

Death sentence for Sayedee sought at SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday prayed to the Supreme Court to give death penalty to Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee on all eight charges that were proved against him before International Crimes Tribunal-1.

He made the prayer while placing the closing arguments on the appeals filed in connection with the crimes against humanity case against Sayedee.

The ICT-1 on February 28 last year sentenced him to death on two charges although it found him guilty on eight of the 20 charges he was facing.

On March 28, Sayedee filed an appeal with the apex court seeking acquittal from all the charges. The same day, the government submitted a separate appeal to the SC, demanding capital punishment on all eight charges.

Yesterday, a five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain fixed Sunday for hearing the closing arguments from the defence.

Sayedee was involved in murder, abduction, confinement, torture, rape, persecution, and abetment of torture, looting, forcible religious conversions, and torching of homes in different areas including Parerhat of Pirojpur during the Liberation War.

The apex court started hearing the appeals on September 16 last year and has heard arguments from the defence and state counsels for 46 days so far.

Alems' positive role

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madrasas as anti-liberation forces and militants.

Eight out of the 13 Alems who are dead are Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish, Muhammadullah Hafezji Huzur, Shaheed Maulana Oliur Rahman, Maulana Abdul Halim Hossaini, Maulana Qazi Mu'tasim Billah, Mufti Nurullah, and Maulana Emdadul Haque Araihaazari.

The remaining five are Maulana Ubaidullah Bin Sayeed Jalalabadi, Maulana Abdullah Bin Sayeed Jalalabadi, Mohammad Siddiqui Rahman, Maulana Ishaq Obaidi, and Maulana Shihab Uddin. The former three were present at the ceremony.

Man, two sons killed

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12:00noon, leaving five of the family critically injured.

Alal and his man Anwar Hossain were also injured when the family members were trying to resist the attack.

Saizul was declared dead at Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex, Mamtaaz died in the hospital on arrival while Saiful succumbed to his injuries on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The injured Nurul Islam, another son of Mamtaaz, and Nurul's wife Kohinoor Begum were admitted to DMCH.

Musa laid to rest with love, tears

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socio-cultural organisations, and people from different strata paid their last tribute to the journalist with flowers and wreaths.

A namaz-e-janaza was held there. Syed Abdal Ahmed, general secretary of the press club, read out a condolence message before the janaza.

Prior to the janaza, the journalist's son Dr Nasim Musa said, "The press club was the most beloved place to my father; he used to love the place no less than his family. Today he is leaving the place forever. Please pray for him."

The 83-year-old Ekushey Award recipient passed away at a hospital in the capital on Wednesday noon, ending a 60-year-long chequered career in journalism. He was on life support for the last several days before his death.

Musa's first namaz-e-janaza was held in a playground on Iqbal Road at Mohammadpur after Maghrib prayers on Wednesday. The body was then kept at Labaid Hospital mortuary.

After paying tribute to Musa, Prof Anisuzzaman said, "I know him for around 62 years. The way he internalised the tactics

of telling people's stories under embargo during the military rule will remain as an example for all of us."

Veteran journalist Kamal Lohani said Musa was a dedicated journalist. "He was the first man who used Bangla on the number plate of his vehicle during the Pakistan period. He was sued for that."

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu termed Musa an honest man.

BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said Musa had worked with righteousness and devotion in his entire life.

"His death will create a vacuum not only in journalism, but also in the national arena. It will not be filled up soon," he said.

The hearse carrying Musa's body left the press club after 2:00pm for Feni. His third janaza was held in Mizan Maidan of Feni town after Maghrib prayers.

Born on February 28, 1931, Musa contributed to different areas of journalism during his 64-year career. He was the founder member of the Jatiya Press Club. Musa was elected as a member of the parliament in the first parliamentary elections of independent Bangladesh.

Evidence of killing by Quasem found

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torture, confinement and other crimes committed in Chittagong during the nine-month war but he pleaded not guilty.

During his one-and-a-half-hour testimony, Nurul said he started the probe against Quasem on July 26, 2010 after receiving information from freedom fighters, Liberation War organisers, victims and their family members that he was "directly involved" in war-time crimes.

The witness said during his around three-year probe, he visited crime scenes, recorded statements of witnesses, and collected newspapers and books supporting the allegations.

The evidence revealed that Quasem, a first-year honours student of Chittagong Government College in 1971, was president of the college and Chittagong city units of Jamaat's then student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha, the investigator said.

Quasem became general secretary of Islami Chhatra Sangha of East Pakistan on November 6, 1971 and in collusion with the Pakistani army, Jamaat, and other anti-liberation organisations, he "formed Al-Badr Bahini", he said.

The 24th witness said a number of Al-Badr torture camps were set up at different parts of Chittagong including Dalim Hotel and Salma Manjil.

Nurul said he submitted the probe report to the chief prosecutor on May 16, 2013, as the allegations were "primarily proved" by the evidence.

After his testimony, defence counsel Najibur Rahman started cross-examining Nurul before the three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan adjourned the proceeding till April 15 when Nurul will face further cross-examination.

Why not bring

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step to bring the children home.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo came up with the rule and order after Supreme Court lawyers Asad Ullah and JR Khan Robin placed the report before them.

The secretaries to the ministries of foreign and home affairs have been made respondents to the rule.

3,700 hectares at risk

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is most important to prevent the silent disaster, said Muhammad Nazrul Islam, state minister for water resources.

CEGIS and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) jointly organised the seminar on river bank erosion at Brac Centre Inn.

Citing the findings of BWDB, Dr Zafar Ahmed, secretary to the ministry, said the country lost 6,000 hectares of land annually, affecting at least one lakh people.

He admitted that there was no exact number of people affected by river erosion but said bank protection and dredging must be treated as a development agenda.

In Bangladesh, conservation and utilis-

ation of river resources should be the most important development issue, he said, but in 90 percent of cases construction of structures like buildings and roads was considered development.

Despite waste of money and alleged corruption of the Water Development Board, it is worth investing in river bank protection, flood control programmes, and dredging, as they bear immense importance for people's lives and livelihoods, the speakers said.

Prof Ainun Nishat, a water expert and vice chancellor of Brac University, presided over the discussion, while Dr Maminul Haque Sarker, deputy executive director of CEGIS, and Md Shahidur Rahman, director general of BWDB, spoke among others.

Dhaka seeks int'l support

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20th session of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

During his stay in Geneva, Haque also held bilateral meetings with heads of International Labor Organization (ILO), International Organization of Migration (IOM), World Health Organization (WHO),

and an official of the Nansen Initiative.

The discussions focused on safety issues in Bangladesh's garment industry, healthcare to migrant workers, global challenges regarding autism, and climate change fallout.

He also spoke at a preparatory session on the Global Expert Meeting on Migration in Post-2015 Development Agenda due to be held in Dhaka on April 28-29, 2014.

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