3 other murderers Tortured man testifies

FROM PAGE 1 five BCL cadres of Jagannath University (JnU) who directly took part in the murder of the

24-year-old tailor.

The three identified yesterday are all fourth-year students at JnU. The trio along with the group of 10-12 BCL cadres swooped on Bishwajit with sticks, iron rods and machetes around 9:00am on Sunday when he was walking to his work, witnesses told this correspondent.

"Bishwajit was bleeding profusely. And when some people tried to stop the attackers, they said Bishwajit was a Shibir activist. Bishwajit then told them, Brother, I am not a Shibir man. I am Hindu, I am Hindu.' But his voice was so feeble and the killers continued beating and hacking him," said Anisul, a roadside vendor.

The other five identified earlier are Rafiqul Islam Shakil, Meer Md Noore Alam, Mahfuzur Rahman, Obhidul Quader and Emdadul Haque. They are all cadres of BCL's Jagannath University.

In the last three years,

Shaon

FROM PAGE 1

footage available in different media, including in The Daily Star, show Shaon hitting Bishwajit with an iron rod on the road near Intensive Dental Clinic at Johnson Road in Old Dhaka. "After an explosion,

Bishwajit took cover in the clinic on the first floor of a building. At one stage of the beating by the attackers, he managed to come down on road. But Shaon and his other friends caught him and started beating again," an eyewitness said yesterday, wishing anonymity.

Shaon belongs to the group led by SM Sirajul Islam, who is the general secretary of BCL in the campus, said a number of members of the same faction. On condition of anonymity they added Shaon gets shelter from Sirajul after committing various crimes in and outside the campus.

General students said Shaon extorted and mugged people and ate for free from different hotels through using his political influence.

newspaper and television

reports, said a JnU press

release. The university's

law and order committee

and the proctorial body

made the decision at an

The expelled students

are Obhidul Quader, a

fourth-year student of

psychology, Meer Md

Noore Alam, a fourth-year

student of political science,

and Rafiqul Islam, a sec-

ond-year student of Islamic

The two whose certifi-

cates were cancelled are

Emdadul Haque, a masters'

final-year student of phi-

losophy, and Mahfuzur

Rahman, a master's final-

Some 10-12 activists of

pro-Awami League student

body Chhatra League beat

and hacked Bishwajit to

death during the early

hours of the blockade

enforced by the 18-party

The BCL has since been

trying to label the 24-year-

old victim as a blockader

and wash its hands of the

murder. In fact, Bishwajit

was a tailor, who got killed

on the way to his Shakhari

Witnesses said the BCL

cadres swooped on him

with machetes, iron rods

and other sharp weapons

mistaking him for a pro-

blockade activist. Bishwajit

succumbed to his injuries

after he was taken to Mitford

Three days after the

incident that left the whole

nation shocked, leaders of

the ruling Awami League-

led 14-party alliance con-

demned the murder yester-

day and demanded that the

government take appropri-

ate action to arrest and pun-

Also yesterday, busi-

nessmen of Shakhari Bazar

brought out a procession,

wearing black badges and

Bazar shop.

Hospital.

ish the killers.

alliance led by the BNP.

year student of Bangla.

emergency meeting.

FROM PAGE 1

history.

these unruly Chhatra League men committed various crimes, including extortion, mugging and stalking female students of the university. But thanks to their connection with the ruling Awami League, police never took any action against them.

Uzzal

FROM PAGE 1

wearing a green T-shirt, was beating Bishwajit with an iron rod even as the victim was bleeding to death.

On the campus, Uzzal took part in many factional clashes, his friends said.

"But neither the law enforcers nor the university authority took any action against Uzzal due to his political connection," a JnU correspondent of a national daily told this correspondent.

General students echoed his view. "It seemed to us that the

Chhatra League cadres, including Uzzal, were above the law," said a JnU student.

Rintu

FROM PAGE 1

"Rintu and his friends are Photographs and video infamous for their brutality on the campus, including for their involvement in fierce campus violence," a JnU student who knows Rintu very well, said.

"He never paid the bill for the food he ate from a nearby hotel named Arambagh Hotel," said the JnU correspondent of a national daily, requesting anonymity.

"Like his friends, Rintu was involved in extortion at Islampur and Victoria Park bus stand, and everyone knows it," he said, adding, but none dared to complain to the university authorities against them for fear of retribution.

Rintu was among the JnU students who attacked the students of Kabi Nazrul College last month, his classmate said.

'IDON'T KNOW THEM'

Contacted, Sirajul Islam, BCL general secretary of JnU unit, said he did not know anyone named Uzzal and Rintu. He also dismissed that Shaon belonged to his group.

"I've no group," he

demanding punishment of

killers of Bishwajit had

been involved in extortion,

mugging and other crimi-

nal activities in and around

Meanwhile, Home Minister

Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir

yesterday once again

denied that BCL activists

were responsible for the

League was not involved in

the killing," he said while

talking to reporters after a

discussion marking the

Martyred Intellectuals Day

at the National Museum last

when he was asked to com-

ment on Tuesday's High

Court directive on the law

enforcement agencies to

arrest the killers of

"Necessary security

measures will be taken for

successful holding of the

Ijtema," the minister told

journalists after a meeting

to discuss issues related to

Biswa Ijtema at the home

ministry conference room

meeting attended by all

home minister has directed

all authorities concerned

to beef up security in and

The meeting decided

that the devotees, who will

come to Bangladesh from

foreign countries to join

the Ijtema, will only be

granted a maximum 30-day

agencies will set up watch-

towers and check posts and

security cameras will be

installed in and around the

venue.

The law enforcement

around the Ijtema venue.

He presided over the

Meeting sources said the

yesterday morning.

officials concerned.

Bishwajit in 24 hours.

litema

FROM PAGE 1

River in Tongi.

The minister kept mum

"It is clear that Chhatra

Jagannath University.

NO BCL LINK: MKA

murder.

evening.

They said the identified

the criminals.

Dabir during his 56minute testimony said he had been running their bookstall at Mymensingh town from where the 3 culprits expelled accused used to buy books. After the Pakistani army

entered Mymensingh, Dabir left the town for Agartala of India in the first half of May in 1971 and received training at Melaghar, he added.

"I received training there and was given the responsibility to organise [part of] the Liberation War," said Dabir, adding that he had returned to Dhaka in the first part of July.

Dabir said he had gone to Swadeshi Bazar in the town to meet freedom fighter Didar, who later joined hands with Al-Badr, in the last half of July.

shop [drug store of Didar], six to seven plainclothes armed men blindfolded me and took me to the Saiful Islam appeared on

Council Rest House by a rickshaw," added Dabir.

Dabir Hossain Bhuiyan, one

of the detainees of the camp,

said he had seen during his

26-27-day detention that at

least four people disap-

peared after Kamaruzzaman

Dabir, fifteenth prosecu-

tion witness in a case against

the Jamaat-e-Islami leader,

said he had endured regular

torture apparently at the

diktat of "Al-Badr com-

the 65-year-old witness

appealed to the

International Crimes

Tribunal-2 and identified

Kamaruzzaman in the dock.

Meanwhile, two prose-

cution witnesses in the

case against Abul Kalam

Azad testified that the

accused had attacked the

Hindu majority Hasemdia

village during the war and

killed several people, looted

their houses and carried out

examination, Sahidur

Rahman, the conducting

prosecutor of the case,

told the tribunal the next

prosecution witness would

be the investigation officer

as all of their required "pub-

lic witnesses" have given

Twenty prosecution

witnesses have so far given

testimony before the tri-

bunal since November 26.

day told The Daily Star

they had listed 55 prosecu-

tion witnesses including

seizure witness, but 20 pub-

lic witnesses would be

enough to prove the allega-

tions brought against Azad

also known as Bachchu

Noor Hossain, the

investigation officer of the

case, is set to testify on

The three-member

tribunal headed by Justice

ATM Fazle Kabir with

members Justice Obaidul

Hassan and Judge M

Shahinur Islam recorded the

against Kamaruzzaman,

In the proceeding

Razakar.

December 17.

testimony.

Sahidur Rahman yester-

their testimony.

After their cross-

arsons.

"I want proper justice,"

mander" Kamaruzzaman.

had selected them.

According to the prosecution documents and testimony of several prosecution witnesses, Mymensingh District Council Rest House was an Al-Badr camp with several torture cells.

"Sheli, Mohan and Didar, leaders of Islami Chhatra Sangha [the then student wing of Jamaat] took m e Kamaruzzaman's room," said Dabir, adding that Kamaruzzaman was also a Faridpur. Sangha leader then.

"When the blindfold Saha was an elderly perwas removed, I saw Kamaruzzaman sitting on a chair in front of me. He asked Sheli to discharge his assigned duty and take me away," added Dabir.

"Sheli blindfolded me 65-year-old witness. again and took me to another room. I was severely tortured there," said Dabir. He added that they had tortured him on a nearby Mayendia market get information about free- houses, added Satya. dom fighters.

The witness said when prosecution witness in the his blindfold was lifted for case from Shreenagar the second time he had seen student leader Hamidul Haque, sculptor Rashid, footballer Sahed Ali, Tepa Mia and his son Dara detained in the same room.

Kamaruzzaman used to go to the their cell and point at someone saying, "take", he said, adding, 'Whoever he had selected was never seen again."

Tepa, Sahed, Rashid and Dara thus disappeared from the camp, Dabir said, adding that when he had asked an Al-Badr man about them, he replied that they were no

In the second half August, Dabir and Hamidul were produced before Pakistani brigadier Kader Khan, who asked charges against them.

Earlier, Hamidul, who gave his testimony as the first prosecution witness, estified that Kamaruzzaman had tried to persuade him when he was detained at an Al-Badr camp

"When I reached the examined the witness [Mymensingh] District behalf of the prosecution.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL No electronic device allowed June Kamaruzzaman was in courtroom indicted on seven charges of crimes against human-

ity committed during the

Satya Ranjan Saha, nine-

teenth prosecution wit-

ness in the case against

Azad, said on the second

day of Bangla month Jaistha,

he and his other family mem

bers had fled from their

village home hearing gun-

shots at Hasemdia in

son. When he tried to run

away, Bachchu Razakar

and Pakistani army shot him

to death. I witnessed the

Azad and Pakistani

army killed eight to ten

looted 50 to 60 shops of

Ashit Baran Saha, 20th

Madhyapara, narrated the

yesterday gave one more

chance to the defence of

Jamaat Assistant Secretary

General Abdul Quader

Mollah to produce their last

nal fixed yesterday for

recording testimony of last

defence witness, as it

wanted to give the defence

one last chance to give testi-

For the fifth time, the

A C C

defence yesterday failed to

produce their witness and

Commissioner M

the ACC enquiry team has

evidence against former

reviewed legal aspects of the

findings of the enquiry, he

the first information report

[FIR] by tomorrow [Thurs-

day]," he told reporters at the

ACC head office in the eve-

He said those who were

After an emergency meet-

ing with the high-ups of the

and the World Bank, the lead

financier of the bridge pro-

directly or indirectly

involved in the conspiracy

"We'll try our best to file

sought further time.

FROM PAGE 20

However,

mony.

On Monday, the tribu-

witness in the case today.

Meanwhile, the tribunal

same incident.

"My father Shyamapada

AZAD AND QUADER

MOLLAH'S CASE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday cautioned prosecution and defence counsels and asked them not to bring any electronic devices into the courtroom.

Warning the staff of the tribunal of legal action, tribunal judge Justice Jahangir Hossain asked them not to talk with prosecution and defence coun-He also asked everyone

not to enter the registrar office of the tribunal with any such electronic devices.

incident hiding behind a He said the judges at the clump of bamboos," said the tribunal often make casual comments and the tribunal does not want those to be recorded. people of their village and

The tribunal yesterday adjourned the proceedings of war crimes case against regular basis and wanted to and set fire to a number of Ghulam Azam until today following a petition of defence counsel Ehsan Siddique. Justice Jahangir pre-

sided over the tribunal vesterday as Justice Nizamul Huq resigned on Tuesday. Justice Anwarul Hug, another member of the tribunal, was present during yesterday's proceedings. Justice Nizamul Hug

resigned amid the Skype scandal, in which his alleged conversation with a legal expert abroad was published by a Bangla daily. The defence vesterday

filed a petition saying the proceedings with the chairman post of the tribunal vacant were illegal. Justice Anwarul Hug

said, "We have heard the news [of the chairman resignation], but we don't have by official gazette notification in this regard." He then mentioned

several sections of the law concerned that says the tribunal could go on with the proceedings.

End attacks on children in Thai south: UN

AFP, Bangkok

The UN vesterday called for an end to violence against children in southern Thailand following the "senseless and unacceptable" shooting of a baby girl in a region racked by nine years of unrest.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) condemned Tuesday's attack on a teashop in Narathiwat that killed the infant and left a 10-monthold boy injured, in a rare statement on an insurgency that has killed thousands in three provinces bordering Malaysia.

Leukaemia

FROM PAGE 20

pioneering the use of an unlikely ally: a modified form of the HIV virus.

After fighting her disease with chemotherapy for almost two years and suffering two relapses, Emily Whitehead "faced grim prospects", doctors at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia said.

In February this year, they agreed to take her on in an experimental programme that fought fire with fire.

Helped by a genetically altered HIV virus -- stripped of its devastating properties that cause AIDS -- doctors turned the girl's own immune cells into a superior force able to rout the "aggressive" leukaemia.

Khan, however, said he had and is one of only a handful heard police along with a of people in total to be given mob had beaten Azibor what's officially known as CTL019 therapy.

Pediatric oncologist Stephan Grupp, who cared for the girl, explained Tuesday that there was never any danger of AIDS during

He said on the hospital them ultimatum thrice to either return or adjust the website that cell therapies might eventually replace the extra money with the more costly bone marrow monthly fees. The last ultitransplant treatment, a matum was given on standard last-ditch defence November 11 when the



Indian sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar and American singer-guitarist George Harrison -- who together performed at the "Concert for Bangladesh" in Madison

FROM PAGE 1

Shankar, husband, father, and musical soul, passed away today," the sitar maestro's wife and daughter, Sukanya and Anoushka Shankar Wright, said in a joint statement yesterday.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh paid rich tributes to Shankar, saying the "unsurpassable genius" was the country's one of the "most effective cultural ambassadors across the world".

"An era has passed away with Pandit Ravi Shankar. The nation joins me to pay tributes to his unsurpassable genius, his art and his humility, Manmohan said.

He wrote a letter to the music icon's wife Sukanya, saying he joins the family in grieving the loss and extended his heartfelt condolences, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

In separate condolence messages, Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed their profound shock at the death of the sitar maestro.

Recalling the contributions of Shankar during the Liberation War of Bangladesh, Zillur said with his death, Bangladesh has lost a tested friend, reports UNB.

"The demise of Pandit Ravi Shankar is an irreparable loss to the music arena of the subcontinent, Hasina said. Shankar pioneered the

concept of the rock benefit with the 1971 Concert For Bangladesh at Madison Square Garden in New York along with American singer-guitarist George Harrison. "In one day, the whole

world knew the name of Bangladesh," Shankar said in a book "George Harrison: Living in the Material World." "It was a fantastic occa-

sion and I think it was the first of its kind. Now, of course, wonderful things are done, so many musicians are raising money for different causes. But the Bangladesh concert, I think, was the very first one", the sitar wizard added. Shankar was a Rajya

Sabha member from 1986 to 1992.

A recipient of India's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna in 1996, Shankar lived in both India and the US.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. "As you all know, his

health has been fragile for for six years.

on Thursday he underwent a surgery that could have potentially given him a new lease of life. "Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the sur-

geons and doctors taking care of him, his body was not able to withstand the strain of the surgery. We were at his side when he passed away," the joint statement of Shankar's wife and daughter said. A three-time Grammy

award winner, Shankar had last performed in California on November 4 along with his daughter Anoushka. Both the father and the

daughter were pitted against each other in the race for the same award next year. A Bengali Brahmin,

Pandit Ravi Shankar whose full name was Rabindra Shankar Chowdhury was born on April 7, 1920 in Varanasi, India. Shankar's father, born in

what is now Bangladesh,

was a government official, a lawyer, an amateur musician. Before Shankar's birth, Shyam Shankar left his wife to practise law in Kolkata and London. The youngest of four

brothers, he spent his first 10 years in relative poverty and was brought up by his mother.

He was almost eight before he met his absent father, former minister to the Maharajah of Jhalawar.

In 1930, Shankar's eldest brother Uday Shankar shifted the family to Paris and over the next eight years the sitar player enjoyed the limelight in Uday's dance troupe which toured the world introducing Europeans and

Americans to Indian classi-

cal and folk dance. Through his influence on his great friend George Harrison, and appearances at the Monterey and Woodstock festivals and the Concert for Bangladesh at Madison Square Garden, Shankar became a household name in the West, the first Indian musician to do

The sitar maestro has composed music for several films including Satyajit Ray's Apu trilogy "Pather Panchali", "Aparajito" and "Apur Sansar" as also "Paras Pathar", "Debi" and "Jalsaghar".

Shankar learned the sitar with Ustad Allauddin Khan, a musician who had previously toured with the troupe. He began playing the instrument publicly in 1939 and stayed with Khan

or adjust the money within

January 30, directed schools

-- having "a section" of

teachers enjoying MPO

facilities -- not to charge over

Tk 8,000 in admission and

other fees for Bangla

medium and Tk 10,000 for

English, while schools hav-

ing all their teachers enjoy-

ing MPO facilities must not

But, a DSHE probe com-

The government, on

3 principals

School and College; Shahan

Ara of Ideal School and College, Motijheel; and Manju Ara Begum of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, said an education ministry order yester-

The ministry also asked the director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) to issue show-cause notices about why their MPO would not be cancelled permanently.

Following public outcry, the ministry earlier gave Ideal School realised Tk 3.39

15 days.

mittee found these schools to have flouting the rules. The probe found that

charge over Tk 5,000.

crore in excess from 3,049 Class-I students while Monipur School Tk 5.23 crore from 3,054 students while Viqarunnisa took Tk 68.17 lakh in excess from schools were asked to return 1,627 Class-I students.

TV, mobile

national study showed on Tuesday.

Two thirds of 10-yearolds have been given their own TVs, with similar pro-

dren in 45 countries and provinces.

teenagers who spend hours on social networking sites do significantly worse in science and maths tests.

Part of the research asked pupils whether they had mobile phones, TVs or

The answers were comthe highest 571.

association between achievement on the PIRLS tests and ownership of the following items - your own mobile phone, your own television and your own DVD player," the study said.

"In each case, pupils who the item.

cent of pupils who owned their own musical instrument scored an average of 31 scale points more than those who did not," it added.

among those who did not.

There was evidence that performance in science and spent on the sites increased.

communications minister Syed Abul Hossain in this connection. He said the minister's name was dropped in the enquiry report submitted to the ACC. The commission has

Kader Khan directed Kamaruzzaman to release Dabir, the witness said, adding that a few days later Hamidul fled from the camp. Dabir was released accordingly but remained

to join him. After his testimony, defence counsel Kafil Uddin briefly crossbefore the tribunal adjourned the proceeding until December 19. AKM

FROM PAGE 20

achievement, a major inter-

Research among 4,000 pupils in England has linked ownership of TVs, DVD players and phone handsets to markedly lower scores in reading tests.

portions owning DVD players and mobile phones. But youngsters who owned these gadgets lost on average at least 20 marks in a reading test given to chil-

A linked study found that The studies were con-

ducted by the National Foundation for Educational Research in England, and overseen by academics in the US and Netherlands.

DVDs of their own.

pared with their performance in reading tests, where the average mark internationally was 500, and

"There was a negative

reported possessing the item obtained, on average, a lower mean score (by more than 20 scale points) than those who did not possess "Conversely, the 76 per

Pupils with their own DVD player, for example, scored 542, against 569

maths declined as time

Shahabuddin yesterday said Kamaruzzaman about "Indicating me, not found any material

Kamaruzzaman said I had no other offences but joining in the war," said Dabir, adding that when Hamidul identified himself as a student leader, the brigadier spared him and suggested using him for his

organising capacity.

under watch.

commission, ACC legal adviser Anisul Haque said the long-running deadlock between the government

would be sued.

ject, would be broken soon. "The review of the report is at the final stage, and you [people] will have to wait for a few days to get an ultimate decision of the commission

to this effect," he said. Man drowns

FROM PAGE 20 rickshaw puller to speed

up, Azibor's friend Mohammad Ferdous, one of the persons on the rickshaw, told The Daily Star. The locals also beat Azibor, he added. On the run because of

the chase, Azibor jumped into a pond, where he drowned. About half an hour later, police took him out of the pond and hurried him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

and thrown him into the pond. He demanded a thorough investigation into the incident and trial of those responsible for the

death.

Officer-in-charge Moniruzzaman of Demra Police Station said it was the locals who had only chased them when they disregarded the stop signal at the check post.

Emily was the first child day. Azibor's brother Azizul

the process.

against cancer.

This archive photo shows two icons of world music --Square Garden in New York on August 1, 1971. Ravi Shankar

the past several years and

inform you that Pandit Ravi