FROM PAGE 1

Witness tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday testified that the elder brother of alleged Al-Badr leader Ashrafuzzaman Khan had been a tenant in their Nakhalpara house and Ashrafuzzaman occasionally stayed there during the Liberation War.

A few days after the war, police had recovered a diary from Ashraf's room, Ali Sazzad, who was a class VI student in 1971, told the International Crimes Tribunal-2. The diary contained names of intellectuals.

Sazzad, the 21st prosecution witness in the case against Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan, said several newspapers had published reports on the diary.

On August 29, Azab Uddin Miah, an assistant librarian at Bangla Academy and the 19th prosecution witness in the case, showed a January 12, 1972 report of the Dainik Purbadesh titled "Diary of a Rawshan's room locked.

"Al-Badar [Al-Badr] was

created not to maintain

peace and public order.

Rather, it is proved beyond

reasonable doubt that it

had carried out a series of

untold criminal activities,

in furtherance of the policy

and plan of the Pakistan

occupation army in a sys-

tematic manner," read the

judgement against con-

demned war criminal Ali

Ahsan Mohammad

Quasem apparently did

very well after the Liberation

War. According to a defence

statement in court,

Quasem is the chairman of

Keari Ltd, a real estate and

tourism company, chair-

man of the managing com-

mittee of Diganta Media

Corporations, which owns

now off-the-air Diganta TV

and the Naya Diganta news-

He is also a founding

member of Ibn-Sina Trust,

which owns several medical

facilities and a pharmaceuti-

cal company, and a member

secretary of Islami Bank

Foundation and founding

The prosecution during

the charge framing hearing

tried to establish the supe-

rior status of Quasem dur-

ing the Liberation War by

citing reports published in

Pakistan of November 8,

1971, prosecutor Sultan

Mahmud Simon said

Quasem addressed a rally,

organised by Al-Badr, in

front of Baitul Mukarram

mosque where he vowed to

resist India's attack, kill

"miscreants" and establish

that the anti-liberation

forces called the pro-

liberation people and free-

After a brief profile of the

accused, submission by the

prosecution and the

The BNP leader did not want

a better life for the people.

She always wanted a lavish

time to look into the prob-

lems of the people. But

people get prosperous and

live in peace and safety

when the Awami League

comes to power," she added.

sons of the BNP chairperson

looted and siphoned public

money off when the party

were engaged in an orches-

trated campaign against the

Awami League (AL) in the

name of religion. "They are

now out to mislead people

Recalling the reign of

terror of the BNP-Jamaat

and Bangla Bhai in

Baghmara, Hasina said they

had made the area a sanctu-

ary of militants in the name

in the name of religion."

BNP-Jamaat and Hefajat

was in power.

The premier said both the

"She [BNP leader] has no

life for herself, Hasina said.

dom fighters miscreants.

Historic documents say

an Islamic society.

FROM PAGE 20

Quoting a report of Daily

newspapers.

member of Islami Bank Ltd.

FROM PAGE 1

Mojaheed.

Quasem indicted

tyrant: An important piece of evidence of intellectuals killings."

According to the investigation agency of the tribunal, the diary contained names and addresses of 20 intellectuals. Of them, eight names were tick-marked, who were abducted during the Liberation War. Several prosecution witnesses have testified about the diary.

Sazzad yesterday indentified the report, but during cross-examination, he said the report was published around eight to nine months after the Liberation War.

During his 31-minute testimony, Sazzad, now a Canadian citizen, said Ashraf's elder brother Rawshan Ali Khan was one of the nine tenants of the house and Ashraf, then a student of Dhaka University, used to stay along with his brother.

The witness said they had left Dhaka in February 1971. Returning to Dhaka in June or July, they had found all but

defence, the three-member

Tribunal-1 Chairman

Justice ATM Fazle Kabir

read out the 14 charges

yesterday. Justice Jahangir

Hossain Selim and Justice

Anwarul Haque are the

other two members of the

Quasem was indicted for

crimes that were committed

in November and

Two of the charges were

related to Quasem's

reported involvement in

the killing of eight people

in Chittagong while the rest

were based on his alleged

involvement in abduction,

confinement and torture of

at least 27 people in

Quasem's directives, mem-

bers of Al-Badr picked up

freedom fighter Jasim and

took him to "Dalim Hotel

torture centre" at

Andorkilla of Chittagong.

Jasim was inhumanly tor-

orders, member of Al-Badr

killed Jasim on the rooftop

of Dalim Hotel on

November 28," the tribunal

chairman said reading out

the charges to Quasem.

Jasim's body was thrown

into the Karnaphuli river

along with five other

The tribunal then read

out another charge on the

killing of Ranjit Das

Prakash Latu and Tuntu

description of the incident

said Jahangir Alam

Chowdhury, Ranjit and

Tuntu were abducted from

in November, 1971, on

Quasem's orders. They were

Jahangir Alam Chowdhury

was set free but the other

two were kept detained.

Later, members of Al-Badr

BNP will bring militancy back

of establishing Islamic rule.

synonymous with terrorism

and corruption ... A BNP

minister patronised Bangla

Bhai to turn Baghmara into

a terrain of horror," she said,

adding that the people of

Baghmara had got rid of

terrorism as they voted for

rice during the AL and BNP

rules, Hasina said, "We

handed over power in 2001

when the price of one kg rice

was Tk 10. The price shot up

to Taka 40/50 during the

She also said the purchas-

ing capacity of people had

increased over the last four

and a half years along with

the increase in their per

were spreading falsehood

over the incident at Shapla

Square on May 5 last.

Unruly Hefajat activists

BNP-Jamaat-Hefajat

BNP rule."

capita income.

Comparing the price of

"The BNP and Jamaat are

... On your instruction,

tortured at Dalim Hotel.

Hazari Lane of Chittagong

The tribunal in the

unidentified bodies.

Sen Prakash Raju.

"On your [Quasem's]

According to a charge, on

Chittagong.

tured there.

tribunal.

THE CHARGES

December of 1971.

Rawshan and his family members did not stay in the room, but Ashraf along with his friends occasionally stayed Hasan, one of Sazzad's

city

Eviction

associates planned to build

a four-storey shopping

complex by taking out a

lease of the land from the

The witnesses said an

drive, saying the land own-

The pro-ruling party

with the High Court".

ers, said the witnesses.

men about the incident.

The witnesses said some

of the League members then

beat up Rashed, one of the

three and resident of Amar

Ekushey Hall, just opposite

the market, even after he

Rashed is also informa-

tion and communication

technology secretary of DU

unit of Bangladesh Chhatra

League (BCL), a pro-Awami

around a hundred BCL

Following the incident,

introduced himself.

League student body.

railway department.

FROM PAGE 20

Banik Samity.

distant relatives, used to visit Ashrafthere. One day Hasan told Sazzad that they were busy with the

activities of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami. Around seven days after independence, police had recovered the diary and other

documents from Ashraf's room in the presence of Sazzad and his father. After the testimony of the prosecution witness, tribunal appointed defence counsel Abdus Shukur Khan com

pleted his cross-examination. The tribunal adjourned the case proceedings until Monday.

Now abroad, Mueen and Ashraf are facing 11 charges for their alleged involvement in the killing of 18 intellectuals in the last week of the ninemonth-long Liberation War.

working for you killed

them and hid the bodies,

include abduction, confine-

ment and torture of Omar-

ul-Islam Chowdhury, Lutfai

Rahman Faruk, Jahangir

Alam Chowdhury, Saifuddin

Khan, Abdul Jabbar Member,

Harun-or-Rashid Khan

Sanaullah Chowdhury

Nurul Kuddus, Syed Md

Emran, Jakaria, Sunil Kanti

Bardhan Prakash Dulal and

Nasiruddin Chowdhury and

passed the indictment order

rejecting an adjournment

petition filed by the

The tribunal yesterday

Defence counsel Tanvir

Ahmed Al-Amin sought the

adjournment saying their

senior counsel Abdur

Razzak, now in the US

wanted to place arguments

in favour of their discharge

petition. "He will fly back

home on Sunday and join

the proceedings after lunch

the same day," he said

praying the tribunal to

adjourn the proceeding

mently opposed the peti-

tion and said the defence

got adjournment a number

of times and claimed that

the International Crimes

(Tribunal) Act does not

The tribunal had deferred the

The investigation agency

responsible for investigat-

ing war crimes, began its

probe into the alleged war

crimes of Quasem on July

26, 2010, and submitted its

report to the prosecution

on May 6, 2013. On May

26, the tribunal took the

charges pressed by prosecu-

International Crimes

Tribunal-1 issued an arrest

killed police and 11 persons.

Police recovered the bodies

from under the podium, she

Hefajat are now engaged in

an orchestrated propaganda

that the government had

such falsehood and how can

they tell lies from

Chaired by lawmaker

Enamul Haque, the meet-

ing was addressed, among

others, by AL presidium

member Mohammad

Nasim, its Joint General

Secretary Mahbubul Alam

rated the Bangabandhu

Memorial Complex along

with 14 other development

projects and 38 community

tion of 15 development

projects in Rajshahi.

She also laid the founda-

Earlier, Hasina inaugu-

mosques?" she questioned.

"How can they spread

killed all of their Imams ...

"But, BNP-Jamaat-

tion into cognisance.

warrant against him.

told the rally.

allow such adjournments.

indictment once on the grounds

of Razzaq being in the US.

Prosecutor Simon vehe-

others.

defence.

until then.

The rest of the charges

said the tribunal.

activists of Amar Ekushey and adjacent Shahidullah Hall, armed with rods, stick and bats swarmed the market and began to fight with the Bacchu-Chhomir gang. They torched a minibus

and vandalised two others, bringing traffic movement to a halt in Chankharpool and adjoining areas for three hours. After police began to gain

the upper hand, several hundred DU students came and joined the clash. Police charged batons and fired rubber bullets to

disperse the agitating students, triggering an hourlong running battle. Seven students and three pedestrians sustained inju-

Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. The situation came under control around 3:00pm.

ries and were rushed to

Amzad Ali, acting proctor of DU, said, "It was regrettable that police opened fire despite my repeated requests. Police can't shoot students like this."

Many students alleged Bachchu was carrying a firearm and he shot at students.

Shibli Noman, assistant commissioner of DMP (Ramna), said the railway police sought DMP's help to evict the market from the land owned by the railway department. A police team went there to help them.

Later, police had to fire nine rubber bullets when the "troublemakers" started vandalising vehicles, he said. A probe committee will be formed to investigate

the incident. Sirajul Islam, officer-incharge of Shahbagh Police Station, said a case had been filed on behalf of the DU students against Bachchu and 30-40 unnamed others.

No arrest was made in this connection.

Russia warns of Quasem was arrested on June 17, 2012, after catastrophe if Syria reactor hit by US strike

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia said on Wednesday that a military strike on Syria could have catastrophic effects if a missile hit a small reactor near Damascus that contains radioactive uranium. The Foreign Ministry

called on the UN nuclear agency to urgently assess the risk as the United States considers military action to punish Syria's government for an alleged gas attack. "If a warhead, by design

or by chance, were to hit the Miniature Neutron Source Reactor (MNSR) near Damascus, the consequences could be catastrophic," a ministry statement said.

It said nearby areas Yusuf as saying at the rally. could be contaminated by highly enriched uranium and that it would be Committee, said Liaquat, impossible to account for adding that a total of 30 the nuclear material after youths were selected from

such a strike, suggesting it could fall into the hands of people who might use it as

a weapon.

WAR CRIMES Prosecution for Khokon's Shop owners and locals claimed Bacchu and his

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

indictment

The prosecution yesterday asked the International Crimes Tribunal-1 to frame altercation began between charges against Faridpur BNP police and shop owners as leader MA Zahid Hossain the latter obstructed the Khokon in connection with crimes against humanity ership issue was "pending committed during the Liberation War in 1971. According to the prosecugroup then intervened and tion, the accused, also

scuffled with the shop ownknown as Khokon Razakar, was a local leader of the At that time, three DU Razakar, auxiliary force of the students, who were having Pakistani army, in Faridpur. lunch at a restaurant at the Responding to a question market, asked the League of the tribunal, the prosecu-

> tor said the charges brought against the war crimes accused were strong and most of the prosecution witnesses were either victims or relatives of victims. Prosecutor Muklesun Rahman Badal yesterday read

> pressed against Khokon, who is on the run since 2011. The tribunal asked the prosecutor to finish his submission on September 17 after the prosecutor finished

out 11 charges that have been

In the charges, the prosecutor said Khokon was involved in the Hindus of Jongurdi village of Faridpur being forced to convert to Islam between

reading the charges.

POLLS CODE OF CONDUCT

EC to review it for level playing field

Says an election commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will amend the electoral code of conduct to ensure equal opportunities for all candidates to conduct electoral campaigns, said Election Commissioner Zabed Ali yesterday. "The code of conduct

must be reviewed in consistency with the electoral system, so that a levelplaying field is ensured. The EC may consult with experts in related fields to formulate the code of conducts, if necessary, and to overcome any crisis which may arise ahead of the election," he told reporters from his office at the EC Secretariat in the capital.

He also suggested the EC could follow the practices of other countries, where elections are held under incumbent governments, while amending the code of con-

allegations about the prime minister's violating electoral laws through conducting electoral campaign using government funds, Zabed said, "If anyone thinks so,

they can take it up with the courts. The EC does not have any jurisdiction to keep watch on the violation of code of conducts before announcing the election schedule. Application of code of conducts can be made effective after announcing the schedule." On the matter of whether

the EC planned to bring all the candidates of each constituency on the same stage for electoral campaigns he said, "As we have done it in different local government polls, we can also do it before the national election, but we have not discussed it

About political consensus on a poll-time govern ment system he said, "That's not our job. It's the job of the politicians and the parliament. We will work as per the constitution." He also hoped that all the

political parties will join the Asked about BNP's recent election and sought cooperation from all to hold a free, fair and credible election. The parliament election

is supposed to be held between October 27 and January 24.

Pressure mounts on US

mit went to Putin as China, the European Union and Pope Francis - in a letter for G20 leaders - aligned themselves more closely with him than with Obama over the possibility and legitimacy of armed intervention.

have a negative impact on the global economy, especially on the oil price - it will cause a hike in the oil price," Chinese Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao told a briefing.

The Pope urged the leaders to "lay aside the futile pursuit of a military solution". He has also invited the 1.2 billion Roman Catholics and people of other faiths to join him in a day of prayer and fasting on Saturday to end the civil war.

European Union leaders, usually strong allies of the United States, described the August 21 attack near Damascus, which killed an estimated 1,400 people, as 'abhorrent" but added: "There is no military solution to the Syrian conflict."

Putin, Assad's most important ally, was isolated on Syria at a Group of Eight meeting of world powers. He could now turn the tables on Obama, who recently likened him to a "bored kid in the back of the classroom."

Obama. there is no punishment for Assad, there will be no negotiation," French Foreign

Petersburg. With backing by Beijing

He has no one-on-one talks scheduled with Obama but hopes to discuss Syria at a dinner with all the leaders. United Nations

similar meeting at

Sarankhola upazila of

Bagerhat and selected 30-35

youths from other places

and gave training to at least

96 youths at Khulna Ansar

camp. On May 5, 1971,

some 25-30 trained youths

set up a Razakar camp occu-

pying the Baruikhali Union

Parishad office, said

associates had engaged in a

battle with the Razakars on

the morning of May 13. At

one stage, the Pakistani

army and Razakars arrived

on a gunboat from Bagerhat

and started firing, which

One of Liaquat's co-

fighters, Abu Bakar, took

shelter in a nearby home

having been injured. But

Razakars took him to their

forced them to retreat.

Liaquat said he and his

Yusuf also gathered

people from there.

Liaquat.

moon and UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi were also

the "camp of supporters of a strike on Syria" as divided and said: "It is impossible to say that very many states support the idea of a military operation."

attending the summit said Snowden.

FROM PAGE 20 meeting in June, the last big Secretary General Ban Ki-The first round at the sum-

"Military action would

Only France, which is preparing to join US military action, rallied behind "We are convinced that if

Minister Laurent Fabius said before leaving for St.

and Moscow unlikely at the UN Security Council, where both have veto powers, Obama is seeking the approval of the US Congress. Putin says rebel forces

may have carried out the poison gas attack and that any military strike without Security Council approval would violate international law, a view which is now lines of the meeting. increasingly openly being supported by others.

in St Petersburg, hoping to secure agreement on holding an international peace conference on Syria. Putin's press secretary, Dmitry Peskov, portrayed

One national leader

there appeared to be little chance of a rapprochement between Putin and Obama, whose relations have soured following Russia's offer of asylum to former US spy agency contractor Edward Foreign ministers from

the key states in the G20 which includes all five permanent UN Security Council members - will also discuss Syria on the side-Any G20 decision on

Syria would not be binding but Putin would like to see a consensus to avert military action in what would be a significant - but unlikely personal triumph.

Bazar on May 17, 1971, and

set fire to around 450 shops

after looting them. The

shops, one of which

belonged to him, were

mostly owned by Hindus

Around 8:00pm on May

19, Yusuf once again went to

Morrelganj Bazar and asked

his associates to capture and

bring Hindus and pro-

liberation people, said

Liaquat, who was in

brothers, and Amar Das and

Pijus Kanti Garai. They took

them to the Razakar camp

Later, the detainees were

taken to the Morrelgani

launch terminal and Yusuf

ordered three Razakars --

Abdus Salam, Mohammad

Ali and Amir Ali, who were

known as executioners -- to

bodies into the river,

Amar and Pijus survived,

He said the Razakars

12:00am, he said.

Morrelganj Bazar then.

and pro-liberation people.

Yusuf's cohorts killed heard that Yusuf had held a

Terming Yusuf the founder

of the Razakar force, Rezaui said Yusuf also had to take responsibility for the crimes committed by Razakars. Yusuf, the alleged chair-

man of Khulna Peace Committee, has 13 war crimes charges against him, including genocide and crimes against humanity. Liaquat, in his hour-and-

a-half-long testimony, said he was 23 in 1971 and following the declaration of independence by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 26, helped form an organisation to mobilise people for the Liberation War. He said when he and his

associates went to Sannasi Bazar on April 28, 1971, they saw Yusuf addressing a Peace Committee meeting on the SP Rashedia School playground. "No Hindu can live in the

the rally for training to

become Razakars and Yusuf

left with the youths.

camp and tortured him brutally. "I had witnessed [the incident] secretly from shoot them and throw their country. They are Indian the top of Sharif's building, agents. Annihilate the people working in favour of the said Liaquat. Liberation War ... Unity of Yusuf, who had arrived Pakistan must be protected with the Pakistani army, and that's why Peace ordered that Bakar be killed, Committee is formed with Liaquat said. youths," Liaquat quoted

Liaquat said he also Yusuf, attacked Morrelganj

"These people are ene-From the rally Yusuf announced the local Peace

mies of Pakistan. They must not be allowed to live," Liaquat quoted Yusuf as saying. Following his order, Razakars shot Abu Bakar

Majid on July 26, 1971, following Yusuf's orders. Liaquat said he had filed a case with Bagerhat

September 26.

Liaquat said.

said Liaquat.

Magistrate's Court in 2009 against Yusuf and some others for their alleged Liaquat said a large numinvolvement in the killings. ber of Pakistani army per-The court adjourned the sonnel and Razakars, led by

They recovered Tk 5 lakh, a pair of handcuffs, a walkietalkie after seizing the microbus with a press sticker on it. Two of their associates, however, managed to flee with Tk 30,000.

Rescued by real

Farhad Alam, 27, and Saiful Islam, 28, employees of Madina Trading Corporation Ltd, fell victim to abduction at 12:00 noon. They were returning to

their office in Old Dhaka after withdrawing Tk 5.3 lakh from a nearby branch of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd, police said. Majharul Islam, officerin-charge of Kadamtali

Police Station, told The Daily Star the impostors were following the employees by a microbus after the duo were heading to their office with the money. The criminals intercepted Farhad and Saiful in front of

their office, introducing themselves as detectives. They handcuffed the duo, saying "You are under arrest for carrying illegal things." Quoting the victims, the OC said, the impostors forcefully took them into

the microbus and made them lie under the seats and tried to speed away. Another employee of Madina Trading observed the incident and informed the police, prompting the

check posts at different intersections in the area. At one stage, the microbus crossed a checkpost at Mirajnagar defying a police signal and a police team led by OC Majeharul started chasing the

microbus.

law enforcers to set several

aged to stop it at Mirajnagar. "As soon as the microbus was halted, we arrested the duo but two others managed to escape," the OC added. Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Media)

The team finally man-

of DMP, told The Daily Star that if such a situation crops up, people should immediately inform the police at their nearest police station. "If people are confident enough to identify the per-

sons, who are impersonating themselves as detectives, as fake they can detain the culprits and hand them over to law enforcers," he added.

Man dies

FROM PAGE 20 Rafiguzzaman, 35, and Babu, 35, -- who were now detained at the police station. The law enforcers stopped them in Titipara area when they were riding a motorcycle without helmets and failed to produce any

vehicle documents. Meanwhile, National **Human Rights Commission** Chairman Mizanur Rahman termed the custodial death unexpected, reported pri-

vate TV channel NTV. "Why should a man, against whom there is no case, be arrested on suspicion? The fact that he died in police custody after being rounded up at night has

action in doubt," he noted. Cholera kills 8

AFP, Lagos

The Razakars captured people in southern Nigeria Santi Ranjan Das, Satya and ten others have been Ranjan Das and Shankar hospitalised, health officials Ranjan Das, who were said yesterday, in the latest outbreak to hit the country following a heavy rainy season. and tortured them until

10 people in the hospital," said Cosmas Oni, spokesconfirmed on Monday.

on a campaign to enlighten the people on the need to always clean their environment and drink clean water because the whole place is reeling with

proceedings until dirt," Onitold AFP.

now put law enforcers' in Nigeria Cholera has killed eight

Nigeria suffered cholera epidemics during the rainy seasons of 2010 and 2011, with nearly 2,000 people killed over two years. While 2012 saw few reported infections, health

officials warn that Nigeria remains vulnerable to further outbreaks because of its high population density and poor sanitation in many areas. "We have eight deaths and

killed physician Abdul man for the health ministry in southwestern Oyo state, adding that the outbreak was "We have also embarked