Jamaat-Shibir

adjacent roads remained

suspended for around an

severe traffic jam. Shops

panic prevailed in the area at

brought out the procession

The Jamaat-Shibir men

**FROM PAGE 20** 

the time.

## Kamaruzzaman

FROM PAGE 20

told The Daily Star that the International Crimes Tribunal-2 might fix a date for hearing the petition today.

Kamaruzzaman was indicted by the Tribunal-2 with seven charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War. Fifteen prosecution witnesses have so far testified in the case against the Jamaat assistant secretary general.

The flurry of retrial petitions began after an alleged Skype conversation between former Tribunal-1 chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq and expatriate legal expert Ahmed Ziauddin was published by a Bangla daily in December last year.

On December 11, Justice Nizamul stepped down citing personal reasons.

Former Jamaat ameer Ghulam Azam, incumbent Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee filed similar petitions with the Tribunal-1 that fixed today for passing orders on

Tajul said they were preparing the retrial petitions for cases of three other accused -- Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Abdul Quader Mollah and Abdul Alim -pending with Tribunal-2. He said from the Skype

and email conversations, they had ascertained that "the formal charges of all first eight cases pending with the two tribunals were prepared by Ahmed Ziauddin and his associates and came from Brussels on which the cases advanced".

the Jamaat trio, their counsels, however, claimed the indictment orders against

last year when the two

took a tailoring course in

the area, family members

On December 6, Bithi

came to the girl's house

and told the latter's

mother that she was going

to a wedding where she

wished to take the girl.

They would return home

But they did not. The

girl's family tried to reach

her over the phone, but it

Her brother said first

they thought her mobile

battery was dead and that

she would come home by

herself. But when she did

not even as the night wore

on, they thought she might

have stayed back with the

wedding party-goers. Over

the next three days, they

looked for the girl at close

relatives and friends' houses

Bithi in the meantime

handed the girl over to the

rapists -- SM Nuruzzaman

alias Gada, 42, Shajahan

Ali, 40, Moniruzzaman

Moni, 39, and Harunur

Rashid Harun, 27. Her

taking the girl to a wedding

seems a mere excuse to do

clear if Bithi took any

money from the four men

for handing over the class-

After the victim was

brought home by her

brother on December 10,

she described the decep-

tion and the subsequent

According to her

account to the family, Bithi

took her to a house in a

hilly area of Madhupur.

There she was repeatedly

raped by "several" men for

victim's brother managed

to collect Bithi's mobile

number and then called

her. Bithi told him that she

pened to the girl afterwards.

For fear of social

stigma, the girl's family

initially decided not to

showing growing signs of

mental disorder when the

family took her to Tangail

On December 11, the

horror she was a victim to.

It was not immediately

so, police said.

IX girl to them.

ARBITRATION

VERSIONS,

four days.

was found switched off.

said.

by evening.

in vain.

About the allegation, AKM Saiful Islam, conducting prosecutor Kamaruzzaman's case, told The Daily Star, "I myself 15. prepared the formal charges. Their [defence's] allegation is totally baseless."

Tajul said, "We don't find direct involvement of any judges of Tribunal-2 [with Skype conversation] as we found the involvement of [Tribunal-1 former chairman] Justice Nizamul Huq. "We mentioned [in the

petition] that the proceedings of the cases advanced through a scandalous process; there may be no actual biasness, but there was an appearance of biasness. So we filed the petition for reinitiating the case," Tajul added.

He told The Daily Star they had filed the petition under section 46 (A) of the rules of procedure of the international crimes tribunal.

Section 46 (A) says: "Nothing in these rules shall be deemed to limit or otherwise affect the inherent power of the tribunal to make such order(s) as may be necessary to meet the ends of justice or to prevent abuse of the pro-

Saiful Islam said, "This petition has no rationality. They have filed the petition to kill time for delaying the proceedings."

Meanwhile, the International Crime Tribunals-2 yesterday completed recording crossexamination of Beauty Khanam, eighth prosecution witness in the case against In the retrial petitions of Abdul Alim, a former minister of BNP founder late president Ziaur Rahman's cabinet.

Ahsanul Haq Hena and their clients had "come from AEM Khalilur Rahman,

There they said the girl

was physically assaulted,

not mentioning of the

rape. Doctors, who had no

idea of what the girl under-

went, released her after

To the family's surprise,

Bithi went to their house

on December 14, and

inquired about the girl's

condition when the family

handed her over to the

On the same day, locals

members beat her up and

initial treatment.

village elders.

member Shawkat Ali.

with Bithi without paying.

however, said he asked the

girl's family to file a case in

The Daily Star yesterday

that the arbitration was

already too embarrassing

a thing for the family and

that they initially did not

want to file a case, fearing

it would damage his sis-

family sent the girl to an

uncle's house, hoping it

would improve her mental

condition. But as her con-

dition worsened, she was

brought back home on

In the meantime, the

Victim's brother told

this regard.

ter's future.

Alim's counsels, crossexamined Beauty, daughter of a martyr subeder major, before the case proceeding

On November 22, Beauty testified that Shanti [Peace] Committee and Razakar men upon Abdul Alim's order had killed her father in Joypurhat for fighting against the Pakistani army.

was adjourned until January

She had earlier faced cross-examination on several days but not for long on each occasion.

At one stage of yesterday's cross-examination, the witness expressed discontent over Hena when he repeated the same questions he and his colleagues had asked her earlier.

"You [Hena] are making repetition again and again. You are playing a farce in the name of cross-examination," said Beauty.

The tribunal asked the defence to decide among themselves who would ask what questions.

Meanwhile, the tribunal extended time until January 14 for Suranjit Sengupta, a minister without portfolio, to explain his "imaginary comment" on the date of verdicts in the cases pending with the tribunal. The tribunal fixed the new

date as Suranjit's counsel Abdul Baset Majumder sought time for preparation.

On December 24, the tribunal on its own motion issued the show-cause notice on Suranjit following a report in a Bangla daily. Suranjit was quoted in the report as saying, "Verdict of 14 identified war criminals has already been finalised. Trial of these 14 war criminals would be completed anytime within

Trapped in a hell

others on three days remand each, reports our district correspondent. VICTIM'S CONDITION

The girl was brought to

DMCH on Monday night

with a critical mental state. Bilkis Begum, chief coordinator of the One-Stop Crisis Centre, said the girl was mentally disturbed and scared of unknown men. In a traumatic case as this, victim's

mental condition usually

deteriorates after an initial

arranged an arbitration period of reasonable northat found Bithi guilty of handing the girl over to the Doctors were treating four men. Bithi's family the girl with psychiatric present at the arbitration treatment, sedative injecoffered Tk 1 lakh in comtions and tablets. She was pensation to settle the on saline as she was not matter, said union council taking any food or drink,

added Bilkis. Bithi's family finally Iqbal Khan Chowdhury, additional secretary of the agreed to give Tk 30,000 within a few days, but education ministry, visited the girl at the hospital on eventually fled the area Tuesday when he said they Shawkat, who was also would work with the home present at the arbitration, ministry to ensure that the

> culprits are punished. Advocate Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, also visited the girl on Tuesday. Talking to journalists, she said those violating and torturing women must be prevented through a concerted effort of all.

Visiting the girl at the DMCH, Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, state minister for women and children affairs, yesterday directed the authorities concerned to look after the girl's treatment and bring the culprits to book.

Ex-Jamaat MP

Battalion arrested him at his

Wing Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan said,

7:00pm in connection with

plotting a conspiracy against

the government, exploding

bombs at the Secretariat,

torching of buses and

attacks on policemen at

"Acting on secret infor-

mation, Rab personnel

arrested him from a hide-

out," he said, adding that

eight organisational books

of the Jamaat had also been

maker in 2001 from

Chouddagram of Comilla.

Taher was elected law-

seized from his possession.

places in the capital.

"Taher was detained around

Chief of Rab Intelligence

FROM PAGE 20

relative's house.

#### December 22. ARRESTS, REMAND

On December 30, the family went to the Madhupur police and told them everything. Police raided Bithi's house in the early hours of December 31 and detained her. During interrogation, she gave police the names of the four culprits.

along with the girl went to police caught the four men the wedding but later they from different places in got separated. She said she the area. had no idea of what hap-

By 8:00am the same day,

During primary interrogation, they confessed to raping the girl but denied taking any photo or video, police said.

take her to a doctor, lest it Meanwhile, a Tangail becomes public. But by court yesterday placed the December 12, she was five accused on police remand. Prime accused Bithi was taken on a oneday remand and the four

# Stop them, right now

another High Court bench in June, 2011. In December, 2011, the court banned publishing of advertisements of any unauthorised housing projects in the print and electronic media.

The High Court then ordered the government to take stern legal action against publicity and filling of land for such projects. Yesterday, the High Court

stayed for three months the effectiveness of Ashiyan City's site clearance, issued by the Department of Environment, and the renewal of the certificate. It also issued a rule upon

the government authorities concerned and Ashiyan City to explain within four weeks as to why the issuance of the environmental certificate and the renewal should not be declared illegal. The DoE issued Ashiyan

renewed it on June 12, 2012. The court yesterday

The topics include economy,

living standards, the role of

religion in political system,

fight against corruption,

migration, security threats

of South Asia, connectivity,

regional cooperation and

obstacles to establish closer

The interviews were done

in May 2012. Thirty percent

of the respondents were

from Dhaka, 22 percent from

Rajshahi and 18 percent

from Chittagong. The rest 30

percent interviewees were

from Khulna, Sylhet and

62 percent of the respon-

dents think living standard

of their families had

improved in the past five

living standard got worse

and 19 percent said it "re-

mained the same".

Twenty percent said

Young respondents,

especially between 15 and

24 years, held a more opti-

mistic view of their current

and past standard of living,

said Gallup citing that 65

percent of the 15-24 years

olds believed their families'

standard of living had "im-

proved" in the last five years.

According to the survey,

ties in the region.

Barisal.

FROM PAGE 1

December 24, 2009, and

City's penalty for illegally filling up water bodies with

The DoE in November, 2011, fined Ashiyan City Tk 50 lakh for destroying wetlands, flood plains, aquatic life and local ecology by illegal filling of land in Ashkona. The ministry later slashed the fine to Tk 5 lakh.

The court yesterday asked the authorities concerned to explain within four weeks as to why this reduction of fine should not be declared ille-Secretaries to the minis-

tries of housing and public works, land, forest and environment, home, information, and Rajuk chairman, director general of DoE, and its director (monitoring and enforcement), deputy commissioner of Dhaka and managing director of Ashiyan City have been made respondents to the City the certificate on

In a rule, the bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Khurshid Alam stayed an order of the Khan asked the managing

Replying to which South

Asian country had the big-

gest impact on Bangladesh's

economy, 59 percent men-

Bangladesh, with other

South Asian countries, have

taken a number of initiatives

over the years to remove

trade barriers such as tariffs

and some non-tariff restric-

tions at the unilateral, bilat-

eral trade relationship con-

tinues to grow, India will

have an even greater impact

on Bangladesh's economy,"

Forty-five percent said

other than the South Asian

countries, the USA had the

biggest impact on their

education as the most

important issue in their

personal lives. Religion and

spirituality came second

followed by family, work and

On corruption, 57 per-

cent said they were happy

with the government's ini-

tiatives to fight corruption

while 39 percent were dissat-

isfied with the government

initiatives. And 6 percent did

Sixty percent choose

economic conditions.

living condition.

"Therefore, as the bilat-

eral, and regional levels.

Gallup said India and

tioned India.

it said.

Graft main hurdle

not be directed to remove the dirt he had dumped in the wetlands.

It asked him to immediately submit a list of plots he had already sold to people and all papers and documents relating to the approval of the housing project. The court came up with

the order and rules after hearing a writ petition jointly filed by eight rights organisations that said Ashiyan City authorities had been filling and constructing structures on around 230 acres of land even though the company had Rajuk permission for development on only 43 Ashiyan City grabbed land

of locals for the projects violating wetland conservation and other relevant laws and the High Court's earlier directives, the petitioners claimed. Scores of affected people

of Holan and Ashkona had gathered with complaints against Ashiyan City on November 17, 2011, when a Ministry of Environment director of Ashiyan City to DoE team had gone there ties of the unauthorised that had reduced Ashiyan explain as to why he should and fined Ashiyan City. They housing projects, he said.

not answer the question.

"More likely to be dissat-

isfied with the government's

efforts to fight corruption

were those with university

education or higher and

those living in large cities,"

In the survey, a vast

majority of respondents --

85 percent -- rejected vio-

lence as a means to resolve

conflicts within Bangladesh.

Only 9 percent favoured

violence as a way to resolve

wanted religious principles

to be the most influential

factor in political decisions.

Twenty percent said religion

should have a major influ-

ence on the political system

together with other factors,

followed by 16 percent who

thought religion should

have only a minor influence.

respondents wanted a com-

pletely secular political

pointed to terrorism as the

number one threat to

regional security in South

Asia. Religious fundamen-

talism and rivalry between

India and Pakistan also pose

major threats to regional

But 17 percent of the

The respondents also

Thirty-two percent

said Gallup.

conflict.

system.

complained of landgrabbing and destruction of their homesteads.

formally filed allegations

Association for Land Reforms and Development Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Institute of Architects Bangladesh, Nijera Kori, and Paribesh Banchao Andolon filed the petition on December 22

counsel for the petitioners, told The Daily Star that around 100 unauthorised housing projects were filling water bodies and selling plots of land in and around the Dhaka city.

Most of them were also running advertisements through the media ignoring the court's earlier orders, he claimed. Rajuk must take steps

immediately to stop activi-

rity. India came second.

Among countries outside

the region, the USA was

educational attainment,'

On migration, 59 percent

like to continue their lives in

Bangladesh. The rest

expressed willingness to

migrate to other countries,

arms race between India and

Pakistan as the two major

obstacles to regional coop-

Gallup.

region.

said Gallup.

opportunity.

At least 33 affected locals

Ain O Salish Kendra,

hour from 4:00pm, causing a downed their shutters and houses closed their doors as against Ashiyan City.

demanding release of top Jamaat leaders being tried on war crimes charges. Witnesses said 300 to 400 Jamaat-Shibir activists in a procession suddenly appeared on DIT road at Malibagh in the afternoon and marched up to Rampura. As police inter-Iqbal Kabir Lytton, a cepted the procession, the activists attacked them, resulting in a clash.

> Participants in the procession blasted several cocktails, threw brick chips at the law enforcers and vandalised at least five vehicles. Police then swung into action.

security, according to Respondents saw demanding release of their Pakistan as the biggest seculeaders and activists. rity threat to regional secu-

The party claimed that more than 100 of its leaders and activists were injured in the police action.

perceived as the greatest threat to security in the district unit of Jamaat last night announced a three-"But respondents with day programme including higher levels of education hartal on Saturday protestwere more likely to see India ing, what it claimed police firing on the party leaders as a major threat to security than were those with lower and activists in Dhaka that left city unit secretary Nurul Islam Babu. He hails from the district, reports our

> reports: Police yesterday foiled a procession of Jamaat-Shibir. About 150 Jamaat-Shibir

mainly Saudi Arabia, the USA and India, temporarily men brought out the procesor permanently, if given the sion from the port city's Colonel Hat area and In the survey, a large marched up to AK Khan majority of the respondents Intersection. acknowledged the impor-

The procession chanted slogans against war crimes trial and demanded release of the Jamaat leaders under

As the law enforcers rushed to the spot to prevent any destructive activities, the Jamaat-Shibir men fled the scene, said Arefin Jewel, assistant commissioner of

Our Staff correspondent in Rajshahi adds: Police dispersed a Jamaat-Shibir procession at Oloka intersection in the city yesterday afternoon and picked up six

Hafizur Rahman, officerin-charge of Boalia police station, said police resorted to baton charge on the procession as some of the par-

ticipants in it threw stones at them. Iraq, UK

## discuss prisoner swap

Baghdad and London are discussing a prisoner transfer deal that could see a British security guard convicted of murder in Iraq serve the remainder of his sentence in his home country, officials said.

Justice Minister Hassan al-Shammari has been invited to London to finalise and sign a memorandum of understanding over the transfer of convicts between the two countries, and while the deal would not solely affect Danny Fitzsimons, he would be a key beneficiary. Fitzsimons became the

first Western contractor to be

convicted of a crime by an

Iraqi court when he was sen-

tenced to life in prison, equivalent to 20 years in jail under Iraqi law, in February 2011 for killing a Briton and an

Shantinagar, Paltan, Park, Babu Bazar, Buriganga capital through the pro-struct the expressway has been taken as part of the government's plan to connect the satellite towns with the capital, the Rajuk official The tender for construc-

The initiative to con-

tion of the elevated expressway will be floated by the PPP office after getting approval from the cabinet committee, he said.

According to the prelimihas been set at 2016, he

# MKA dropped

FROM PAGE 1

Affairs Secretary Nooh-Ul-Alam Lenin have been promoted to the presidium, the highest policymaking body of the party.

Four posts -- two of presidium members, one of departmental secretary and one of central committee member -- of the 73member AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) are still vacant. AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam said the posts would be filled up

Announcing the party's committee yesterday, Ashraf said Alamgir, Raju and Humayun had been made members of the AL Advisory Council. Party stalwarts Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and Abdul Jalil have also been kept in the 41-member AL advisory council like the last commit-

Besides, some other ALCWC leaders have also

party and replaced by some new faces, including newly elected AL lawmaker from Gazipur Simeen Hussain Rimi, also daughter of the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad.

Among those excluded are former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain, who was the international affairs secretary of AL.

Both Abul and Raju have been at the centre of controversies over the last two years -- the former for his alleged involvement in the Padma bridge project graft and the latter for his brother's alleged involvement in the murder of Narsingdi municipal mayor Lokman Hossain.

Abul was first removed from the communications ministry and then from the cabinet altogether following the World Bank's allegation of corruption conspiracy against him.

Chowdhury, state minister been dropped from the for women and children the central committee. Party insiders said the

exclusion of Abul Hossain would help the government negotiate with the World Bank regarding the Padma bridge financing. Highly placed party

sources said Alamgir had also been removed for his involvement in a recent controversial incident.

Hasan Mahmud, party's former forest and environment affairs secretary, has been promoted as the top publicity secretary. His earlier post remained vacant.

The new faces in the committee include Rimi [Gazipur], Subhas Bose [Narail], Dhirendra Chandra Debnath Shambhu MP [Borguna], Rabiul Muktadir Chowdhury MP [Brahmanbaria], Alauddin Nasim [Feni], prime minister's Special Assistant Abdus Shirin Sharmin Sobhan Golap [Madaripur], Nasrul Hamid Bipu MP [Dhaka], and Junaid Ahmed

Polok MP [Natore]. affairs, has replaced Abul in

eration.

Those who have been dropped from the central committee are Mohammad Altaf Hossain [Magura] Sheikh Harun-or-Rashid [Khulna], Syeda Zebunnesa [Sylhet], Bipul Ghosh [Faridpur], Tipu Munshi MP [Rangpur], Mojibur Rahman Majnu [Bogra] and Akhtar Jahan [Rajshahi].

The names of AL's Parliamentary Board and the committee of the Awami League's assistant secretaries were also announced yesterday. In the parliamentary

board, former AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil has been included anew. On December 29, 2012,

party councillors re-elected Sheikh Hasina as the AL president for the seventh term and Syed Ashraf as general secretary for the second term. Hasina and Ashraf were

also empowered by the councillors to form the central committee.

### Expressway to link Mawa **FROM PAGE 20** with a route through Victoria communication with the

Fulbaria intersection, Naya Bazar intersection, Victoria Park, Babu Bazar and Buriganga second bridge, and will end at Jheelmil housing project beside Dhaka-Mawa road.

Kartripakkha (Rajuk) has already completed the prefeasibility study of the expressway recommending four routes.

second bridge and Jheelmil project considering its technical viability. A Rajuk official said sev-

the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on construction of expressway, and a decision Rajdhani Unnyan was later taken for quick implementation of the Narayanganjand Gazipur. project.

If the expressway is built, the proposed Jheelmil housing project will turn into a Finally, Rajuk and the modern city, he said, adding Bridge Division came up that it will also improve road medium income people.

The official also said directives were issued by the PMO in 2010 to turn Dhaka eral meetings were held at into a modern and jam-free said.

posed Padma bridge.

One of the directives was to expand the jurisdiction of the capital covering

The second one was to build four satellite towns around Dhaka, and the third

nary projection, the completion date of the project was to construct 22,500 flats at Uttara for low and

added.

Australian in Baghdad's heavily-fortified Green Zone in August 2009. "The British are insisting

to make an agreement with Iraq, to take Danny Fitzsimons," justice ministry spokesman Haidar al-Saadi told AFP.

"Police had to fire rubber bullets and teargas canisters to bring the situation under control", Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said when contacted. Meanwhile, in a statement later, Jamaat claimed that police attacked its men who brought out a procession as part of an earlier announced programme,

In Chapainawabganj, the

confirmed that they would correspondent.

Our Chittagong office

tance of regional cooperation. Fifty-five percent identified historic animosities and 46 percent pointed to

Chittagong Metropolitan

Police.

AFP, Baghdad