

# Indictment decision on August 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fixed August 1 to decide about framing charge(s) against Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf for his alleged involvement in genocide and crimes against humanity in 1971.

The tribunal is set to pass an order on the same date on a bail petition filed by Yusuf, who is historically known as the founder of infamous Razakar force. The court has also directed the jail authorities to submit a report on his health by July 30.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Judge Md Shahinur Islam fixed the date after both the prosecution and the defence completed their submission.

Earlier on May 8, the prosecution pressed 15 war crimes charges against the Jamaat naye-e-ameer that included genocide, killing, looting, arson, forced religious conversion and deportation of people.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on May 12 took the charges into cognisance and ordered law enforcers to arrest the war crimes suspect. The case was later transferred to the tribunal-2 following a petition by the prosecution.

On July 14, the prosecution placed their submission and appealed to the court to frame charges against Yusuf.

The defence on July 18 filed two petitions -- one for granting bail and another for discharging their client from the charges.

If indicted, trial of the 87-year-old top leader of Jamaat, which vehemently opposed the birth of Bangladesh during the Liberation War in 1971, will start formally.

**BAIL PETITION**  
Moving the bail petition, chief defence counsel Abdur Razzaq yesterday said Yusuf had been suffering from several old-age diseases and had undergone several operations earlier.

His client was ready to obey any conditions set by the tribunal to get out on bail, Razzaq added.

Opposing the petition, prosecutor Syed Haider Ali said Yusuf had been in police custody since his arrest on May 12. The jail authorities did not give any report that his health had deteriorated, he added.

Earlier, the defence had filed a bail petition citing their client's "poor" health, but the tribunal-1 had rejected it, said Haider, adding, the defence petition should be rejected as they had failed to raise a new ground.

Another prosecutor Hrishikesh Saha said the prosecution witnesses were being issued with threats. He added they would be more frightened if Yusuf was given bail.

The tribunal finally asked

the jail authorities to submit a report on his health by July 30.

**DISCHARGE PETITION**  
Razzaq said Yusuf was arrested shortly after the Liberation War and was tried under the Collaborator Act, 1972. He was convicted and sentenced for life but was released on December 15, 1973 following declaration of the general amnesty in November 1973.

The tribunal asked if charges of genocide, murder and arson were brought against Yusuf when he had faced trial under the Collaborator Act.

When Razzaq replied in the negative, the tribunal said if these charges were brought against him, he wouldn't get general amnesty.

The defence counsel said Yusuf, as a member of Abdul Malek's cabinet in 1971, was a prominent person. If he had committed such crimes, these charges were supposed to be brought against him.

But, after 42 years, those charges were brought against him for "mala fide intention" and he should be discharged.

The prosecution said Yusuf was "directly involved" in nine incidents of war crimes. He had "instigated" six other incidents in greater Khulna, they added.

Among the 15 incidents, there were seven instances of genocide, five murders and three of looting and arson, they said and prayed for framing charges.

# Gas field trouble over

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Chevron was asked to sit with the contractors within a week to resolve differences with them.

Following Chevron's letter, Petrobangla on Tuesday sought intervention of local parliamentarian and Chief Whip of the House Abdus Shahid. But he said he did not know the contractors and he could do nothing.

Contacted by The Daily Star, the chief whip said, "Why are you asking me these questions? I do not know anything about Chevron's field. This is a matter for the energy ministry or Petrobangla and the law enforcing agencies. Not mine."

But local people said

Shahid held several meetings with Chevron officials and the local contractors in recent months over awarding contracts for supplies and temporary jobs at the gas field.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reports that Chevron has 22 listed contractors who did not have any supply contracts in recent years. These contractors had been staging demonstrations around the gas field demanding contracts, and they got support of the locals who added demands like domestic gas connection and employment opportunity.

To end this stalemate, Chevron held meetings with the contractors in May and

June. The contractors include Samata Enterprise, Khwaza Enterprise, SM Enterprise, Golden Enterprise and Kalapur Enterprise-2.

With the chief whip's intervention, it was finally resolved that Chevron would award contracts to all the 22 listed contractors.

But in the middle of this month, five of these contractors asked Chevron officials to award all the contracts to them and said they would "manage" the other contractors. Chevron rejected the proposal.

This prompted the five contractors to go for the blocking.

On Tuesday, Chevron wrote to Petrobangla, "Un-

ruly local persons are still moving around the gas plant area, patrolling with motor cycle and creating a blockage that is severely impacting our gas plant operations."

Due to the blockage, water storage capacity of the gas plant had been exhausted. This water is a by-product of natural gas, which is stored and regularly taken away by vehicles for discharge. To manage the water storage, Chevron had to reduce gas production.

Chevron also cannot change its crews due to this situation, and its staffs were feeling insecure.

Contractor Jamshedur Rahman of Samata Enterprise claimed to The

Daily Star that Chevron had promised to give them 12 to 15 supply job by July 17, but it did not keep its words. "That's why we have called for blockade of all transports carrying Chevron's workers."

The local contractors also held a press conference on Tuesday night at Srimangal Press Club where Jamshedur Rahman, Akal Mian, Suju Mia and other contractors said they have been working as local contractors for Occidental Unocal and Chevron since 1998. But they were not getting contracts properly for the last three years, and Chevron awarded contracts only to its favourite contractors, they added.

# Many families wait for compensation

FROM PAGE 1

the dead victims gathered to demand their compensations.

"A building collapsed and my mother died," was all he could come up with when asked where his mother is. And then he looked at the picture and kissed it.

Morzina had worked as a sewing operator of Phantom Apparels in the building for around six months. But the family did not receive any compensation except for Tk 20,000 that was given during the handing over of the body, said Mariam Begum who lives in Savar on the outskirts of the capital with her grandson Arif and his father.

She does not have

enough money to look after the child because his father has been in distress ever since the death of his wife and is doing nothing.

Like Alif, around 200 boys and girls, who have lost their fathers or mothers in the tragedy, attended the programme yesterday.

The nine-storey building that housed five garment factories and many shops caved in on April 24, killing at least 1,132 people, mostly garment workers.

The army with the help of local people and fire brigade took 20 days to rescue 2,438 people from the rubble. Still 80 injured victims are undergoing treatment at different hospitals in Dhaka and Savar, according to government data.

Sitting beside Mariam was Mousumi Akter, 19, who had worked at Rana Weave Style Ltd in Rana Plaza. She narrowly survived the collapse but lost her husband who too had worked in the building.

She needs around Tk 2,500 a month to feed her eight-month-old son but she has no income now.

"My father helps us as he doesn't want me to work in any garment factory," said Mousumi. She does not want to work either cause if she dies like her husband "who will look after my son".

She had been pulled out of the tangled wreckage of the building. But she could not move out of the time of her misery and helplessness and fear of imminent

death as the memories still haunt her.

"I cannot focus on anything whenever I remember the building collapse."

Mousumi got only Tk 16,000 as compensation from an international buyer Primark through bKash, a mobile money transfer service.

She wants to open a tailoring shop to raise her child. For that she needs money and so she urged the government to give the compensation soon.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had promised to give Tk 1 lakh to each family of the dead victims, said Amirul Huq Amin, president of the National Garment Workers Federation.

"But most of them have

not so far got the compensation."

Amirul urged the government to pay compensations on "the loss of earning" basis. In that case, the compensation should be Tk 28 lakh for dead victims and Tk 5 lakh for injured workers, he said, adding that international buyers, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, garment owners and the government should pay the money.

"If the government provides the families of dead victims with Tk 1 lakh each as promised, there will be no shortage of the fund," said Salauddin Swapon, secretary general of Bangladesh Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad.

# GSP review in December

FROM PAGE 16

standards, EU Global Sustainability Compact, and the recent labour law amendment.

Commerce Secretary Mahub Ahmed and Labour and Employment Secretary Mikail Shipar also attended the meeting.

On June 27, the US suspended the trade benefits to Bangladesh under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) due to Bangladesh's "insufficient" progress in affording internationally recognised labour rights.

Emerging from the meeting, the US ambassador said their entire focus was "on how to follow up to GSP action plan for reinstatement of Bangladesh's GSP facility, and the sustainability compact" that had been adopted on July 8

in Geneva and with which the US got associated on July 19.

The Foreign Secretary told reporters that there had already been major progress as Bangladesh had amended the labour law, opened a hotline through which the workers would be able to call the fire department any time to have the fire safety measures in factories checked, and recruitment of inspectors.

Meeting sources said the US ambassador was also informed about another initiative regarding opening of a telephone hotline for RMG workers where they would be able to lodge complaints and inform authorities concerned of any problem without disclosing their identities.

Asked about International Labour

Organisation's (ILO) dissatisfaction over the amended labour law, as it failed to meet international standards and limited scope for trade unionism and collective bargaining, the foreign secretary said the law was amended in consultation with all, including the ILO.

"In the implementation stage, if needed, the labour law will be amended further. We will understand if there is any deficit when the law will be implemented," he added.

Talking to reporters, the US ambassador said the meeting had discussed in detail about the two fundamental documents -- the US action plan 2013 for Bangladesh to take significant actions to provide a basis for reinstating Bangladesh's GSP benefits,

and EU's Sustainability Compact which seeks to improve labour, health and safety conditions for workers.

"We went through each point and assessed the progress already made and the steps additionally needed and who to take those steps," said Mozena.

"All of us -- owners, workers, the government of Bangladesh, BGMEA, ILO, America, friends of Bangladesh all around the world -- everybody is coming together to come up with a plan of action, a battle plan that never again a Rana Plaza, never again a Tazreen Fashion, to ensure Bangladesh is a preferred brand number in the world," said the US ambassador.

He said the way for that to happen was to ensure

workers' rights to freely associate, organise, and to work in a factory that is safe from fire and falling down.

Mozena termed the meeting very timely, as he was going back to Washington on Saturday to pursue a discussion in this regard.

Asked about his views on the labour law amendment, he said "I don't want to speak about it until I have read it. There is no official document of translation yet. I am very eager to get a copy and then I will quickly read it and the government of United States will have their view on it."

He said he was very hopeful that the reform legislation would satisfy the ILO requirement for enabling environment to launch better work programme.

# ATM forgery unearthed

FROM PAGE 1

employee of Aamra Technologies.

Sharful Islam, chief operating officer of Aamra Technologies, said three of the culprits were once colleagues at the IT company where they had learnt how card fraud takes place.

In June 2012, a credit card scam involving over Tk 10 crore was detected at the United Commercial Bank (UCB). The bank identified four of its top and mid-ranking officials, who withdrew the amount from the UCB using 21 credit cards between 2007 and 2012.

Rab personnel detained three persons at Uttara in the capital in April this year for burglary and fraudulent use of credit cards.

DB police last month arrested two persons for their involvement in credit card fraud in Dhaka. One of them is an IT expert, who was educated in England.

In almost all cases of debit and credit card fraud, it was found that bank employees were involved in those, either directly or indirectly, and they provided the fraudsters with information about clients.

However, many such cases have gone unreported, as Bangladesh Bank, the regulator of the country's banking industry, has no mechanism to get information on this type of fraudulence. And it is yet to issue any security guidelines in this regard.

"We do not receive any such complaint from an

aggravated person or a bank," said Mahfuzur Rahman, executive director and spokesperson of the central bank.

"Police will take action once this type of fraud is detected," he said.

Bangladesh is a cash-based economy, and the use of plastic cards is a new phenomenon. Recently, there is a rise in the use of plastic money, so are cases of card fraud.

According to the banking industry, around 10 lakh credit cards worth \$120 billion are active in the economy.

DB police said several gangs are involved in ATM card fraud in the capital, and they swindled many cardholders, using hidden cameras and other devices. They sometimes enter ATM booths of different banks with fake ID cards, and introduce themselves as IT experts of the banks.

They install a camera above the ATM machine to record the image of a cardholder typing the password, and fix a small device to the ATM card reader to copy the cardholder's information.

The fraudsters then put the information in a new card with magnetic blank strips, using devices that can write and read cards.

With the help of unscrupulous IT experts at different banks, they also steal customers' information from computers at ATM booths, using pen drives.

They then withdraw money from the booths or buy products from shopping malls using the cards and passwords.

"Fraudulence can take place even at the stage of issuing and acquiring cards [during purchase], said Masrur Arefin, deputy managing director of the City Bank, the second largest credit card provider in Bangladesh after the Standard Chartered Bank.

Such cases of fraud happen when cards are given on fake information. In some cases, sellers of goods and services accept cards despite knowing that the buyer is not the real cardholder, he said.

"There is no alternative but to make shop owners aware of it to prevent card fraud at the acquiring level," said Masrur.

He said his bank received complaints of credit card fraud involving around Tk 6 lakh in 2012.

Bitopi Das Chowdhury, head of corporate affairs at the Standard Chartered Bank, said they haven't received complaints of any large-scale fraud involving bank cards.

He said the bank has a monitoring system to avert card fraud. "Even if there is any such case of fraud, victims can contact our call centre any time to deactivate the card," he added.

Anis A Khan, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, said the recent card fraud involving its two employees would not affect any of its cardholders, as none of the clients was swindled by the gang.

Referring to the arrests of the bank's two staff on Tuesday night, he said the two IT experts had already been suspended.

# Prof Anwar testifies at war tribunal

FROM PAGE 16

International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Prof Giasuddin Ahmed was abducted, when he (Anwar) along with the professor and their another colleague was coming out of the Pump House of Hazi Muhammad Mohsin Hall of the DU on that day.

Anwar is the fifth prosecution witness in the case against "absconding" Mueen and Ashraf.

"In late December of 1971, I had learnt from newspaper reports that an organised gang, led by Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan, was involved in the abduction of Dhaka University teachers," he added.

Prof Gias, said the 65-year-old DU teacher, used to provide financial and other support to the freedom fighters during the Liberation War.

On Tuesday, Enamul Huq Khan, fourth prosecution witness and son of martyred intellectual Serajul Haque Khan, told the court that Mueen and Ashraf had led the abduction of his father and other intellectuals on December 14, 1971.

A niece of Prof Gias, Masuda Banu Ratna testified in the court on July 15 as the first prosecution witness in the case. In his deposition, she said she

had identified Mueen and Ashraf when the duo went to Gias's house on that day.

Led by Justice Obaidul Hassan, the three-member tribunal recorded Anwar's testimony yesterday and adjourned the case proceedings until Monday as the witness felt unwell after his testimony. He will face cross-examination by the defence on Monday.

During his 67-minute testimony, Anwar said he had joined the DU history department on August 3, 1970. As an assistant house tutor at the Mohsin hall, he lived in a quarter there.

Prof Gias was also a house tutor at the hall, Masuda had told the court in her deposition.

The Pakistani occupation army and their local collaborators had brutally killed Prof Gias and other intellectuals at the fag end of the Liberation War to leave the nation devoid of merit, maintained Anwar.

He recalled that he had left the DU campus on March 27, 1971, but had returned to his university quarter in the last week of July, 1971. Until September, Prof Gias used to take his meals in Anwar's quarter.

In the morning of December 14, 1971, Anwar went to the Pump House as there was no water in his quarter. A little later, Prof

Jahirul Haque also went there.

Around 8:15am, Prof Giasuddin reached the pump house and switched on the pump. When the trio was returning from there, Anwar saw a man standing with a rifle, whose face was wrapped with a handkerchief.

Anwar found the dress of the armed man similar to the ones used by the Al-Badr, Al-Shams and Razakar men.

When the armed person looked for Giasuddin, Prof Gias revealed his identity. The man then asked Prof Gias to go with him.

When the man pointed his rifle at Prof Gias's chest, the DU teacher looked at Anwar and said, "Anwar, I am going. Pray for me."

As the armed man was taking Prof Gias before the Mohsin hall, another armed person joined him. Gias was blindfolded with the towel of the hall's guard Rahim, who was a non-Bangalee.

Later, Anwar had learnt that Prof Gias was taken in a microbus, which was covered with mud. Rahim had revealed the whereabouts of Prof Gias to the armed persons.

In the afternoon on that day, Anwar had come to know that several other DU teachers were also taken in the same microbus.

# Savar pourea

FROM PAGE 16

Rana Plaza collapse on April 24, said a CID source.

BNP leader Refayet had been suspended as the mayor on May 2 for his failure in taking necessary steps against the irregularities in the approval of the building design and when a crack had developed in the structure.

According to official records, a total of 1,132 people, mostly garment workers, died in the tragic accident and 2,438 people have been rescued from the debris.

**Kerry holds Syria crisis aid talks**

AFP, Washington

Fresh from visiting a huge refugee camp, US Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday met with UN and aid organization leaders to discuss ways to help millions caught in Syria's crossfire.

With no end in sight to the conflict now in its 28th month, the grim toll keeps rising -- some 100,000 people have been killed and 1.8 million Syrians have fled to neighboring countries.

Up to four million people are also believed to have been displaced by the fighting inside Syria's borders, where local aid workers risk their lives daily to cross shifting frontlines to supply vital food and water.

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## Invitation For Enlistment

Bangladesh Cricket Board

Ref No: BCB/Admin/T&PC/420 Dated : 24 July 2013

### Time Extension

Refer to the advertisement published in the national dailies on 10th July 2013 (Ref No.: BCB/Admin/T&PC/393)  
The last date of purchase & submission of enlistment application form is extended to Saturday 3rd August 2013 instead of 25th July 2013 by 2:00PM.  
All other terms shall be in line with the invitation for the enlistment documents.

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