

## Tortured

FROM PAGE 20

they were interrogated and tortured first. Nizamuddin was eventually sent to jail and remained behind bars till November 18, 1971.

The witness gave deposition for about 75 minutes. During his cross-examination defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena asked him whether he filed any case regarding the torture in 1971. In reply to another question, he said the army recovered two grenades and a revolver from his house.

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

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until today.

### SAYEDEE'S CASE

The tribunal chaired by Justice Md Nizamul Huq yesterday in a short order fixed November 5 for the prosecution to place argument against another Jamaat leader and war crimes accused Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

The tribunal also gave the defence one last chance to produce their remaining four witnesses today.

The tribunal chairman asked the prosecution to submit a sum-up of their argument in written version not exceeding 10 pages apart from the oral presentation.

### DEFENCE COUNSEL SHOWCAUSED

The same tribunal yesterday asked a defence counsel for Jamaat-e-Islami leader M Tajul Islam to show cause as to why legal steps should not be taken against him for 'misconduct' in the courtroom.

The tribunal directed him to make his reply in 15 days and said following his reply proper action would be taken.

The tribunal issued the order after Tajul walked out of the courtroom defying an order to remain calm and have his seat.

On Sunday Tajul was engaged in a heated altercation with witness Misbahur Rahman Chowdhury who was being testified in a war crimes case against Jamaat Ameer Matiar Rahman Nizami.

Tajul yesterday sought protection from the tribunal in a rude manner though the tribunal repeatedly asked him to take his seat.

At one point, Tajul told the tribunal if he was not given protection, he would leave the courtroom.

The tribunal chairman then gave a reminder to the defence counsel quoting rules of the tribunal that such leaving would be 'misconduct'.

Even after that Tajul left the courtroom.

The tribunal made an observation that Tajul always seems to be agitated at the tribunal.

"There was a dispute yesterday while the case proceeding was going on. In the dispute, in every three or four minutes he stood up and reacted," the tribunal said, adding, the witness made a comment addressing Tajul which angered the defence counsel.

The tribunal observed that Tajul was responsible for what happened on Sunday afternoon.

The tribunal also noted that it had issued a show-cause notice to Tajul on the same ground earlier but later recalled it on the request of defence counsel Mizanul Islam.

Mizanul yesterday completed cross-examination of Misbahur Rahman.

Nizami, facing 16 specific charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War, was produced before the tribunal.

Meanwhile, Abdus Sobhan Tarafder, defence counsel for another Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah in a war crimes case yesterday cross-examined investigation officer of the case Abdur Razzaque Khan throughout the day at the International Crimes Tribunal-2.

## 50,000 jobs

FROM PAGE 1

meeting yesterday. The meeting approved a proposal for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Employment of Workers' with Malaysia.

The MoU is likely to be signed on November 9 in Kuala Lumpur after endorsement from the cabinet of Malaysia that resumes recruitment in a few months under the arrangements, ending a nearly four-year ban.

Earlier in 2006, the Bangladesh government fixed the cost at Tk 84,000 each for jobs in Malaysia.

But the jobseekers had to spend around Tk 2 lakh each due to the corrupt practices of private recruiting agencies and brokers. And this led to labour exploitation and the ban on recruitment in 2009.

The cabinet secretary said a total of five lakh workers would be sent to Malaysia in the next five years. Later, their job contracts can be extended if the two sides agree.

The minimum salary of a worker will not be less than 900 Malaysian Ringgit (RM) which stands at Tk 25,000. Under the MoU, Musharraf said, the workers will work eight hours a day and enjoy a one-day holiday a week.

The owner of the Malaysian company will bear the air fare of a worker, he said, adding that all financial transactions would be made through banks so that no scope of cheating arose.

Primarily, the job contract will be for a period of two years. Later, it will be renewed for another two years and finally for one year. Each renewal will be made three months prior to the expiry of the contract so that the workers are not

harassed.

Besides, the workers will be insured against accidents or illness, the cabinet secretary said.

Musharraf said Malaysian government officials will be present at the Malaysian airports to receive Bangladeshi workers, and to ensure that they are not harassed.

He said the Bangladesh government will prepare a database of potential workers so that it could train them and provide them with orientation on Malaysian laws, culture and language.

There will be a joint working committee that will implement the MoU. If any problem arises, the committee will give its suggestions, and the two governments will implement them through mutual understanding, he added.

Necessary assistance of information technology will be taken in recruiting workers, and district and women quota will be maintained in this regard, he said, adding that the intended workers could even register for their jobs from home or by using union level e-service centre.

Before being sent to Malaysia, the workers will be given 10 days' training by Bangladesh's Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET). BMET will do visa processing and ticket collection while IOM will conduct medical check-up of the workers, the cabinet secretary said.

Primarily, the workers will be sent mostly for agricultural, construction and plantation works, he added.

Earlier on September 13, the government discussed elaborately the signing of the MoU with Malaysian Human Resources Minister Dr S Subramaniam in the capital.

## AHRC slates

FROM PAGE 20

Alauddin Arif, crime reporter and Saiful Islam, a general staff of the Bangla daily.

They also urged United Nations to intervene to protect the journalists.

Tejgaon police filed a criminal case in June 2010 against the five, for protesting the detention of their acting editor Mahmudur Rahman.

On October 11 this year, police filed a petition to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka seeking cancellation of the bail of the accused and sought permission to interrogate them.

Citing relevant law, the AHRC said that police cannot take an accused under their custody two weeks after producing them before a court for the first time.

The five accused had appeared before the court several times. Therefore, police cannot legally take them on remand, more than two years after filing of the case, said the statement.

Freedom of expression is guaranteed in Bangladesh's constitution and the UN has repeatedly upheld the role of the press, it said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rural and Human Rights Journalists Forum (BRHRJF) also condemned the move terming it a blatant manifestation of government's policy of repression on media.

A total of 31 organisations demanded immediate withdrawal of the cases.

## JS session

FROM PAGE 20

convened the session, said a release of the Parliament Secretariat.

The Business Advisory Committee, led by Speaker Abdul Hamid, will sit on that day to decide the business of the ensuing session of the parliament.

The last session was prorogued on September 19.

BNP-led opposition lawmakers had been boycotting the parliament since the last budget session held in June.

The ninth parliament began its journey on January 25, 2009.

## SC upholds

FROM PAGE 20

the Appellate Division, passed the order after hearing the two petitions submitted by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) seeking stay on the HC order.

The ACC would file two separate leave to appeal petitions with the SC challenging the HC order after getting the certified copy of the verdict, Khurshid Alam Khan, ACC's counsel, told The Daily Star.

On October 18, the HC granted Harun a two-month bail in the cases. Three days later, the ACC filed two petitions with the SC seeking stay on the HC order.

During the hearing yesterday, Harun's lawyer Abdul Matin Khashru told the court that the HC had granted his client bail for health reasons.

There is no scope for staying that order, he argued.

However, Khurshid told the court that the grounds on which the HC granted bail were not acceptable as there are specific allegations of money laundering against the former army chief.

The ACC had filed two cases with Kalabagan Police Station on July 31 against the group's 22 top officials for laundering Tk3,285.26 crore.

## PM, Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

minister, her protocol officer Sheikh Aktar Hossain handed over an eid card to the opposition leader's personal secretary Saleh Ahmed around 1:00 pm, said Mahbulul Hoque Shakil, prime minister's special assistant (media).

Reciprocating the gesture, opposition leader's assistant personal secretary Surutuzzaman delivered an eid card to the premier's protocol officer around 2:30 pm, sources at the BNP chairperson's office said.

Eid-ul-Azha, the second largest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated in the country on Saturday.

## Tech in for cheats

FROM PAGE 1

Alauddin Arif, crime reporter and Saiful Islam, a general staff of the Bangla daily.

The law enforcers also recovered 120 pieces of watch-like Chinese touchscreen mobile phones from the arrestees.

"Since mobile phones are not allowed in exam centres, the gang used to give each of their client candidates a watch-like device. These devices were used to send the candidates the answers of multiple-choice questions during exams via SMS, said Mashiur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of Police, at a press briefing in the DB headquarters yesterday.

The ADC said the gang used to charge each client Tk 1.5 lakh on an average.

They used to work in three teams under the leadership of Mafizur Rahman, the ADC continued, "One team used to manage the question papers from invigilators of different universities right after the exam would start, a team of students would solve the questions while another team used to send the

answers to their client candidates via SMS."

During primary interrogation, the arrestees also revealed names of some teachers and officials of different public universities and colleges who had helped them carry out their activities since 2009.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) of DB Mohammad Touhidul Islam said the ring had been active during some recruitment tests for Bangladesh Bank and Krishi Bank, and admission tests in Dhaka, Jagannath and Jahangirnagar universities.

All these came into light on Saturday, when DB police arrested three alleged members of Bangladesh Chhatra League on charge of kidnapping Harun-ur-Rashid Hira, an admission seeker to Jagannath University.

The arrestees were Habibur Rahman, a student of world religion and culture department at DU, Sajjad Hossain of JnU and Rubel of JU.

They abducted Hira and confined him to a room in Zia Hall of DU, as he on October 19 had declined to use the

watch-like devices in the exam hall, despite agreeing to do it earlier, said AC Touhidul Islam.

Detectives detained Habibur and Rubel when they came to receive Tk 1.2 lakh, the ransom for Hira, at the Shantinagar counter of courier service provider SA Paribahan. From the information they gave, police rescued Hira and arrested Sajjad.

Detectives arrested rest of the gang members based on information gleaned from the trio, said ADC Mashiur.

The gang members were identified as Kafiluddin Mahmud, 30, a student of American International University; Refayet Sunny, 24, Amitabh Chowdhury, 24, Abdullah Al Mamun, 24, of DU; Nurul Huda alias Dollar Mahmud, 24, ex-student of journalism department at DU; and Ishtiaque Ahmed, 22, student of political science department at JnU.

Contacted, an ACC official preferring anonymity said the anti-graft commission would suspend its official arrested by DB.

## Ominous inaction

FROM PAGE 1

(DGF), National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Special Branch (SB) of police operate here from Cox's Bazar, a 20-minute drive from Ramu upazila headquarters.

Then there is Ramu police's own intelligence mechanism, including paid sources, watchers and informers.

"They [agencies and police] get a good amount of source money to gather information through their networks," said a civil administration official of Cox's Bazar.

However, all this amounted to nothing at the time of a real crisis.

The district and upazila administration received hardly any intelligence from the field on the evening of September 29.

Nazibul Islam, the then officer-in-charge of Ramu Police Station, had all along kept the local administration in the dark about the troubles brewing.

Likewise, Selim Jahangir, Cox's Bazar superintendent of police, gave no information to the district administration about the disturbing developments for hours.

Ramu Upazila Nirbahi Officer Debi Chanda heads the local law-and-order committee, of which the OC is the member secretary. Yet she did not get any information from Nazibul.

Debi came to know about the disturbances from Jainul Bari, the outgoing deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar, after 10:30pm. SP Selim contacted Jainul around the same time.

It had already been nearly three hours then since the bigots began inciting hatred against the Buddhists from Ramu's busiest marketplace Fakirabazar between 7:30pm and 8:00pm.

As per section 127 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), a UNO (as magistrate) and an OC have the power to disperse any unlawful assembly or a gathering of five or more persons that is likely to disturb the peace.

Under section 129 of the CrPC, the UNO (as magistrate) has the power to call in the military to help the civil administration break up an unruly assembly that cannot otherwise be dispersed.

The OC and the UNO of Ramu did not exercise these powers.

The local administration imposed section 144 of the CrPC -- ban on all kinds of gatherings, rallies and processions -- only the following morning, whereas it could have done so much earlier or overnight.

Section 145 of Police Regulations of Bangladesh gives an OC the authority to prepare her/his constables with arms to combat a possible outrage. S/he is also supposed to inform the matter to her/his nearest magistrate.

In Ramu, Debi Chanda was the OC's nearest magistrate, but Nazibul told her nothing. "What I lacked was infor-

mation. Except that, I had everything to tackle such a massive chaos," she said. "I had asked the officer-in-charge to arrange necessary force and to set up check posts so that no outsider could enter. But the OC did not comply."

Around 11:30pm, Debi went to Chaumuhuni Circle, where fanatics were holding rallies and processions. She found OC Nazibul there as well.

Witnesses said shoes were thrown at Debi from a procession there and no other officials present had to face such a backlash.

Instead of moving in to deal with a potentially violent mob, Nazibul made provocative statements at a rally of several hundred people.

Some officials in Ramu and Cox's Bazar too have told The Daily Star about the dubious role played by the OC.

ABGB official said the then DC told them around 11:30pm to be prepared for any situation. But the border guards got the final call for deployment at 1:20am. The army was deployed even later.

The BGB official, wishing not to be named, said many temples were torched before they moved in. When the rioters started to leave Ramu, he asked the OC to arrest as many as possible. "The OC did not arrest a single person."

Even after all this, Nazibul refused to accept any blame for the inaction of the law enforcers while talking to this correspondent on October 2, hours before he was withdrawn.

According to some locals, he had some personal grudges against Buddhists.

Lately, police bosses in Ramu and Cox's Bazar have been trying to give an impression that they learned about the violence when it was already too late. But the sequence of events that this correspondent has gathered from eyewitnesses does not bear them out.

Omar Faruk, the owner of a mobile phone servicing shop at Ramu Bazar, said police came to his outlet twice between 8 and 9 that night. They wanted to see Uttam Kumar Barua's so-called Facebook page and the anti-Islam photo.

Police picked up Faruk and his friend Abdul Moktadir around 9:00pm, according to Moktadir's mother and Faruk. Their statements suggest the law enforcers were aware of the hate campaign in the evening.

An official, on condition of anonymity, said Cox's Bazar SP did not inform DC Jainul Bari over the phone before 10:30pm.

Some serving and former admin officials in Cox's Bazar and Ramu told this correspondent that the OC could have directly requested the DC to call in troops.

Also, intelligence agencies, which usually share necessary information with the district and upazila administration, were reportedly not active that night.

## One killed in Rangamati gunfight

STAR REPORT

An unidentified man was killed in a gunfight between the activists of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) at a remote village in Rangamati yesterday.

Police said the gunfight began at about 6:00pm a Uluchhari in sadar upazila following a conflict over establishing supremacy in the area, reports our Rangamati correspondent.

The clashing groups fled the scene, as army men rushed to the spot and opened fire to disperse them. They recovered the bullet hit unidentified body and a rifle.

Later, police conducted a drive and arrested five people -- Dala Chakma, Subhash Chakma, Anik Chakma, Dipto Marma and Gopal Tripura from the area.

Muhammad Saiful Islam Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station in Rangamati, told The Daily Star that the pro and anti peace treaty groups locked into the clash.

Major Rajib told The Daily Star that after hearing the gunfight army rushed to the spot and opened fire to quell the warring groups.

## Bangladesh-India border survey in Nov

TNN, Silchar

A sector-level meeting of senior officials of Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) and Border Security Force (BSF) was held on Saturday at Sutarkandi trade centre in Karimganj district.

The meeting decided that the survey of border areas of the two countries will start on November this year.

While the team of BSF officials was led by its sector commander (Silchar) deputy inspector general UC Hazarika, the Bangladesh officials were led by BGB sector commander (Silhet) Col Muhammad Khair-uz-Zaman.

The survey was necessitated under the protocol of the 1974 land boundary demarcation agreement signed between India and Bangladesh when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and four northeast chief ministers' visited Dhaka in September last year.

The deal addressed the issue of adversely possessed land in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal along the India-Bangladesh border.

The BSF and BGB officials decided to start the survey in November after the Durga Puja and Id-Uz-Zuha festivals are over. They stressed upon maintaining normalcy along in this part of the international border for a success of the process, sources said.

Exchange of enclaves was finalized in the agreement, which involved the "disputed" area measuring 5.374 km in Assam alone - 2.874 km in Lathitila-Dumabari and Madanpur-Polatol in Karimganj district and 2.5 km in Boroibari in Dhubri district. According to the protocol, 94.6 acre of land in Lalthila and 299.04 acre in Pallathal of Karimganj, which had been in adverse possession of Bangladesh since 1965, had also been ceded away to Bangladesh. The state lost a village, Boroibari in Dhubri, covering an area of 189.06 acre.

## Tk 2.46cr gold

FROM PAGE 1

Shahidul Islam, assistant commissioner (customs) of the airport, said acting on a tip-off, a joint team of customs intelligence officials and customs officials conducted a raid in the aircraft from Dubai that landed at the airport at 5:00am.

They found the bars, each weighing 10 tolas (around 117 grams), in a schoolbag that was left on the aisle of the aircraft.

Someone from the passengers might have left the bag containing the bars in the aircraft, as the customs officials were checking every one of them, Islam added.