PADMA 'GRAFT'

Prof Saleh

FROM PAGE 20 thrashed and his face was cracked due to the brutal torture at the residence of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury's father.

Saleh Uddin, the eighth prosecution witness, gave deposition to the tribunal on Monday.

In response to a question of defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena, the SUST VC said he was wearing a white shirt which got red by his own blood.

Ahsanul then made a suggestion saying it's not true that witness was wearing a white shirt rather he was taught to speak that way.

Saleh Uddin replied that it's not true.

On Monday, Saleh Uddin told the tribunal the collaborators after first phase of beating took him before Salahuddin Quader. Seeing no tears in his eyes, the BNP leader slapped hard on his left

Ahsanul Huq yesterday asked the SUST VC whether he cried after getting hurt.

cheek, he added.

The tribunal led by Justice Md Nizamul Hug intervened and made a counter question to the defence about relevance of the question. The tribunal thought the question was irrelevant and was not inclined to record it.

But the defence urged the tribunal to record it saying it was relevant.

Saleh Uddin said tears usually come out from the eyes when one is hurt, adding, he initially cried but later stopped crying. The defence counsel yes-

terday made at least 10 questions about the topography of Goods Hill. Claiming that Salahuddin

Quader was in Punjab of Pakistan during June-August in 1971 and was not present at Goods Hill, Ahsanul asked the witness whether he knew about it.

Prof Saleh Uddin said he did not know it and added the claim is not true that the BNP leader was not present at Goods Hill.

The tribunal yesterday allowed four and a half hours for the cross-examination, but the defence completed it with one hour in hand.

Salahuddin Quader, MP, who was present at the dock during the cross examination, is facing 23 charges of crimes against humanity with the tribunal.

The proceeding of the case

was adjourned until today. HC disposes

FROM PAGE 1

order, Deputy Attorney General Biswajit Roy told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon. He, however, could not specify when the observations would be made public.

Earlier in the day, the bench of Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain heard arguments from the petitioner's counsels and the deputy attorney general.

Supreme Court lawyer AKM Shafiuddin filed the

petition on July 18. In the petition, he prayed to the HC to direct the Speaker

not to issue such rulings in future, saying that the Speaker could not rule against an SC judge as per parliament's rules of procedure. Rokanuddin Mahmud, the

petitioner's counsel, told the court that the Speaker should not have delivered the ruling on such a sensitive matter based merely on newspaper

reports. It was not wise to say that the judge, who took the oath of office, had violated the

written submissions said the

Speaker had clearly exceeded

his jurisdiction by issuing the

ruling, as "no provision in the

constitution or in the rules of

procedure of parliament

empowers him to that effect".

The Speaker had no

authority to ask or request the

chief justice to take any action

against a judge of the SC, the

The deputy attorney gen-

eral opposed the petition,

saying it was not maintain-

able, since the petitioner had

not been aggrieved by the

counsel said.

Speaker's ruling.

on a collision course.

constitution, he said. If any allegation was raised against a judge, only the president could refer it to the Supreme Judicial Council, Rokanuddin said. Akhtar Imam, another

counsel for the petitioner, in Station. Hossain, Kashem Ali and

the attack, said Faruk. to Dhubaura Upazila Health

father died in the hospital. Hossain was later shifted

the afternoon. The other three injured

were undergoing treatment at the upazila health com-

mortem.

If the HC issued any rule based on the petition, he contended, it might put the judiciary and the legislature

Soybean oil prices

market yesterday, this corre-

spondent found a shortage in

supply of some leading

brands such as Rupchanda

blamed short supply from the

oil refiners for the rising

supply of Teer oil, although

the distributors took orders

from them last week," said

Ratan Nandi, manager of PR

Traders at Karnaphuli CDA

commerce ministry and

millers' claims of adequate

stocks to meet the increased

demand during the

warned of taking stern action

against any unscrupulous

businessman for profiteering

tendency and now it claims

that it has been monitoring

The government is moni-

toring the kitchen markets in

the city and it will take puni-

The ministry earlier had

Prices shot up despite the

Market in Chittagong.

Retailers in both the cities

"The retailers are yet to get

and Teer.

prices.

Ramadan.

the market.

newspaper. "We will visit the Karwan Bazar retail market tomorrow [today] to check the prices."

A monitoring team of the commerce ministry visited one of the city's largest wholesale markets, Moulvibazar, he added. Some millers cited unload-

ing problems at Chittagong Port for the shortage in supply of bottled soybean oil.

Delays in unloading of vessels at the port had caused the supply shortage in the last two days, said Biswajit Saha, general manager of City Group of Industries. The company markets "Teer" cooking oil.

City Group has already started delivering oil. So there is no reason for hiking the prices of "Teer" soybean oil, he mentioned.

Contacted, Shoeb Md Asaduzzaman, head of sales and marketing of Bangladesh Edible Oil Ltd, said his company will resolve the supply crisis by today.

"The company started fulltive action against the wrong- scale delivery of edible oil doers, Commerce Secretary [Rupchanda] from tomorrow Ghulam Hussain told this [today]," he noted.

and Dayaganj main road,

Malibagh rail crossing to

Kuril Bishwa road, Nikunjo

number 1 to number 2,

Airport to Abdullahpur,

Shishumela to Shyamoli Ring

Road, Rokeya Sarani, Mirpur

number 10 to number 14,

to the home ministry for

further necessary action, A K

M Kamrul Ahsan, public

relations officer of the Police

Headquarters, told The Daily

Minister Shahara Khatun, at

a programme on Saturday,

said the DMP was facing a

tough challenge in managing

traffic as it did not have ade-

quate number of traffic

3,200 traffic police to manage

the city's increasing traffic.

Roads are also not sufficient

for the soaring population

and vehicles, she told the

function at Rajarbagh Police

Man shot dead

land beside the river bank

from where a gang was ille-

40, and Araj, 40, were admit-

ted to Mitford Hospital while

Almas's cousin, Safar Ali, 65

was rushed to Dhaka

Almas and Safar Ali had

bought 1.5 bighas of land six

submerged due to the mon-

dredging trawler

Mainuddin Khan, officer-in-

paid no heed the landown-

Feeling outnumbered

the gang escaped on

for interrogation. Additional

police forces have been

deployed in the area to avert

gang used to lift sand ille-

gally from plots adjacent to

the riverbanks, which usu-

ally go under water during

coast guards yesterday

seized two dredgers for

illegal sand lifting from

Dhaleshwari and Meghna

River of Narayanganj and

Munshiganj around 7:30am.

No one was arrested

Meanwhile, a team of

Locals alleged that the

any untoward incident.

the monsoon.

release said.

injured, the OC said.

Police Station said.

gang of five.

hour.

Family sources said

Medical College Hospital.

Of the injured, Swapan,

gally extracting sand.

FROM PAGE 20

months ago.

The DMP has only around

police.

Meanwhile, Home

Square to Panthapath.

Traffic solution

chaos, the police department now believes the moves would be an easy way out of the horrendous traffic situation ahead of Eid.

Public sufferings have continued unabated over the past three months owing to road construction and repair throughout the capital.

Numerous potholes have developed on different roads due to relocation and repair works by Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd and Power Grid Company of Bangladesh.

Habibur Rahman, deputy commissioner (headquarters) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), in a letter yesterday requested the authorities concerned to close the city's schools and colleges after 10th of Ramadan as a part of managing the traffic on city roads.

Traffic movement increases on the streets as people from all over the country begin to arrive in the capital, targeting the markets and shopping malls ahead of Eid, the letter reads.

"Students go to their schools and colleges by their own cars and this also contributes to the traffic jam. That is why the expected result does not come, though different steps have been taken to ease traffic chaos," it added.

In another letter, Mahbubur Rahman, joint commissioner (Traffic) of DMP, observed that numerous potholes on streets have been causing traffic jams.

He also requested the DCC and the RHD to complete their repair works on 10 major city streets.

The roads are Gulistan and Jatrabari to Postogola

Clash kills 4

FROM PAGE 20

52, of Kalika village.

Komol and his men beat up Mofazzol indiscriminately with sticks on Monday evening claiming that Mofazzol's ducks damaged Komol's paddy field, said police.

Mofazzol was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) where he died early yesterday.

Getting the news of Mofazzol's death, his relatives attacked Komol and his relatives with sharp weapons at around 6:00am, said Omar Faruk, officer-incharge of Dhubaura Police

Komol, his father Lal Mia, two others were injured in

The injured were rushed Complex. Komol and his

to MMCH where he died in

plex.

Police sent the bodies to MMCH morgue for post-

Both the families of Mofazzol and Komol filed two cases with Dhubaura Police Station.

Yeafesh

FROM PAGE 1

ministry got separated from his present ministry last year on December 4.

On December 5, Abul Hossain was given the charge of the ICT ministry through a reshuffle in the cabinet after the World Bank had brought corruption allegation against him in the Padma bridge project.

The World Bank suspended its credit of \$1.2 billion for the Padma Bridge project last month, claiming that it had "credible evidence" of a high-level corruption conspiracy among Bangladeshi government officials. Yeafesh said running two

ministries would not be difficult for him, as he had worked with the then unified science and information and communication technology ministry, which later was divided into two -- ICT and Science and Technology -- ministries.

Egypt president FROM PAGE 20

has Islamist sympathies. He has denied being affiliated to any Islamist group, but told Al Jazeera in an interview last year he had grown his beard out of a sense of religious duty.

Kandil did not feature among the long list of potential candidates for premier circulated by Egyptian media in the three weeks since Morsi took office.

That speculation had focused on a group of econo-Mirpur Road and Russell mists including past and present central bank offi-Both the letters were sent cials, reports Reuters. "This is quite a surprise as

most of the names put around had been from the financial sector. The market is definitely reacting negatively," said Mohamed Radwan at Pharos Securities.

Morsi was due to meet Kandil later yesterday. Kandil recently accompanied Morsi to an African Union summit in Addis Ababa.

POWER STRUGGLE

Since Morsi was elected in June, Egypt has been embroiled in a complex power struggle between Morsi, a former senior Muslim Brotherhood official, and the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which ruled the country since Mubarak stepped

down in February 2011. Just days before Morsi was elected, the SCAF disbanded parliament in response to a constitutional court ruling that it had been invalidly elected, reports

The origins of the battle for parliament lay in the constitutional declaration issued by the SCAF before

the president was sworn in. As the land has been The declaration, which acts as a temporary constisoon rains, the gang started tution, granted the military extracting sand from the sweeping powers, including land around 8:30am with a legislative control, and rendered the presidential post little more than symcharge of Keraniganj Model bolic.

Selim, son of Anwar 6,000 passports Member of Puratan

FROM PAGE 1

Sonakandi village led the link in the system. The pass-Almas and Safar rushed to ports might have been stothe spot and requested them len from the storehouse or not to lift sand. As the gang from the desk of any personnel involved with issuing ers went back and returned MRPs."

with their relatives after an Once the committee detected the personnel, the outsiders would be tracked down easily, he said, adding, trawler firing around 12 "Each of our MRP book has rounds of bullets, leaving 38 security features. So, it Almas and three others would be tough to use forged

A high official of the home Almas, who was hit by ministry said the total proseveral bullets in his head cess in the passport office was rushed to Mitford Hospital where doctors was overseen by army perdeclared him dead, police sonnel and no other officers had access to certain jobs Police detained Shah Ali unless the army personnel and Imran, Selim's brothers deployed allowed them to.

> Another official of the ministry said as the government had prioritised police verification before issuing passports to Rohingya refugees, criminals were trying to sell MRPs to the refugees in exchange for handsome amount of money.

State Minister Tuku said they had decided to file a case in connection with the stealing accusing unidentified criminals. Meanwhile, since the committee could not complete its task by July 20, the earlier deadline, the time had been extended during the drive, the press until August 10, 2012, he added.

Govt upbeat

FROM PAGE 1

The condition was that the government send on leave the public officials and former communications minister Abul, who were allegedly involved in corruption in the project.

With Abul's resignation as ICT minister, the government believes the stumbling block to reviving the loan agreement is gone. He was removed from the communications ministry and given the charge of ICT ministry on December 5 last year after the WB brought corruption allegations against him and suspended its loan. Another key official,

former Bridges Division secretary Md Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, who also faces corruption allegations over the project, went on leave yesterday. Mosharraf was made

executive chairman of Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority after the WB brought corruption allega-September last year.

until the Anti-Corruption Commission completes its investigation," Mosharraf told The Daily Star, adding that he had decided to go on leave for the sake of a fair probe into the corruption allegations.

"I will remain on leave

Jica and the Asian Development Bank are the two partners of the financial arrangement that was led by the WB. The effectuation deadline of the loans from these two co-financiers will expire on July 30. This is why the government, earlier slow in settling issues with the WB, is now rushing things. If the Jica chief can con-

vince the WB chief to review the Bank's cancellation of the loan, Jica and ADB may get a scope for extending the deadline, said sources. If the WB does not change its decision, the deadline

will expire and the govern-

ment will have to negotiate

once again with these agencies for a new loan agreetions over the project in ment. But that will take time.

The finance minister western districts.

yesterday said he hoped the Bank's fund would still be available for the \$2.97 billion project.

"A few government officials have already been asked to go on leave. Gazette notifications on this will be published in a day or two," Muhith told reporters at his secretariat office yesterday.

"Abul Hossain has stood down. This is an unusual step." Muhith said the government had accepted all con-

ditions of the global lender though there was "no evidence of corruption" in the project. "We will still try to accommodate the World Bank's

proposals so that the lending

agency releases the funds for

the bridge." Meanwhile, Abul's name has been dropped from the list of ministers on the website of the Prime Minister's Office.

The 6.15km bridge over the Padma river will connect the capital with 19 south-

Hilsa may go for good A Bangladesh-India

University.

If the salinity increases in the river water due to low flow of water from the upper stream and a rise in sea level, hilsa will not spawn in the Padma. Hilsa eggs and small fries cannot survive in salty water because their chloride cell does not develop during that time, mentioned Ahsan, a member of the Bangladesh-India joint study committee on "Migratory and Spawning Patterns for the Conservation of Hilsa in Bangladesh and India.'

Hilsa at present contributes one percent to Bangladesh's GDP and meets 10 percent of its total fish demands, said the study. It stressed "the importance of migratory and spawning patterns for the conservation of hilsa in Bangladesh and India.'

The hilsa spawn at Kalirchar of Sandwip, Dhalerchar and Moulavichar of Hatia, Monpura and Charfashion in Bhola of Bangladesh. Besides, there are five nursery grounds where jatka grows before going back to the sea, it was noted in the research.

The study was released at a policy dialogue jointly organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, India (CIFRI) at a local hotel. The dialogue is a part of IUCN's project, "Ecosystems for Life: Initiative."

The meeting emphasized the need to maintain the flow of fresh water in estuaries and associated mangrove ecosystems for sustainable hilsa fisheries. Presenting the Indian part of the joint study, Dr Utpal Bhowmik, head of riverine ecology at CIFRI, said hilsa

metres from the sea estuary. But the Hoogly-Bhagiroti migratory route of the hilsa has been completely interrupted, mentioned the expert, due to construciton of the Farakka barrage. Besides, less rainfall and

temperature variations have also been preventing the hilsa species from migrating to Indian rivers for the last few years, he added. Addressing the event as a guest of honour, Subrata Saha, minister of state, department of fisheries,

warned that if no changes

were made to current fishing

practices, the hilsa stocks would be on the brink of collapse. He explained that increased protection was now urgently needed to conserve

The study also revealed that most of the hilsa caught in Bangaldesh weigh around 750 grams to one kilogram, while the Indian variety weighs around 300 grams as the jatkas are not conserved

The dialogue made a set of recommendations to conserve hilsa fishes. In Bangladesh, there is a

restriction (during March-May) on the use of scoop nets for catching hilsa below 230mm. The experts suggested the Indian government adopt a similar policy to allow migration of jatkas to used to migrate upto They also recommended Allahabad around 2,000 kilo-

dredging the rivers at appropriate points along the Padma-Meghna and Hooghly-Bhagirathi river systems to maintain a proper flow of water to ensure hilsa migration. Mokbul Hossain and Zafar

Iqbal Siddique, members of the parliamentary standing committee on the fisheries and livestock ministry of Bangladesh, spoke as guests of honour. Representatives from

fishing communities and private sectors in Bangladesh and India also joined the dialogue.

Cops' status

FROM PAGE 20

increase the salaries and perks of those in these positions. Home Secretary CQK

Mustaq Ahmed told journalists that an office order would be issued in a day or two in this regard.

He said the pace of work in the police force would be accelerated and the chain of command strengthened with the upgrade.

On Monday, thousands of

people irrespective of caste

and creed, religion and politi-

the playwright at Central

Shaheed Minar in the capital.

janaza was held at the

National Eidgah on the High

Court premises. The first one

was at Jamaica Muslim Centre

in New York on Friday (Ban-

was a chemistry teacher at

Dhaka University before

getting fully involved in writ-

ing, died at Manhattan's

Bellevue Hospital due to

infection in the lungs follow-

ing two surgeries for colon

His brother Zafar Iqbal,

who was with Humayun in

New York, told correspon-

dents, "My brother was out of

danger of cancer, but it was

the infection that obstructed

his recovery. It was very unfor-

Humayun had dreams of

building a cancer hospital and

an institution like

Shantiniketan. He also

run by a board of trustees.

tunate for the family."

HUMAYUN'SWISHES

Humayun Ahmed, 64, who

gladesh time).

Later, his second namaz-e-

Humayun laid to rest in rain

FROM PAGE 1

their time. On the way, thousands lined up along the roadside to

bid him farewell. Before the namaz-ejanaza started at 1:35pm, people had paid tribute to Humayun Ahmed under a shade at the Palli that the writer had built on a 40-bigha

stretch of land. Kulsum, an octogenarian lady, said she had heard a lot about the man, watched his TV plays, but never saw him in person. "I am here to see the famous man for the last time.'

After the janaza, Humayun Ahmed went on his last journey on the shoulders of relatives and his son Nuhash. Around 2:00pm, the coffin

of the writer, who influenced

millions for decades through

more than 300 books, dozens

of dramas and films, was lowered into the grave. Humayun's second wife Meher Afroz Shaon broke down in tears as she took part in the burial, throwing a hand- from insisting that her husful of earth into the grave.

Nuhash, along with the writer's daughters Nova and Sheela, brothers Ahsan Habib and Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Zafar's wife Yasmeen Haque and sisters Sufia Haider and Mamtaz Shaheed held each other tight and wept. Drenched in tears and

rains, fans and well-wishers joined filling up the grave with earth.

"Nuhash Palli had always been a place of happiness. Events like shooting dramas or cinemas were usual here.

But the place is totally different today; it's a mourning ground today," Khaleque Mia, a villager of Pirujali, told The Daily Star.

Palli, said, "Sir [Humayun]

was so good a man that he

Ejazul Islam, a staff of the

never misbehaved with us. We can never forget our memories with him." Ahsan Habib, himself a famous cartoonist and editor of the satire magazine Unmad, said, "My brother has

achieved fame far more than I had imagined." Earlier, the convoy of about 25 vehicles started its journey from the mortuary of the city's Birdem Hospital around 9:10am. Many passers-by stopped and waved goodbye. The motorcade got longer as nearly a hundred other cars

joined it on the way. The decision that Humayun Ahmed would be buried at Nuhash Palli came in the wee hours of vesterday as Shaon refused to budge band's grave had to be at the Palli, saying it was his last

three children from his first wife -- Nova, Sheela and Nuhash -- wanted their father to be buried somewhere in Dhaka so that everyone could visit his grave easily. On the prime minister's instruction, LGRD State

compromised on the dispute.

However, Humayun's

come true as we fulfilled his last wish after reaching a consensus in the family." Talking to reporters, Zafar Minister Jahangir Kabir Iqbal said, "We will surely Nanak got involved in the process of mediation. Finally, extend all necessary coopera-Sheela, Nova and Nuhash

dreams."

ACC quizzes agents of 2 foreign firms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission vesterday quizzed high-ups of three local sub-agents of two international consultancy firms over graft allegations in the Padma bridge project.

The firms in question had participated in the prequalification bidding for consultancy work in the project. The officials interrogated

are Mohammad Fazlul Majid, managing director of Engineering Science Ltd, a Bangladeshi sub-agent of UKbased Halcrow Group Ltd; Abdul Majid Fakir, managing director of KS Consultants; and Anisur Rahman, managing director of Dev Consultants. KS Consultants and Dev Consultants are subagents of Japan-based Oriental Consultant Company Ltd.

Zainul Abedin and Mirza Zahidul Alam guizzed the three at the commission's headquarters from 10:00am to 1:30pm, ACC Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya told The Daily Star. Earlier on Monday, ACC investigators quizzed three

top officials of three

Bangladeshi sub-agents of

New Zealand-based consult-

ing firm Maunsell AECOM

ACC directors Mir Md

Ltd. On Sunday, the anti-graft body interrogated three officials of three local sub-agents of Canadian firm SNC-Lavalin, and on July 2, it interrogated a top official of another sub-agent of the Canadian firm.

Sources said the sub-agent officials were interrogated about whether they knew anything about the alleged corruption in appointing a consultant for the bridge project or whether they had any links with the matter.

Five international consultancy firms had contested in the prequalification bidding for the Padma bridge project. Of them, SNC-Lavalin was

selected as the consulting firm for the project. On June 29, the World Bank scrapped the Padma bridge loan agreement, citing a corruption conspiracy involving

some public officials, SNC-Lavalin executives and others. BCL activists stab lawyer

in Jessore

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A BNP leader and general secretary of Jessore Ainjibi Samity was injured allegedly by some Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activ-

ists in Monirampur upazila around noon yesterday. The victim Abdul Gafur, also the chairman of Masimnagar union parishad, was being trans-

cal belief paid their homage to ported to the capital for treatment around 5:30pm. He suffered "serious injuries to the head and arms," said Dr

Ohiduzzaman of Jessore

Medical College Hospital,

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

to attack the municipal

where he was taken initially. AZM Azmol Huda, officer-in-charge (Investigation) of Monirampur Police Station, said BCL activists met at Monirampur College to form a sub-committee of the college unit yesterday.

(JCD) activists dropped three bombs near the meeting venue around 12 noon, said witnesses. This, said the OC, prompted the BCL activists

building and vandalise two motor bikes as well as a jeep belonging to Mayor Shoheed Iqbal, also the president of Monirampur upazila BNP. After the burial, Shaon said

nesses.

municipality. However, Moniruzzaman

Milton, president of BCL Monirampur upazila unit, said JCD activists were responsible for the untoward events.

They diverted their attack to Abdul Gafur and hit him with sharp weapons when they saw him in front of the union parishad, said wit-BNP leader Shaheed Igbal said the BCL activists also beat Harun, an

tion to fulfil his [Humayun's]

wanted the Nuhash Palli to be "Please pray for us so that we all can make his dreams employee of Monirampur