

# Child labour curbed in last 10 years

Claims CSID studies  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of child labourers in Bangladesh has reduced to 2.48 million from 4.91 million in the last 10 years, according to studies of the Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID), a research-based organisation working to eliminate child labour.

In percentage, it was 5.73 in 2014 while in 2005 it was 12.23.

A two-member team, led by Mohammed Abu Eusuf, professor of Dhaka University's development studies department and director of its Centre on Budget and Policy, conducted the studies for CSID, calculating the data on Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) of different years.

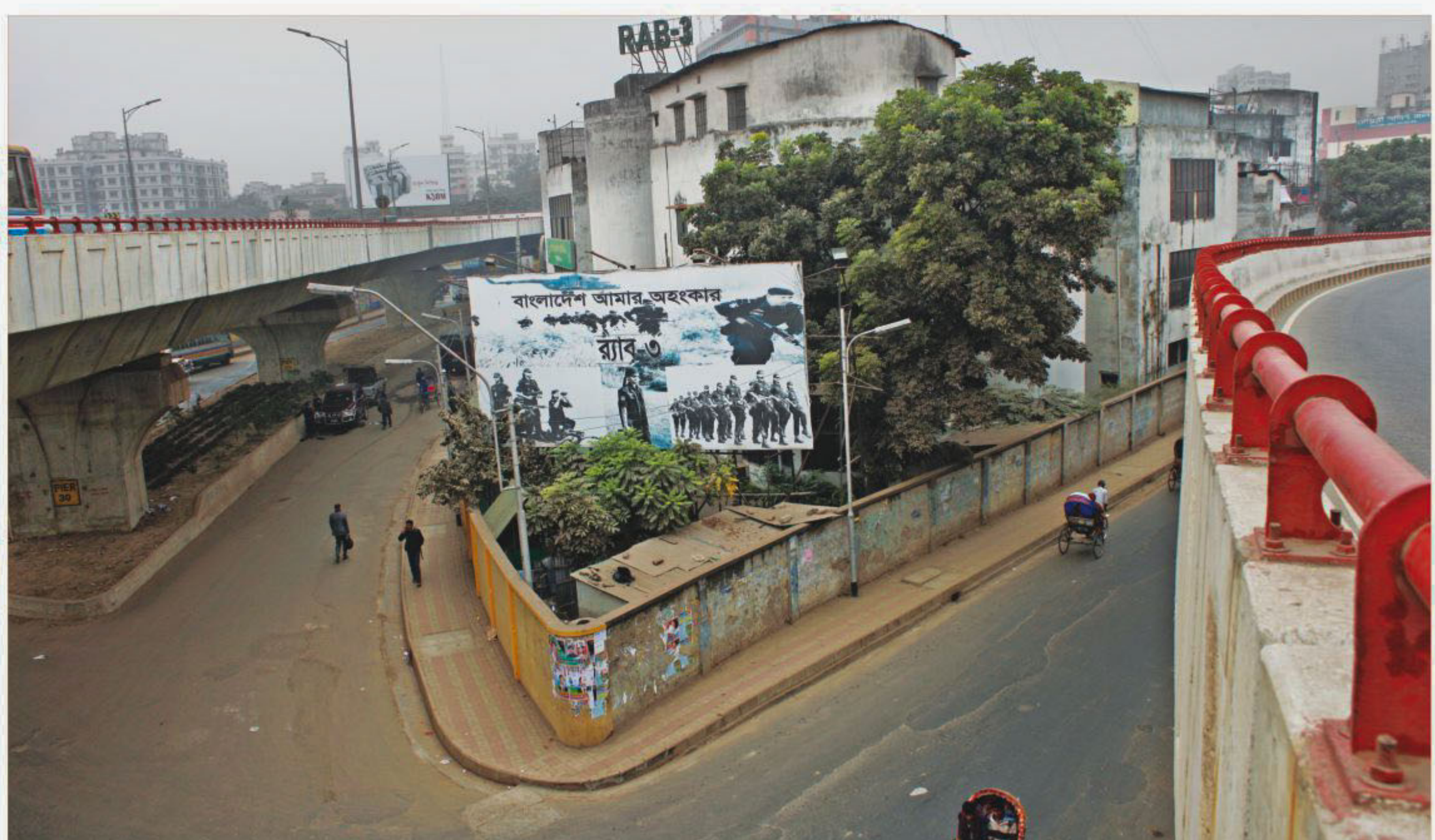
The recent figures of male and female child labourers are respectively 2 million and 0.44 million smaller than the 2005 figures of 4.18 million and 0.74 million.

The statistics were presented yesterday during a meeting titled "National Budget Analysis on Assessment and Law Review Report: An Inclusive Approach to Empowering Working Children" organised by CSID at The Daily Star Centre with assistance from Australian Aid, and World Vision.

According to the studies, the incidence of child labour is still high in Bangladesh, and 42.9 percent of the total child labourers are engaged in hazardous activities.

Five percent of the child labourers are involved in selling flowers, newspaper and food items, 10 percent in transportation business, 20 percent in industries or shops, nine percent in workshops, 20 percent in tailor shops or boutique houses, while 14.7 percent work as domestic help and 21.3 percent work in unspecified sectors.

Chairman of the parliamentary caucus on child rights Mir Shawkat Ali Badsha shared the meeting where lawmaker Kazi Rosy, Member of National Human Rights Commission Kazi Reazul Haque, and CSID's Executive Director Khandaker Jahurul Alam spoke. SEE PHOTO ONLINE



The triangular strip of land wedged between Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover on the left and Jatrabari Flyover on the right was once Tikatuli Park. First, a community centre was built on the land in late 1990s and then it was rented out to the Rapid Action Battalion-3 for use as office. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Oasis turns into just another stack of concrete

**DISAPPEARING DHAKA PARKS**

**TIKATULI PARK**

EST: 1980s

SIZE: 0.4 ACRES

WARD: 75 (OLD)

How many parks does Dhaka city need? According to rules, it should be 92, one for each ward. But we have only 54, with several of them having ceased to exist and many threatened. At least 10 parks have been replaced with a community centre, kitchen market, mosque, rickshaw garage or truck parking lot, mostly by the city corporation itself. This is the picture when an urban expert, Prof Nazrul Islam, says every 10,000 city residents need an open space of four acres -- park or playground -- for healthy development of children and prevention of diseases related to physical activities. The Daily Star reports how and why we are squeezing our breathing spaces in our metropolis where 15 million people cram in. The third report of the series is published today.

### HELEMUL ALAM

Tikatuli Park, which was once an oasis for the people living in Tikatuli of the capital, is just a memory now for residents who had lived there about 15 years back.

Children played in the swings and slides there, while adults had an open space for their daily exercise.

In the late 90s, a community centre was built on the premises of the park and it later became the office of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-3.

Nowadays, one can no longer recognise the park.

"I often played football with my friends in the park," said 45-year-old Nazrul Islam.

Joyrul Abedin, 55, who spent his childhood in Tikatuli, said they grew up playing in the park but their grandchildren do not even know that it existed.

Abedin said beside the park there used to be a glass factory and staff quarters. Children living in the staff quarters, on



KM Das Lane and in Tikatuli sweeper colony mainly played in the park.

As there is no longer a park, children living in the area are forced to play on the streets.

Tanvir Ahmed, a class IX student, and Md Sajid Alam, a class III student, and Md Fahim Hossain, a class IV student, were seen playing

badminton on KM Das Lane. They said there is no open space for them to play and so they play on the road.

Although there is a field, belonging to Brothers Union Club, about half a kilometre away, they said they rarely go to the field.

Ansar Ali Khan, chief executive

officer of Dhaka South City Corporation, said the community centre and other establishments were built on the park before the bifurcation of the city in November 2011.

Khalid Ahmed, the city corporation's chief estate officer, said they have rented out the community centre to Rab.

# NEPAL EARTHQUAKE Bangladesh mission still doesn't know if any citizen is victim

Officials from Bangladesh embassy in Kathmandu are yet to know whether any Bangladeshi was killed or injured in the 7.9 magnitude earthquake occurred in Nepal five days ago.

They heard from a source that three Bangladeshis were staying in hotel Budget which collapsed, said Khan Md Moinul Hossen, an official of the mission.

The rescuers already found some bodies from the rubbles but none of them was Bangladeshi, he said, adding that the rescue operation was going on.

Nepalese police said Bangladeshi mountaineer Sirajul Islam Sagor, who remained traceless since the earthquake, found safe.

An aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force with medicines and other relief materials will fly to Kathmandu this morning, said officials.

Meanwhile, the authorities abandoned the newly-built Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa dormitory of Eden Mohila College since cracks formed in its 29 rooms on Sunday due to the earthquakes and its aftershocks.

However, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, who visited the dormitory building yesterday, said there was no risk to live in it as none of the cracks developed in the "main structure", reports some local TV channels.

## NEWS IN brief

### Plaster falling in dorm panics SBMC students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

After the Nepal earthquakes and its aftershocks, students of a dormitory at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, Barisal panicked as plasters from the ceiling fell down in a room Tuesday night.

Sujon, a student of the room no. 303 of the 40-year-old building, said the incident occurred around 9:00pm.

Principal Dr Vaskar Saha asked the Public Works Department to repair the portions immediately.

### WFP rushes food and relief to Nepal tremor survivors

CITY DESK

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is mounting an emergency operation to help survivors of the Nepal earthquake, said a press release yesterday.

It has already sent food to Gorkha and plans to provide food for 1.4 million people in next three months.

It is also providing logistics for the entire aid operation in Nepal and a plane carrying field hospitals, medical supplies and aid workers reached Kathmandu.

WFP is funded by voluntary contributions and are expecting donations at www.wfp.org/nepal

### Chevron Bangladesh hands over ambulance to Bibiyana Clinic

CITY DESK

Chevron Bangladesh handed over an ambulance for two Smiling Sun clinics, established by Chevron to serve the communities of Bibiyana gas field, said a press release.

It also handed over assorted laboratory equipments for the clinics implemented by Pathfinder International, an international NGO.

Kevin Lyon, Chevron Bangladesh president; Halida Akhter, National Health Service Delivery Project chief; Belal Ahmed, general secretary of Sylhet Samaj Kalyan Sangstha; Naser Ahmed Chevron Bangladesh's external affairs manager; and community affairs Manager, Obaidullah Al-Ejaz, were present at the event.

### 18th convocation of NSU this year

CITY DESK

North South University is going to hold its 18th convocation at the Convocation Plaza of the university this year, says a press release yesterday.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid is expected to preside over the ceremony and confer degrees to 2,034 students. Randy Beutler, president of Southwestern Oklahoma State University, USA, will deliver the convocation speech at the programme.

### Gypsy women get sewing machines

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

At least 65 women of the river gypsy community yesterday got 65 sewing machines from a Kuwait-based NGO Moushru al Zari in Savar outside the capital.

The distribution came after training participated by the community people on swing which was organised by the Department of Youth Development, Savar upazila and coordinated by the police department.

Habibur Rahman, superintendent of police in Dhaka district, handed over the machines through a programme in Savar Model Police Station.

**ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LTD.**  
(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
**Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3402, Bangladesh.**  
Telephone: 08528-74033, Fax: 08528-74044, E-mail: procurement@apscl.com

**"Invitation For International Tenders"**

01. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Power Division
02. Agency	: Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. (APSCl)
03. Procuring Entity Name	: Managing Director, APSCl
04. Procuring Entity Code	: Not used at present.
05. Procuring Entity District	: Brahmanbaria.
06. Invitation for	: a) Supply of complete Superheater & Reheater Spray control valve for 3x150 MW Plant of APSCl. b) Supply of Starter for 50 MW Gas Engine Power Plant of APSCl.
07. Invitation Ref No	: Memo No. APSCl/Pro-01/2015/697
08. Date	: April 29, 2015

**KEY INFORMATION**

09. Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method (International)
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10. Budget and Source of Funds	: APSCl's Own Fund.
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

11. Tender Last Selling Date	: June 10, 2015 during office hour
12. Tender Closing Date and Time	: June 11, 2015 at 12:00 BST.
13. Tender Opening Date and Time	: June 11, 2015 at 12:15 BST.

**Name & Address of the Offices :**

Selling Tender Document (Principal)	: Manager (Finance), APSCl, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.
Selling Tender Document (Others)	: Director(Purchase), Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Bhavan (9 <sup>th</sup> floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Receiving Tender Document	: Office of the Manager (Procurement), APSCl, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.
Opening Tender Document	: Office of the Manager (Procurement), APSCl, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.

15. Place/Date/ Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional): N/A

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

16. Eligibility of Tenderer	: Renowned Manufacturer/Supplier having experience of supplying materials as specified in the Tender Document.
17. Brief Description of Supply:	: a) 1) Supply of complete Superheater secondary Spray water control valve without actuator (03 pcs) 2) Supply of complete Reheater Spray water control valve without actuator (03 pcs) for 3x150 MW Plant of APSCl. b) Supply of Starter (42 pcs) for 50 MW Gas Engine Power Plant of APSCl.
18. Brief Description of Related Services	: Custom Clearance (C&F Agency), Local Transportation and others.
19. Tender Document Price	: BDT 2,000.00 for each lot in the form of Pay order/DD in favor of Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh (Non refundable).

20. Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount	Completion time
a) Supply of complete Superheater & Reheater Spray control valve for 3x150 MW Plant of APSCl.	At APSCl Site, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.	BDT 1,80,000.00 or USD 2,300.00	120 days from the date of L/C Opening.
b) Supply of Starter for 50 MW Gas Engine Power Plant of APSCl.	At APSCl Site, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.	BDT 90,000.00 or USD 1,150.00	120 days from the date of L/C Opening.

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

21. Name & Designation of official Inviting Tender	: Md. Rafiquddaulla, Manager (Procurement)
22. Address of official Inviting Tender	: Ashuganj Power Station Company. Ltd. Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.
23. Contact details of official Inviting Tender	: Tel: +88 08528 74033 Fax: +88 08528 74044, E-mail: procurement@apscl.com, Website: www.apscl.com
24. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

(Md. Rafiquddaulla)  
Manager (Procurement)  
APSCl, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3402, Bangladesh.  
Telephone: +88 08528-74033

# Evidence found against 2 Habiganj

FROM PAGE 4

commander-in-chief during the Liberation War, and the abduction, confinement and torture of Anfar Ali.

The prosecution will scrutinise the documents and if satisfied, will press the charges to initiate trial.

The agency's coordinator Abdul Hannan Khan said Kalamdhar, the duo's brother, was the chairman of Khagaura Union Peace Committee, an anti-liberation organisation, while another brother, Mostafa, was commander of a Razakar camp in their village.

Muhibur and Mujibur were "notorious Razakars" of the camp, said Hannan, adding that Kalamdhar and Mostafa were killed during the Liberation War.

Noor Hossain, the case's investigation officer, said one Bhinraj Bibi in 2009 filed a case against the siblings over 1971 crimes and it was handed over to the agency through the International Crimes Tribunal's registrar office.

He said they have named 21 prosecution witnesses.

Muhibur and Mujibur, sons of Darachuddin of Kumurshana village in Bariachang, have been in jail since their arrest on February 10. Today's date was fixed for the probe report's submission before International Crimes Tribunal-2.

**OBABDUL HAQUE AND ATATUR RAHMAN**

Abu Taher, 59, said on the 1st of Kartik (October 16) around 2:00pm the Pakistani occupation army and local Razakars, including Taher and Noni, picked up his father Chanfor Ali from their house accusing him of sheltering freedom fighters. The third witness had given a similar description.

They rounded up another eight to 10 villagers from Gumoria and Laufa including one Rishi Mia, which Taher witnessed from a paddy field.

"I heard sounds of gunshots. After the Pakistani army and Razakars left, I came out...and found bodies of Ruj Ali and Zafar Ali near a bamboo bridge," he said.

Two of the detainees, Alam Kha and Sadek Ali, were set free on condition of bringing information about freedom fighters.

"Two days later, my bullet-hit father returned home and said the other detainees were shot dead by Razakars, including Taher and Noni," said Taher, adding that despite being hit by three bullets, his father had managed to dive into a river and escape.

Chanfor died 10 to 12 years ago suffering for long from disabilities. "I want justice for my father's detention, torture and injury and the killing of others," said Taher.

Proceedings were adjourned until today. Taher and Noni face six charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

**EIGHT JAMALPUR MEN**

Justice Obaidul Hassan also directed the inspector general of police to submit a report by May 6 on whether six of the eight are absconding.

Shamsul Haque, 75, and AKM Yusuf Ali, 83, are in jail. The remaining are Ashraf Hossain, 64, Prof Sharif Ahammed, 71, Abdul Mannan, 66, Abdul Bari, 62, Harun, 58, and Abul Hashem, 65.

The prosecution on April 19 pressed the charges centring nine criminal incidents occurring between April 22 and December 11.

# Three new mayors reaffirm

FROM PAGE 3

He also vowed to address waterlogging, his main pledge.

Talking to reporters at his residence in the

port city, Nasir said he would discharge the duty bestowed on him by the city dwellers honestly and transparently and would devote himself for the welfare of the citizens.

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