

# WAR CRIMES IN FARIDPUR Mojaheed took part in torching Hindu houses Says witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

1971. He said his neighbouring villages-- Bhangidangi, Baidyadangi, Majhidangi, Baladangi, and Bashtala--were Hindu dominated, and one Friday, he saw the villages burning. "They came, torching house after house. They were Biharis, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Hammam Moulana, and some other members of the Peace Committee [an anti-liberation force]," he said. Pakistani army killed Hindu people trying to flee the villages, said Faijuddin, adding that many bodies were buried under his [Faijuddin's] supervision. He said Al-Badr, Razakar, two other anti-liberation forces, and Pakistani army jointly committed atrocities in Faridpur during the war, and the evidence of their atrocities were still available. "Hindus were the worst affected," he said. Mojaheed faces seven charges, including murder, genocide, and a conspiracy to kill intellectuals during the war. Meanwhile, the prosecution yesterday continued to place arguments against another war crimes accused, Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah, for the fourth day.

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed along with non-Bangalee Biharies and Pakistani army had taken part in torching several Hindu-dominated villages in Faridpur during the Liberation War, a prosecution witness testified yesterday. "Fifteen to twenty people of these villages were also killed," Faijuddin Ahmed, the eleventh prosecution witnesses against Mojaheed, told International Crimes Tribunal-2. "Mojaheed was known to me. On that day, we [he and Mojaheed] exchanged Salam [greetings]," said the 80-year-old witness from Faridpur. Earlier, the sixth prosecution witness, Abdul Malek Mia, testified that Mojaheed was involved in the mass killing in four Hindu-dominated villages in Faridpur during the war. The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan recorded Faijuddin's testimony before adjourning the proceeding till today, when the latter will face cross-examination. Faijuddin, from Charhariram of Char Bhadrasan in Faridpur, was a compounder at a government dispensary in

# DU in election mode

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An election mood has set in on the Dhaka University (DU) campus over the last couple of days, with various candidates campaigning for the officers' association and teachers' association elections scheduled for today and December 31 respectively. The contending teachers and officials of the university, along with their groups and supporters, were busy seeking support from probable voters. Of the two polls, DU Teachers' Association (DUTA) election is considered more prominent as both the pro-Awami League Blue Panel and the pro-BNP White Panel are contesting in it. The two panels submitted their nominations on December 18 with a 15-member candidate body of each. Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, Prof ASM Maksud Kamal and Prof Hasibur Rashid of the blue panel are contesting for the posts of president, general secretary and treasurer of DUTA in the poll. Simultaneously, Prof Tajmeri SA Islam, Dr Mamun Ahmed and Prof Ali Ahsan are contesting for the respective posts from the white panel. Meanwhile, in the DU Officers' Association election, three panels are contesting for the 21-member managing committee. They are Kabir Ahmed Chowdhury-Dr Abdur Razzak Talukder panel; Ashraf Uddin-Syed Ali Akbar panel; and Mofizul Islam-Ramizuddin panel. Besides, three independent candidates are contesting the poll. Ashraf Uddin and Syed Ali Akbar are the incumbent president and general secretary respectively of the association. Around 780 voters will participate in the officers' association poll, which will be conducted from 9:00am to 1:00pm today at Teacher-Student Centre on DU campus. All panels and candidates of the two upcoming elections came up with an array of electoral pledges in line with welfare of the university, better facilities for teachers, better democratic practices and fair representation of staff in senate and syndicate bodies.

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