

# WAR CRIMES TRIAL 3rd defence witness testifies for Forkan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Testifying on the charge of forced conversion of three Hindu brothers during the Liberation War, the third defence witness for Forkan Mallik, an alleged Razakar of Patuakhali, yesterday said all his family members, including the three, "converted voluntarily" to Islam in fear of the Pakistani army and that no Razakar or Pakistani troop was present at that time of the conversion.



Forkan Mallik

Gobinda Kundu, 56, son of Ramani Kundu, who was among the three, also told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that he never saw Forkan before yesterday and that he had been hearing the name of Forkan for the last one or one-and-a-half years after people started mentioning Forkan's name as a "war criminal".

The two other brothers are Shyam Sundar Kundu and Sunil Kundu of Subidkhali of Mirzaganj. According to the charge, the three were subjected to forced conversion to Islam and deportation, in which Forkan was directly involved. Forkan of Mirzaganj in Patuakhali faces five charges including murders and rapes in 1971.

Gobinda said his family members returned to Hindu religion after the Liberation War.

According to the prosecution, the three Hindu families left Bangladesh for India when local Razakars took away Ramani's daughter and married her off to a Muslim man, even after their forced conversion to Muslim.

But, Gobinda said her sister got married to a Muslim man in 1977/1978 of her own. His uncles left Bangladesh around four/five years after the war, while his father left Bangladesh in 1998/1999, he added.

During his cross-examination, Prosecutor Mukhlesur Rahman Badal suggested that the witness gave a "false testimony" being influence by the side of the defendant. Gobinda refuted it.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan adjourned the case proceeding until May 10, when the fourth defence witness will give his testimony.



**A medical relief team from International Medical College, a concern of International Medicare Ltd, in Dhaka before they left for Nepal on May 1 with 500kg of essential medical supplies to assist the April 30 earthquake victims in the Himalayan country. The team is presently working in the remote Sindhupalchok area.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Lt Col (ret'd) Quazi Nooruzzaman Bir Uttam, commander of sector-7 during the Liberation War.



He was chairman of Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the 1980s and one of the founders of anti-war criminal platform Ekattorer Chatak Dalal Nirmul Committee. He was also one of the 24 made accused by the state, for organising Gono Adalat to try war criminals and collaborators.

He also fought in the World War II as part of the British Indian Navy in Myanmar and Indonesia.

# SC allows prosecution of 4 doctors for false autopsy report of rape victim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court upheld a High Court order that directs the government to prosecute four doctors, including the then district civil surgeon of Shariatpur Golam Sarwar, for preparing an autopsy report of a rape victim in 2011 that did not disclose all information.

The autopsy report on Hena Akter did not mention injury marks

which were on her body.

Fifteen-year-old Hena was raped by her cousin Mahbub, 40, on January 23, 2011. In local arbitration the next day she was lashed at least 50 times upon a Fatwa (religious edict). Hena succumbed to her injuries on January 31 the same year.

The three other doctors to be prosecuted are: then resident medical officer Nirmal Chandra Das and then medical officers Rajesh

Majumder and Hosne Ara of Shariatpur General Hospital.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that the government will take appropriate legal action against the four physicians.

On Monday, the SC dismissed an appeal filed by the physicians challenging the HC order.

On March 28, 2011, the HC in a suo moto order asked the inspector general of police, the deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police in Shariatpur to prosecute the four for the false post-mortem report.

The HC came up with its order after the Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities in its post-mortem report found injury marks on Hena's body.

DMCH had conducted the post-mortem exhuming Hena's body, a week after her burial, following an HC order.

## HC clears way for trying

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office that hundreds of copies of the holy Quran were set ablaze by some ruling party men led by

Swechhasebak League leader Debashish Biswas during the mayhem caused by Hefajat-e Islam in the capital on May 5, 2013.

On May 8 the same year, police filed the case with Paltan Police Station against Anwar under the ICT Act on the charge of hurting religious

sentiments. Anwar filed the revision petition with the HC on November 16 last year seeking cancellation of the charge framing order of lower court.

# US embassy cautions against visa fraud

CITY DESK

The US embassy in Dhaka has cautioned applicants against submission of counterfeit documents to obtain visas.

Both the applicants and the brokers who produce and distribute false, forged documents will face arrests, says a press release.

The embassy said there had been a steep increase in the use of fraudulent documents to obtain US visas and in the arrest of such frauds.

## Held Fakhru not getting proper healthcare

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Referring to a medical board's report, he told reporters that there was no reason for the BNP leader to get admitted to the hospital.

A six-member team led by Dr Rafiqul Alam, chairman of the nephrology department at BSMMU, examined Fakhru, he added.

Earlier at 7:45am, Kashimpur Jail-2 authorities brought Fakhru to the hospital for stomach related complications, said Nashir Ahmed, jailer of Kashimpur Jail-2. He was sent back to the jail around 3:10pm, he added.

Fakhru's wife Rahat Ara said that her

husband, now 65, had been suffering from multiple diseases including artery blocks, blood pressure, diabetes, and heart complications. He needs to travel abroad to receive better treatment, she added.

Jubo Dal Vice President Farhad Hossain Azad, an aide of Fakhru, said the BNP leader lost 15kg in the last 15 days. "We're worried about his health condition."

Conveying concern on behalf of BNP, the party's international affairs secretary, Ashaduzzaman Ripon, said, "Fakhru was taken back to jail without being given proper medication."

Addressing a press conference at party's Nayapaltan office, he alleged that other senior leaders like Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi were facing severe health crises due to a lack of proper treatment in jail.

"We expect government's humanitarian behaviour towards the detained BNP leaders and their proper treatment in specialised hospitals," he added.

Fakhru was arrested on January 6.

## BCL keeps pressing for reinstatement

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Tikader and Abu Sayed Konok, both fourth year mechanical engineering students, for assaulting Jahangir Alam, a professor of the university, on April 12 over his "provocative" Facebook post on the execution of war criminal Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

At a human chain formed at Milon Chattar on Dhaka University campus

yesterday, the BCL activists also demanded that the professor be sacked.

BCL Central Committee's General Secretary Siddique Nazmul Alam said they would wage a tougher movement if their demands were not met.

On Monday, BCL Central Committee's President HM Bodiuazzaman Shohag said the Buet authorities would be compelled to withdraw their decision.

## DU VC rebuts

FROM PAGE 3

Dhaka University student could do such a thing. If it is proved that any student of our university is involved in the molestation, our authorities will punish the perpetrator."

Addressing a rally of Bangladesh Chhatra Union at DU on Monday, Anu Muhammad, professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University, raised the allegations and said the DU administration and police wanted to save the molesters.

## InU finally

FROM PAGE 3

protest on the campus. Talking to the Daily Star, the victim said she was satisfied by the expulsion but frustrated over the role of police. On the day of the incident, Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam picked up Aroj in the presence of the teacher, her husband, and her colleagues, but later released him. The Daily Star also published a photo showing Aroj inside a police van. However, Rafiqul denied picking up the BCL activist. Aroj has been on the run

## HC drops

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh Bar Council polls. The bench fixed today for passing an order on the time prayer.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case for causing a loss of around Tk 15.52 crore to the government exchequer by allocating lands to journalists. Abbas filed the anticipatory bail petition on April 12.

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