

Azad killed 2 in Faridpur

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The 56-year-old Union Parishad member said Azad led Pakistani army and Razakars in looting and carrying out arson at Mayendia Market in Boalmari upazila.

Meanwhile, Sushil Kumar Podder, a resident of Hasemdia and seventeenth prosecution witness in the case, testified that Azad accompanied Pakistani army in killing people at their village that day.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam recorded their testimonies and cross-examination.

State-appointed defence counsel Abdus Shukur Khan cross-examined them before the tribunal adjourned the proceeding until tomorrow.

During his 28-minute testimony, Mannan from Mayendia Sreenagar village said on the second day of Bangla month Jaistha, he had heard sounds of shooting from Hasemdia Hindu Para and gone to the west side of Mayendia Market.

There were a mosque and a bush on the west side of the market, said Mannan, adding, "After going there, I saw Bachchu Razakar along with Pakistani army taking two persons [towards the market]. Names of the [apprehended] persons were Haripada and Puitta."

At that time, more Razakars and Pakistani army arrived at the market on two big boats and started looting, said Mannan, adding, "I saw the incident from the bush. The looting continued from 8:00am to 11:00am led by Bachchu Razakar."

Afterwards, they set fire to several shops of the market, said Mannan, now general secretary of the market committee.

"Before departure with the looted goods, Bachchu Razakar himself shot Haripada and Puitta dead beside the mosque on the riverbank," Mannan added.

He said around 3:00pm that day, he had heard seven to eight people were killed in an attack led by Azad on Hasemdia Hindu Para.

"After the incident, I went to Hasemdia and saw the bodies there. I learned from Mansur Fakir and Jalil Molla that Bachchu Razakar along with his cohorts had taken part in the killings," he said, adding, "Sushil also informed me and he was still alive."

Azad and his cohorts the next day abducted Anjali, daughter of Guru Das of their neighbouring village Ujirpur, and confined her at Azad's father-in-law's house for a week, the witness added.

The girl was released after seven to eight days, but she committed suicide as Azad's cohorts tried to abduct her again, said Mannan, adding that he

had heard about the incident from Anjali's father.

Earlier, Dev Kumar Das, brother of Anjali and eleventh prosecution witness in the case, said Azad had abducted his sister and driven her to suicide after her release.

A week after that incident, Azad and his men looted the house of Guru Das, said Mannan.

In his 24-minute testimony, Sushil, an 84-year-old village doctor, said Pakistani army and Razakars on May 17, 1971 [second day of Bangla month Jaistha] attacked their village and he took shelter in a mango orchard.

After the Pakistani army and Razakars had left, he

heard that his father and brother were killed, said Sushil, adding that from bullet-injured Surja Kumar Das, he had learned that Azad accompanied the army during the killing.

During yesterday's proceeding, the tribunal expressed discontent over Sahidur Rahman, prosecutor of the case, as he did not submit required papers yet.

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

Meanwhile, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday in an order said if the first defence

witness in the war crimes case against Jamaat's former ameer Ghulam Azam again failed to appear before it, the court would close testimony.

Ghulam Azam's son Brig Gen (dismissed) Abdullahil Aman Azmi was supposed to give testimony on defence documents yesterday, but neither the witness nor any conducting lawyers were present in the tribunal.

Defence counsel Mizanur Rahman prayed for adjournment of the day's proceeding saying their lawyers could not appear due to "some unavoidable circumstances".

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until today.

Blockade aims

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time when the nation was in a mood to celebrate the series win over West Indies in ODI cricket.

"We achieved another win in the month of victory over the formidable West Indies. Today, the opposition parties are engaged in setting vehicles afire instead of celebrating the victory," she said.

The premier made the remarks while addressing a function marking the distribution of the Begum Rokeya Medal 2012 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

Hasina mentioned that the blockade had restricted the people from coming out and holding "jubilant processions" to celebrate Bengal Tigers' win over the one-day international (ODI) series.

"It is unfortunate for all of us. One question stirs my mind: what does the opposition want?" she said.

The premier also said the road blockade was enforced on a day when the nation was set to observe the Begum Rokeya Day.

"This showed (the opposition's) utter disrespect to her [Begum Rokeya]. I will request all to show their utmost hatred to the opposition and denounce their move," she told her audience.

Hasina reiterated her firm commitment to eliminate all kinds of injustices to women, saying that her government is implementing various measures to ensure equal rights for women.

She called upon the private organisations and individuals to come forward to supplement the government efforts for improving the lot of women.

The premier recalled the supreme sacrifices of two lakh women during the Liberation War, saying that women directly fought against the Pakistani occupation forces, supplied food to the freedom fighters and finally snatched the independence in exchange of their lives.

She mentioned that Rajakars and Al-Badr Bahini during the war committed crimes against humanity including the torture and abuse of women. "So, the trial of war criminals will certainly be held in the soil of the country."

Hasina said that despite being born and brought up in a conservative society in the 19th century, Begum Rokeya was the pioneer of women education and their emancipation.

"Boldly facing all the obstacles of a conservative

society, Begum Rokeya felt that only education could ensure their self-respect, their freedom and ultimately women empowerment."

She said the present government, following the path shown by Begum Rokeya, has been implementing various programmes for women's development.

In this context, the premier mentioned the formulation of Women Development Policy, 2011 and enactment of Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010.

The present government has also ensured strong representation of women in the judiciary, executive and parliament as well as in the army, navy, air force and police force, she told her audience.

Earlier, the premier distributed Begum Rokeya Medal 2012 to two erudite women for their contributions to establishing women's rights and socio-economic development.

The medal recipients are Syeda Zebunnesa Haq and Prof Mahfuza Khanam.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Secretary of the ministry Tariqul Islam, among others, addressed the function in the capital.

Exploration; no export

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Petrobangla might award the blocks to the winning bidders by the first week of July next year, its director said.

The cost recovery limit per calendar year shall be a maximum of 55 percent of oil, natural gas and condensate available in the areas permitted.

Considering the high international oil prices, the new PSC is made, asking the contractors to pay Petrobangla's PSC Research Fund US10 cents per barrel instead of previous 3 cents on their share of profit in gas and condensate every year.

Speaking at a

Petrobangla press conference, Energy Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said the bidding was part of the government plan to supply fuel from domestic sources to the medium and long-term power projects.

He said the bidding would ensure a balance between the country's interests and the companies' interests.

The new PSC has the minimum price of the high sulphur fuel oil set at \$100 a barrel which was previously \$70 and the ceiling price at \$200 increased from \$180. The prices have been upped, keeping the

international oil price trend in mind.

The winning contractor of SS-04 and SS-10 will have to give 15 percent carried stake to the government at both Kutubdia and Teknaf off-shore fields though Bangladesh will enjoy 10 percent carried stake in other blocks.

State Minister for Energy Muhammad Enamul Huq and Energy Secretary Mohammad Mejbahuddin were present at the press conference.

Deal clears way

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finished after a marathon 36-hour final session.

Ronald Jumeau, negotiating for the Seychelles, scolded the US negotiator: "If we had had more ambition [on emissions cuts from rich countries], we would not have to ask for so much [money] for adaptation. If there had been more money for adaptation [to climate change], we would not be looking for money for loss and damage. What's next? Loss of our islands?"

Ruth Davis, political adviser at Greenpeace, said: "This is a highly significant move - it will be the first time the size of the bill for failing to take on climate change will be part of the UN discussions. Countries need to understand the risks they are taking in not addressing climate change urgently."

Ed Davey, the UK energy and climate secretary, said: "It's about helping the most vulnerable countries, and looking at how they can be more resilient."

But the pledges stopped well short of any admission of legal liability or the need to pay com-

pensation on the part of the rich world.

The US had strongly opposed the initial "loss and damage" proposals, which would have set up a new international institution to collect and disperse funds to vulnerable countries. US negotiators also made certain that neither the word "compensation", nor any other term connoting legal liability, was used, to avoid opening the floodgates to litigation - instead, the money will be judged as aid.

Key questions remain unanswered, including whether funds devoted to "loss and damage" will come from existing humanitarian aid and disaster relief budgets. The US is one of the world's biggest donor of humanitarian aid and disaster relief, from both public and private sources. It will be difficult to disentangle damage inflicted by climate change from other natural disasters.

Another question is how the funds will be disbursed. Developing countries wanted a new institution, like a bank, but the US is set against that, prefer-

ring to use existing international institutions. These issues will have to be sorted out at next year's climate conference, in Warsaw, where they will be bitterly contested.

Davis said: "This [text] is just the beginning of the process - you need to have a finalised mechanism. But it will concentrate minds on the fact that it is in the best interest of countries all over the world to start cutting their emissions quickly." Governments also rescued the Kyoto protocol, the initial targets of which run out at the end of this year. The EU, Australia, Norway and a handful of other developed countries have agreed to take on new carbon-cutting targets under the treaty, running to 2020.

A separate strand of the negotiations, set up to accommodate the US because of its refusal to ratify Kyoto, was closed. This will allow unified discussions to begin on a global climate treaty that would require both developed and developing countries to cut their emissions. The treaty is supposed to be signed in

2015, at a conference in Paris, and come into effect in 2020.

The next three years of negotiations on the treaty will be the hardest in the 20-year history of climate change talks because the world has changed enormously since 1992, when the UN convention on climate change was signed, and 1997, when the Kyoto protocol enshrined a stark division between developed countries - which were required to cut emissions - and developing countries, which were not.

China was classed then as a developing country, and although it still has about 60 million people living in dire poverty, it is now the world's biggest emitter and will soon overtake the US as the biggest economy. It has made clear its determination to hang on to its developing country status, and that the countries classed as developed in 1997 must continue to bear most of the burden for emissions cuts, and for providing funds to poor countries to help them cut emissions and cope with climate change.

Only T20 against WI today

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ODI included eight sixes and almost took the game and the series away from Bangladesh. Marlon Samuels and Darren Sammy took the visitors home in the third and fourth matches respectively, whereas off-spinner Sunil Narine rediscovered his form in the ODI series. Since it's a shorter format today, any one of those performances could swing the match in West Indies' favour.

"You know we are the T20 champions and we are going to come out on Monday and play like that," said Sammy at the end of the fifth ODI on Saturday.

The main concern for the visitors would be their top order. All the three openers used by the West Indies seemed vulnerable against the Bangladesh spinners with the feared Chris Gayle averaging just 14 in the ODIs.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, will be looking to carry their momentum from the ODI series into the T20 game. Their spin brigade picked up 27 wickets in the series and consistently choked the West Indian batsmen.

Shohag Gazi, who has impressed throughout the tour will be expected to make his debut alongside Anamul Haque. The hosts


will be without ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who is the second highest run-scorer and wicket-taker in T20s for Bangladesh. Big hitting all-rounder Ziaur Rahman might also feature in the playing eleven.

It is still unclear whether Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who suffered from a muscle tear during the ODI series, will play today. "I'll take a decision after an assessment tomorrow morning (Monday). I obviously won't play if I think it may lead to a worse situation," Mashrafe told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Tigers have had a miserable run in T20

cricket so far. They lost four of their last five T20s, including one against The Netherlands. The three times they faced West Indies though, they won twice. West Indies, on the other hand, have won four of their last five games, the last one being the final of the ICC World Twenty20.

Having won the ODI series, Mushfiqur's men will hope to go one step further and beat the West Indies at the game that they are most comfortable with. The West Indies, for their part, will be looking to brush aside the series defeat with a win in their last international match of the year.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)

Notice Inviting Bids for Oil and Natural Gas Exploration Under Bangladesh Offshore Bidding Round 2012

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Petrobangla invite International Oil Companies (IOCs) to bid for acreage for exploration for Oil and Gas. Nine (9) shallow sea blocks (SS-02, 03, 04, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10 & 11) and three (3) deep sea blocks (DS-12, 16 & 21) are currently available for exploration by the IOCs. The bidder, singly or in association with other companies, can bid for one or more blocks. Contracts will be signed with the successful bidders in line with the Model Production Sharing Contract 2012.

CONTRACT FEATURES

- Full repatriation of profit.
- No signature bonus or royalty.
- No duty for equipment and machinery imported for petroleum operations during exploration, production and development phases.
- Provision for assignment of interest and share transfer.
- 100 percent cost recovery.
- Mandatory work program consisting 2D seismic and drilling of one exploration well for each block (for shallow sea blocks only).
- Minimum work obligation in each of the Exploration Periods.
- Maximum 55% cost recovery per Calendar Year.
- Option to sell Contractor's share of Natural Gas in the domestic market to a third party, at a negotiated price, subject to Petrobangla's right of first refusal.
- Carried stake of 10 percent for the Government. (for shallow sea blocks only)

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

- Bidder, whether individual or in case of joint venture at least one member must have daily production of at least 15,000 barrel of oil or 150 mmscf of gas as Operator to be qualified for bidding.
- Biddable work program commitment over and above the mandatory program.
- Bank Guarantee for performance of the Minimum Exploration Program.

AVAILABILITY OF DATA

A basic Information Package is available, which includes a Brochure providing geological and related information, the MODEL PRODUCTION SHARING CONTRACT 2012, details of the blocks offered (block map), The Bangladesh Petroleum Act 1974, Promotional Package order form with content and Data Sales Package order form with content and price. The Information Package will be available at a cost of Tk. 10,000 (BD Taka ten thousand) or US \$ 100 (US Dollar one hundred) to the interested bidders/companies.

To enable companies to assess the geological prospects of the blocks on offer, Promotional and Data Packages are available on payment basis. Promotional Packages contain sample seismic sections, gravity, magnetic, geological maps. Companies are required to purchase the Promotional Package in order to qualify for bidding. The purchase price of Promotional Package is US\$ 7,000 (US Dollar seven thousand) or BDT 560,000 (BD Taka five hundred sixty thousand). Purchase of Data Sales Package is optional. Several Data Sales Packages are available at different prices. Companies interested in bidding and purchase of Promotional and Data Packages may contact:

Director, Production Sharing Contract
Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)
Petrocentre, 3 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
Telephone 88-02-8189930, Fax: 88-02-9127400
website: www.petrobangla.org.bd
E-mail: dpscpb@petrobangla.org.bd with a cc to gm.contract@petrobangla.org.bd

Bids in triplicate should be submitted in sealed envelopes superscribed "Confidential" "BANGLADESH OFFSHORE BIDDING ROUND 2012" and "Proposal for Block #" not later than 1:00pm BST on 18 March 2013, to:

Chairman
Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)
Petrocentre, 3, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.

Public opening of bids before the authorized representatives of the bidders will take place at 2:00pm BST on the same day at the same address. Bidders intending to be present during the bid opening should deputize their authorized representative.

Companies wishing to participate in the bidding may request for clarifications on the terms and conditions of the bid. Such request for clarification will be entertained for a period of 30 days from the date of the Notice inviting offers for Oil and Natural Gas Exploration. A pre-submission discussion may be arranged at a later date. Only bonafide E & P companies or their authorized agents and reputed international E & P service companies will be eligible to attend the pre-submission discussion by pre registration.

Cost of information Package and Promotional Package may be paid in cash BDT at Petrobangla or in US\$ through wire transfer in the name of Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).

GD-4811

