



Dhaka University students block Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday protesting the death of a student, Towhid Zaman, of international relations department in a road crash there on August 28 and to press home their five-point demand including construction of a foot overbridge.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## CROSS-EXAMINATION AT ICT-2 Shahriar Kabir answers 60 questions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence counsels of war crimes accused and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed yesterday continued cross-examining eminent writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir for the second day at the International Crimes Tribunal-2.

Defence counsel Mizanul Islam asked Shahriar 60 questions, mostly over the sub-continent's division in 1947.

On August 26, Shahriar, executive president of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, testified and appealed to the tribunal to try Jamaat-e-Islami and its then associated bodies along with Mojaheed for crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Replying to questions yesterday, Shahriar said apart from the All India Congress and the Muslim League, many other political parties led the

Indian independence movement.

Initially, Congress and the Indian Communist Party opposed the division.

Mizanul suggested that Allama Iqbal in his speech as the chair of Muslim League Convention in 1930 formally and politically placed the two-nation theory.

"I am not aware of that," said Shahriar.

Shahriar said the demand for one more Muslim state in the sub-continent was placed at the Muslim League Convention in Lahore in 1940.

Replying to another question, he said many political parties including some Hindu communal parties opposed the division.

The proceedings of the three-member tribunal headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge Md Shahinur Islam were adjourned until tomorrow.

Jamaat secretary general Mojaheed

is facing seven charges of crimes against humanity.

The Tribunal-2 yesterday also recorded the cross-examination of Amir Hossain Mollah, a prosecution witness in a war crimes case against Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

Amir, a war-wounded freedom fighter, testified on August 26 that Quader along with the Pakistani army opened fire and killed around 400 people of Alubdi near Mirpur in the capital on April 24, 1971.

Replying to questions, Amir said he filed a case against Quader and others in 2008 but was not aware of its present status.

A Daily Star report says Amir filed a murder case on January 24, 2008, against Jamaat leader Motiur Rahman Nizami, Mojaheed, Quader and seven others for the massacre of 345 people during the Liberation War.

Quader is facing six charges of crimes against humanity.

## Draft National Integrity Strategy finalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee led by Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday finalised the draft National Integrity Strategy.

The minister told journalists in his office in Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday that the cabinet division would now submit the draft at the cabinet meeting for approval.

The strategy calls for mandatory publication of wealth statements of lawmakers, judges and government officials and according to it, a separate department would be set up to investigate corruption allegations.

It also spells out different measures to free the judiciary, legislature and the executive of corruption.

The draft was placed at a cabinet meeting last May and the cabinet formed the seven-member committee led by the finance minister for further scrutiny of the strategy.

## DSCC to construct foot overbridge at Shahbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the face of strong demands by Dhaka University students, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) in consultation with the university authorities has decided to construct a foot overbridge at the capital's Shahbagh intersection.

"We have taken the decision to ensure safety of the students. We will visit the spot tomorrow (Monday) and start the construction work in the shortest possible time," DSCC Chief Executive Officer Sultanur Islam Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

The decision came after students blocked the Shahbagh intersection since noon to press home their five-point demand including construction of a foot overbridge there.

The blockade was removed after DU Proctor Prof MA Ali announced that the city corporation would start construction of the overbridge within the next 15 days.

Students' demonstrations triggered since the death of DU student Tawhid Zaman in a road accident at the intersection on Tuesday.

Vehicular movement on different roads leading to the university virtually came to a standstill during the two-hour-long blockade yesterday, causing huge sufferings to commuters.

Meantime, a group of Bangladesh Chatra League leaders and activists locked in an altercation with the protesters in an effort to tame the agitation, said eyewitnesses.

According to DU proctor office, at least six people were killed in separate road accidents on the campus in the last seven years. Of the victims, three were DU students, who were killed at Shahbagh intersection.

Meanwhile, experts emphasised on creating awareness among the students and pedestrians to use the foot over-

## AUG GRENADE ATTACK

I took charge just 3 hours before incident  
Says ex-acting DMP commissioner

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Defence lawyer of two former inspector generals of police (IGP) yesterday for the second day continued cross-examining a former acting commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in connection with August 21 grenade attack cases.

Advocate TM Akbar, a defence lawyer of former IGPs Shahudul Haque and Ashraf Huda, cross-examined former acting DMP commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman on different points for over 45 minutes.

In reply to a question, SM Mizanur told the court that he took over the charge of acting DMP commissioner only three hours before the incident of grenade attack on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004.

Mizanur said he took the charge from the then DMP commissioner Ashraf Huda.

After handing over the charge, Ashraf went abroad, he added.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 recorded Mizanur's statement and adjourned the hearing till 11:00am today.

Earlier on August 6, the former acting DMP commissioner gave his deposition before the same court.

Eight of the fifty-two accused including Shahudul and Ashraf, now on bail, were present at the court while 25 others including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and Jamaat-e-Islami acting Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, now in custody, were produced before the court.

BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and 14 others have been absconding since the case was filed against them.

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