

Coming months look turbulent

FROM PAGE 20
died in clashes between
hardline Islamists and the
police.

The ruling Awami
League, perhaps sensing
that such killings could
further enrage the Islamic
right, has tried to justify the
actions of the security
forces. The information
minister, Hasanul Haq Inu,
claimed on May 6th that
Hefajat had come to Dhaka
to topple the government.

Details of precisely what
happened on May 6th
remain unclear. Graphic
pictures and video footage of
the violence show bloodied
bodies strewn on the streets
of Dhaka's Motijheel com-
mercial district. The govern-
ment closed two pro-Islamic
television stations that had
been broadcasting live
images of the attacks. That
leaves only one pro-op-
position television channel
(BanglaVision) functioning.
Any public gatherings of more
than four people are also now
forbidden in the city.

Deadly clashes took place
elsewhere, too: in
Narayanganj south of the
capital, where 20 reportedly
were killed, in Hathazari
near the southern port city
of Chittagong and Bagerhat
in the south-west.

The group involved,
Hefajat, is a little-known
coalition of Islamic splinter
groups which draws support
from private traditional
Qaumi madrasas, Islamic
schools, around Chittagong.
These madrasas are not
widespread, accounting for
only about 2 percent of total
enrolment in primary and
secondary education. Nor
does the group appear to
have any particular position
on the war-crimes court,
and unlike the Jamaat-e-
Islami it is not a political
party.

Yet it has national aspira-
tions. In April it issued a list
of 13 demands and set a
deadline of May 5th for the
government to comply. It
wants an anti-blasphemy
law introduced (with provi-
sion for death penalty) and
exemplary punishment to
any, such as bloggers, who
"insult Islam". Among other
Taliban-style demands are:
calls for the cancellation of
Bangladesh's pro-women
development policy; a ban
on mixing of men and
women in public; an end to
"shameless behaviour and
dresses"; and a call for the
reformist Ahmadiyas to be
declared as "non-Muslims".
Such regressive demands

go against the moderate
version of Islam practised by
the vast majority of
Bangladeshis, and against a
long history of secular tradi-
tion, as well as the constitu-
tion. All main politicians
offer pre-election prayers at
the shrine of a Sufi saint,
Hazrat Shah Jalal. A recent
study of Muslim attitudes
around the world, by the
Pew Forum on Religion on
Public Life, confirms
Bangladeshis' moderate
attitudes (Even if, somewhat
surprisingly, 82% of
Bangladeshi Muslims were
also reportedly in favour of
making Islamic law official).

The country's main polit-
ical opposition, the
Bangladesh Nationalist
Party, will now play an
important role. Disturbingly
it has backed Hefajat's dem-
onstrations. The BNP has
also threatened to boycott
general elections that are
due by January 2014. Its
religious ties are also
becoming more explicit.
Last month, Arab envoys
met Khaleda Zia, the BNP's
leader, in an unusual show of
near-public support by the
diplomats for the gently pro-
Islamic BNP.

The party is also allied to
Jamaat, the religious party

that serves as a standard-
bearer for Saudi Arabia's
strand of Islam in
Bangladesh. Positions are
becoming harder as the
opposition faces harsher
treatment by the govern-
ment. On April 11th, the
editor of Bangladesh's sec-
ond-largest selling (pro-
BNP) newspaper was
arrested and apparently
tortured, and his newspaper
closed.

Despite general modera-
tion, however, the politics of
religion is powerful in
Bangladesh. Even the sup-
posedly secular Awami
League talks up its Islamic
credentials just before elec-
tions. In 2006, for example,
the League signed a pre-poll
deal with the ultra-orthodox
Khalafat-e-Majlish party,
under which it promised
that if elected it would pass
anti-blasphemy laws and
pass no laws seen to contra-
dict Koranic values or
Sharia. It also held out the
promise of letting qualified
religious leaders issue
fatwas -- religious edicts --
that would supersede the
judiciary. In fact none of this
came to pass, as subsequent
elections were cancelled.

This time around, the
government has made some

concessions to the Islamic
right, whose electoral sup-
port it needs to win elections
(especially after public
opinion has been polarised
by the trials of Islamic hard-
liners in a war-crimes court,
over the events of 1971). Last
month police arrested four
atheist bloggers, apparently
in direct response to
Hefajat's demands. On May
6th the leader of Hefajat, a
90-year-old madrasa
teacher, was put on a plane
to Chittagong, with authori-
ties keen to emphasise that
he had not been arrested.

Thus the coming months
look turbulent. The war-
crimes tribunal is scheduled
to issue as many as ten ver-
dicts, and rule on various
appeals and oversee execu-
tions this year. In protest the
BNP regularly resorts to calls
for general strikes (known as
hartals), with the next due
on May 8th and 9th. Some
30 working days have
already been lost to such
strikes this year. Such days
also risk greater bloodshed.
People close to the Prime
Minister, Sheikh Hasina, say
she may choose to enforce
only one or two judgments
of the war-crimes tribunal,
in order to avoid more vio-
lence.

Verdict today

FROM PAGE 1
Hassan with members
Justice Md Mozibur Rahman
Miah and Judge M Shahinur
Islam, yesterday made the
announcement of the ver-
dict delivery in open court
22 days after the completion
of the case proceedings.

Kamaruzzaman had been
indicted on seven charges of
crimes against humanity.
Wrapping up its closing
arguments on April 16, the
prosecution sought capital
punishment for him.

The prosecution held him
responsible for the killing of
183 unarmed people and the
rape of many women.

His defence claimed that
the prosecution had failed to
prove the charges brought
against him.

Yesterday was scheduled
for recording the testimony
of the 19th prosecution wit-
ness in the war crimes case
against Abdul Alim. But when
court went into session at
11:00am, Justice Hassan said,
"We won't take up [Alim's]
case today [yesterday]. We
have some other work."

"Mr Tipoo [Chief
Prosecutor Ghulam Arief
Tipoo], we will deliver the
verdict in Kamaruzzaman's
case tomorrow [today]," he
said, and asked Tipoo and
Alim's counsel Ahsanul Huq
Hena to convey the message
to Kamaruzzaman as none
of his lawyers were present.

Tribunal Registrar AKM
Nasiruddin Mahmud yester-
day told The Daily Star that
as in the instances of the
other verdicts delivered,
security at the tribunal
would be beefed up.

The pronouncement of
the verdict would not be
hampered by hartal, said
Mahmud, adding that as per
law, the absence of
Kamaruzzaman's lawyer
would not create any prob-
lems. The accused would be
produced before the court,
he added.

On Monday, the BNP-led
18-party alliance
announced a hartal for
yesterday and today.

Kamaruzzaman was
arrested in a criminal case
on July 13, 2010, and shown
arrested on war crimes
charges on August 2 the
same year.

The prosecution pressed
formal charges against him
incorporating nine counts of
crimes against humanity on
January 15, 2012, and
Tribunal-1 took the charges
into cognisance on January
31. The case was transferred to
Tribunal-2 on April 16, 2012.

In 1971, he was the top
leader of Islami Chhatra
Sangha, then student wing

of the Jamaat, a party that
actively opposed the birth of
Bangladesh and sided with
the Pakistani army, which
killed three million
Bangalees and raped more
than a quarter million
women, according to prose-
cution documents.

On June 4, 2012, the tribu-
nal indicted Kamaruzzaman
on seven charges of crimes
against humanity, including
murder and torture of
unarmed civilians and com-
plicity in other crimes during
the nine-month-long war.

The indictment order, in a
brief profile of the accused,
said Kamaruzzaman, as the
president of Islami Chhatra
Sangha of greater
Mymensingh in 1971, had
played the role of a key
organiser in the formation of
the Al-Badr force.

Under the leadership of
Kamaruzzaman, all mem-
bers of Chhatra Sangha of
greater Mymensingh were
absorbed into Al-Badr
within a month. They, after
receiving summary training,
launched atrocities target-
ing the Hindus and unarmed
Bangalee civilians in greater
Mymensingh, the order said.

As many as 18 prosecu-
tion witnesses, including the
investigation officer of the
case, testified against the
accused, while five people,
including Kamaruzzaman's
son and brother, testified in
favour of the accused
between July 15, 2012 and
March 24, 2013.

The prosecution and the
defence held closing argu-
ments from March 24 until
April 16.

The two tribunals dealing
with the war crimes cases
have already delivered ver-
dicts in three cases. Jamaat
Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar
Hossain Sayedee and
expelled Jamaat member
Abul Kalam Azad were sen-
tenced to death while Jamaat
leader Abdul Quader Mollah
received life imprisonment.

The verdict delivery in the
war crimes case against
former Jamaat chief Ghulam
Azam is pending with
Tribunal-1.

THE CHARGES
Abduction and killing of
Badiuzzaman; inflicting
inhumane torture on pro-
liberation intellectual Syed
Abul Hannan; advising the
killing of 164 people and
rape of many women in
Sohagpur; abduction and
killing of Golam Mostafa;
abduction, confinement
and torture of Liakat Ali and
Mujibur Rahman Panu and
the killing of eight people;
abduction and killing of
Tunu; and the killing

Zahurul Islam Dara and five
others.

GONOJAGORON MANCHA RETURNS

People yesterday evening
started gathering in
Shahbagh, where there used
to be the Gonojagoron
Mancha that demands maxi-
mum punishment for all war
criminals.

Early on Monday, police
dismantled the mancha. The
Gonojagoron Mancha, which
was formed immediately after
an international crimes tribu-
nal had handed down life
imprisonment to Jamaat-e-
Islami leader Abdul Quader
Mollah on February 5.

Young Sherpa plunges to his death on Everest

AFP, Kathmandu

A Nepalese mountaineer
slipped into a crevasse and
plunged to his death on
Mount Everest yesterday, the
third fatality of the summit
season, an expedition
organiser said.

Lobsang Sherpa, 22, a
member of a team guiding a
commercial expedition up
the 8,848-metre (29,029-
foot) mountain, was return-
ing to the team's campsite
when he fell, said Mingma
Sherpa of climbing agency
Seven Summits Treks.

"He was returning from
the height of 8,000 metres
after hauling the tents for an
11-member Chinese expedi-
tion team," he said, adding
that the body had been
recovered and was being
airlifted to Kathmandu.

Two other climbers have
died on the world's highest
peak this season.

Last month Mingmar
Sherpa, 47, a member of an
elite team known as "icefall
doctors" who set up climb-
ing routes, plunged to his
death. DaRita Sherpa, 47,
died from what is believed to
have been cardiac arrest on
Sunday morning.

Last season, six climbers
died on Everest, making it
one of the deadliest years in
recent memory and spark-
ing a debate about whether
overcrowding was contribu-
ting to the death toll.

More than 3,000 people
have climbed Everest and
approximately 300 have
perished since it was first
conquered by Edmund
Hillary and Tenzing Norgay
in 1953. Every year hundreds
more set out in April to
attempt the climb.

Yusuf involved in genocide

FROM PAGE 20
The 15 war crimes charges
pressed by the prosecution
include genocide, killing,
looting, arson, religious
conversion and deportation
of people.

The prosecution also filed
a petition with the registrar's
office seeking issuance of a
warrant against Yousuf and
sending him to jail.

According to the
International Crimes
Tribunal Act, 1973, tribunal-
1 will pass an order whether
the charges are taken into
cognisance.

Registrar AKM Nasiruddin
Mahmud told The Daily Star
yesterday that tribunal-1 had
yet to fix a date to decide about
the charges or pass an order
regarding Yousuf's arrest.

The formal charges say on
May 21, 1971 around 3,000-
4,000 Hindus from about 22
villages took shelter in the
famous Kali Mandir [temple]
at Dakra in Bagerhat.

Two local Muslim League
leaders -- Liakat Ali Gaznabi
and Altab Gaznabi --
informed Yousuf about the
gathering at the temple.

Yousuf sent 40 to 50
Razakars led by locally influ-

ential collaborator Badar Ali
Fakir to kill the Hindus. At
around 3:00pm the Razakars
reached Dakra on two big
boats and approached the
temple from its eastern and
western sides.

"They approached the
temple from both sides,
opening fire and killing
whoever they found in the
way," the charge reads.

The priest of the temple,
Binod Bihari Chakrabarty,
was surrounded by hun-
dreds of people. The
Razakars opened fire on
them and within a moment
the Kalibari playground
turned into a pile of bodies.

The Razakars also charged
bayonets and knives on the
injured to ensure their death.

OTHER 14 CHARGES IN BRIEF

At a Peace Committee meet-
ing in Rampal on April 19,
1971 Yousuf openly directed
his followers to carry out loot
and vandalism.

The homes of about 300-
400 Hindus in 10 villages in
Kachua were looted and set
on fire on April 22.

On May 17 commercial
and residential houses were
looted and set on fire at

Morelganj Bazar.

The following information
was made available regard-
ing Yousuf's role in 1971:

Genocide, looting and
arson were committed on
May 13 at Ranjitpur; geno-
cide committed at
Morelganj Bazar on May 19;
commission of genocide at
Chulkathi on October 14;
genocide at Moghia on the
following day; commission
of genocide on November 5-
6 at Shakhariakathi; religious
conversion and genocide at
Shakhariakathi in mid-July;
killing of one Abu Bakkar
Siddiqui at Morelganj on
May 13; killings at Rayenda
on June 7; Tafalbari killing on
June 9; Dr Mazid's killing at
Morelganj on July 26; and
one Salam was killed at
Rayenda on July 29, 1971.

Earlier, tribunal-1 asked
the prosecution to submit
formal charges against war
crimes suspect and Jamaat
leader ATM Azharul Islam
on June 30.

Prosecutor Zead Al
Malum yesterday submitted
the progress report of ongo-
ing investigations into the
crimes allegedly committed
by the war crimes suspect.

18 risky RMG

FROM PAGE 20

labour ministry yesterday.

The government action
came less than a week after
the International Labour
Organisation completed a
high-profile mission to the
country to call on the authori-
ties to take immediate steps
to improve labour standards
and working condition in the
garment factories.

Earlier, a cabinet commit-
tee on garment industry was
formed two weeks before the
collapse of the illegally con-
structed Rana Plaza housing
five garment factories on
April 24, leaving 819 dead.

The government has also
formed a two-member
panel headed by the textiles
minister to inspect garment
factories for building flaws
and recommend steps to
correct them. The commit-
tee will submit a report to the
prime minister within
three months.

"We hope the garment
factories with problems will
correct them within this
period," said Latif.

The minister also said two
taskforces have been formed
to ensure the welfare of gar-
ment workers and inspect
fire safety system in factories.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka
office of the Department of
Inspection for Factories and
Establishments (DIFE) had
earlier asked owners of 32
garment factories to shut
down their factories because of
faults that pose dangers to the
workers.

These include the 16
factories already closed
down in Dhaka. Officials,
however, could not say
immediately whether the
remaining 16 have been shut
down or not.

"We have issued them
letter after inspection. If
they ignore our orders, we

will take legal action against
them," Deputy Chief of the
DIFE for Dhaka division
Nripendra Nath Das told
The Daily Star.

He said they asked the
owners to have their factory
buildings examined by
expert engineers and then
submit report to the DIFE.

"We will then decide
whether a factory will be
closed down finally."

On Monday, the textiles
minister told journalists that
he and Monnujan Sufian,
state minister for labour,
also a member of the panel
headed by him, would visit
100 garment factories in
Dhaka and Chittagong in the
next one week.

RMG MAKERS WORRIED
Garment makers yesterday
expressed concern over the
shutdown of factories as the
government inspection teams
are closing factories due to
their poor safety standard.

The entrepreneurs
expressed their concern in a
meeting with Prime Minister
Sheikh Hasina at Gono
Bhaban.

"Firstly, we went to the
PM's residence, and being
instructed, we met Textiles
and Jute Minister Abdul Latif
Siddiqui at his residence and
expressed our concern," said
AK Azad, former president of
the Federation of Bangladesh
Chambers of Commerce and
Industry (FBCCI).

The factory owners are in
trouble now as different
authorities are shutting
down many units, he added.

Atiqul Islam, president of
BGMEA, AKM Salim Osman,
president of Bangladesh
Knitwear Manufacturers
and Exporters Association,
and former BGMEA presi-
dent Abdus Salam
Murshedy, were present,
among others.

EU for acceptable

FROM PAGE 20

The delegation of eight of its
member states, which have
missions in Dhaka, pressed
the major parties for con-
structive dialogue inside
and outside the parliament
at the earliest so that the
country can find a way
towards a free, fair and credi-
ble election.

They expressed deep
concern over the excessive
levels of confrontation in
Bangladesh in recent
months, including attacks on
minorities and their homes
and places of worship.

British High
Commissioner Robert
Gibson, German
Ambassador Albrecht Conze
and Italian Ambassador
Giorgio Guglielmino also
spoke on the occasion.
Charges d'affaires Ms Lene
Volkersen of Denmark, Ms
Karin Rohlin of Sweden,
Carel Richter of the
Netherlands and Babou
Kamichetty of France were
present among others.

Asked if they feared mili-
tary intervention like that in
2007 in case the parties
could not arrive at a "consti-

tutionally viable" solution,
William Hanna refused to
comment.

In this respect, the British
high commissioner said the
future of Bangladesh would
be decided by its people.
"We want to see an election
where the people would be
allowed to make a choice to
elect their government by
exercising their constitu-
tional rights."


The EU envoys avoided
answering questions about
Hefajat-e-Islam resorting to
violence on Sunday and
Monday and their 13
demands.

About the recent shut-
down of two private TV
channels, the Italian ambas-
sador said they admire the
vibrant media in Bangladesh
since freedom of the press is
considered a policy of the
EU.

"We are following the
events closely," he added.

Hanna said the EU would
send an exploratory mission
to Bangladesh to discuss all
stakeholders and assess the
pre-election situation in the
country and report back to
its headquarters.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh					
Works Audit Directorate					
Audit Complex (1 st & 2 nd Floor)					
Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000					
Invitation for Tender (Microbus)					
1	Ministry/Division		Comptroller & Auditor General of Bangladesh.		
2	Agency		Works Audit Directorate.		
3	Procuring entity name		Works Audit Directorate.		
4	Procuring entity code		N/A		
5	Procuring entity district		Dhaka, Bangladesh		
6	Invitation for		One microbus (12 seats)		
7	Invitation Ref No. & date				
8	Procurement method		Open tender method.		
FUNDING INFORMATION					
9	Budget and source of funds		Revenue Budget		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
10	Selling tender document will commence on		09-05-2013 from 9.00 to 16.00 hours.		
11	Selling tender document will close on		22-05-2013 16.00 hours		
12	Tender closing date & time		23-05-2013 14.00 hours		
13	Tender opening date & time		23-05-2013 15.00 hours		
14	Name & address of the office -Selling tender document -Receiving tender document -Opening tender Document		Works Audit Directorate Audit Complex (1st & 2 nd Floor) Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.		
15	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting		Pre-tender meeting will not be held.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
16	Eligibility of tenderer		Distributor or sole agent on motor vehicles as per rules 47 & 48 of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 (PPR-2008).		
17	Brief description of goods		On microbus (12 seats) engine capacity minimum-2600 CC.		
18	Brief description of related service		The supplier shall deliver the vehicle at the Works Audit Directorate Office, and provide after-sales service and spare part for at least one year.		
19	Price of tender document		Tk. 1,000/-		
20	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks & months
	1	Procurement of one microbus (12 seats)	Dhaka	1,10,000.00	4 weeks after contract signing
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
21	Name of official inviting tender				
22	Designation of office inviting tender			Director General, Works Audit Directorate, Dhaka	
23	Address of official inviting tender			Works Audit Directorate Audit Complex (1 st & 2 nd Floor) Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.	
24	Contact details of official inviting tender			Tel: 9350083, Fax: 8331977	
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				
K M Serajul Munir Director Phone: 9350083					
GD-1849					

 Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES <small>HEAD OFFICE, BALAKA, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH, PHONE: 8901600-14, 8901680-94, FAX: 88-02-8901558, www.biman-airlines.com</small>		
Ref: DACPM/131/2013/691		Date: