned anti-liberation statements and speeches given by Nizami during the war.

Razzaq argued that the prosecution had failed to substantiate the statements and speeches' connection to any crimes.

"Where are the alleged crimes?" said the counsel, adding that the prosecution was "thousands of miles away" from connecting the statements to any crimes.

He also went on to add that several charges mentioned that the "supporters of Nizami" had conducted atrocities on his directives.

"Who are these supporters? This is too vague and should have been more specific".

Upon hearing the arguments from the defence counsel, the tribunal fixed May 28 for deciding whether or not to frame charges against the Jamaat chief.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 is headed by Justice Md Nizamul Huq with Justice Anwarul Huq and AKM Zaheer Ahmed as the two other members.

**SALAUDDIN QUADER CHOWDHURY**  
After proceedings against Nizami were over, the tribunal

resumed proceedings against BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, another war crimes accused, by hearing the opening statement from the prosecution.

In the statement, prosecutor Zead Al Malum went through the historical context of this part of the subcontinent at length. He dwelt on the events that led to the Liberation War before the court adjourned proceedings for the day.

The proceedings against Salauddin Quader have been adjourned till May 7, when the tribunal is scheduled to record depositions of prosecution witnesses against the BNP leader.

The tribunal also directed Salauddin Quader's defence to submit a list of witnesses and documents it will rely on in the case by May 17.

In response to a defence application seeking adjournment of yesterday's proceedings, Justice Md Nizamul Huq said the tribunal was "not inclined to adjourn the opening statement" from the prosecution.

The tribunal, however, granted the defence more time to submit its documents and names of witnesses.

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury was produced before the court yesterday. He is facing 23 specific charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War of 1971.

At one point during yesterday's proceedings, the BNP leader told the tribunal that there were some discrepancies between the formal charges the prosecution submitted to the tribunal, and the charges that were framed against him.

"One thing was given and another thing was taken", he said.

Zaheer Ahmed, a judge of the tribunal, asked Salauddin Quader and his defence to specify the discrepancies so that the court could sort them out.

SQ Chowdhury and Motiur Rahman Nizami are two of the six Jamaat-e-Islami and two BNP leaders facing war crimes charges at two tribunals.



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**Know Bangladesh Better**

Let this fortnight's **Star Insight** take you back to the roots. Let this fortnight's cover story remind you about the love of the soil, about the immense sense of achievement embedded in being able to grow food out of fertile land. Also read about a recent Celebrating Life Festival and Concert at Jahangirnagar University and about a recent initiative in raising awareness about environmental conservation in tomorrow's issue.

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