

# SQ Chy questions

FROM PAGE 16

Ummah in general and the Bangladeshi Muslim Ummah in particular."

In his around-three-and-a-half-hour-long deposition, the war crimes accused spent most of his time describing supremacy of the Muslims in the Indian subcontinent and how proud he was being a Muslim.

"I am a Muslim by faith and conviction unlike Motilal Nehru's son, who was Hindu by accident," he said.

During his deposition Salauddin mentioned the 'prosecutors' as 'persecutors' and said they had attempted to do 'Balkanization' or 'Sikkimization' of Bangladesh which created heat in the courtroom.

"Attempt by the prosecution to oppose, deride the two-nation theory for which late Bangabandhu personally recorded his sacrifices amounts to a blatant and audacious proposition for the Balkanization or more relevantly Sikkimization of Bangladesh representing a treacherous challenge to the sovereignty of territory and integrity," he said.

Instantly protesting against his statement, prosecutor Simon told the tribunal it should not be recorded as the war crimes accused humiliated the prosecution by it.

"Am I? This is my deposition. If you don't like it, counter it during the argument [session]," said Salauddin.

Simon said such language should not be recorded.

Defence counsel Fakhru Islam said his client was stating his position by terming the 'prosecutors' as 'persecutors'.

The prosecution protested against it saying they did not do anything for which they could be termed persecutors.

"Did you ever give me salaam [show courtesy] in the last two and a half years?" said the war crimes accused giving reasons for his claim.

Prosecutor Zead Al Malum called upon Salauddin to behave responsibly.

At this, Fakhru flared up,

but Salauddin asked his lawyer to ignore saying, "Like water off a duck's back, such comment won't cause him any difference."

Malum said, "There is no scope for him [Salauddin] to give unbridled statements. Since he is both accused and witness, he should abide by the rules."

"He [Salauddin] can't utter such words which disgrace Bangladesh and its laws," said Simon.

The tribunal led by Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim ordered to cut the word 'persecutors' and the portion contained word 'Balkanization' and 'Sikkimization' from the record.

But the tribunal could not erase it from the record at all as the war crimes accused brought up 'Balkanization' and 'Sikkimization' in his very next sentence.

"It is not my intention however strongly inclined I may be to use terms like Balkanization or Sikkimization to which many may take umbrage," he added.

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until today. Salauddin would continue his deposition.

Meanwhile, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday completed recording cross-examination of Ajit Mohanta, 25th prosecution witness in the case against Abdul Alim, before adjourning the proceeding until today.

On Monday, Ajit testified that Alim was the "key person" behind organising a daylight massacre at several Hindu villages in Joypurhat on April 26, 1971.

The tribunal also gave 12 more days to Zahir Uddin Jalal, a prosecution witness in the case against Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, to reply a contempt of court rule it had issued earlier against him for allegedly assaulting one of Mojaheed's lawyers.

The court fixed June 30 for passing further order in this regard.



Evicted by land grabbers from ancestral homes at Chak Para of Naikhangchhari upazila in Bandarban, these indigenous families now live like refugees and inhuman conditions at Baishiri of the same upazila. The photos were taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# Landless due to land grabbers

14 indigenous families ousted from home on the pretext of rubber plantation

ARUN BIKASH DEY from Naikhyangchhari, Bandarban

Finally, they have been successful in evicting 14 families of the ethnic Chak community, and their carefully orchestrated plan has thus been accomplished.

The land grabbers in the name of rubber plantation evicted a total of 14 Chak families from their ancestral homes Chak Para at Badurjhiri under Naikhyangchhari upazila in Bandarban on March 15.

The families consisting of around 100 members including babies and elderly people had no choice except leaving their places as the land grabbers kept on pressurising them either to leave the place or face death.

They are now living at temporary huts at Headman Para, Madhyam Chak Para and Upar Chak Para under Baishari union in the upazila and trying to eke out a living as day labourers.

Ong Sa Gyai Chak, a member of the evicted

Chak community, said, "The armed muggers used to snatch all of our belongings, and threaten us to leave our houses. They also started raiding our houses at night and robbing us of the belongings including domestic chickens."

Afterwards, they started threatening us to leave the place saying that we would be slaughtered otherwise, he added.

"So, we fled our houses," said Jhim Rao Chak, another evicted member of Chak community.

"We informed the local police outpost at Baishari Bazar but they could not assure us of safety," he added.

The victims said the plot to evict 21 families from their ancestral home had been going on for around four years as commercial rubber plantations made inroads into the areas and expanded its grasp gradually near the Chak Para.

Seven out of 21 families were compelled to leave the place around three years ago, they

added.

When contacted, Shafiqul Islam, in-charge of Baishari police outpost, said the evicted families did not file any formal complaint with them.

"When the matter came to our knowledge, I rushed to the spot and assured them that they would be helped to return to their houses, but they did not agree," he said.

As they also did not agree to file a case, a general diary was filed after investigation, and high officials were informed, he added.

When contacted, Ahmed Jamil, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Naikhyangchhari, said Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Alamgir Khan had recently visited the area for investigation.

"We have got some names and are investigating the matter," the UNO said, adding that the affected families were given relief including cash Tk 6,000 each.

# Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 16

group. They will determine the culture of Bangladesh, not their parents," he said.

Insisting that the Bangladesh today is utterly different from the Bangladesh that belonged to the previous generation, he said, "I can guarantee the child is being born today will never have more than one or two children."

He suggested that the grassroots door-to-door family planning programme, which started in the 70s, change its mindset and promote permanent or long-term acting that they can afford money," he added.

Birth registration, he suggested, could be a preventive tool which would help reduce child marriages to some extent.

"But the real change has to come from within the society," he observed.

In his opinion, opening up economic opportunities for girls will be effective because if a girl had a job and contributed to her family, the father would not want to marry her off so early.

Erken also suggested that policymakers prioritise making social services and safety networks available for all.

the age of marriage had not increased at all.

To him, the underlying reason for early marriage is dowry. "A girl who is older and educated is more expensive and requires more dowry than a younger, uneducated girl," said Erken.

The people of lower income brackets had a huge incentive to marry their daughters off quickly, he added.

Erken also pointed out that the issue of dowry had become more important in the last couple of decades. "It has become a prestige thing; people want to show that they can afford money," he said.

Birth registration, he suggested, could be a preventive tool which would help reduce child marriages to some extent.

"But the real change has to come from within the society," he observed.

In his opinion, opening up economic opportunities for girls will be effective because if a girl had a job and contributed to her family, the father would not want to marry her off so early.

Erken also suggested that policymakers prioritise making social services and safety networks available for all.

# Flying bicycle

FROM PAGE 16

On the ground, the Paravelo is an ordinary two-wheeled bike -- albeit one that is towing a trailer with a large biofuel-powered fan. But with a bit of space to act as a runway, the trailer can be docked with the bike to transform it into a flying machine capable of running for three hours on a full tank of fuel.

To take off, an electric motor powered by this bio-fuel is used to start up another electronic motor. This motor then powers the fans that lift the paravelo off the ground.

Its creators, John Fordon, 37, and Yannick Read, 42, said they were inspired by cycling in their childhood when creating the Paravelo, which costs £10,000.

"We were enchanted by the connection between cycling and the birth of powered flight -- the Wright brothers were former bicycle mechanics -- so we designed the Paravelo to recapture that pioneering era," said Fordon.

They believe their creation will revolutionise the way people travel to work. It is ideal for commuting as it can be folded away in a compact space, such as an office, they add.

With a built-in tent, Paravelo is perfect for festival-goers too.

They also claim that no licence is needed to fly it and that it costs about the same as a small family car to run.

The Paravelo's development was supported by the Environmental Transport Association. The charity's director, Andrew Davis, said: 'For generations the car has been king, but it could now play second fiddle to the flying bicycle.'

'If you have a thirst for adventure, but are without a storage space or bank balance large enough for a helicopter, then the paravelo is for you,' said Read, the co-inventor.

# No legal reasons to exclude Abul

FROM PAGE 1

influential ruling party politician should be included in the case.

"The evidence suggested a criminal conspiracy that included the former communications minister as the most senior official personally involved.

"The ultimate award of the contract likely required his approval. He met with SNC Lavalin managers at the request of the former secretary, which was likely in furtherance of the negotiations for an illegal payment," it said.

It added that Abul's name and the indication of a payment of four percent were subsequently included in a list of people that were to receive compensation for their alleged involvement in the conspiracy.

"In order to achieve a complete and fair investigation, the former minister should be named in the FIR and placed under investigation," the report said.

It, however, did not make public an annexure that detailed evidence justifying why Abul should be prosecuted.

Nonetheless, the panel applauded the ACC for issuing a first information report against seven of the eight individuals allegedly involved in the conspiracy.

The seven accused include the former secretary of the bridges division and officials of the communications ministry. All of them are now facing trial.

The three-member panel, headed by Luis Moreno Ocampo, former prosecutor of the International Criminal

Court, said it would not be able to make a final assessment as to whether the investigation was "full and fair" until the end of investigation of the case.

The panel also expressed doubts whether the ACC investigation would be "full and free."

The panel evaluated the WB's activity and Bangladesh's response in dealing with the graft charges.

"The Bangladeshi government reshuffled its cabinet but did not address the corruption conspiracy," said the report.

It said the Bangladeshi government's failure to adopt strategies forwarded by the WB obligated the lender to terminate the \$1.2 billion loan in June 2012.

"Ultimately, the WB could not delegate its

fiduciary responsibilities to national authorities and could not proceed with the project in the absence of a full and fair national investigation."

Meanwhile, ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman yesterday reiterated that Abul was not included in the case as its investigation was yet to find any prima-facie evidence against the former minister.

"Our investigation is going on. So at the moment we cannot ascertain whether Abul Hossain is involved or not. Abul Hossain will be implicated if the investigators find his involvement," he said.

On June 11, WB Country Director Johannes Zutt handed over the final report on the ACC probe to Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

# DEATH IN CUSTODY

# 5 guards arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police on Monday arrested five people in connection with a case filed by the brother of a man who died in police custody in Sunamganj last week.

The arrestees are Oziar Rahman and Ansar members Maniruzzaman, Dilder Hossain, Rupok Chowdhury and Kajol Kanti Das. All of them are security guards of Nitol Paper Mill in Chhatak.

Locals and police said the security men caught Waris Ali, 45, for his alleged stealing of fish from a pond in the mill area on June 11. Later they handed him over to the Chhatak police after beating him.

Police took seriously injured Waris to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where he died the following day.

Following the incident deceased's brother, Rahmat Ali of Bashkhola village, filed a case with Chhatak Police Station on Monday against 11 people alleging the body bore several injury marks.

Shakhawat Hossain the Additional Deputy Inspector General of police (Sylhet range) said the arrestees were sent to the judicial magistrate court of Sunamganj yesterday.

# Internet

FROM PAGE 1

room in the capital.

A total of 179 upazilas are now under the optical fibre cable network provided by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and other projects, said a planning ministry statement.

The statement, however, said Bhola Sadar, Sandwip, Hatiya, Moheshkhali, Kutubdia, Baghaichhari, Langadu Juraichhari, Belaichhari, Barkal, Mehendiganj, Muladi, and Hizla upazilas would remain out of the project owing to their geographical locations.

The Ecneec also okayed six other projects involving Tk 387 crore.

The projects include agricultural equipment technology development and expansion, cattle development, river bank protection of the vulnerable areas of Lalmahon upazila of Bhola district, applied research on rural livelihood through surface water irrigation, and integrated plan for extension and development of sericulture in Bangladesh.

# Work begins

FROM PAGE 1

Landing and climbing ramps of the road will take up the remaining 17 km.

As per a concession agreement, the Thailand-based contractor Ital-Thai will build the Tk 8,703 crore elevated road, of which the government will bear Tk 2,258 crore on the basis of Public Private Partnership.

The government had inked the deal with the firm in January 2011, when the then communications said construction would be complete by the middle of 2014.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on April 30 that year had inaugurated the construction of the expressway, which was dubbed a "groundbreaking ceremony".

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Citing information provided by the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, the minister said there were 1.94 lakh unfit motor vehicles in the capital and the list had been given to the metropolitan traffic police department.

Abu Naser, senior information officer of the ministry, said the meeting had decided to conduct a survey on unregistered motorcycles in the capital over the next one month and fresh registration of bikes would remain stalled from today.

# SC judges

FROM PAGE 16

The parliamentary sub-committee in January the same year recommended Tk 1.52 lakh per month for the chief justice, Tk 1.20 lakh per month for an Appellate Division judge, and Tk 1.08 lakh per month for an HC judge as salaries and other privileges, the writ petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

The Appellate Division stayed the HC verdict following a government petition later in the same year.

The apex court also asked

the government to file an appeal with it against the HC verdict on getting its full text.

The government last year filed an appeal with the SC challenging the HC judgment, Manzill Murshid said, adding that a petition to the apex court to vacate the stay order on the HC verdict had also been submitted.

The Appellate Division will soon hold hearings on both the government's appeal and the petition for vacating the stay order, the counsel added.

# Doctor of false certificates

FROM PAGE 16

But he continued giving false medical certificates using the former identity of a DMCH medical officer with a chamber at a private clinic.

Dr Haridas Saha Protap, resident surgeon at the DMCH, said, "We have received scores of complaints from the police and courts about him issuing medical certificates."

Criminal cases are sometimes recorded with the police and courts without valid medical documents. This leads to harassment of the accused in the false cases.

In connection with a criminal case in May 2010, Narsingdi Sessions Judge's Court summoned Saiful for "issuing false and fabricated medical certificates."

A court official, having looked into the records of the case, said Saiful appeared at the court on June 7 that year. The court

reprimanded an apologetic Saiful and referred him to the DGHS.

Saiful gave a medical certificate along with an injury report about an alleged physical assault on a woman in Gulshan on April 28 this year. The documents were produced as evidence in a case tried by a special tribunal in Dhaka in early May.

Dr Md Abdur Raquib, a deputy director of DGHS, said, "Saiful is not authorised to write injury reports of police cases.... We will soon take departmental action against him."

Advocate Molay Saha, who has dealt with cases of women repression and family issues for one and half a decades, said nearly 60 percent cases about women repression due to dowries are based on false accusations and fake documents.

Shahjahan Mian Sachchu, another advocate

at a Dhaka court, said special tribunals that try women repression cases and metropolitan magistrate courts often carry out a judicial inquiry to check the authenticity of the allegations before trial.

"Police sometimes take such cases despite a lack of authentic medical records apparently to squeeze the accused for unfair gains," he said.

Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Masud Karim of Nawabganj Police Station said, "Even if we register such cases, we do not file the final report until authentic medical documents are produced."

This correspondent called Saiful on May 19 on his mobile phone, posing as a client.

The voice on the other side said, "A certificate along with an injury report mentioning critical injuries to get someone arrested would cost Tk 5,000."

This correspondent sent a messenger to him the next day. Saiful wrote a prescription and an injury report mentioning a fictitious physical assault on a housewife. Without even wanting to see the alleged victim, he handed in the "documents".

The correspondent met Saiful in his chamber on May 22 and asked him what he had to say on the allegations against him.

Saiful said he was "unwell" and would respond two days later.

Asked his registration number, he said, "I do not remember it." Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council records show he renewed it 17 years ago although the law requires a renewal every five years.

The correspondent on May 27 called him several times only to have the calls unanswered. He then sent him a message about this news report. Still, he did not respond.