

# Mojaheed called

**FROM PAGE 20**  
The other signatories of the statement were Motiur Rahman Nizami, the then president of Nikhil Pakistan ICS, its secretary Mohammad Yunus, and Nurul Islam, president of East Pakistan ICS.

Provoked by such speeches, the members of Al Badr, Al Shams and ICS formed similar forces in different areas and continued with confinements, torture and killing during the Liberation War, said prosecutor Badal.

In the formal charges, the prosecution mentioned 12 such incidents where the Jamaat leader had delivered speeches in rallies and given statements to newspapers.

The prosecution yesterday for the second time read out the formal charges containing the atrocities allegedly committed by Mojaheed during the Liberation War and pleaded that the court frame charges against the Jamaat leader.

Previously, the prosecution had read out the formal charges against Mojaheed, secretary general of the Jamaat-e-Islami, at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on March 11 and 20, before the case was transferred to Tribunal-2 on April 25.

Yesterday, prosecutor Badal read out 24 charges of abetment and complicity in 12 incidents and eight charges of torture, murder and genocide in eight incidents against Mojaheed.

The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir and including Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam, adjourned the case proceedings until May 24 following a time petition by defence counsels.

The prosecutor charged the Jamaat leader with the murders of Rumi, son of writer Jahanara Imam, and journalist Sirajuddin Hossain.

On August 30, 1971, Rumi along with at least four others was killed after the Jamaat leader had told the Pakistani occupation army that they needed to be killed before a general amnesty was declared, said the prosecutor.

In another incident, Sirajuddin Hossain, the then executive editor of the daily

Ittefaq, was abducted on December 10, 1971 by a group "controlled" and "directed" by Mojaheed, said the prosecutor, adding that Sirajuddin was never found after.

At one point, the chairman of the tribunal told the prosecutor that in many incidents he had not mentioned the reasons behind the killings and torture.

"You did not do your homework. You have just mentioned [in formal charges] what the investigating officer had written [in his report]," said the tribunal chairman.

In reply, Badal told the court that the witnesses had mentioned the reasons in their statements and the prosecution did not bring it up to make the formal charge "shorter".

Mojaheed, a former minister of the BNP-led government, was produced in court yesterday.

## CASE AGAINST ABDUL ALIM

Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta yesterday completed his arguments on the charge framing against former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim in connection with the crimes against humanity he allegedly committed during the Liberation War.

The Tribunal-2 adjourned the case proceedings until May 23, when the defence is scheduled to place their arguments.

Earlier, the defence said Alim was arrested under the Collaborators Act in 1972 but released due to scanty evidence. It would be double jeopardy if he was tried again, argued defence counsel.

In response, Rana Dasgupta referred to Article 35(2) of the constitution where it is stated, "No person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once."

But the accused was "neither convicted nor acquitted" in the charges, so there is no bar to holding the trial against him, said the prosecutor who placed an observation of the Tribunal-1 supporting his arguments.

The prosecutor pleaded that the court frame charges against the former minister.

Alim, who is facing 74 charges of crimes against humanity, was present in court yesterday.

# Meaningful talks

**FROM PAGE 20**  
experiments would not be successful in this country", he observed.

Laying importance on reaching an understanding to prepare the ground rules for elections, he said, "I believe there will be an agreement. Now the question is: when will the agreement be? Will it be next week, will it be next month? I don't know. The sooner the political parties reach an agreement on ground rules, the better it is."

Asked about the caretaker government system, he said he had no thought or position about it. "We believe major parties find ways or plans or mechanisms, whatever you mean, to hold a free, fair, credible and participatory election."

The discussion was organised by Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS). BIPSS President Maj Gen ANM Muniruzzaman (ret'd) moderated the programme.

On issues of killing, disappearances and violation of human rights, Mozena said the US secretary of state during her visit had raised the issue of missing BNP leader Ilias Ali and the killing of labour leader Aminul Islam.

It is the duty of the government to ensure the security of its citizens and resolve issues through independent investigation, he said.

About the death of garment workers' leader Aminul Islam, he said it was not much in discussion in Bangladesh

but there was a sharp reaction in the US and Europe.

He said Hillary Clinton had informed the Bangladesh side that the US-based labour organisation NFL-CIO had filed a petition asking for a suspension of GSP benefits for Bangladesh.

US buyers are very concerned over labour situation in Bangladesh, he said, adding that three nights ago he had received a phone call from the CEO of a big US company at midnight. The (CEO) was worried about the growing negative publicity about Bangladesh in the US.

Similarly, two days ago six Bangladeshis working for US buyers met him and told him that their headquarters were not happy over the labour situation in Bangladesh, he added.

TICFA Mozena said the Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework Agreement (TICFA) was a simple agreement and now the dispute had come down to one single issue--labour standards. "I hope it will end successfully".

Justifying the importance of signing the deal, he said it would establish a platform to get together to find out the obstacles to trade and investment.

A delay in signing the agreement will send out a negative signal about Dhaka as the world might feel that Bangladesh is deviating from its commitment to establish international labour standards, he added.

# Irrelevant exhibits

**FROM PAGE 1**  
witness in the case, was being cross-examined by the defence.

"Why should you submit an exhibit unless it has a link with the case in hand?" the judge asked.

Zaheer Ahmed criticised the prosecution and the IO for submitting irrelevant exhibits without thinking of the consequences.

"You go wild while submitting exhibits but don't see what you are submitting and why," he said.

The judge later apologised to the prosecution saying that he had become emotional and reminded the prosecution to be more careful while submitting evidence.

It all started with a question from defence counsel Mizanul Islam, who had been cross-examining the IO for the 11th day yesterday.

He asked the IO about some tanks shown in a footage that was presented as evidence in the case.

The footage was among the video clips, newspaper articles and documents the IO had submitted as evidence against Sayedee during his nine-day testimony.

The materials gave a general overview of the atrocities committed in 1971, but mentioned nothing about Sayedee.

"The tanks shown in the clip, did you investigate where they were manufactured?" was the question from the defence counsel.

The three-member tribunal argued that the piece of information had little relevance to the case.

The defence lawyer, however, insisted that the question was very much relevant.

"As the prosecution has exhibited these as evidence, they must have some motive behind it," responded Mizanul Islam, adding that the footage was shown to make the court atmosphere "heavy".

Zaheer Ahmed later reminded the defence counsel that even though everyone might become emotional watching the footage, it would have little effect in the actual judgement.

The defence counsel later asked about the script of declaration of the country's independence, which was also submitted as evidence.

The tribunal then asked the IO whether the declaration of independence was really relevant to the case against Sayedee.

Helal Uddin replied that he included the exhibit to prove that Bangabandhu proclaimed the war of liberation.

"What are you saying? Is this court here to prove history? Are you entitled to do that in this case?" said AKM Zaheer Ahmed, "These are admitted facts."

"Think about the exhibits before you submit them. Try to understand where they can lead and the consequences of

submitting them," the judge added.

He asked IO Helal Uddin whether Bangabandhu's family album, which was submitted as an exhibit, had any relation with Sayedee and the charges brought against him.

The IO replied in the negative.

The tribunal later adjourned the proceedings against Sayedee until today.

The Jamaat nayebe-ameer was produced before the court yesterday. His is facing 20 counts of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War of 1971.

Meanwhile, another defence counsel Tajul Islam yesterday complained to the court that a defence witness had been arrested in another case while another witness faced harassments from local police. He referred to a report published in yesterday's edition of the daily Naya Diganta.

Justice Md Nizamul Huq, chairman of Tribunal-1, asked the defence counsel to submit an application regarding the matter.

## Wasfia

**FROM PAGE 20**  
phone from others," said Enam adding, "They are completely safe until now. I hope there will be no hazard on their way down."

Due to the delay on their way to the base camp, their journey back to Bangladesh will also be delayed.

They were expected to arrive in Dhaka on Saturday or Sunday next, but now it will be delayed by at least a day.

At least three climbers died and two went missing while returning from the summit of Mount Everest on Saturday as a windstorm swept the mountain, reports BBC Online.

The dead are believed to be South Korean Song Won-bin, German Eberhard Schaaf and Nepali-born Canadian woman Shriya Shah, said the report, quoting an official of Nepali Mountaineering Department.

The missing mountaineers are believed to be a Chinese national and his Nepali guide.

Over 300 climbers belonging to 33 teams got permission to climb the mountain from the Nepali side of Mount Everest this season.

A study published in the British Medical Journal in 2006 revealed that on an average, there had been one death for every 10 successful attempts to scale the Everest, according to the BBC report.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Nishat's father Abdul Mannan Majumder urged people to pray for his daughter's safe return home.

Musa Ibrahim on May 23, 2010, became the first Bangladeshi to conquer Everest, while MA Muhit has scaled the world's highest mountain twice.

# State oil for stealing

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The Rab personnel seized the oil-tanker named OT Prianka and 11 tank-lorries, each of which has the capacity of holding 8,000 litres of oil, said Rab-7 Deputy Commanding Officer Maj Mohammad Ziaul Ahsan Sarwar, adding that four of the lorries already had transferred oil to the tanker while the others were still full.

The seized oil-tanker was containing 2,18,000 litres of furnace oil.

Rab sources said they suspect there had been other hauls like this which had not got caught.

Kazi Ali Hossain, manager (sales) of Padma Oil, however said there is no evidence that the hauled oil is from Padma Oil, but they will investigate the matter.

Rab-7 officials said they had been monitoring the ghat area for the last three days.

Maj Ziaul told The Daily Star that Rab members challenged an oil carrying tank-lorry going towards Anu Majhir Ghat area on Saturday, but the driver showed a receipt and told them that the oil was being carried from a ship-breaking yard in Fauzderhat.

"We started investigating the matter and observed the oil loading and unloading process," he said.

Fifteen oil carrying tank-lorries got out of the Padma Oil depot located at Patenga from 4:00pm to 6:00pm on Sunday, he said adding that 11 out of the 15 reached Anu Majhir Ghat.

Rab members yesterday visited the Padma Oil distribution centre at Sadarghat

and found that 1.2 lakh litres of furnace oil had been dispatched from the depot for 15 companies on Sunday.

The names of the 15 companies are: Thandachari Tea Garden, Omar Sultan Dying and Spinning Mills, Pacific Steel Mills, Mack Steels Industries, Motaleb Steel Mills, Clifton Apparels Ltd, Rupali Chemical Ltd, Azizuddin Industries, Jamuna Fertiliser and Agro Chemical Ltd, Sabab Re-rolling Industries, AK Steel Ltd, N Alam Steel Ltd, Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling Mills, Anan Re-rolling Mills, and Nayek Steel Re-rolling Mills.

Signature of one Suman was found as the dealer for 11 of the companies in the documents seized by Rab, said Maj Ziaul.

Maj Rakibul Amin, deputy director of Rab-7 who led the operation, said after investigation they did not find existence of the 11 companies.

But Md Asif Malek, manager (marketing) of Padma Oil, said all those companies have been regularly buying furnace oil from the state-run company for the last 5 to 6 years.

SM Rejoan Hossain, acting chairman of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), which controls Padma Oil, said they are investigating the incident to find out whether there was any wrongdoing.

"The party took the delivery in a right manner. But we don't know why the party was taking the oil there. There could have

been criminal or other intention behind the incident," he said.

He said the companies of BPC market the products on recommendations from a three-member sales committee. The companies make the delivery on the basis of the committee report.

Furnace oil seekers have to apply with the sales committee to buy the fuel. Only listed companies can buy oil from Padma, he said.

Furnace oil is not supposed to be sold on the open market, said Mozammel Haque, manager (admin) of Padma Oil.

Another official of BPC said there are some misuses of the system, as some companies who buy oil from BPC subsidiaries sell the fuel on the black market.

"Sometimes, the companies buy more oil than necessary. We heard that companies out of operation also bought furnace oil to sell on the black market," said the official on condition of anonymity.

"Local and foreign ships also buy furnace oil from the black market in Chittagong as ships run on furnace oil," said the official.

Officially, Jamuna Oil Ltd is the only company that is allowed to sell furnace oil to local and foreign ships, but Jamuna cannot meet the demand. Under the circumstances, for foreign ships that could not get oil from Jamuna, the only legal option is to buy the fuel from Singapore at a higher price, he said.

# Brutally tortured at SQ Chy's residence

**FROM PAGE 1**  
September 2, 1971, he was on his way to Goods Hill to appeal for the release of his two Hindu employees.

He had hired a house from a local Hindu person to arrange accommodation for his Hindu employees, who had been facing harassment by the Pakistani soldiers on their way to work at the printing press.

The two employees -- Dawal and Swapan -- were abducted by the Al Shams force on false charges.

The notorious Al Shams force, which collaborated with the Pakistani army and actively opposed the country's liberation, used to abduct pro-independence people from different parts of Chittagong at the dictat of Salauddin Quader during the war, the witness said.

The hostages were rounded up at the Goods Hill residence of Salauddin Quader's family, he added.

While Salimullah was on his way, the Al Shams force and a group of "Sindhi police" abducted him from Chittagong's Obhoymitraghat Road.

Two "Sindhi police" members detained him, forced him into a car and drove him to Goods Hill along with a 70-year-old "Khalifa", the witness said.

After reaching the house, Hamidul Kabir Chowdhury Khoka, Chittagong commander of Al Shams force, gave the soldiers an order in Urdu.

"Sala Malaun ka sarfarasti karta hai. Uska pa upar karo, ser niche koro" [he advocates for the Hindus, put his legs up and head down] was the order.

Salimullah was then hung upside down from a pillar in the yard of Goods Hill.

"They beat me up all over my body with the back of their rifles," he said.

Tortured, he and the "Khalifa" were taken to the garage of Goods Hill house and were further tortured there.

The garages in the house were used as "torture cells", where the abducted persons were held captive and tortured, said Salimullah.

"While I was in the garage, I heard groans coming from two or three adjacent garages," he said.

Extremely thirsty, Salimullah slept through the night although he remembers seeing the headlights of a car outside the garage between 12:00 midnight and

1:00am.

"Very early in the morning, I heard gunshots outside," he said. "Apparently, the sons of Fazlul Quader Chowdhury used to receive training in shooting every morning."

During that hour, they also used to kill people who needed to be killed, he added.

Salimullah told the tribunal he heard the sounds of a Sindhi police member reciting from the Quran in a very sad tone. That Sindhi police member later passed him a mug of water, which he was taking to the toilet.

"I regained my life. That water perhaps saved my life that day."

At 8:30am, Al Shams commander Hamidul Kabir Chowdhury Khoka opened the garage door and embraced Salimullah, asking for forgiveness.

He later found his nephew Mohammad Ishak and a friend named Shafiqur Rahman waiting outside, who asked him to go with them.

Salimullah insisted that he would not leave without the "Khalifa" who had been tortured along with him. The Al Shams commander, however, refused to let the "Khalifa" go.

"I never saw 'Khalifa' or my two employees ever again. I believe they were murdered."

While he was being taken outside, Salimullah saw Saifuddin Quader Chowdhury, youngest brother of Salauddin Quader, standing beside the stairs.

"My friend Shafiqur Rahman went towards him and angrily said the fact that they formed the Al Shams force and were torturing innocent people would not yield good results."

According to the witness, the Chittagong Al Shams force was comprised of Khoka, Syed Wahidul Alam, Jafar alias Mahabub and Saifuddin Quader Chowdhury.

The force took hold of the house of a Runu Babu on Chittagong's Obhoymitraghat Road, and conducted their activities under the supervision of Salauddin Quader and leadership of Salauddin Quader's father Fazlul Quader Chowdhury, the witness added.

"They used to travel in a red jeep provided by Fazlul Quader Chowdhury and

leave the house at around 8:00am or 9:00am," said Salimullah.

They used to go to Satkania, Boalkhali, Patia, Raozan and other areas in Chittagong, and based on information from "sources", they abducted independence-seeking people, and torched and looted the houses of the Hindus.

"If they saw any beautiful young girls, they would abduct them and bring them along," added the witness.

The abducted people used to be tortured throughout the night, and the girls were handed over to the Pakistani army, he said, adding that many of the captives were killed and their bodies thrown into the Karnaphuli river from Kalurghat Bridge.

He also told the court that in 2010 he identified the garage where he had been tortured and the road from where he had been abducted and showed it to the investigation officer.

"The garage used to have a wooden staircase beside it. I did not see it when I visited it this time," said Salimullah, adding, "I also saw some more tin-shed garages, which were not there when I was held captive."

"I want justice. I have waited for this very day for 40 years," he told the court.

The witness said the Al Badr, Al Shams and Razakar forces formed two separate Shanti Committees in Chittagong during the War.

The Shanti Committee was formed to collaborate with the Pakistani occupation army and actively oppose the Liberation War movement.

Salauddin Quader and Fazlul Quader Chowdhury led one of the two committees, the witness added.

The other committee was led by Mahmudun Nabi Chowdhury, he added.

At one point during his testimony, the witness exchanged heated words with defence counsel Ahsanul Haq Hena.

During the exchange, which involved the witness, defence, prosecution and the tribunal, Salimullah addressed the defence counsel as "Hena saheb" and commented that he was "advocating" for a war criminal.

Trying to keep the situation under control, Tribunal Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq said: "He is not an expert witness. That is why there are certain prob-

lems." That is why they prefer to buy the oil from the black market in Chittagong, the official added.

"This is an open secret. Every body knows about it. The law enforcing officials also know about it," said the BPC official.

Brick-kilns, tea estates, rubber gardens, re-rolling mills, and cottage industries also consume furnace oil, he added.

Another source at BPC said Jamuna Oil has not been selling furnace oil to foreign ships since January 2011, which actually widened the scope for black marketing.

Jamuna officials at Chittagong could not say why the company stopped selling the fuel to foreign ships. An energy ministry probe also recommended that the government takes action against Jamuna Oil for stopping the sale of furnace oil to foreign ships, said a Jamuna official on condition of anonymity.

Rab-7 Deputy Commanding Officer Ziaul said when they asked for the list of companies that get oil from Padma, the officials of the company could not show any such list.

He also said they suspect high level officials of Padma are involved in black marketing of furnace oil.

He said Rab is preparing to file a case in connection with the haul implicating the detained 23 and the three-member sales committee of Padma Oil.

[Md Fazlur Rahman and Tarek Mahmud also contributed to this report]

# Suicide blast

**FROM PAGE 20**  
The unidentified bomber detonated his explosives as soldiers from the government's central security forces, commanded by a nephew of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, rehearsed for an army parade to mark the 22nd anniversary of the unification of north and south Yemen, according to the military official.

Yemen's defence minister, Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, was present at the time of the explosion but escaped unharmed, the official added.

Witnesses said human remains were scattered across the site of the blast at Sanaa's Sabeen Square, where the Yemeni government often holds large military parades.

An AFP correspondent said dozens of ambulances rushed to evacuate the dead and wounded, as security forces cordoned off the area.

Monday's attack is Sanaa's most deadly since Hadi took power in February with a pledge to fight Al-Qaeda's growing presence in the country.

Hadi, who was elected in a single-candidate vote as stipulated by the Gulf-sponsored transition deal that forced Saleh's ouster, was expected to give a speech at the military ceremony scheduled for Tuesday.

It remains unclear if the parade will take place as planned.

The suicide bombing comes 10 days into a massive army offensive against Al-Qaeda in Yemen's restive southern Abyan province, where the jihadists have seized control of a string of towns and cities in attacks launched since May last year.

The offensive followed days after the White House announced that a plot by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to blow up a US airliner had been foiled.

Yemen military and tribal sources said Monday that 11 Al-Qaeda fighters and three Yemeni soldiers were killed in

the latest fighting around the southern city of Jaar.

The clashes during the night took place mainly at the city's western entrance, a military source said, adding that 17 soldiers were wounded in the clashes.

In a separate incident Monday, Al-Qaeda militants attacked a Yemeni military base in Wadi Hassan, east of Zinjibar, killing seven soldiers and wounding 23 others, military officials and medics said, adding that fierce fighting also erupted northeast of the city.

Since the offensive began, 234 people have been killed, according to a tally compiled by AFP, including 158 Al-Qaeda fighters, 41 military personnel, 18 local militiamen and 17 civilians.

Residents and tribes in the area surrounding Jaar have formed armed militias, Popular Resistance Committees, to back the army, similar to those formed in other Abyan towns -- Loder and Mudia.

According to Western diplomats in Sanaa, US experts have been advising the Yemeni army in combat.

On Monday, Al-Qaeda militants claimed they raked with gunfire a convoy carrying four US military advisers in Hudaida, but American officials said they had no such personnel in the west Yemen port city.

The jihadists said in a statement that gunmen had opened fire on Sunday on two cars carrying four American military advisers who were in the Red Sea city on a training mission with the Yemeni Coast Guard.

The militants "opened fire on them as they left their hotel on their way to work," the statement said, adding that the attackers were able to flee despite efforts by Yemeni security forces to cordon off the city.

The US embassy in Sanaa however denied the presence of American military advisers in Hudaida.