SQ Chy shot at Nutan

FROM PAGE 1

Gouranga Singha, nephew of Nutan Chandra, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 during his onehour deposition yesterday. The recording of the testimony began at 11:00am.

Gouranga's father Dwarika Mohon Singha, his uncles Nilambar Singha and Nutan Chandra Singha used to live as a joint family at Kundeshwari of Gahira village in Chittagong during the Liberation War in

"We, Himangshu Boidya, Brozohori Karmakar, Gopal Das, Monoranjan Singha, Nutatn Chandra and I, were at my uncle's [Nutan] house that day. We were trying to convince him to move to a safe place but he did not agree," said Gouranga giving the date of the incident as Chaitra 30 (according to the Bangla

At this, the defence asked the witness to give the date according to the English calendar but Gouranga failed to recall.

calendar).

The witness said while they were talking at Nutan's house, Salauddin along with Pakistani army came to the house by a military jeep around 9:00am. Seeing them, all but Nutan Chandra fled and took refuge in nearby woods south from the house.

"Brozohori told me that he and Gopal hid on the first floor of the house from where he saw Salauddin and the army personnel force entered the house. They left after talking to Nutan Chandra," said Gouranga, who also used to look after the family business of herbal medicine.

"A few minutes later they came back. Brozohori later told me that through the window he had seen them

to a significantly higher

The inflated figure, as

Kawabata justified, was due to

an increase by 83 kilometres

of the fibre optic line to

1,514km from the initial

1,432km and the country's

"severe environmental condi-

microwave links to 4 from the

original plan of 11, along with

a few other cost-cutting

Whereas, in another pro-

ject, the government is cur-

rently installing an optical

fibre cable network in 1,000

union parishads at \$3.78 per

ventures by the BTCL cost \$6-

7 per metre. But the estimate

for the JICA project was an

When The Daily Star

wanted to know from the

BTCL about the reworked

estimate by the Japanese

consultant, it said the original

plan was to lay 824 kilometres

of fibre cable network but that

has been extended to 1,514

alarming \$12.32 per metre.

Similar other previous

However, he decreased the

amount of \$24.73 million.

FROM PAGE 20

changes.

drag my uncle out from the temple and riddled him with bullets. After a few minutes, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury shot at him and left," said Gouranga.

Brozohori also told Gouranga that Nutan's body had laid there for two to three days before chairman of the village Amanat Khan called some people and cremated it.

Gouranga also shared his experience of that time with the tribunal.

"I understood they had talked with my uncle and left," he said.

As the defence drew the tribunal's attention over the word "understood", Gouranga said he assumed it hearing the sound of the engine of the jeep from the woods.

"Ten minutes later, I heard the vehicle coming back. Then I heard the sound of firing, perhaps of sten guns. After a few minutes, I heard two to three more gunshots," said Gouranga adding that they then moved further south to save themselves.

They took shelter in their neighbour Ahmed Bashar's house and requested him to collect information about Nutan Chandra. Bashar told them that their uncle had been killed and his bloodstained body had been lying in front of the temple.

"Hearing this, we --Himangshu, Monoranjan, Bhaskar, Bashar and I -rushed home and covered the body with a piece of canvas," he said, adding that they found the left side of the face and chest riddled with bul-

Gouranga then moved to his father-in-law's house in Binajuri and there on to India through Ramgarh. He returned to Bangladesh eight

in the estimated costs.

The BTCL further added

that half the length of the

cable network will be laid out

using the costly horizontal

directional drilling (HDD)

technology -- a method to lay

cable without digging -- and

that the cable route would

include two river beds, which

is always a cost-intensive

However, a reliable source

of the BTCL contradicted the

statement, saying that only

around 30 percent of the route

would employ the HDD

method -- that too would not

cost more than \$6 per metre --

and that the original plan

BTCL's claim on laying 824

kilometres of fibre cable was

of the planning department of

the BTCL said they never got

the detailed break-ups of the

new estimate from the con-

formed a committee to assist

the consultant, but according

to a letter that the committee

sent to the managing director

South Asia is 0.6 percent,

whereas it is 3.3 percent in

kilns, which are largely

responsible for deforesta-

tion, are regulated by the

Department of

Environment and the dis-

trict administration and

many of those are running in

has the exact idea on the

number of total brick kilns in

the country as even the main

regulator -- the Department

of Environment -- does not

team of enforcement and

monitoring unit of the

department is conducting

drives against brick kilns

Environment said brick kilns

are not only burning fire-

wood and polluting the air

but also destroying the envi-

A study conducted in

An official from the

Currently, a single mobile

have the exact number.

Department

violating laws.

No government agencies

a freestyle manner.

Interestingly, the brick

Bangladesh.

They also said the BTCL

The official also said the

Interestingly, the officials

included the two river beds.

Telecoms project

exercise.

to 10 days after the independence. After the return, Brozohori narrated that day's story to him.

Satyaranjan, son of Nutan Chandra, had filed a case in connection with the killing with Raujan Police Station after the Liberation War, said the witness adding that he did not know about the fate of the

case. He said all his family members except for himself and his cousin Profulla, who witnessed the liberation war, were dead.

Defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena began crossexamining the witness by asking whether Gouranga could identify Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in the courtroom.

Gouranga responded in the affirmative and turned his face towards the dock where Salauddin was. At this, Salauddin waved his hand at Gouranga and the witness waved him back. Salauddin is facing 23

counts of charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War. The proceedings of the

case were adjourned until June 6. The tribunal asked the

prosecution to bring the third witness of the case, Sirajul Islam alias Shiru Bangalee, on June 6 for cross-examination. The court then began

recording cross-examination of the investigation officer of a case filed against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee in connection with war crimes.

Sayedee is facing 20 charges of crimes against humanity committed in 1971 The proceedings of the case were adjourned until June 5.

on January 9 this year, the

consultant never met the

said it was not possible to

evaluate the new estimate as

there were no breakdown of

the equipment and their unit

prices, the types of fibre cables

and the methodology to be

BTCL when the estimate was

approved, so I can't comment

on the estimate," said

Managing Director of BTCL

JICA authority in Bangladesh

refused to be drawn into the

allegation of over estimation

or malfunction in the pro-

sentative of JICA Bangladesh

said, "Procurement responsi-

bility lies with the BTCL. We

are waiting for BTCL officials'

response to the procurement

We expect they should pro-

cure efficiently and account-

ably as per the country's

procurement rules and regu-

lations and our JICA guide-

Madhya Pradesh in India

assumes three to four hect-

ares of fertile land is con-

sumed by each brick kiln

which ultimately turns into

According to the

wetland in eight to 10 years.

Bangladesh Environment

Conservation Law, 1995

(amendment 2010), chang-

ing characteristics of the

The government formu-

lated the Bangladesh Brick

Kilns Control Act, 2006 that

prohibits setting up brick

kilns within three kilometres

of any reserve forest or resi-

kilns only can use roots of

bamboo and trunks of date

palms as those do not have

everywhere operating freely

even at the corner of reserve

forests, atop hills, in residen-

tial areas and also in com-

mercial areas posing serious

threat to environment and

have been urging the gov-

ernment for long to convert

the traditional brick kilns

into environment friendly

brick plants which could

save a great number of trees

and reduce air pollution.

The green campaigners

But brick kilns are found

The same law says brick

dential area.

other use.

human health.

o f

land is an offensive crime.

Kei Toyama, senior repre-

curement process.

"I was not the MD of the

In the letter, the committee

team.

used.

Azizul Islam.

Credit card FROM PAGE 1

deposited in the bank's accounts. But the money was not deposited at all," he added.

ATN chairman

killing of the journalist couple

The demand came after

"Sagar-Runi were victims of

journalist leaders in a state-

ment released yesterday said,

'Such a speech about Runi

who was a journalist of ATN

Bangla by the owner of the

organisation is inhuman,

discourteous and defama-

The journalist leaders

demanded that Mahfuzur be

quizzed immediately as he

claimed to have video footage

on the motive behind the

ment was not only indecent

and objectionable but also

illegal, at a time when an

investigation into the murder

Journalist Union (BFUJ)

presidents Iqbal Sobhan

Chowdhury and Ruhul Amin

Gazi, Secretary General Abdul

Jalil Bhuiyan, acting secretary

general M Abdullah, Dhaka

Union of Journalists (DUJ)

presidents Abdus Shahid and

Omar Faruque, general secre-

taries Muhammad Baker

Hossain and Shaban

Mahmud, Jativa Press Club

President Kamal Uddin,

General Secretary Syed Abdal

Ahmad, Dhaka Reporters

Unity President Shakhawat

Hossain and General

Secretary Sazzad Alam Khan

A journalists' rally will be

held today demanding trial of

all journalist murders, includ-

ing those of Sagar and Runi,

end to oppression of journal-

ists and freedom of media

Journalist leaders will

submit a memorandum to the

speaker of parliament after

before the Jatiya Press Club.

the programme.

signed the statement.

Bangladesh Federal

They said this sort of com-

murders.

is underway.

Protesting the remarks, the

an extra-marital affair".

FROM PAGE 1

Sagar-Runi.

Most of the 21 cards were issued against the close relatives, including brothers and wives of the accused officials, according to the bank's investigation.

Credit card fraud is common in developed countries, particularly in the US and in Europe, where scammers use spy ware or other mechanisms to obtain a credit card's details, which they use to withdraw money through a

duplicate credit card. There are examples of credit card fraud in India and

On the other hand, the other Asian countries. But the UCB case is the first such instance in a bank in Bangladesh.

The inquiry shows that Nahidul Haque, the assistant vice-president, withdrew more than half of the Tk 10 crore using nine cards. He is the highest beneficiary of the

He pocketed more than Tk crore through using a card belonging to one Sabbir Ahmed Hussain. He used another card belonging to one Liton Talukder to pocket anotherTk 1.5 crore.

"Their luxurious life style prompted me to open an internal inquiry," said Shahjahan Bhuiyan, managing director of UCB.

Shafiqul Alam, the additional managing director, said, "The investigation is underway and we don't rule out the thought that more officials might be involved in

However, the scam would not hamper the bank's operations and no client of the bank would bear the brunt, he added.

Teesta deal

electricity.

FROM PAGE 1 He also held out the assurance that India would not build the proposed Tipaimukh dam without Bangladesh's consent. It would only implement a project there to generate

The Indian minister was talking to a group of Bangladeshi journalists visiting New Delhi.

He said the Teesta treaty had not yet been signed due to objections from the West Bengal government. However, he noted, his country would surely sign it for the sake of continuing the bilateral development, private TV channel ATN Bangla reported.

"This delay of a few months isn't so crucial and we all are agreed on the fact that we should try to do it as early

force of the Pakistan occupaas possible," Bansal observed. tion forces, according to He added, "We are engaged historical records. in discussion with them (West Kamaruzzaman said Bengal government). We are hopeful we will be able to many judges, university convince them." teachers and government

Kamaruzzaman indicted

FROM PAGE 1 The pro-Jamaat student Mahfuzur Rahman recently body was later renamed claimed in London that

Islami Chhatra Shibir. ICS members formed AL Badr to collaborate with the Pakistani military that committed genocide and mass killing during the war, according to historical records.

The war that ended with the birth of a new nation after nine months saw at least three million people killed and over two lakh women raped.

During the charge framing yesterday, Tribunal-2 said Kamaruzzaman had played the key role in the formation of Al Badr with selected students of Ashek Mahmud Collage in Jamalpur. All of them belonged to ICS.

Under his leadership, all members of ICS of greater Mymensingh were recruited in Al Badr, the court said while presenting a brief profile of the accused.

On receiving summary training, they started committing atrocities targeting the Hindu community and unarmed Bangalee civilians in Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Sherpur, Jamalpur and Mymensingh.

"He [Kamaruzzaman] allegedly being in close association with Pakistani army, actively aided, abetted, facilitated and substantially contributed in committing dreadful atrocities during the War of Liberation in 1971 in the territory of Bangladesh," it said.

Now senior assistant secretary general of his party, the Jamaat leader has also been charged with complicity in and failing to prevent such crimes.

were for his involvement in crimes, including murder, torture, abduction and confinement. One charge related to his

"inhuman acts" against Syed Abdul Hannan, the then principal of Sherpur College, in 1971.

"During the period of the War of Liberation, on an afternoon in mid-May, you [Kamaruzzaman], being the chief organiser of Al-Badr Bahini as well as leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha or leadership

member of a group of individuals, and your accomplices caused inhuman acts to distinguished pro-liberation intellectual Syed Abdul Hannan, the then Principal of Sherpur College, by compelling him to walk through the town, making him almost undressed and by constant whipping, as he was a gallant supporter of the War of Liberation," the court told the accused.

"Therefore, you, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, are being charged with participating in and substantially facilitating and contributing to the commission of offence of 'inhuman acts as crime against humanity' caused to Syed Abdul Hannan." Tribunal-2 Chairman

Justice ATM Fazle Kabir read out the charges along with an introduction to the formation of the court, a brief history of the Liberation War, a brief profile of Kamaruzzaman and sub- Narayanpur in Sherpur, to missions of the prosecution and the defence along with the court's views on the case.

"We are of the view that there are sufficient materials before this tribunal to presume that accused Muhammad Kamaruzzaman has committed offences specified under section 3(2) of the Act for which he is criminally liable under section 4(1) of the Act."

are prima facie allegations against the accused, the charges are thus framed against him," said the threemember Tribunal-2 that includes Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam. The 60-year-old Jamaat

Six of the seven charges leader was produced before the tribunal yesterday at 10:26am. He first took a seat in the dock at the back of the courtroom. Before reading out the

charges, the court asked Kamaruzzaman to go to the dock near the judges' bench if he could not hear. Kamaruzzaman, wearing white shirt, black pant and

dock and kept standing. SIX OTHER CHARGES On June 29, 1971, under the

black shoes, went to the

Kamaruzzaman, a group of Al Badr members abducted Badiuzzaman, son of Md Fazlul Haque, in Ramnagar village under Jhenaigati upazila, Sherpur.

city

He was tortured at Ahammed Nagar army camp all night long and shot to death the following day. His body was dumped in a water body. In the early morning of

July 25, 1971, Kamaruzzaman advised members of Al-Badr and Razakar [another auxiliary force] to commit a large scale massacre, in association with Pakistani troops, in Sohagpur village of Nalitabari upazila, Sherpur.

The collaborators murdered 164 unarmed civilians, 44 of whom are named, and raped women.

On August 23, 1971, on Kamaruzzaman's instruction, collaborators took Golam Mostafa, son of late Asir Uddin of village Gridda an Al-Badr camp.

The Jamaat leader and his accomplices brought Mostafa and one Abul Kasem to Serih Bridge and gunned them down.

Kasem survived as he jumped into the river but suffered injuries in his fingers. Mostafa died on the

In mid-Ramadan in 1971, Kamaruzzaman and his followers picked up "Since we find that there Liakat Ali and Mujibur Rahman Janu from their houses and brought them to a Razakar camp at Raghunathpur Bazar where they were tortured. Afterwards, the duo were kept detained for four days at a police station.

On Kamaruzzaman's order, the two along with 11 other civilians were shifted to Jhenaigati Ahammed Nagar camp. Afterwards, eight of them were shot to death. At the time, the accused and his aide Kamran were present.

In November 1971, under the instruction of Kamaruzzaman, some members of Al-Badr abducted Tunu and one Jahangir from Golki Bari and took them to the District Council Dak Banglow in Mymensingh.

Tunu was tortured to

death. Jahangir was detained but freed later on. On Ramadan 27, one Tepa

> Mia and his elder son Zahurul Islam Dara were abducted b y Kamaruzzaman, who was accompanied by 15-20 armed Al-Badr members from Golapjan Road, Mymensingh. They were taken to the Al-Badr camp at District Council Dak Bungalow.

The next morning, along with five others, the father and son were lined up on the bank of river Brahmaputra.

Tepa Mia, when he was about to be charged with a bayonet, jumped into the river. As the collaborators fired

at him, he received injuries in the leg but managed to escape. But the remaining six got killed. Yesterday, after the

charges were read out, the tribunal chairman asked Kamaruzzaman whether he pleaded guilty or not. Kamaruzzaman pleaded not guilty, saying, "The

charges brought against me are totally false, baseless, politically motivated and imaginary." "I am totally innocent,"

he claimed. If convicted, he could get

the death penalty under Section 20(2) of the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act, 1973. The act allows a convict to appeal to the Supreme Court Appellate Division. Detained on July 13, 2010

in a criminal case, Kamaruzzaman was shown arrested on war crimes charges on August 2 the same year.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 took the charges against Kamaruzzaman into cognisance on January 31 after the prosecution submitted formal charges of nine counts of crimes against humanity on January 15.

The case was transferred to tribunal-2 on April 16.

The court yesterday said the trial of Kamaruzzaman, starting with the opening statement of the prosecution on July 2, will continue every working day until further orders.

No trial if I had joined AL

officials pledged allegiance

to the then Pakistan govern-

including Professor Kabir

Chowdhury, issued a state-

ment in support of Pakistan

[during the Liberation War].

But they were not brought to

who passed away in

December last year, made it

clear in his autobiography

that he had never signed any

such statement during the

campaigned for the trial of

the 1971 war criminals since

the country's liberation and

worked for upholding secu-

a college student in 1971,

said, "There is no instance in

history that a higher second-

ary student has been tried

for crimes against human-

Charles Taylor and Augusto

Pinochet, he said those who

of Sherpur. He was president

student wing Islami Chhatra

crimes were state leaders.

Kamaruzzaman, who was

larism in Bangladesh.

Prof Chowdhury had

Liberation War.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury,

book," he told the tribunal.

"Thirty one intellectuals,

ment in 1971.

FROM PAGE 1

political speech in court, he said, "There were similar allegations against Faizul Hug and Nurul Islam of Jamalpur. But they have not been brought to justice; rather they were made ministers as they joined the Awami League."

AK Faizul Huq, son of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, served as state minister for jute and textiles during the 1996-2001 tenure of the Awami League government. He passed away in 2007.

Moulana Nurul Islam was state minister for religious affairs during the tenure of the same AL government. He is no longer involved in politics.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday framed charges against Kamaruzzaman for crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The Jamaat leader, however, denied the charges and claimed he was innocent.

He suggested that others, including a brother of State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, should be brought to book for their involvement in crimes against humanity. "State Minister Qamrul

Islam's brother Hafez Moulana Azizul Islam was a Razakar, and the question of his trial also arises.' Asked whether his brother had links with

during the Liberation War in

1971.

Razakars, State Minister for College. Law Qamrul Islam told The Daily Star, "I don't know." Kamaruzzaman yesterday termed the The Razakar force collab-International Crimes (Triorated with the Pakistan bunals) Act 1973 a "black occupation forces that killed 3 million people and raped law." He and other accused more than 2 lakh women of 1971 war crimes are now

He said the Awami Jamaat leader Moulana League was out to establish Yousuf formed the auxiliary

being tried under this act.

fascist rule in the country. Though the Jamaat leader was supposed to only plead, the court gave him five minutes after he sought time from the court to say a few

the accused to make speeches.

At one point of his speech, one of the three judges interrupted him and said it was not a place where the Jamaat leader could give a political speech. The judge told him that he would get the scope to defend himself

As Kamaruzzaman continued with his speech, a judge asked police to take him away from the dock.

When police officials approached the dock, Kamaruzzaman loudly told them, "Don't touch me.'

Kamaruzzaman's counsels said he could speak for only three minutes as the judges said his time was over and the tribunal was not the place for giving a political speech.

EXCERPT FROM PROF CHOWDHURY'S MEMOIRS In chapter 4 of his autobiog-

raphy "Naiba Holo Pare Referring to the trial of Jawa", National Professor Kabir Chowdhury clearly had been tried for such says he never signed any statement in favour of the Kamaruzzaman was born then government of on July 4, 1952 in Mudipara Pakistan in 1971.

"An incident happened at the time. Following an order of the Jamaat-e-Islami's from the higher authorities, Sangha in greater two young Bangalee men, Mymensingh in 1971. He most probably from the played a key role in forming radio office, came to my my signature on it. It was a statement.

The statement read: the following well-known poets, litterateurs, professors and intellectuals of East Pakistan of their own accord are informing the people of the world that on the night of March 25, 1971 the government of Pakistan took some measures in order to merely re-establish law and order in the country and save it from anarchy and destruction. words. He also mentioned This was necessary. Nothing

that Tribunal-1 had allowed like genocide happened here. The lawlessness in East Pakistan is now under control, peace has been restored and people's safety has been ensured," Prof Chowdhury

wrote in his memoirs. "I was speechless at seeing the nature of the statement, its language and its shameless falsehood. With as much politeness as possible, I told the boys in a quiet but firm voice that it was impossible for me to sign such a shameless and false

statement. They told me that the consequences of my refusal to sign the statement could be terrible. But I was firm in my decision. Indeed, its consequences could have been terrible. It could have brought imprisonment, torture and even death to me. Even today when I think of the decision I took on that

day, I feel very good." "Many had signed the statement at the time under pressure. I do not blame them. Begum Sufia Kamal did not sign the statement. Begum Sufia Kamal and I were perhaps the only two people who refused to sign the statement despite

immense pressure. About two months later, an attempt was made again to get my signature on the statement. A Bangalee high-Al Badr Bahini with some office at the Bangla up from the Central students of Ashek Mahmud Academy. They brought a Information Ministry from piece of paper and wanted Rawalpindi came to my Gulshan home. After exchanging a few pleasantries, he requested me to sign that statement."

> "Without signing it, I told him 'the statement with signatures of many had already been published in a number of newspapers at home and abroad. What will you do with my signature?' After a long time, I unravelled the mystery behind it. The authorities needed my signature on that statement to cover up their deception."

km -- and caused the large rise Forests for bricks

sultant.

FROM PAGE 20 standing trees on around 96,000 acres of land is being consumed even if it is considered that only 30 percent of brick kilns' fuel is fire-

According to UNDP statistics, Bangladesh is currently producing around 1,200 crore pieces of bricks every year as the country is having a rapid seven to eight percent urbanisation rate.

In his article, Asit Ranjan estimates that it needs around 25 tonnes of coal or 42 tonnes or 3,500 cubic feet of woods to burn one lakh He says if a medium tree

produces five cubic feet of firewood, standing trees on 96,000 acres of land would produce 12 crore cft of firewood that could cover 5,411 standard football fields. According to the Department of Forest and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2.52 million hect-

ares of land or nearly 17.4

hectares is under the direct control of the department. However, different studies show the actual forest coverage is not more than

shortage of manpower," said the official requesting ano-1.44 million hectares. Studies show that the nymity. current deforestation rate in

ronment by using alluvial percent of the land mass is top soils. forest, of which 1.52 million "And it is happening everywhere across the country. But it is hard for us to monitor this practice due to