

# Nizami favoured

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The defence then furnished a short list of five witnesses – Abdul Hamid, S Alam, Abdul Hamid, Abdus Salam Mukul and Mohammad Nazibar Rahman.

The first defence witness in the case was supposed to be one of the two people named Abdul Hamid on the list.

But yesterday a lawyer from Pabna named KM Hamidur Rahman testified before the tribunal and the tribunal recorded his testimony at length.

However, before cross-examination, prosecutor Mohammad Ali sought three hours for preparation. He said the witness was not the person mentioned on the witness list.

The judges of the tribunal, to their astonishment, discovered that there was no KM Hamidur Rahman on the list.

When the tribunal asked the defence what was going on, defence counsel Mizanul Islam said a junior lawyer had made a mistake and mentioned Abdul Hamid instead of KM Hamidur Rahman. He apologised for the mistake.

Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir then said, "Why didn't you point it [mistake] out before the deposition? It cannot be a mistake."

Addressing the junior lawyer concerned, Justice Kabir said the lawyer perhaps did not understand the magni-

tude of fraudulence before a court.

"We'll expunge the deposition," said Justice Kabir directing the witness to step down from the dock.

However, the tribunal asked the lawyers to check if KM Hamidur Rahman was on the list of the 10,111 witnesses.

KM Hamidur Rahman was not found on the list.

The tribunal then adjourned the proceeding for two hours giving the defence the opportunity to find KM Hamidur Rahman's name on the list.

Surprisingly, after lunch, the defence told the tribunal that the 7,165th witness was KM Hamidur Rahman, even though one Alhaj Md Hamidur Rahman was the 7,165th defence witness.

The defence claimed that the initials "KM" were omitted mistakenly but the person on the list and the person who testified yesterday were the same. The defence also filed a petition in this regard pointing out they had made inadvertent mistakes, but did not apologise.

Interestingly, the defence in the petition asked the court to change the name Abdul Hamid to Alhaj Md Hamidur Rahman even though KM Hamidur Rahman was the person who testified.

The court then asked the defence to correct their mistake in the petition and file it afresh. It also allowed the testimony of KM Hamidur Rahman.

The prosecution was disappointed with the court order.

In his about 25-minute deposition, Hamidur claimed that he was a freedom fighter who along with others asked the family members of Razakars, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, not to harm the locals of Pabna.

Hamidur, of Gokulpur village in Sujanagar, said during the Liberation War none told him that Nizami committed any crimes against humanity or was involved in any such crimes.

He also claimed that he did not find Nizami's name on the list of Razakars and Al-Badr members, which was prepared after the war. He said he had seen Nizami moving freely in Pabna after the Liberation War.

Later, during cross-examination, Hamidur said he did not know the political identity of Nizami during the war but he now knows that Nizami is the ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami.

He said he did not know whether Jamaat had any student wing during the Liberation War. In reply to another question, Hamidur said he did not read any newspapers during the Liberation War.

# No politics of vengeance

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18-party opposition alliance's proposal for the polls-time government. Top leaders of the alliance were present at the press conference at The Westin hotel.

During her 40-minute speech, the former prime minister also spoke of changing confrontational politics and her plan to combat militancy, if elected.

"Today, I stand before you with the call for that change. Of course, there will be political differences between us. We must change the way we debate these differences and insist on civil discourse rather than personal attacks.

"I assure you that I will look ahead and focus on the business of providing a brighter and more secure future for Bangladesh. I do not have time and will not spend time focusing on the past and on retaliation. I hope we can all work together to build a prosperous, peaceful and secure homeland for the future generation."

She said it was time to bring in a new political trend in the light of the expectations and aspirations of the nation.

"The time has come to change and improve the political culture.... I welcome ideas and the participation of all those who have been against me in the past."

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comment that militancy will rise if the BNP comes to power, Khaleda said people knew full well that militancy and terrorism took its root during the past Awami League rule.

"I want to categorically state that Bangladesh is an important partner in the international fight against militancy. My government initiated this cooperation. We will not only continue the current level of this cooperation, but will explore ways and means to expand it with other countries and institutions as an active member of the coalition for the war against terrorism."

She also affirmed her commitment that Bangladesh territory would never be used for domestic, regional, international or any other form of terrorism.

About her plan to work with the neighbouring countries, she said, "If we form the government in future, we will reach out to our neighbours and expand upon current relationships as well as explore new ways to establish closer relations in political, financial, security, cultural and social sectors."

Khaleda added that her party would adopt policies that ensure domestic

and regional peace, stability and security. "Our government in the future will work to ensure that Bangladesh and all our neighbours positively contribute to a peaceful and secure global society."

About her past government's mistakes, the BNP chief said: "To err is human and I have no hesitation to admit that we have made mistakes in the past."

"At the same breath I would like to say that we have learnt from those mistakes. We are better prepared to take Bangladesh towards a brighter, more stable, and prosperous future. I agree with the adage – if you fail to learn from history, history will repeat itself. We will therefore not repeat the mistakes of the past."

Khaleda also promised of ensuring higher standards of living for the next generation through initiating sustainable development policies.

"No one political party has a monopoly on good ideas. For Bangladesh to reach its true potential and for our citizens to prosper, we need and must have the active participation and benefit of ideas from all political, ethnic and religious segments of society."

She also said her government would be a government of talent and of national unity.

# Technology keeps No respect

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Parents aged 42-54 years old blamed technology for keeping the young adults in the UK from walking and said they walked more than their children do when they were their age.

The top excuse given by young adults for not walking was "I don't have anyone to walk with" suggesting they were still lonely in the age of social media.

Fifteen percent of all adults admitted to giving up walking somewhere en route and getting public transport instead, at least once a week.

The average British woman was found to walk 12 minutes a day, while men walked an average of eight minutes.

Both fall short of the 30 minutes a day suggested by the British Heart Foundation.

Women were shown to be more likely to create excuses to get out of walking, with their top reasons being poor weather and feeling too tired.

Men generally blamed their hectic schedules and lack of time.

Dr Paula Franklin, UK medical director at Bupa, said: "It's so easy to make numerous excuses but there are many health benefits to walking. For most people it is the most accessible form of physical activity, which is also free and can be great fun."

"For example, adding just 20 minutes walking to your day can dramatically reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, which includes heart disease and strokes."

from using the building for commercial use.

However, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bela, said the developer had no legal right to open the building for commercial use as the court had stopped the very construction of the building.

Shahdeen Malik, counsel for Huda, said neither Dhaka North City Corporation nor the developer had explained to the court that the building was legal.

"It is a sad state of affairs that people with money and muscle power are increasingly defying court orders, including those passed by the Supreme Court," he said.

Akhter Hussain Bhuiya, administrator for Dhaka North City Corporation, said, "Why does the court not launch a contempt charge against those who ignored the stay order?"

As to why an opening of the building for commercial occupancy despite the High Court stay was allowed, Akhter said, "I will look into how it happened."

Sheikh Abdul Mannan, a member of the Rajuk board, in July had said Rajuk would submit to the High Court that the building was being built illegally without Rajuk approval.

When asked in early September what action Rajuk had taken, Mannan said he was unaware. "The complainant should file a contempt charge against those who defied the High Court stay order," he added.

Public works secretary Khondaker Showkat Hossain said he learnt about the matter from The Daily Star correspondent even though his ministry was supposed to take action and stop the construction.

He said, "It has been an illegal and contemptuous act on part of the developer and the DNCC [Dhaka North City Corporation] to go ahead with the construction defying the High Court order."

Documents, some decades old, show that the then Dhaka Improvement Trust in 1981 had decided to allocate the land for an office building of the then Gulshan municipality. Neither did the municipality pay any money for the land nor did Rajuk hand it over.

Former chief election commissioner Huda said the construction work of the building had begun some seven years ago but remained suspended during the last army-backed caretaker government.

# Lawmaker or lawbreaker?

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corruption in the area, which irked the state minister, also the local lawmaker (Mymensingh-3). The minister's men had obstructed the activities of the SNC on several previous occasions, he added.

For instance, the SNC had protested massive corruption in the 40-day job creation programmes in 10 unions of the upazila in 2010. Many national dailies, including The Daily Star, had run reports on the graft. "Since then, I have become a target for Mr Mozibur," mentioned Ekram.

Contacted, the state minister admitted visiting many houses in the area, including that of Ekram. "My men found a

photo of Khaleda Zia in his [Ekram's] house, but there were none of Bangabandhu or Sheikh Hasina," he said.

Asked whether it was mandatory for every household to display those photos, Mozibur replied, "Had he [Ekram] been our man, he would have displayed those photos in his house.... We need to know our friends and foes."

Enquired by this correspondent about the incident, Abdul Munnaf said he filmed Ekram's home and his elderly mother on the instructions of the state minister.

Ekram's younger brother Shakawat Hossain went to Gouripur Police Station Saturday night to file a general diary

(GD) in connection with the incident. But Sub-inspector Abu Bakar Siddique refused to record the complaint.

OC Hamidul Islam of Gouripur Police Station said, "I was not present in my office when Ekram's brother came to the police station for filing the GD. But as the complaint is against a minister, we have to investigate it and proceed on accordingly."

Condemning the incident, Gouripur upazila parishad chairman and upazila unit AL labour secretary Ali Ahmed Khan Pathan Silvi said it was an act of human rights violation and nobody has the right to harass another person.

# France's bus driver serial killer dies

AFP, Paris

Emile Louis, an ostensibly harmless bus driver who became one of the most notorious serial killers in French history, has died at the age of 79.

Louis, who was convicted in 2004 of killing seven mentally impaired young women in the late 1970s, died on Sunday morning in a secure hospital in Nancy in eastern France, his lawyer Alain Fraitag told AFP.



**Shahdeen Malik**

Constitutional expert Shahdeen Malik said the country's charter had to be amended to incorporate some rules regarding the caretaker government system in order to form an election-time government comprised of advisers from previous caretaker governments as proposed by Khaleda Zia.

He thought that the ruling Awami League would not accept this proposal.

"The difference between the proposals of the AL and the BNP is so big that I don't see a way out for talks between the two parties to be held," he mentioned.



**M Sakawat Hussain**

Former election commissioner M Sakawat Hussain said the proposal from the leader of the opposition was a step forward for holding talks on a polls-time government and it seems that her party has made preparations for the next national election.

"Both the ruling and main opposition parties have emerged with their respective formulas about the polls-time government. We now hope for an acceptable and credible way would be found out of these two formulas to end the current political impasse," he added.



**Iftekharuzzaman**

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the BNP chairperson had in substance remained firm on her demand for a non-party caretaker government. The only difference now is that there are some indications of how such a government can be formed.

Justifiably or not, this has unfortunately been unacceptable for the ruling party as per the 15th amendment to the constitution. The prime minister has proposed an all-party election-time government as her party remains firm against any non-party caretaker government.

"Hence, the scope and prospect of a mutually agreeable solution to the issue no longer appears realistic. There are reasons to be concerned about a worst possible outcome of such mutually antagonistic positions, which can be detrimental to public interest and future democracy," he observed.



**Ali Imam Majumder**

Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder termed Khaleda Zia's proposal "unrealistic" because many of the former 20 advisers were too old for the responsibilities and some of them are dead.

As per the previous constitutional provision, a person aged above 72 will not be eligible to be an adviser of a caretaker government. With the scrapping of the caretaker government system, the provision has also been dropped.

"But I think most of the advisers are not above 72. So, it remains a major question on what criteria they will be appointed," he said.

The formula and counter formula of the two major political parties will not yield any solution. Rather, their top leaders should sit together to end the political crisis, mentioned Majumder.

## Storm caused leaks at Fukushima

AFP, Tokyo

Heavy rain at the Fukushima nuclear plant caused a leak of radioactive water containing a cancer-causing isotope, possibly into the sea, its operator said Monday, as a typhoon approaching Japan threatened further downpours.

**Kamal Hossain**

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to amend the constitution for holding a free and fair election, he mentioned.

People, he said, wanted a compromise between the two major parties for an acceptable election-time government to avert any violence and chaos.

He warned that if the political parties failed to reach a consensus, people would be the ultimate victims of the situation.

**Akbar Ali Khan**

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"I think the top leaders of both parties should initiate a dialogue behind the scenes for reaching a consensus to end the political deadlock."



## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Military Engineer Services  
CMES (Army), Savar  
Savar Cantt.

### Invitation for Tender

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.			
2.	Agency	Military Engineer Services.			
3.	Procuring entity name	CMES (Army) Savar.			
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
5.	Invitation for	As per Sl. No. 17 (a) & (b).			
6.	Invitation Ref. No. & date	3012/Tender/21/E-3 dated: 07 Oct 2013.			
7.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
8.	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget & Govt. of Bangladesh.			
9.	Project/programme name	Project, Maint. & Minor Works.			
10.	Tender publication date in newspaper	30 Oct 2013.			
11.	Tender last selling date & time	06 Nov 2013 (during office hours only).			
12.	Tender closing date & time	07 Nov 2013 at 1200 hours.			
13.	Tender opening date & time	07 Nov 2013 at 1230 hours.			
14.	Name & address of the office for selling, receiving and opening tender documents	CMES (Army) Savar, Savar Cantt.			
15.	Eligibility of tenderer	a. A govt.-owned/semi-govt./private & autonomous co. in Bangladesh is allowed to participate in the tender with legally and financially autonomous, operates under commercial law and independent agency having capacity to products cement and related services. b. MES enlisted 'D' & 'E' class contractors and contractors who have security clearance from DGFI may also participate.			
16.	Brief description of goods/works	As per Sl. No. 17 (a) & (b).			
17.	Name of goods/works	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Price of tender documents	Completion time
a.	Supply of 66.50 M/Tons Portland Composite Cement (PCC) in bag including loading, carrying, unloading & stacking at F/S Store yard under GE (Army) Savar Cantt. for Maint. & Minor Works (Group-IX)	GE (Army) Savar Cantt.	15,000/-	500/-	12 (twelve) months
b.	Supply of 66.00 M/Tons Portland Composite Cement (PCC) in bag including loading, carrying, unloading & stacking at F/S Store yard under GE (Army) Savar Cantt. for Maint. & Minor Works (Group-X)	GE (Army) Savar Cantt.	15,000/-	500/-	12 (twelve) months
18.	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Towhid Hussain.			
19.	Designation of official inviting tender	Lt. Col.			
20.	Address of official inviting tender	CMES (Army) Savar, Savar Cantt.			
21.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 02-7791583			
22.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				
23.	If the date of selling, submission and opening is disturbed under unavoidable circumstance next working day at same time and same place will be applicable for the tendering procedure.				
ISPR/Army/2013/2123 GD-3911			CMES (Army) Savar		