## To hell and back

FROM PAGE 1 "I knew about it as I am an old employee of Tazreen Fashions," said Sathi, a 25-

year-old sewing operator.

"Right when the fire broke, it occurred to me that I could rescue at least 100 workers through that window."

Without waiting for instructions from the higherups, Sathi, who survived the deadly fire at garment factory Tazreen on November 24, immediately reached out for that secret window.

She broke the glass window and started letting out the panic-stricken workers through it.

"After letting out 20 workers through the window, I stood strong and rescued another 80. I shouted and they jumped through it."

During the conversation with The Daily Star at her home in Ashulia, a severely injured Sathi recalled the frenetic efforts of the workers for their lives that fateful

"The heat of the fire drained me out after a point. I got out through the window then and took the support of a bamboo I found outside to

thigh bleeding heavily, by the

moments. Sirajul Bhai, who had joined a few months before and used to sit near me, tried his best to survive, but ultimately failed," she

Sirajul Bhai as he was a simple man and our bosses always rebuked him," Sathi added.

When the fire started engulfing the third floor, a good number of male workers broke an exhaust fan to make an escape route.

Many escaped death through this way and many were burnt to ashes -- right before her eyes.

"Almost all the workers could have survived if the production manager Abdur Razzaque had told us to go out in the beginning of the fire," she said.

The collapsible gate on the third floor was securely locked, Sathi said, adding she saw many attempts to get out through the ground floor while searching for an exit in the thick black smoke.

When it dawned on her that she might also not make it out of the building, she rang her elder sister to hear her two children speak -- for one last time.

"I have so many stories to share of the tragic night that a full day is not enough," Sathi said, adding she is still in a state of shock.

During the incident a female worker jumped from the window only to impale herself on a standing rod on the ground. The rod pierced through her neck and she died instantly.

Sathi said it will be difficult for the surviving workers to rejoin the garment factory as memories of that night keep haunting their minds. She will look for a job else-

where since she has two children and a husband, a struggling van driver, to support.

"But life will not stop; it will go on," said Sathi, who hails from Lohagara upazila of Narail district. reefat@thedailystar.net

The daily airport traffic,

which consists of 185 flights

3:00pm yesterday on comple-

tion of the Biman's hajj oper-

ation this year since the

pilgrims could not reach

Dhaka in time due to the

technical glitch of the DC-10

Biman sources said the hajj

operation would be formally

wrapped up though with the

arrival of the flight, but some

pilgrims will be arriving till

the ground handling, check-

in, immigration and customs

have so far been going good

since the repair work started,

passengers are raising com-

plaints of unusual delay in

finding luggage in the con-

3:00pm, but it took me two

hours to get my luggage," said

Fayzul Ahmed who yesterday

programme at the Center for

International Climate and

Environmental Research in

nations set the 2-degree

Celsius temperature goal in a

nonbinding agreement.

Negotiators now at a confer-

ence under way in Doha,

Qatar, are trying to find ways

to start reducing world emis-

sions now and "throw every-

thing we have at the prob-

agreed to an international

treaty, known as the Kyoto

Protocol, that required devel-

oped countries such as the

United States to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions

by about 5 percent when

compared with the baseline

But countries that are still

developing, including China

and India, were not limited by

how much carbon dioxide

they expelled. The US never

bers, calculated by the Global

Carbon Project show that

The latest pollution num-

year of 1990.

ratified the treaty.

In 1997, most of the world

The only way, Peters said, is

to reach that target.

Three years ago, nearly 200

"I landed at the airport at

Although the operations in

aircraft.

December 8.

veyer belts.

Oslo, Norway.

till April 30, 2013.

## Paraguay peasant leader shot dead

BBC ONLINE

The leader of a landless peasant movement in Paraguay involved in a land dispute with a powerful politician has been shot

Vidal Vega had been cooperating with an inquiry into the deaths of 11 of his supporters and six police

They died last June in an operation to evict farmers from land which activists say was illegally grabbed by a late senator in the 1960s.

Then-President Fernando Lugo was ousted over his handling of the deadly clash. A prosecutor investigat-

ing his murder said two gunmen arrived at his home in Curuguaty in the eastern province of Canindevu and shot him early on Sunday. The prosecutor said

police had later arrested a suspect who matched the description of one of the gunmen, but did not speculate on a motive. He said there was no

evidence so far linking Mr Vega's murder to his role in the investigation into the killings in June. Mr Vega, 48, was expected

to testify at the trial.

His movement of landless peasants had lobbied the Paraguayan government for many years to redistribute farmland in Canindeyu occupied by late senator Blas Riquelme more than 50 years ago.

## Hillary backs Czech nuke deal

AFP, Prague

US Secretary of State including 85 in international Hillary Clinton yesterday routes and handles around backed a bid by US energy 15,000 passengers, will now giant Westinghouse to build have to be dealt within the two new units at the Czech 15-hour window. Temelin nuclear plant worth Meanwhile, Civil Aviation at least \$10 billion (7.67 Minister Faruk Khan had to billion euros). cancel a scheduled press conference at the airport at

"We are not shy about pressing the case for Westinghouse to expand the Temelin nuclear power plant because we believe that company offers the best option for the project in terms of technology and safety," Clinton said.

The US giant faces stiff competition from Russia's Atomstroiexport bidding together with a Russianowned Czech company.

France's Areva, a third bidder, was ruled out of the tender but has filed an appeal against the decision with the Czech UOHS anti-competition watchdog.

#### Shibir activist

FROM PAGE 1

to his injuries around 9:00pm on his way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. He received rubber bullets during the clash Matiur Rahman, secretary general of Jamaat's Dinajpur town unit, told The Daily

He is the son o Khansama upazila Jamaat e-Islami Secretary General Ataur Rahman, added Matiur.

The clash ensued when police intercepted a proces sion brought out by Jamaat Shibir supporters a Ranirbandar Bazar near Dinajpur-Dhaka highway around 6:15pm.

The law enforcers fired at least 15 tear gas canisters and 10 rounds of rubber bullets to disperse the activists, police said. The clash left at least 15 people injured including Mojaheed.

In response, the activists pelted brickbats at the police, said Md Tariqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Chirirbandar Police Station. Due to the clash, traffic

movement between Dinajpur and other districts halted for around three hours until 9:00pm.

Police detained 10 Jamaat-Shibir supporters from the spot, but later released them, said the OC.

Border Guard Bangladesh personnel have been deployed in the area following Mojaheed's death.

No rally? So Jamaat calls hartal day's] rally," said Shafiqur FROM PAGE 1

Nationalist Party is extending its moral support to the hartal called by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami," said the press release.

Meanwhile, in a prehartal showdown, Jamaat men vesterday set fire to a vehicle and vandalised four more in the capital's Jatrabari area. Jamaat activists also clashed with police in Dinajpur. The clash left one Jamaat man dead.

The party was supposed to hold rallies in the capital and in some other districts yesterday afternoon to press the government to release the top Jamaat leaders facing trials on charges of crimes against humanity. The hartal announce-

through a press release signed by Jamaat's acting secretary general Shafiqur Rahman. In the statement, all units of Jamaat had been called upon to enforce the strike. "We are left with no other

ment came around 12:10 pm

choice since we were denied

Rahman.

Jamaat sources said the party's senior leaders had instructed the grassrootslevel leaders and workers to take preparation for making the hartal a success, even if it needed to defy police obstructions.

"We have been asked not to leave the streets in the face of police action," Amiruzzaman, chief of Jamaat Chittagong City (north) unit, told The Daily Star yesterday evening. Meanwhile, the

announcement of hartal triggered concern of street violence, as the home minister had directed police to take action against Jamaat men to foil their programme. Although being a key

component of the BNP-led opposition alliance, Jamaat has alone been taking to the streets to press their core demands -- cancellation of, what they had termed, "farcipermission for today's [Mon-release of their party high-all components of the BNP-releases. Reportedly, they and Badda.

In their statement, Jamaat, however, cited restoration of the caretaker government system, price hike of essentials, deterioration of law and order, misrule of the government and attack on the values of Islam as the issues for the hartal.

city

Jamaat is also agitating along with the opposition alliance that had already declared a series of agitation programmes for December, including a nationwide road blockade on the 9th. The party leaders yesterday at a meeting of opposi-

tion alliance's senior leaders had sought BNP's support for the hartal, said Shawkat Hossain Nilu, chief of National People's Party, a component of the BNP-led alliance. Liberal Democratic Party,

Islami Oikya Jote, Islamic Party, National Democratic Party, Jatiya Ganotantrik Party, Bangladesh Labour cal war crimes trial" and Party and Khelafat Majlish --

led alliance -- had extended their support to Jamaat's hartal, said Hamdullah Mehedi, secretary general of Labour Party.

Contacted, MA Rashid Pradhan, secretary general of Islamic Party, and Shahadat Hossain Selim, joint secretary of Liberal Democratic Party, confirmed their solidarity with Jamaat.

With the party's top leaders, including its chief and secretary general, now in detention and facing charges of crimes against humanity, Jamaat has been going through the toughest time since its resumption of activities in Bangladesh after

The party's central office in the capital has been kept closed since the police raid on September 19 last year, after its violent protest against the crackdown on its high-ups.

Since, some mid-level central leaders have been running the party over telephone and by issuing press have also been meeting local party leaders of different areas in the capital to keep them actively involved in party programmes.

Jamaat insiders said the grassroots units of the party have been working to gear up political activities and boost the morale of local leaders and activists.

They said under the cover of social, cultural and educational programmes like study circles, discussions and Quran recitation competitions, they had been preparing for a "proper time" to fight back the government.

Meanwhile, section 144 has been imposed in different districts including Sylhet, Noakhali, Feni and Bogra, as Jamaat, and Awami League and its associate bodies were set to hold rallies at the same place and same time yester-

In the capital, Jamaat men brought out sudden processions in some areas including Bhatara, Uttara

disperse the protesters,

Bangladesh-German joint

venture manufacturing

leather products, whose

three factories came under

attack from outsiders on

Saturday, resumed its opera-

tion after a day of work sus-

pension, its managing direc-

workers of the export-

oriented company were

injured when several hun-

dred garment workers

attacked its factories in

Abuls claim

Padma bridge construction.

team, which launched its

enquiry in September last

year, will submit its report to

the commission today.

The four-member ACC

At least 50 guards and

tor Saiful Islam said.

Ashulia.

FROM PAGE 1

Picard Bangladesh Ltd, a

Moktar said.

#### Compensate FROM PAGE 1 tracted work to the

the memorandum.

Leaders of the workers'

rights groups requested the world's largest retailer not to stop outsourcing to Bangladeshi factories. Cancellation of orders would only add to the plight of garment workers, leaving many of them jobless.

"So, you should come to a solution and change your decision," the memorandum said. The letter pleaded with

Walmart to use its influence to ensure that the freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining is respected in its supply chain. Walmart is the largest

buyer of Bangladesh's readymade garment products, purchasing items worth over \$1billion annu-After the fire that killed

111 workers, it said Tazreen Fashions was no longer authorised to produce merchandise for it and that one of its suppliers had subconBangladeshi company in direct violation of the company's policies. Walmart also said it ter-

minated the relationship with the supplier in ques-However, Hong Kong sourcing giant Li & Fung,

which has orders placed with Tazreen Fashions, said the day after the incident that it would give \$1,200 to each of the families of those who died in the blaze. Before submitting the

tal, demanding safe working environment for garment workers. At the programme, Nazma Akter, president of Sommilito Garment Sramik

Titumir College in the capi-

demands were not met.

new list of workers and staff of Tazreen Fashions to give them termination benefits along with arrears. According to the list, 990

(BGMEA) with the help of

labour leaders prepared a

regular workers will get unpaid salaries with benefits. The number of workers who left the factory in October and were supposed to get their salaries on November 25 is 324, said Mir Abul Kalam Azad, general secretary of Shadhin Bangla Garments Sramik Karmachari Federation.

Rafiqul Islam, a joint secretary of BGMEA, said the association hopes to clear the benefits on December 5. He said that as the fire had

ravaged the factory it would not be possible to resume its production very soon. So the owners would provide the employees with all termination benefits as per the labour laws. According to the laws, the

workers, who have worked at the factory for a year or more, will get one month year, encashment of earned leave and their due salaries. Those who have worked

basic salary, one gratuity per

for less than a year would get one month salary along with the last month's salary. The workers, who have worked for less than three months, will get Tk 1,000 along with their due salary, said Rafiqul. Meanwhile, the garment owners kept their industrial

units shut in Ashulia yesterday as angry workers continued their demonstrations demanding justice to the fire victims. The whole thing began when workers of Windy Garments in Jamgara came out of the factory, shouting

out fire. They hurled brick chips at other garment factories, demanding production suspension, said Moktar Hossain, deputy director of industrial police. Workers of some other garments also joined the

And, over the report, the commission will hold a demonstration and blocked meeting with the World Bank Ashulia-Baipail road for half external panel this after-The global lender's team,

now in Dhaka for the second time to assess the progress in the enquiry, held talks with the ACC on Sunday. It is scheduled to visit the ACC around 3:00pm today, said

its \$1.2 billion credit for the \$2.9 billion project on June 29, saying it had credible evidence of a corruption conspiracy involving Bangladeshi officials, executives of a Canadian firm and

The global lender appointed the external team following its September 21 announcement to revive the loan deal.

and plundering of people's The panel, chaired by property at Parerhaat Bazar Sayedee sued four jour nalists including Abed Khan As Mizanul finished

Its two other members

Mizanul explained that the investigation officer did Office. not produce the three other journalists. "Why did he not The defence counsel yesterday also briefly countered the first three charges

alleged involvement in the Mizanul said the charges are based on the incident of May 4, 1971, but the IO during cross-examination said

While leaving the ACC army went to Pirojpur on compound yesterday, Syed Abul Hossain asked his Pointing at the charge men to distribute some No.1 which said army killed paper that he claimed was 20 people of Masimpur in Pirojpur with the help of supplementary statement Sayedee, the defence counsel argued, "Couldn't the inves-

anyone of the relatives of the with officials of SNC Lavalin He commented that the IO did not produce them met him twice before selectfearing that the truth might

ing the firm.

#### 3 more testify against Azad Abul Kalam Azad alias Afterwards, they took of the day describing and Bachchu Mia shot Madhab

dead. I saw the incident in my

own eyes from a jute field," he

After about five minutes,

Azad killed Gyanendra

Mondal, a relative of their

neighbour Doari Sarder, at

the same spot, added

with Prafulla as both of them

were students of Faridpur

Rajendra College, said the

committed killings, torture,

loot, and arsons during the

nine-month-long war to

uproot the Hindu commu-

nity, Awami League support-

ers, pro-liberation unarmed

Bangalees from the country,

families [of the area] were

compelled to take shelter in

refugee camps in India in fear

of Bachchu Razakar and his

testimony, Tusto Kumar

Mondol, a 54-year-old

schoolteacher, gave almost a

similar description of the

killings of Madhab and

Razakar commander and his

aim was to wipe out the

Hindu community and

Awami League supporters,

Pakistani army, killings,

rapes, loot and arsons were

committed led by Bachchu

Razakar in Faridpur like

11:00am by two boats and

some 10 people entered the

"Under the leadership of

house of Chitta Ranjan.

everywhere else," he added.

"Abul Kalam Azad was a

"As part of the plans of the

During his 12-minute

cohorts," added the witness.

"Around 400-500 Hindu

Prafulla added.

Gyanendra.

said Tusto.

Azad and his cohorts

Azad was acquainted

added.

Prafulla.

FROM PAGE 20

Earlier, Bhakta Ranjan Biswas, son of martyr Madhab and the sixth prosecution witness, testified that Azad had killed his father on May 16.

"I have seen the incidents [killings] and my neighbours Prafulla Kumar Mandol, Tusto Kumar Mondol, Sunil Kumar Mondal and many others witnessed it too, Bhakta testified.

Meanwhile, another eyewitness yesterday testified that Azad had killed Chitta Ranjan Das of his village Fulbaria in Faridpur during the Liberation War.

"The killing took place right before my eyes," said Nagen Chandra Mandol of Fulbaria, also the ninth prosecution witness.

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

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam completed recording their testimonies and crossexamination within two and a half hours.

State-appointed defence counsel Abdus Sukur Khan cross-examined the witnesses before the court adjourned the case proceeding until today.

The tribunal indicted Azad with eight charges of crimes against humanity on November 4 and has been holding his trial in absentia as he is on the run. During his 20-minute

testimony, Prafulla, a 63year-old retired school headmaster, said around 1:00pm on May 16, 1971, he came out of his house hearing a hue and cry and saw 10 to 12 armed men dragging Madhab out of his house.

Bachchu Razakar, his cohorts "Taking him [Madhab] by looted money, gold ornaments and other valuables Tusto Master's [Tusto Kumar Mondol] pond, about 300 from Chitta and loaded those in the boats," Nagen added. yards west of their house,

memorandum, the trade unions formed a human chain in front of Govt

Federation, warned of tougher action if the

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association

> Chitta outside his house and Bachchu killed him there, he continued.

Badal Debnath on the west

side of Chitta's house when

Abdul Quader Mollah as they

Bachchu also killed one

they were leaving his house, he added. QUADER MOLLAH'S CASE The tribunal yesterday expressed discontent over the defence of Jamaat leader

failed to produce their witness in the case. Yesterday was fixed for recording testimony of the fifth defence witness, but Mollah's counsel Abdus Sobhan Tarafder said the witness could not come due

to "family disturbance". "You were asked to produce two witnesses today. Couldn't you produce one?' asked Justice Fazle Kabir.

"It's lame excuse," said Judge Shahinur Islam. "You have to produce two

witnesses tomorrow [Tues-

day]. Otherwise, we will sum

up the case," said Justice Afterwards the tribunal adjourned the case proceedings until today. Meanwhile, Tajul Islam, a senior member of the

defence, yesterday told the

tribunal some "DB police

men" went to the house of

Mollah's counsel Shazzad Ali Chowdhury at Dhanmondi after 11:00pm on Sunday. Shazzad was not there and the "DB men" interrogated his roommates about him, said Tajul and sought

the court's intervention in

Septuagenarian Nagen Tajul told The Daily Star Mandol in his 21-minute testimony said on the 19th of they would file a written Bangla month Jaistha, petition as the tribunal had around 30 people led by Azad asked them to do so. had come to Fulbaria around SAYEDEE'S CASE

this regard.

Meanwhile, the defence of war crimes accused Delawar Hossain Sayedee yesterday continued placing argument at the International Crimes

Tribunal-1. come up. The proceeding of the Defence counsel case was adjourned until Mizanul Islam occupied most part of second session today.

an hour. Police fired around 200 rounds of tear shells to

editor of the newspaper then

formed Razakar force and

was at the scene of robberies

but lost in the legal battle.

placing argument over the

matter, chairman of the

three-member tribuna

Justice Md Nizamul Huq said

'You [Mizanul] took one

session. What you've got?

produce them?" he asked.

out of 20 charges brought

against Sayedee for his

tigation officer produce

crimes against humanity.

May 7, 1971.

20 people?"

What we've got?"

in Pirojpur.

The report said Sayedee

arguing on deposition and an official source. cross-examination of the The Bank had cancelled 26th witness -- renowned

journalist Abed Khan, who gave testimony on February The Bangla daily Samakal ran a report in 2007 that linked Sayedee to torture and robbery incidents during some private individuals. the war. Abed Khan was the

Luis Moreno Ocampo, former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, made its first visit to Dhaka in October.

are Timothy Tong, former commissioner of the Independent Commission against Corruption of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Richard Alderman, former director of Britain's Serious Fraud

The ACC sources say they have information that some quarters influenced the process of selecting Canadian consultant firm SNC Lavalin for a \$50 million job in the Padma project.

Two SNC Lavalin officials are already facing trial in a Canadian court on charges of bribing Bangladeshi public officials to get the

he submitted to ACC yesterday. The statement read former state minister Abul Hasan Chowdhury along

They requested him to properly evaluate the Canadian company's documents, he claimed.

# Emission alarming

China, the world's biggest carbon dioxide polluter. Of the planet's top 10 polluters, only countries that reduced their carbon dioxide emis-

Last year, all the world's nations combined pumped nearly 38.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the air from the burning of fossil fuels, according to a study on new international calcula-

That is about a billion tons more than the previous year said the study published Sunday in the journal Nature Climate Change.

every second. Because emissions of the key greenhouse gas have been

increases to 2 degrees Celsius, said the study's lead author, Glen Peters. Peters was addressing a

worldwide carbon dioxide levels are 54 percent higher than the 1990 baseline.

Although some succeeded, many lost their lives.

get to the ground." Sathi passed out, her left

time she climbed down. "Still, I can remember a few

"I had a soft corner for

Biman first to falter 11:00pm to 8:00am every day Bangladesh Airlines was from December 1 for maintecancelled around 10:30pm on nance work that will continue Sunday as problem surfaced

taxing, sources said. Within around half an hour, Biman engineers fixed the glitch, but by the time the runway was shut, and therefore, the airport authorities did not allow the aircraft to

in its GPS (global positioning

system) soon after it started

take off. Meanwhile, due to the delay, another 314 passengers, many of who are hajj pilgrims and were supposed to fly in from Jeddah by the DC-10 aircraft, got stuck

Biman, however, claims that they arranged boarding at hotels and foods for the stranded passengers in The flight finally left the

airport for Jeddah at 6:00pm

vesterday and is supposed to

return to Dhaka with the stranded passengers at 9:00am today. Asked why it was not sent to Jeddah yesterday morning, a top Biman official, wishing anonymity, said, "We could have sent the aircraft at 8:00am, but did not do so

returned during the runway closure time.' The lone runway at the airport remains shut from returned from Saudi Arabia.

because it would have

of degrees, which is an inter-

national goal. The overwhelming majority of the increase was from the US and Germany were the

tions on global emissions.

The total amounts to more than 2.4 million pounds (1.1 million kilograms) of carbon dioxide released into the air

rising steadily, it is not just unlikely but "rather optimistic" to think that the world can limit future temperature