

# Widow testifies against Azad

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freedom fighter Nepal Chandra Pathak, first prosecution witness in the case, said.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam recorded testimony and cross-examination of both the witnesses after the prosecution completed reading out opening statement.

Reading out the opening statement, prosecutor Sahidur Rahman said Azad, a former leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, assisted the Pakistani occupation force as a Razakar commander and as the chief of Al-Badr in Faridpur and committed crimes against humanity.

On November 4, the tribunal indicted Azad with eight charges of crimes against humanity including genocide, murder and rape committed during the war.

The tribunal decided to hold the trial in absentia as Azad went into hiding around seven hours before the second tribunal issued an arrest warrant against him on April 3.

In her testimony, 65-year-old Jyotsna said on the 19th of Bangla month Jaitha, some 20-25 armed men led by Bachchu Razakar came to Fulbaira in Faridpur.

"Of them, eight to nine men including Bachchu Razakar entered our house, while others were looting our neighbours," said Jyotsna, adding, "Bachchu caught my husband Chitta Ranjan Das and started beating him up."

"He [Bachchu] hit me down when I went to save my husband and shot him to death after taking him outside," she added.

After half an hour,

Bachchu killed one Babul Debnath on the west side of her house, she added.

The gang dumped the bodies into nearby Kumar river later, she continued.

Jyotsna, who was pregnant at that time, left the country along with her three children after 10 to 15 days and took shelter in an Indian refugee camp.

"My three children died at the camp at Kalyani after suffering from diarrhoea," said Jyotsna, adding that she gave birth to a child on December 28, 1971 there.

Earlier, Nepal in his 32-minute testimony said he had gone to the house of Sudhangshu Mohan Roy to meet his brother on May 14, 1971.

"At around 3:00pm, 10-12 armed men entered the house with .303 rifles in hands and Bachchu Razakar ordered Sudhangshu Babu to come out," said 60-year-old Nepal.

Sudhangshu's wife and sons humbly requested Bachchu to release him, but Bachchu took him outside, Nepal added. "They also took Monimoy Roy alias Kesto, the elder son of Sudhangshu Babu with them."

After taking the rings from Sudhangshu's hands, Bachchu signalled them to go back home.

"When they were approaching the house, Bachchu Razakar shot Sudhangshu Babu from behind," said Nepal.

Another person shot Monimoy in his leg, Nepal added.

Bachchu along with Pakistani army also attacked Hasamia and Mayendia Bazar, looted valuables and killed a number of people there, Nepal added.

**QUADER MOLLAH'S CASE**  
The tribunal completed recording the testimony and cross-examination of

Muslem Uddin Ahmed, third defence witness in the case against Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

In his 20-minute testimony, Muslem said he and the accused had studied in the same school and college.

Muslem said he had seen Mollah, who was in Dhaka for higher education, at their village around eight to ten days after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's March 7 speech in 1971.

Quader ran a business with one Dhala Mia Pir's elder son at local Choudhurashi Bazar throughout the year, added Muslem.

Prosecutor Mohammad Ali cross-examined Muslem.

Replying to a question, Muslem said he had got no summon from the tribunal. "Son of Quader Mollah asked me to give testimony around eight to ten days ago. I was not sure whether I would have to give testimony," replied Muslem.

The tribunal adjourned the proceeding of the case until Thursday.

**ICT-1**  
Meanwhile, the defence of war crimes case against another Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayeede yesterday placed argument at the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

The defence placed arguments on charges No. 4, 14, and 16 out of 20 charges against Sayeede for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity.

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until today.

Earlier in the morning, war crimes accused former Jamaat leader Ghulam Azam fell sick at the tribunal. He was rushed to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for treatment.

## FLYOVER COLLAPSE Compensate the victims

*HC order sought*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition has sought High Court directives on the authorities concerned to compensate the victims on whom girders collapsed at the under-construction Bahaddarhat flyover in Chittagong on Saturday.

Raihanul Mustafa from Moreshkhali of Cox's Bazar filed the petition, appealing to the court to order the authorities to bear the expenses for treatment of the people who were injured in the incident.

Twelve people were killed and at least 50 others injured when three concrete girders of the under-construction flyover fell on a kitchen market.

The petition also challenged the authorities' not taking safety measures at the construction site.

Earlier on January 29, a man was injured when a girder of the same flyover fell but the authorities did not take any preventive measures, Raihanul said in the petition.

Yesterday, an HC bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo fixed tomorrow for passing an order on the petition.

Advocate Soweb Uddin Khan appeared for the petitioner.

### MERE NUMBERS

FROM PAGE 1

● **6 January 2005**

22 killed at Shan Knitting and Processing Ltd in Narayanganj

● **23 February 2006**

54 killed at KTS garment factory in Chittagong

● **25 February 2010**

21 killed at Garib & Garib Sweater factory in Gazipur

● **14 December 2010**

26 killed at a Ha-Meem Group factory in Ashulia

● **24 November 2012**

111 killed at Tazreen Fashions in Ashulia

## Li & Fung

FROM PAGE 20

The announcement came out yesterday when Fung, also the honorary global chairman of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), sent a condolence message for the fire victims to Mahbubur Rahman, president of ICC Bangladesh, and Asif Ibrahim, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Li & Fung is a company that supplies high-volume, time-sensitive consumer goods.

In the condolence message, Fung said, "Li & Fung confirms the company has placed orders for garments with Tazreen Fashions Ltd in Bangladesh which were being manufactured at the premises where the fire occurred.

"We are very distressed and saddened by the deaths of so many workers and wish to express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims. Li & Fung is participating in aid efforts for immediate relief and is matching the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association's financial assistance by pledging Tk 1 lakh (\$1,200) to each family of every victim."

Furthermore, through the Fung Foundation, a fund would be set up for the education of the victims' children, said Fung, adding, "We are in contact with the owner of the factory and we will be carrying out our own investigation into the circumstances that led to the fire."

Fung has also urged Rahman and Ibrahim to convey his condolences for the tragedy in person.

He also assured of any further help and assistance to Bangladesh apparel industry, which he has been promoting for the last 20 years.

His firm's current import from Bangladesh is well over \$1 billion annually and has been increasing every year.

The fire originated from the warehouse of Swan Garments Ltd on the 1st floor of Afnan Plaza at Mollartek around 9:30am. It was doused around 12:00 noon after hectic efforts by 13 fire fighting units.

Except for the second floor, the blaze could not spread through the building.

Some workers sustained minor injuries as they rushed to the main staircase to get out of the building. Bundles of threads and

clothes kept in the warehouse were also gutted.

Workers and witnesses said some factory workers on the 4th and 5th floors of Sir Denim Ltd managed to get out of the building soon after the fire broke out.

But the rest of the workers on the upper floors could not come down the stairs as they were engulfed in thick smoke.

In a state of panic, some of them rushed to the rooftop of the building while others gathered on different floors and tried to break the windows in a desperate bid to find ways out of the building.

"Seeing thick black fumes, we came down to the third floor from different other floors. But the production manager prevented us from going out, saying nothing had happened," said Lavlu, a knitting operator of Mccoy Sweater Ltd situated on the 7th floor.

Talking to reporters, Abu Naim Mohammmed Shahidullah, director general of fire service and civil defence, alleged that a generator, which had been kept beside the bundles of threads and clothes, might have caused the fire.

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# Home minister

FROM PAGE 1

To,

1. Mr. Mahfuz Anam  
Editor and Publisher  
The Daily Star, an English Daily  
229, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka.

2. Mr. Julifkar Ali Manik  
Correspondent,  
The Daily Star, an English Daily  
229, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka.

3. Mr. Kailash Sarkar  
Correspondent,  
The Daily Star, an English Daily  
229, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka.

---- Notice Receivers

From:

Kazi Akhtar Hossain  
LL.B. (Hon's), LL.M (1st Class) DU  
Advocate  
Supreme Court of Bangladesh

---- Notice Giver

For and on behalf of:

Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir  
Son of Late Ashek Ali Khan  
Hon'ble Minister  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dear Sir,

Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is our client. Upon appraisal of the papers, documents referred to us by our client and upon his instructions, we serve this legal notice upon you as under:

1. That our client Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir is a veteran public servant and a politician of the country. He is Presidium Member of Bangladesh Awami League. Earlier he held the post of Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings and Public Accounts. He was State Minister of the Ministry of Planning during the last Awami League Government. During the said period, he was also Minister in charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and of Science and Technology. Currently he is holding the post of the Hon'ble Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2. That the notice receiver No. 1. is the Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, an English Daily, having its office at 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka and the notice receiver No. 2 and 3 both are the correspondents of the said daily newspaper.

3. That you, the notice receivers published a report in The Daily Star dated 13.11.2012 in the heading "A Strange Invitation?" regarding alleged visit by the members of the law enforcing agency to the house of one Delwar Hossain, former Secretary of the Anti Corruption Commission at his residence in Ashulia area. In the said report you have added false stigma stating that the police asked the said Delwar Hossain to immediately meet our client which is absolutely a false and baseless story. There is no statement in the said report neither from the police nor from the said Delwar Hossain to the effect that our client sent police force or in any way involved in the allegation as leveled against our client, rather Mr. Delwar Hossain said, as appears from the said report, "a minister does not call any citizen this way to meet him" which clearly transpires that the statement made in the said report that the police asked Mr. Delwar Hossain to meet the Home Minister is absolutely false, fabricated and baseless story.

4. That from a careful perusal of the report, it transpires that you the notice receivers, have published the said report very purposely and cunningly entangling our client though he has got no nexus, only to harm the reputation of our client. Besides though the report could not make out any nexus of our client, you have published a cartoon of our client with the said report which is disrespectful and disgraceful to our client and is absolutely a defamatory act punishable under section 500/501 of the Penal Code, 1860.

5. That the report dated 13.11.2012 published by you in The Daily Star is absolutely libelous and scandalous and a sheer example of harassment and above all is defamatory to our client. Our client has sustained unbearable loss to his social and political life which may be counted to the tune of Tk 50 crore which you the notice receivers are liable to pay to our client.

6. That the report published by you, the notice receiver, is nothing but a glaring example of yellow journalism and devoid of all customs and norms of fair journalism. You, the notice receivers, have published the said report without any basis and have taken an isolated incident as a means of victimizing a public figure and a veteran politician of the country. Therefore you are liable to be dealt with in accordance with law for publishing defamatory statements falsely involving our client.

7. That due to the said report published by you the notice receivers our client has been mentally upset and socially and politically harassed and humiliated and therefore you the notice receivers are under legal obligation to seek unconditional apology from our client to this effect. You are also liable to publish a rejoinder in this respect in the front page of your newspaper.

believe it," she says and adds in a wailing voice: "I could have consoled myself if I could get even one body or two, and bury them. I could have told myself, 'Here lies my father or mother or brother or sister-in-law.'" Originally from Mithapukur in Dinajpur, her father, Nazrul Islam, came to Dhaka to find his luck a decade ago. Luck has find in Ashulia at a garments factory. About two years ago he joined Tazreen Fashions where he managed jobs also for his wife Amena Begum, 45, son Md Nayan, 25, and Nayan's wife Monira, 22.

Hoping to settle the entire family in Dhaka, Nazrul brought Nilufa about five years ago and married her off to a youth at Nishchintapur, which is about 200 yards away from

In view of the above facts and circumstances, we on behalf of our client, request you, the notice receivers, to seek unconditional apology to our client for publishing false and baseless report entangling our client with his cartoon and publish a rejoinder in this effect on the front page of the said newspaper within three days from receipt of this notice failing which we have clear instructions from our client to proceed with legal proceedings, both civil and criminal, against you in the appropriate court of law and in that event, you, the notice receivers, will be held liable for all costs and incidentals.

A copy of this notice is kept in our office for future reference.

Yours faithfully

(Kazi Akhtar Hossain)  
LL.B. (Hon's), LL.M (1st Class) DU  
Advocate  
Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
For: "Legum Consultants"

## Our Reply

We publish the legal notice sent to us by a lawyer on behalf of Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir. Usually, we only publish the main points of such a notice. But in this case, we are printing the full text both as a mark of respect for the minister and also to share with our readers the full content and nature of the notice.

Our intention behind publishing the report was to bring to the notice of the public and of the authorities, especially to the home ministry/minister, that ex-secretary Delwar Hossain, a former secretary and former rector of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), was being harassed by law enforcers of, not just one but two police stations, for unspecified reasons and without any legal document or formal complaints.

What attracted our attention and made us doubly concerned was these police officials, uniformed and plainclothes, were using the name of the honourable home minister as an excuse to harass and intimidate him. We have Delwar's complaint on record and the full text of what transpired between him and the police.

Our sense of public service and protecting a citizen's rights made us duty bound to publish it, especially in view of recent disappearances which circumstantially implicated the law enforcement agencies.

In our story we never attributed the activities of the police to the home minister and never said the home minister was in any way involved in the incident. We