

# Testimony of torture

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The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam recorded Ranjit's separate testimonies.

Mujaheed was produced before the court yesterday. Azad is on the run.

During his 40-minute testimony in the case against Mujaheed, Ranjit said he was involved with the Awami League in 1971 and took part in several of its meetings and processes.

"I took shelter on the outskirts of Faridpur town after the Pakistani army arrived on April 21, 1971," said Ranjit, adding that on the first week of June 1971, he went to the town to collect information about the Liberation War.

When Ranjit was

approaching the town, one Habi Matabbar, terming him a freedom fighter, handed him over to Abul Kalam Azad, Abul Mia and Kalu Bihari at East Khabashpur.

"Beating me up, they took me to Faridpur Circuit House on a rickshaw and Major Koreshi, a Pakistani army official, Mujaheed, Afzal and other Razakars were holding a meeting there," said Ranjit.

According to the prosecution, as a leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the student wing of Jamaat in 1971, Azad was a close associate of the then central Chhatra Sangha leader Mujaheed.

Getting a signal from Mujaheed, Azad and his associates blindfolded Ranjit and took him to Faridpur Zila School ground and put him under

a plum tree, said Ranjit. After a few minutes a car went there.

"Someone in the car in Urdu said, 'Don't shoot him. Hand him over to the Biharies and slit his throat in the morning,'" said Ranjit.

He said he was then taken near a Bihari colony on Mollah Bari Road.

"Hanging me up side down from a kadama tree, they [Azad and others] beat me up for one hour and one of my teeth and a bone of my nose were broken," said Ranjit.

Later, they confined Ranjit to a house inside the Bahini colony and around midnight Ranjit escaped breaking through a window, he said.

After his testimony, defence counsel Munshi Ahsan Kabir cross-examined Ranjit and asked six questions before the

tribunal adjourned the case proceeding until tomorrow following a defence plea for adjournment.

During his 32-minute testimony in the case against Azad, Ranjit gave almost similar descriptions about his confinement, torture and escape.

After the Pakistani army arrived, they set up their camps at Faridpur Zila School, the stadium, and Rajendra College.

"Bachchu Razakar occupied the house of Ramkrishna Agarwal," said Ranjit.

In association with Azad, the Pakistani army used to catch and bring pro-liberation people from the town and villages and tortured and killed them at Faridpur stadium, said Ranjit.

"There was a pond. Bodies were dumped

there. The place was identified as the killing field," said the witness.

Earlier yesterday, Mojaher Sikdar, the third prosecution witness in Azad's case, testified that Azad killed Sudhangshu Mohan Roy, landlord of Kolaran of Faridpur on May 14, 1971.

The 65-year-old from Kolaran said around 3:00pm on May 14, 1971, 10-12 armed people were going towards east past his home.

"Of them, I knew one. He was Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu. Bachchu was my classmate in Bahirdia Quami Madrasa," said Mojaher.

He quoted Azad as saying, "I come from Faridpur after receiving training. Now I will govern the country."

Mojaher followed Azad when they were going towards Sudhangshu's

house. They brought Sudhangshu and his son Monimoy Roy out and took them 200 yards east of their home, said Mojaher.

"Bachchu Razakar shot Sudhangshu Babu from behind," said Mojaher, adding that another person shot Monimoy while he was crying.

On Monday, Nepal Chandra Pathak, the first prosecution witness in the case, testified that he had seen Azad shoot Sudhangshu to death.

Meanwhile, Dhala Matabbar, the third prosecution witness in the case, in his testimony said Azad had killed Chitta Ranjan Das of his village Fulbaria in Faridpur during the Liberation War.

The 61-year-old said when he was on his way to Fulbaria market on the 19th of the Bangla month

Jaista, he saw Azad and his three cohorts beat Chitta up.

Afterwards, taking Chitta under a tree near his home, Bachchu Razakar shot Chitta, said Matabbar.

On Monday, Jyotsna Rani Das, wife of Chitta and second prosecution witness in the case, testified that Azad killed her husband after torturing him.

Matabbar said around 200 Hindu families left for India after the incident including Jyotsna.

State-appointed defence counsel Abdus Shukur Khan cross-examined the witnesses.

In the beginning of the court proceeding, Shukur Khan informed the tribunal that he could submit neither any documents nor a list of defence witness in the case as he did not get any cooperation from Azad's family mem-

bers.

Following Shukur's time petition, the tribunal extended time until December 5 to submit documents and defence witness list.

Meanwhile, Trial-1 yesterday asked the prosecution to submit formal charge or a progress report of the ongoing investigation against war-crimes suspect Jamaat leader Mir Quasem Ali on January 29 next year.

The tribunal gave the order following the prosecution's prayer for time extension.

Meanwhile, the defence of Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee continued with their closing arguments in the crimes against humanity trial at the tribunal yesterday.

Defence has spent nine sessions for placing their arguments.

# BNP mulls fresh ultimatum

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Like the other two showdowns on March 12 and June 11, the crisis-riddled Jamaat-e-Islami has planned to dominate today's rally by gathering its huge number of activists, party insiders said.

Today's showdown would be the BNP-led 18-party alliance's third one in the last nine months and the first since July.

After obtaining permission from Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday, the 18-party alliance leaders were busy in their last moment efforts towards ensuring huge gathering like that of

March 12 and June 11 when tens of thousands of party activists and supporters had gathered at Naya Paltan.

Last month, the alliance had announced to hold a mass rally in the capital on November 22. They later shifted the programme today to press home their bunch of demands including the one for restoring caretaker government and holding next general polls under it.

While addressing thousands of supporters in the March 12 rally, the BNP chief gave the Hasina administration a 90-day ultimatum to announce the

restoration of the caretaker system.

In the June 11 rally, she

gave another ultimatum to the government and threatened to announce tougher agitation programmes like hartal, blockade and mass sit-in after Eid-ul-Fitr if the government failed to meet their demands.

Talking to this corre-

spondent yesterday, BNP

standing committee member Moudud Ahmed said the party chairperson might announce series of long term programmes as part of the party's ongoing anti-government movement.

The BNP chief hold talks with her party's senior leaders and 18-party alliance leaders before finalising the alliance's next course of action, he said.

"We have long time ahead of us. People's support for us is increasing day by day. And time will come when stern political programmes like hartal, blockade will be needed," Moudud added.

It Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, another standing committee member of BNP, said he did not think that tough programmes like hartal, blockade would be announced from today's mass rally.

# Split HC order

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(ACC) on October 26, 2009, had lodged the case with Cantonment Police Station against the two on charge of laundering Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

Mamun filed the criminal revision petition with the HC saying that the ACC must have prior permission

from the government to run the case against him as per provisions of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2009. But the anti-graft body did not follow the provision of the law.

Justice Abdul Awal, senior judge of the HC bench, issued a rule upon the ACC

and the government to explain within two weeks why the trial court's October 18 order rejecting Mamun's petition seeking stay on the trial in the case should not be declared illegal.

Justice Md Faruque, junior member of the bench, summarily rejected the petition.

The defence team is set to cross-examine the seventh prosecution witness of the case in the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka tomorrow.

Following yesterday's split order by the HC, the prosecution and defence lawyers made different assumptions about the fate of the trial.

The defence would now submit a petition to the Dhaka court for staying the trial in the case on the ground that it is now pending with the HC, defence lawyer barrister Ehsanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

The lower court normally does not proceed with any case, if any petition challenging the case remains pending with the higher court, he added.

However, ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan said the HC bench will now send the petition to the chief justice for a decision.

Upon receiving the

petition, Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain will constitute another HC bench for its disposal.

There is no legal bar for the lower court to proceed on with the trial as the HC has not passed any stay order, mentioned Khurshid.

Tarique Rahman is now undergoing treatment in London, while Mamun is in jail custody.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and ACC's counsel Anisul Huq opposed the petition, while Moudud Ahmed and Mahbubuddin Khokon argued for the petitioner.

# Ensure safety of workers

FROM PAGE 1

how poor security standards led to so many deaths in the fire at Tazreen Fashion Ltd, Hasina said in her speech at the inauguration of the fifth Texbangla, a biennial exhibition by primary textile entrepreneurs at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital.

"We will take action against the company on receiving reports of those committees."

The saddest part of the Ashulia incident was that fire-fighters could not bring the fire under control immediately for lack of water sources near the factory, she said, though the area earlier had many water bodies like canals and lakes.

"Set up factories but do not fill the water bodies near them," the PM said

and suggested building water bodies near the factories so that water could be easily fetched from there to douse fire.

Hasina also asked the businessmen to keep emergency exits when they set up factories so that workers could rush out in a short time on hearing fire alarms.

She told the businessmen to remain alert because "there were reports that a vested quarter was trying to set garment factories on fire in efforts to ruin the sector."

Assuring that the industrial units would be provided with adequate gas connections, the PM said her government would float tenders soon for gas and oil exploration in the parts of the Bay of Bengal that Bangladesh recently

won in a legal battle with Myanmar.

Hasina said she was not re-elected in the 2001 polls for going against gas export to two mighty countries. "The two countries [which she did not name] were discontented with me. Still, I continued to oppose gas export."

At the programme, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the government would be able to announce seven special economic zones (SEZs) by January. Once the SEZs go into operation, local and foreign investors will get all the facilities required for business.

He was optimistic that the price of electricity would be reduced by 2016-17 as gas supply might increase in the meantime.

AK Azad, outgoing president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said Bangladesh would gain the capacity to export ready-made garments worth \$50 billion within the next five years if the government could ensure enough gas and power supply to the industrial units.

He urged the government to allow Japanese and Turkish investors in the 3000 acres of land of Korean Export Processing Zone in Chittagong.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Association President Jahangir Alamin said the local companies could now supply 90 percent yarn to the export-oriented knitwear factories and 40 percent to the export-oriented woven garment factories.

Date: 27 December 2012

Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children

## INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Save the Children International (SCI) Bangladesh country office is hereby inviting international tender from the manufacturers/ authorized dealers/ experienced supplier for supplying and distributing of Male Latex Condom, Lubricant and Disposable Needle & Syringe

1	Name of Procuring Entity	Save the Children International	
2	Invitation for	Procurement and Distribution of Male Latex Condom, Lubricants and Disposable Needle & Syringe	
3	Invitation Ref. No.	SC/GF/IntIFT/2012/01, dated: November 27, 2012	
4	Procurement Method	International Open Tendering Method	
5	Budget and Source of Funds	The Global Fund	
6	Project / Program Name	Global Fund Rolling Continuation Channel Project for "Expanding HIV Prevention in Bangladesh"	
7	Tender Publication Date	November 28, 2012	
8	Tender schedule Last Selling Date	January 08, 2013	
9	Tender Closing Date and Time	January 09, 2013	Time: 14:30 (BST)
10	Tender Opening Date and Time	January 09, 2013	Time: 15:00 (BST)
11	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address - Selling Tender Document Reception Desk, Save the Children, House- CWN(A) 35, Road- 43, Gulshan-2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh between 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM in all work days (Sunday to Thursday). - Dropping Tender Document Bid box kept at reception Desk of above mentioned Save the Children office - Opening Tender Document Above mentioned Save the Children office	
12	Pre-tender meeting	Pre-Tender meeting will be held on December 12, 2012 at 11:00 BST at above address.	
13	Minimum Qualifications of Bidders	1. 3 years manufacturing and /or marketing experience of the related goods 2. In addition to above - WHO/UNFPA prequalified for package-1 3. Foreign vendors must have local agent/distributor/partner/ representation in Bangladesh	
14	Price of Bid Document	BDT. 1,000.00 (Taka one thousand) only in the form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft in favor of 'Save the Children International' from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh	
15	Brief Description of Goods		
1	Package	Description	Quantity & delivery
1	Procurement and distribution of Male Latex Condoms [Brand: Save the Children approved name and foil design] up to the DIC level	24 million pieces to 120 DICs (Approx.)	BDT. 300,000.00 (Three hundred thousand) only in the form of Pay Order, Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in favor of Save the Children International from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.
2	Procurement and distribution of Lubricants [Brand: Save the Children approved name and tube design] up to the DIC level	0.30 million tubes to 103 DICs (Approx.)	BDT. 100,000.00 (One hundred thousand) only in the form of Pay Order, Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in favor of Save the Children International from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.