

# Tribunal closes testimony of defence witness

FROM PAGE 20  
would deliver the verdict in the case against Ghulam Azam, considered by many as the symbol of war crimes during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

In mid December last year, when his testimony recording was not complete, the defence lawyers started abstaining from the tribunal amid the "Skype controversy" and the tribunal had closed defence witness production.

Sayedee's case is awaiting verdict delivery.

Among the 12 defence witnesses fixed by the tribunal for Ghulam Azam, the defence could produce only one witness, son of Ghulam Azam, who gave an extensive deposition before the tribunal.

Ghulam Azam's son Brig Gen (dismissed) Abdullaah

Aman Azmi testified for 10 days and was cross-examined for six days. He had begun testifying on November 12 last year.

The chief prosecutor objected and said they had been filing similar petitions repeatedly. He prayed to the tribunal not to entertain such petitions.

The tribunal then fixed Sunday for closing arguments.

Defence counsel Tajul Islam said their witnesses were frightened and it was completely a different situation, adding that if the tribunal remained rigid on its order, the defence would be "highly prejudiced".

The defence also sought time for preparing for the arguments.

But the tribunal observed that since the prosecution would be going first, the defence would get the time to prepare anyway.

**TRIBUNAL-2**  
The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday extended time until February 24 for Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir to explain his alleged comment predicting the date of verdict delivery of war crimes cases.

Mustafizur Rahman Khan, who appeared for the home minister, said the minister returned from abroad yesterday morning (Thursday) but could not give him the power of attorney and sought a few days adjournment.

The court on its own, disregarding Mustafizur Rahman Khan's plea as he was not the minister's lawyer, extended the time for the minister.

Following a defence plea, the tribunal on February 3 ordered the minister to explain within 10 days his alleged comment published in dailies the Amar Desh, Sangram and Nayanda Digantha.

The newspapers quoted Alamgir, at a programme organised by the Bangladesh mission in Cairo on January 31, as saying, "After the delivery of the verdict of Bachchu Razakar, the international crimes tribunal will deliver its second verdict within this week while the third one is on the [February] 14th."

The tribunal yesterday continued recording the cross-examination of Abdur Razzaque Khan, the 18th prosecution witness and investigation officer of the case against Jamaat leader Muhammed Kamaluzzaman.

Defence counsel Kafil Uddin Chowdhury cross-examined Razzaque and asked questions mostly on the documents submitted by the prosecution.

When the three-member tribunal, led by Justice Obaidul Hassan, wanted to fix Sunday for further cross-examination, Kafil appealed for fixing another day.

The tribunal then said the defence counsels sought adjournment when it was hartaal, and on Wednesday they sought adjournment

saying that the conducting defence counsels could not appear before the court for "security reasons" after violence at Paltan and Motijheel.

"Yesterday [Wednesday] you [defence counsels] told the tribunal after 2:00pm that the violence was still going on. But it was not at all true," said the tribunal.

While the Jamaat-Shibir men unleashing terror in the capital Wednesday morning, conducting lawyers of the accused Jamaat leaders remained absent before the two tribunals citing "security reasons", leading the courts to defer case proceedings.

The tribunal, however, adjourned the case proceeding until February 18 when Razzaque would face further cross-examination.

## Gunfight

FROM PAGE 20  
Police identified the dead as Mohammad Selim, 42, his brother Mohammad Zakir, and another Sajid while the arrestees are Sujon, Suruj, Hira, Hafiz, Lal Mia and Raju.

At a media briefing yesterday, Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Detective Branch (DB) of police, said the gang was involved in the killing of DB sub-inspector Shariful Islam when he along with a police team tried to nab the gang at Gazaria in Munshiganj on February 3.

The robbers were carrying a stolen transformer on a truck to the capital on that day. As Shariful tried to board the truck, a robber hit him in the head with a rod, leaving him critically injured.

He was declared dead after being rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police arrested the truck driver, Shipon, who suffered bullet wounds during a shootout between the law enforcers and robbers on that day.

Later, DB police gleaned information from Shipon and arrested two other gang members -- Jewel and Anwar.

Following information extracted from the three, police came to know that the same gang gathered at Diabari to steal some transformers yesterday, Monirul told the briefing at DB's Minto Road office in the capital.

"As police conducted a raid in the area around 4:00am, the gang opened fire on them forcing them to fire back that left three of the gang members injured critically," he said.

They were declared dead after being rushed to DMCH, he told the journalists.

Seven bullets, several machetes and knives were recovered from the spot after the gunfight.

The DB joint commissioner also said the gang was involved in stealing transformers for a long time.

Earlier on June last year, a member of the gang was lynched while he was attempting to steal a transformer in Mymensingh's Trishal.

"During interrogation, the detained gang members said that Selim was their gang leader," Monirul said.

Police said the gang used to sell the stolen transformers to the owners of a factory in Gazipur's Konabari. The factory owners -- Kayes and Israfil -- used to purchase each transformer from Selim at Tk 70,000 to Tk 80,000.

They would sell the spare parts of the stolen transformers in open market to make hefty profits.

Efforts are on to nab Kayes and Israfil, the DB commissioner added.

## EC to cancel

FROM PAGE 20  
disqualified for contesting the parliamentary polls.

If the EC cancels its registration, Jamaat would still be able to do politics unless it is banned by the government.

Before the 2008 parliamentary election, registration was made mandatory for the political parties to contest polls.

The Jamaat along with 38 other political parties got registered with the EC pledging to bring necessary changes to their charters in line with the RPO.

But once the poll was over, Jamaat did not act to

keep its pledge. The party's top leaders are now facing charges for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

On February 5, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 awarded life sentence to its Assistant Secretary General Abdul Quader Mollah.

Since that day, thousands of protesters led by a group of youths under the banner of "Bloggers and Online Activists Network" have been staging a sit-in in the capital's Shahbag demanding capital punishment to war criminals.

## Blasts kill 9 in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Two roadside bomb attacks in northwest Pakistan killed at least nine people yesterday, including seven members of a pro-government militia, officials said.

A roadside bomb struck a bus in the village of Hassanzai in the tribal district of Orakzai killed seven men.

In the second attack, which happened in the same place, a van carrying civilians was hit by a blast, killing two people and wounding 10, Hasan said.

Islamabad says more than 35,000 people have been killed as a result of terrorism in the country since the 9/11 attacks on the United States.



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তারিখঃ ১১-০২-২০১৩

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### জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদক ২০১৩

পরিবেশ উন্নয়নে অসমান আবদানের জন্য যোগ্য বক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদক ২০১৩-এর আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। নিম্নোক্ত ৬ (ছয়)টি ক্যাটাগরিতে জাতীয় পরিবেশ পদক প্রদান করা হবে:

| পর্যবেক্ষণ   | পদকের শ্রেণী  | প্রুক্ষক   | সংখ্যা                      |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------|
| (ক) ব্যক্তিগত  | (১) পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ ও দুষ্প্র নিয়ন্ত্রণ<br>(২) পরিবেশ বিষয়ক শিক্ষা ও প্রচার<br>(৩) পরিবেশ বিষয়ক গবেষণা ও প্রযুক্তি উন্নয়ন  | ৰ্বণ পদক, সনদপত্র এবং<br>৫০ (পঞ্চাশ) হাজার টাকা<br>সমানী | প্রতি ক্ষেত্রে ১<br>(এক) টি |
| (খ) প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক  | (১) পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ ও দুষ্প্র নিয়ন্ত্রণ<br>(২) পরিবেশ বিষয়ক শিক্ষা ও প্রচার<br>(৩) পরিবেশ বিষয়ক গবেষণা ও প্রযুক্তি উন্নয়ন  |  |                             |
| বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবস ২০১৩ উদযাপন উপলক্ষে অনুষ্ঠিত উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান বা সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত যে কোন সুবিধাজনক সময়ে আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে এ পদক প্রদান করা হবে। আবেদনের নির্ধারিত কর্মসূল সদর দপ্তর থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। এছাড়া পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট <a href="http://www.doe-bd.org">www.doe-bd.org</a> এবং নিম্নোক্ত দণ্ডনসমূহ থেকেও আবেদন কর্মসূল করা যাবে। |   |  |                             |
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| ঢাকা মহানগর<br>ফোনঃ ০২-৮১৮১৭৯৮   |   |  |                             |
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| বরিশাল<br>ফোনঃ ০৮৩১-৬২৪৮২  |   |  |                             |
| জিডি-৬৩০   |   |  |                             |

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