

# Nizami was with Pakistan army

## Says war crimes witness narrating killing in Pabna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he had witnessed war crimes accused Motiur Rahman Nizami along with Pakistani army during the killing of two people at Sathia in Pabna.

"I saw Motiur Rahman Nizami giving a signal to the Pakistani army on April 28, 1971. Then two army personnel shot dead Habibur and Akkas who had hidden behind a tamarind tree," said septuagenarian witness Abu Sama Fakir.

Fakir who witnessed the killing from a bush said after the Pakistani army had left the place, he went to the spot and found the bodies.

"I went to Habibur's house and informed the matter to his brother and relatives," he added.

The 19th witness also gave deposition on another incident for which the war crimes accused had been charged.

Fakir said he had heard sounds of heavy shooting from Karamja village in Pabna on May 8, 1971. Panicked, the witness ran to a bamboo

bush.

"As I moved towards Karamja I saw the blood stained bodies of Megha Thakur, Dwizu Thakur, Koru Thakur, Shoshthi Haldar, Kartik Haldar, Shanto Haldar, Murali Mali and Fakir Chand," he said.

The witness said he had heard that Mega Thakur's daughter and daughter-in-law were raped by the Pakistani army and their collaborators.

"I learned from the witnesses including Ansar Ali and Shafiq that upon directives of Motiur Rahman Nizami, Rafikunnabi Bablu, Afzal, Asad and Shukur Khan, Pakistani army committed those crimes," said Fakir.

He added he had given a statement before the investigation officer of the case four or five months ago.

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until September 8.

**TRIBUNAL'S ORDER**

The tribunal in an order yesterday said from September 8 and onwards it would hear the trial of Nizami every working day.

Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, chairman of the three-member tribunal, ordered the jail authorities not to produce Nizami in any case other than the war crimes without their permission.

Justice Kabir also directed the prosecution and the defence to remain prepared as the proceedings would advance continuously.

Nizami, chief of Jamaat-Islami, is also an accused in the 10-truck arms haul case of 2004.

He was shown arrested on August 2, 2010 in connection with war crimes along with his party colleagues Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Mollah.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 has already convicted and sentenced Mojaheed, Kamaruzzaman and Mollah and their appeals are now pending with the Supreme Court.

The case against Nizami has lagged behind so much that the Tribunal-1 is still only recording testimony of the 19th prosecution witness.

# JS to exist, but not

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and party leaders over the last few days, sources in the AL told The Daily Star.

In the meeting, the premier asked the secretaries to finish speedily all the important and emergency development work.

"We are fully prepared to work under the system that the prime minister explained in the meeting," the cabinet secretary said.

He added that the PM said all these to them yesterday and also on various occasions in the past. "She explained the concept to the secretaries so that they are clear about it."

In her sixth meeting with the secretaries since taking office in 2009, Hasina yesterday sought all-out cooperation for continuation of the democratic system and development activities.

During the election time, Mosharraf said, power of the ministers might be delegated to the secretaries so that the administrative and development activities were not hampered.

"There will be an arrangement so that there won't be a need for

amending the laws. It can remain between the secretaries and the ministries. Secretaries can make decisions and the ministers can later approve those."

Asked whether the government could appoint more cabinet members during the transition period, Mosharraf said the PM said nothing about it. "These are not the issues for discussion with the secretaries."

In the meeting, 58 secretaries were present. Of them, 23 spoke on various issues. HT Imam, PM's public administration affairs adviser, was also present.

Usually, these meetings have no agenda and the PM and the secretaries talk openly on various issues.

Hasina said there had been visible development in all sectors during her government's tenure and that it needed to continue.

One secretary told the meeting that the AL should be re-elected for the continuation of the ongoing development activities, sources said.

The PM thanked government officials for playing an important role

in combating militancy and terrorism and ensuring public safety.

"If voted to power again, my government will ensure decentralisation of power by further strengthening the local government system," Mosharraf quoted the PM as saying.

Hasina noted that the implementation rate of the cabinet's decisions was 93 percent during her government tenure compared to 80 percent during the BNP-Jamaat alliance rule.

She directed the senior bureaucrats to implement the social safety net programmes in a better integrated way.

Effective monitoring of law and order, ensuring women's participation in policy level and promotion of government officials were also discussed in the three-and-a-half-hour meeting.

The secretaries thanked Hasina for her "liberal policy" in giving promotion.

On solving the housing problem of the government employees, Hasina said unused government land could be utilised in this regard.

# 18pc gas price

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ministry has now proposed the 18 percent increase to attract oil companies.

The energy ministry has sent its proposals to the cabinet committee on economic affairs and the committee is to sit today to discuss the suggestions.

The ministry also proposed that prices of 1,000 cubic feet of gas from deep-sea rigs be increased every year by two percent and the oil companies be allowed to sell half of their share of the production to anyone in Bangladesh at their negotiated price without requiring Petrobangla's refusal to buy it.

According to the Production Sharing Contract-2012, the oil companies are allowed to sell all gas in their share to any company after Petrobangla refuses to buy the gas.

The energy division of the ministry also proposed exempting deep-sea oil companies from corporate tax.

The highest cost recovery in deep-sea gas rigs was proposed at 70 percent, whereas it was fixed at 55 percent in the Production Sharing Contract-2012.

Giving reasons for the changes, the ministry said deep-sea gas exploration, drilling and production was a high-stakes affair and that was why it proposed a higher price for gas and tax exemption to attract more oil companies.

It said the price of deep-sea gas in Southeast Asia was higher than that of Bangladesh. The ministry also said the yearly two percent price increase was as per the norms of international agreements.

The energy ministry said the proposed amendments to the contract model of 2012 would only be applicable for blocks in the deep-sea area.

In February, the government held a pre-bid meeting with oil companies interested in exploring and producing gas from deep sea. The companies then urged the government to amend the Production Sharing Contract-2012 saying the conditions were too tough for them.

Norway state oil company Statoil, Shell Eastern Petroleum Plc Ltd, and Exxon Mobil Corporation also requested the government to amend the conditions of the model contract.

# Sonia flying to US for medical check-up

AFP, New Delhi

The head of India's ruling party, Sonia Gandhi, is to fly to the United States for a medical check-up, according to a report, a week after she was hospitalised in New Delhi.

Gandhi, India's most powerful politician, travelled to the United States in 2011 for surgery on an undisclosed condition and remained out of the public eye for three months afterwards.

"Her going to the US for medical check-up is due," a senior party leader told the Press Trust of India news agency late on Sunday on condition of anonymity.

Gandhi, 66, last had a

check-up in the US in February and also travelled there in September last year, PTI reported.

She was admitted to hospital last week after falling ill during a debate in parliament on key legislation.

Party colleagues said she had been suffering from a fever and was exhausted after days of negotiating the successful passage of a landmark food welfare law.

Her health and private life are closely guarded by her advisors and she rarely speaks to the press.

In 2011, a news magazine report said she had undergone surgery for cancer, but the illness has never been disclosed officially.

# 387 Bangladeshis

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"We will request the Malaysian government to ease the process for the deportation of our people so that they do not face any imprisonment or fine", Khander Mosharraf mentioned.

The first phase of the crackdown will close by the end of this year. It is part of an amnesty programme that started in 2011, allowing the irregular migrants to get legalised or return home without facing any penalty.

Some 2,70,000 out of around five lakh Bangladeshis staying in Malaysia had registered under the amnesty, but around two lakh had completed the procedure, AKM Atiqur Rahman, Bangladesh high commissioner to Malaysia, told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Of the remaining 70,000, some 25,000 had returned home taking advantage of the amnesty, he said, adding that some 45,000 could not get their work permits issued by the Malaysian immigration due to fraudulent practices by the agents and brokers.

"We have requested the Malaysian government to

legalise those having proofs of their registration. Malaysia's home minister gave a positive nod in this regard," the high commissioner said.

He said the embassy could not do anything for those who did not register themselves under the amnesty, or entered Malaysia with tourist visas and overstayed their visas.

The number of such irregular Bangladeshis could not be estimated, he said.

He gave an assurance that the high commission would negotiate with the Malaysian government to do the best for the Bangladeshis.

M Saravana Kumar, deputy director (enforcement) of Malaysian immigration department, said, "The illegal migrants will be deported immediately, while their employers will be fined up to 50,000 Malaysian Ringgit, or be jailed for up to five years, or be given six strokes of the cane, or all the three."

The operation involving around 1,35,000 personnel will charge some 45,000 employers believed to have hired the irregular migrants.

Meanwhile, Shamsuddin Bardan, executive director of the Malaysian Employers' Federation, said it wanted the government to allow easier absorption of foreign workers into other industries that were facing shortage of workers.

"It will be economical for employers as they will be able to fully utilise the foreign workers from other industries instead of hiring new ones," The Star quoted him as saying.

Bangladeshis among 115 migrants arrested in Indonesia

Indonesian police on Sunday arrested 115 undocumented migrants from Bangladesh, Myanmar and several African countries in the province of West Java, reports Jakarta Post.

The number of Bangladeshis could not be known.

Dadang Garnadi, head of criminal investigations unit of police, said human traffickers had kept the migrants at a villa in Tanjung Jaya village of Banjarwangi district.

"It is suspected that they would attempt to reach Australia," said Dadang.

# Voter list without

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of parliament, which begins on September 12, seeking passage of the proposed amendment to the electoral roll law.

Failing to get registered as a voter, a convicted war criminal will also not be able to contest parliamentary polls as per the Representation of the People Order.

The constitution of 1972 barred war criminals convicted under the Bangladesh Collaborators Order, 1972 from being registered as

voters and contesting parliamentary polls.

But this provision was deleted after the August 15, 1975 changeover. The 15th amendment to the constitution in June 2011 restored the constitutional bar.

The change in the RPO made before the 2008 parliamentary polls, however, barred convicted war criminals from contesting parliamentary elections.

In addition to the proposed amendment to electoral law, the Election Commission has proposed

another change in the provision to make it clearer.

The proposed change said people who have been convicted as war criminals under the international crimes tribunal act will permanently be disqualified from contesting parliamentary polls.

The two international crimes tribunals set up under the international crimes tribunal act have been holding trial of some war criminals, including top leaders of Jamaat-Islami.

# Bomb kills 9 Pak soldiers

AFP, Peshawar

A roadside bomb killed nine Pakistani soldiers and wounded 19 others Sunday in a restive northwestern tribal region near the Afghan border, officials said.

The incident happened in the Boya area of North Waziristan, a stronghold of militants linked to the Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

"At least nine soldiers embraced shahadat (martyrdom) and 19 others were injured in an explosion caused by an improvised explosive device," a senior security official told AFP.

The bomb hit one of the vehicles in a convoy of up to

20 carrying regular soldiers and members of the paramilitary Frontier Corps to the town of Miranshah from the Datta Khel area, he said.

Another security official confirmed the toll.

Pakistan is battling a Taliban-led domestic insurgency that has killed thousands of civilians and security personnel since 2007.

Troops have been fighting for years against home-grown insurgents in the tribal belt, which Washington also considers the main hub of Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants plotting attacks on the West and in Afghanistan.

# India govt rejects proposal to shut petrol pumps at night

AFP, New Delhi

India's government denied yesterday it was considering shutting filling stations at night to reduce oil imports, a widely ridiculed measure reportedly under discussion to tackle a deepening economic crisis.

Oil Minister Veerappa Moily sparked the speculation Sunday when he told a local news agency that "shutting petrol pumps during (the) night" was one of several austerity measures being assessed to cut the imports bill.

News of the proposal, a throwback to India's pre-liberalisation past when the government tightly regulated all parts of the economy, sparked feverish debate on television and Twitter.

It also apparently took the rest of the cabinet by surprise, leading to a formal denial issued via the information ministry.

"The ministry of petroleum and natural gas has clarified that there is no proposal under consideration of the government to

allow sale of petroleum products from the retail outlets only during certain hours," said a statement.

The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made fun of the plan.

"Won't the people fill their car fuel tanks in the morning? This is a strange move by Moily," BJP spokesman Shah Nawaz Hussain said.

India imports around 80 percent of its oil needs and its import bill has risen dramatically because of high global prices and a plunging rupee, which has hit record lows in recent weeks.

The country is struggling to shrink its current account deficit -- the broadest measure of trade -- which hit a record 4.8 percent of GDP last year and is straining foreign exchange reserves.

In afternoon trade, the rupee was down to 65.88 rupees to the dollar from Friday's 65.70, snapping a two-day rally. The Bombay Stock Exchange's benchmark Sensex was up 1.51 percent at 18,900 points on investor bargain-hunting.

# GAS SUPPLY GLITCH 4 power plants stay shut for 4 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Power generation at four stations in Sylhet remained suspended for over four hours last night, after gas supply stopped from the Jalalabad Gas field operated by US company Chevron.

The gas company suddenly stopped supply at 6:30pm, forcing the power stations to halt production, said PDB officials.

The four plants are 20MW Kumargaon power plant, 150MW Sylhet combined-cycle power plant, 50 MW Energyprima power plant and 10MW Desh energy power plant -- all at Kumargaon.

The plants resumed operation at 10:35pm after the gas supply resumed.

Chevron's Community Relations Officer Badruddoza Badar said gas supply had to be suspended due to a leakage on the supply lines.

# Spate of Iraq attacks kill 10

AFP, Baghdad

Attacks in Baghdad and mostly-Sunni areas of Iraq killed 10 people yesterday, including five who died in a massive attack on the home of an anti-Qaeda militia chief.

The Turkish consul to the northern city of Mosul and a top criminal judge in executed dictator Saddam Hussein's hometown were also caught in bomb attacks.

The violence was the latest in a surge of unrest that has killed more than 3,800 people since the start of the year

and sparked widespread concern Iraq is slipping towards the all-out bloodshed which plagued it in 2006 and 2007.

Authorities have pushed a massive security campaign targeting militants, but analysts and diplomats have cautioned that the government must also address the root causes of the violence.

Monday's deadliest attack was against the west Baghdad home of Wissam al-Hardan, who was appointed by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to

lead the Sahwa, a collection of Sunni tribal militias.

Interior ministry spokesman Brigadier General Saad Maan said two suicide bombers blew themselves up outside Hardan's home at around 3:00 pm (1200 GMT), killing five of his guards and wounding four others.

A security source said the suicide bombers were given cover by gunmen who opened fire on the house, and fled the scene after the attack. A medical source confirmed the toll.

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- 1. Administrator**  
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**Brief Job Description:** This is a senior position in Office Administration of the school. Brief job description of the post is as follows:
  - Assist the Principal in all administrative / non-academic matters
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  - Ensuring proper maintaining of personnel records of all employees including academic section of the school and deal with all recruitment procedures
  - Be able to prepare and submit budget requests and recommendations, or grant proposals to solicit programme funding
  - Ensuring non-academic services like bus, uniforms, books, Tiffin, stationeries, etc. as per guidance of the Principal
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- 2. Librarian**  
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  - Good command over English and interpersonal communication skills**Brief Job Description:**
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