

# Widow testifies against Azad

**FROM PAGE 20**  
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 Jaistha, 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 Hasamdia and Mayendia Bazar, looted valuables and killed a number of people there, Nepal added.

**QUADER MOLLAH' 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 Chouddarashi 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 Delwar Hossain Sayedee 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 Sayedee 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 ameer 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 Moheskhalı 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.

<div>MERE NUMBERS</div> <div>FROM PAGE 1</div>
<div> <div><span>●</span></div> <div>6 January 2005</div> <div>22 killed at Shan Knitting and Processing Ltd in Narayanganj</div> </div>
<div> <div><span>●</span></div> <div>23 February 2006</div> <div>54 killed at KTS garment factory in Chittagong</div> </div>
<div> <div><span>●</span></div> <div>25 February 2010</div> <div>21 killed at Gazib &amp; Gazib weater factory in Gazipur</div> </div>
<div> <div><span>●</span></div> <div>14 December 2010</div> <div>26 killed at Ha-Meem Group factory in Ashulia</div> </div>
<div> <div><span>●</span></div> <div>24 November 2012</div> <div>111 killed at Tazreen Fashions in Ashulia</div> </div>

## 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.

# 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. Julfikar 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 Hosain**  
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 cunning fully 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 you newspaper.

# Burnt beyond recognition

**FROM PAGE 20**  
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 he

did 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 plain-clothes, 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 added quotes from the complainant and the police officials who admitted to visiting Delwar's house. Our story clearly shows we tried to contact the minister, as the comments of his PS amply prove.

It was our hope that the home minister or his ministry would immediately take up the matter, meet or talk to Delwar, either directly or by phone, and find out why police were visiting his house, on what grounds they were questioning him, etc, as it now appears that the minister's name was being improperly used.

Did the home minister or any officer from the ministry try to talk to Delwar? The legal notice provides no evidence of any such communication. One simple phone call would have clarified the matter and indicated to the minister or his office that police officials were using his name to harass an honourable citizen who is held in high esteem by his peers.

We dare say it was our expectation that the minister would be thankful to the press that we have brought to his notice this fact of police misusing his name; otherwise the incident would never have come to his notice.

Is it better that the police misuse his name and he never knows about it, or that we publish and make him aware? Asking the police will only bring forth a denial as their intention will be to protect themselves. How can the truth be found if only the police, not the victim, are questioned?

Instead of appreciation, we have a legal notice that does not address the facts published, but castigates us, accuses us of "yellow journalism" and threatens us with dire consequences if we do not retract and apologise. The threat of both civil and criminal legal action is nothing short of trying to intimidate the press and prevent us from reporting against ministers or other high officials. Defamation is a civil offence in democracies, but we are threatened with criminal offence, indicating the desire to punish us rather than to seek the truth.

On receiving the legal notice we further checked and double checked all facts connected with our story. We visited the spot of the incidents to check further concerning our report about the police visits to Delwar's home at Sripur of Ashulia.

Inhabitants of the area and Delwar's neighbours reconfirmed that police went to his house twice (on November 8 and 12). Both times there were police, some uniformed and some in plainclothes. Some of the neighbours also overheard conversations between the police and Delwar Hossain on both occasions. These people have reconfirmed the veracity of our report.

About the use of a cartoon/caricature, it is a normal journalistic practice, used to illustrate a story of public importance. Caricatures are never meant to defame or insult any public figure. This is a global practice and is evidenced by cartoons of all global leaders published every day in every democratic country of the world.

Our story in no way attributes the actions of the police to the home minister. We reiterate that our story was meant to alert the home minister that his name was being used to harass citizens. In publishing the story we feel that we have served the public interest and also helped the government to carry out its task. We conclude by appealing to the home minister that a simple independent inquiry, not by the very police who took part in the harassment, would reveal the truth to him.

A free and independent media is always an ally of an accountable government and democracy, never an enemy. We have played, and will continue to play, that role of an ally.

# Units without 2 exits

**FROM PAGE 1**  
were accident. There is no doubt that it's a pre-planned incident," Hasina said, citing the arrests of two garment workers on charges of setting fire to Debonair garment in Ashulia.

It may be mentioned that some people allegedly set fire to Debonair garment factory on Sunday at around lunch time. This fire, however, seems not to have any link with Saturday's fire at Tazreen Fashions. The fire at Debonair was immediately doused by the factory fire fighters with no casualty reported. Police arrested two people in this connection.

Taking the floor in the House during an unscheduled discussion, Hasina said those behind the incident must be identified through investigation.

Termining the incident "very unfortunate," the prime minister said, "[I] don't know when playing games with people's lives

will end."

After the country's Liberation War, jute warehouses were set on fire as the country was earning remittances through exporting the golden fibre, Hasina said, adding that now attacks were being made on the garment sector that had been earning foreign currency.

Participating in the discussion, Awami League-led ruling alliance MPs demanded that the government identify the masterminds behind the fire and take stern action against them.

Worker's Party chief Rashed Khan Menon said incidents of fire in garment factory were nothing new. "They have been happening regularly. But owners of garment factories were never brought to book over their negligence in ensuring safety in the factories."

**RMG LEADERS MEET RAJU**  
Leaders of Bangladesh

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 go 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.

As the workers were running frantically to get out of the building, some construction workers from a nearby five-storey under-construction structure broke a window shield on the 6th floor using bamboo sticks.

The construction workers also laid a bamboo-made ladder on to the window from the rooftop of their building which helped the trapped garment workers climb down to the roof, said the workers.

"We were lucky that the incident did not take place in the evening or at night. Otherwise it could have been an incident like that of Ashulia," Lavlu added.

Talking to reporters, Abu Naim Mohammad 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.

more.

With these loved ones dead, Nilufa has now two younger brothers -- Leon, 12, and Ratan, 8 -- to look after. Ratan is a class-III student and Leon is helping Nilufa's husband at his grocery shop at Nishchintapur.

As for identifying the bodies of her parents, brother and his wife, she does not know where to go for help.