

## Nizami

FROM PAGE 16  
Mu e e n Uddin and Mojaheed, who conspired to cripple the nation and turn it into an intellectual desert and who did not let my son ever see his father."

Meanwhile, the three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir fixed September 19 for deciding whether it would take into cognisance the war crimes charge against Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Abdus Subhan.

The prosecution on Sunday submitted a formal charge against Subhan, indicting him on nine counts of crimes against humanity during the country's war of independence.

During her two-hour-long deposition, Salma described the life of Azhar in short and said they got married on February 15, 1970. She also briefly narrated the massacre led by the Pakistani army on the night of March 25, 1971. She was admitted to cabin 31 of the hospital on that night.

"My husband practiced at Sayda Pharmacy at Hatirpool where he provided treatment to freedom fighters. There was also a pharmacy on that lane run by a Bihari named Ali, who used to follow the movements of Azhar during the Liberation War," she said.

She added that they lived at house no 22 on Freestreet School Road in Hatirpool.

"On February 15, 1971, my husband asked our domestic help Shahadat to bring his apron from the laundry as he was to go to the hospital," she said.

At this point, one of the prosecutors drew the attention of lawyer Mohammad Ali, who was helping the tribunal record the deposition, to the date.

The witness then revised the date, saying it would be November 15. "February 15 is the date of my marriage," she said.

The defence took a stand in protest and told the court that the prosecution was helping the witness, which was not acceptable.

The tribunal then recorded both February 15 and November 15, with an explanation that the witness later revised the date.

Salma continued with Shahadat who returned to say he could not go to the laundry because some Pakistani soldiers and armed Bengalis had moved in on the nearby streets.

His husband decided to go to work on an ambulance and went to his landlord's house to make a phone call to the hospital and have it sent for him.

Along with Humayun, also a doctor who lived next door, Azhar stood in front of his house waiting for the ambulance.

"Soon after, the domestic help returned and said Pakistani soldiers and armed Bengalis were saying something to Azhar, their guns pointed at him," said the witness, adding that she told Shahadat to call her husband back in.

"I went to the gate and saw them hit Azhar with the butt of a rifle. They also hit Humayun. The two were forced to board a car. I cried out. At gunpoint, some armed Bengalis took me to the inside of my house."

Salma asked the Bengalis to identify themselves.

"We are here to take Azhar and Humayun with us on the instructions of Al-Badr leader Motiur Rahman Nizami," she quoted one of the Al-Badr members as saying.

Salma's relatives went to Ramna Police Station where they found 200 detainees. But Humayun and Azhar were nowhere to be found.

The following day, two physicians of Dhaka Medical College Hospital came to her house and said the bodies of Humayun and Azhar were at the morgue.

"Their bodies were found on the culvert of Notre Dame College. They were naked and their hands tied behind them. The bodies bore marks of severe injuries," she recalled.

Azhar was buried at Azimpur Graveyard.

The proceedings of the case were adjourned until tomorrow. Nizami, facing 16 war crimes charges, was produced before the tribunal yesterday.

Earlier, the tribunal rejected a defence petition to exclude the deposition of 13th prosecution witness Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury from the record.

# Muzaffarnagar riots a big tragedy

Says Manmohan Singh

IANS, Muzaffarnagar

rehabilitation of the people who were displaced.

A grim faced Manmohan Singh spoke to officials as he walked through Bassi Kalan village and later Tawli amid tight security.

He told the people that he, along with Sonia Gandhi and party vice-president Rahul Gandhi yesterday, called for punishing the guilty.

Manmohan Singh asked the Uttar Pradesh government to ensure safety and

dered homeless in the communal clashes that singed the area since September 7. The army was called in to contain the situation.

The prime minister told reporters that he expected the security scenario to improve in the area so that the displaced people can return home.

"People behind such ghastly violence would be punished and all help extended to the UP government," the prime minister said.

## Plant to use saline water

FROM PAGE 1  
environmentalists."

Matin, also secretary general of the citizen committee to protect the Sundarbans, is critical of the project.

"It is hard to keep faith in government's assurances regarding development projects. Initially, they commit so many good things but later, they do not implement those."

"It is the government's style to implement a certain project," Matin noted.

The Centre for Environment and Geographic Information Services (Cegis) prepared the report after consulting all -- from critics to grassroots people at Rampal. The Department of Environment approved it in early August. The Cegis believes that it addressed almost all concerns, including those linked with the use of water.

Matin is critical of the use of Passur's water too.

"They did not mention how much water they would extract from the river and how much they would return to it. The water flow is being reduced in the Passur river. If

the power plant uses huge amount of water for next 50 years, it will have a negative impact on the river."

However, the EIA report says the power plant will intake about 9,150 m3/hr (cubic meters per hour) and discharge about 5,150 m3/hr. Hence, no thermal plume shall be discharged to the river.

The required water can easily be taken from the Passur, which is only 1% of the river's lowest ebb tide. Therefore, it will cause no significant impact on aquatic flora and fauna, according to the report.

A project official explained that the plant site would be surrounded by a green belt and the recycled water will be used there. Underground water will be used only for consumption by the staff and residents at the plant site.

The project area spreads over 1834 acres of land, all of which has been acquired. To acquire this land, the government gave 1,538 individuals around Tk 62.5 crore in compensation.

If water is discharged to the river, it will have to be at ambient temperature as per the environmental standard. Thus it will not have any major impact on the surface water.

The project also suggests a rain water harvesting system to meet domestic and other purposes.

The proposed project will

have certain adverse impacts on the fish habitats in the area due to the direct alteration of physical setup of habitats. Minor impact on fish may be noticed only during the dredging activities.

The proposed coal-based thermal power plant will be of two units (2x660 MW) of supercritical pulverized coal boiler type with another extension of 1,320 MW in future.

It also includes residential and social facilities, water treatment plant, substation, jetty, coal handling system and coal silo, ash handling and disposal facilities, and switchyard, including substation.

The project area spreads over 1834 acres of land, all of which has been acquired. To acquire this land, the government gave 1,538 individuals around Tk 62.5 crore in compensation.

"In the first phase of the project, we need 600 acres of land. This area is currently being elevated to minimise impact of environmental hazards (like tidal surges). The remaining land will be developed later," the project official said.

## No right to vote or run in polls

FROM PAGE 1

Once the proposed changes take effect, some senior Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and others, now facing war crimes charges, will be disqualified from contesting the polls and being registered as voters, if they are finally convicted.

The Election Commission (EC) has proposed the changes in both the laws.

The provision included in the Representation of the People Order (RPO) before the 2008 parliamentary polls imposed a bar on people, convicted of war crimes by any national or international court, from contesting the polls.

When the provision was made, the trial of war criminals under the international crimes tribunal act had not begun. The trial started in 2010.

The EC has proposed another change in the provision to make it clearer by disqualifying those convicted under the act from contesting parliamentary polls.

But this provision was deleted after the August 15, 1975 changeover. The 15th amendment to the constitution

bill would be placed in parliament soon to bring about the proposed amendments.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday placed the bill in parliament, proposing changes in the electoral roll law.

As per the proposed change, the name of a person will be excluded from the electoral roll or will not be included in it if he or she is found guilty under the ID card registration act to provide ID cards to people aged below 18, who are ineligible for voting rights.

The proposals also include a provision to punish individuals, who conceal information in their application for ID cards, with a maximum five-year jail term and a Tk 50,000 fine.

The EC prepared the ID cards for voters, alongside the voter list, with photographs from 2007. With the new cards, the total number of national ID card holders will be over 9 crore.

Both the bills were sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry for scrutiny.

## ACC okays

FROM PAGE 16

The investigators also did not find any involvement of the bank's board of members and the premier's adviser Syed Moddasser Ali, whose name surfaced after the detection of the largest ever loan scam in Bangladesh.

On October 4, 2012, the anti-graft body filed 11 cases against 27 top officials of Sonali Bank and the controversial Hall-Mark Group on charges of misappropriating more than Tk 1,568 crore from the state-run bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch.

The ACC chargesheet also bears the names of former manager of Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch AKM Azizur Rahman, its assistant general manager Saiful Hasan, executive officer Abdul Matin and senior executive officer Meherun Nesa Mary.

It also accused the bank's Managing Director Humayun Kabir, deputy managing directors Mainul Haque and Atiqur Rahman, now in jail, general managers Nani Gopal Nath and Mir Mahidur Rahman, now in jail, deputy general managers Sheikh Altaf Hossain, and Shafiquddin Ahmed, both in prison now, and assistant general manager Kamrul Islam Khan.

Taslim Hasan, director of T and Brother, Saiful Hasan, managing director of Paragon Group and Abdul

Malek, managing director of Nakshi Knit, were also made accused in the chargesheet after the investigators had found that they took loans on forged documents from the same branch of the bank.

Union Parishad Chairman Jamal Uddin Sarker of Tetulbari union Parishad in Savar was made accused in the chargesheet as he had issued fake trade licenses to Hall Mark Group.

Asked why the names of Sonali Bank board directors, especially ruling party leader Sarwar Chowdhury Komol, were excluded from the chargesheet, ACC Chairman Mohammad Badizzaman told reporters that he (Komol) had not taken any bribe although some Hall-Mark officials had planned to offer him some.

Over sparing the prime minister's health adviser Syed Moddasser Ali from being included in the chargesheet, the ACC boss said the investigation officers had not found his involvement although he [Moddasser] had been questioned before and after the filing of the FIR.

ACC sources said the chargesheet might be submitted in court on this day.

## UN resolution

FROM PAGE 16

American military action over Syria.

"The idea is to stick to a firm line," said an official at Hollande's office after the talks with Kerry, Hague and their French counterpart, Laurent Fabius.

"They've agreed to seek a strong and robust resolution that sets precise and binding deadlines with a calendar," said the official, who declined to be named.

Overcoming bitter differences, Kerry and the Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, struck a deal in Geneva on Saturday on removing President Bashar al-Assad's chemical arsenal.

After months in which Moscow and Washington failed to agree a line on Syria, Kerry and Lavrov demanded that Assad account for his secret stockpile within a week and let international inspectors eliminate all the weapons by the middle of next year.

Under the terms of the US-Russian agreement, the UN Security Council – on which Russia has a veto – will oversee the process.

The agreement states that a security council resolution should allow for regular assessments of Syria's behaviour and "in the event of non-compliance ... the UN security council should impose measures under chapter 7 of the UN charter".

Chapter 7 can include force but can be limited to other kinds of sanction. When Kerry said the council "must" impose measures under chapter 7, Lavrov interrupted to point out that the agreed text says only it "should" impose penalties.

The French official said the goal was to get quick agreement on a resolution at UN headquarters.

"We must make progress in New York," said the official, adding that the hope was to come up with something that could be put to a vote before the end of this week.

**12 accused**

FROM PAGE 16

metropolitan magistrate, said court sources.

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

The law minister also placed another bill in parliament yesterday proposing changes in the national ID card registration act to provide ID cards to people aged below 18, who are ineligible for voting rights.

The proposals also include a provision to punish individuals, who conceal information in their application for ID cards, with a maximum five-year jail term and a Tk 50,000 fine.

The EC prepared the ID cards for voters, alongside the voter list, with photographs from 2007. With the new cards, the total number of national ID card holders will be over 9 crore.

Both the bills were sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry for scrutiny.

**19m rupees**

found in flood-hit Indian town

APP, Dehradun

Workers clearing rubble in a flood-devastated town in the Indian Himalayas have discovered 19 million rupees (\$303,000) in a safe which had been swept away by floodwaters, police said yesterday.

The safe was found on Saturday near the ruins of a bank in the town of Kedarnath that was flattened by flash floods in June, a police officer said.

"The safe was swept away in the floods but the cash is safe," police Inspector General Ram Singh Meena said in Dehradun, capital of the northern state of Uttarakhand.

Meena said the money belonged to the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest nationalised bank.

"We have deposited the cash in another SBI branch," Meena told APP.

ACC sources said the chargesheet might be submitted in court on this day.

Over sparing the prime minister's health adviser Syed Moddasser Ali from being included in the chargesheet, the ACC boss said the investigation officers had not found his involvement although he [Moddasser] had been questioned before and after the filing of the FIR.

ACC sources said the chargesheet might be submitted in court on this day.

Over sparing the prime minister's health adviser Syed Moddasser Ali from being included in the chargesheet, the ACC boss said the investigation officers had not found his involvement although he [Moddasser] had been questioned before and after the filing of the FIR.

Over sparing the prime minister's health adviser Syed Moddasser Ali from being included in the chargesheet, the ACC boss said the investigation officers had not found his involvement although he [Moddasser] had been questioned before and after the filing of the FIR.

Over sparing the prime minister's health adviser Syed Moddasser Ali from being included in the chargesheet, the ACC boss said the investigation officers had not found his involvement although he [Moddasser] had been questioned before and after the filing of the FIR.

Over sparing the prime minister's health adviser Syed Moddasser Ali from being included in the chargesheet, the ACC boss said the investigation officers had not found his involvement although he [Moddasser] had been questioned before and after the filing of the FIR.

Over sparing the prime minister's health adviser Syed Moddasser Ali from being included in the chargesheet, the ACC boss said the investigation officers had not found his involvement although he [Moddasser] had been questioned before and after the filing of the FIR.

Over sparing the prime minister's health adviser Syed Moddasser Ali from being included in the chargesheet, the ACC boss said the investigation officers had not found his involvement although he [Moddasser] had been questioned before and after the filing of the FIR.

Over sparing the prime minister's health adviser Syed Moddasser Ali from being included in the chargesheet, the ACC boss said the investigation officers had not found