

Defence reads out two PWs' statements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A defence lawyer yesterday read out two prosecution witnesses' statements on the charge of war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury killing Naton Chandra Singha during the Liberation War.

SM Shahjahan placed the statements of Gouranga Singha, Naton's family member, and Naton's son Profulla Ranjon Singha during the third day's hearing on the appeal against Salauddin's death sentence. International Crimes Tribunal-1 passed on October 1, 2013 over crimes against humanity.

The charge says Salauddin led the Pakistani occupation army to Kundeshwari Oushadhalay, which Naton owned, in Chittagong's Gohira and Raida Kundeshwari Complex, where Naton lived, on April 13, 1971.

The army personnel fired at Naton and Salauddin shot him to confirm his death.

Gouranga testified hearing two or three gunshots within a span of one to two minutes hiding in a jungle south of Kundeshwari Complex.

He then sent a Muslim man he trusted, Ahmed Bashor, who informed that Naton was lying dead in front of the residence's temple. Wrapping it in a canvas sheet, they kept the body inside the temple and left for India.

Gouranga returned with Naton's sons Profulla and Satya Ranjon about eight to 10 days after Bangladesh gained independence and heard more from an eyewitness.

The witness, Brojahori Karmokar, said he and another man, Gopal Das, hiding on Kundeshwari Complex's first floor, saw Salauddin along with some Bangalees and Punjabee military enter and leave



Aromas of spiced dishes and sweets like giant jilapis, inset, waft through the streets of Chawkbazar in Old Dhaka every day throughout Ramadan. The market has been traditionally serving iftar delicacies for the last four centuries. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTOS: AnISUR RAHMAN



Chawkbazar of capital still king of iftar markets

HELEMI ALAM

In line with 400-year-long tradition of Dhaka city, over 100 makeshift shops were set up soon after Zohr prayers at the iftar market in Old Dhaka's Chawkbazar with tantalising iftar dishes on the third day of Ramadan.

Like every year, the traditional iftar market was abuzz with thousands of gourmants who came to buy special dishes which are only available at Chawkbazar.

Khairuzzaman said he comes from Kamrangirchar for at least 15 days as his family loves the traditional iftar items of Chawkbazar.

Asaduzzaman Anis, a poet living in Jatrabari, said these traditional dishes of the market taste really good but he also found some rotten and adulterated items. Therefore, he put emphasis on regular monitoring of the market.

Shahid, whose family is in this business since British period, said earlier, only a few shops used to sell "Boro Baper Polay Khay" (mixture of chickpeas, finely chopped beef, chicken, potato, liver, brain, egg, hot spices, and ghee) which later became the signature dish of the market and now one kg of the item is being sold for Tk 400.

Shahabuddin Newaz, who is selling Shahi Jilapi at the market for the last 40 years, said during the Bangladesh period Nawab Jilapi was renamed as Shahi Jilapi. Every day, he sells around four maunds of Jilapi, for Tk 160 per kg, and every

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Govt, transport owners unite for safe Eid travel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government and transport operators are preparing to take precautionary measures for ensuring a safe and hassle-free journey of Eid holidaymakers.

Sale of advance rail tickets for Eid will start on July 9 and the railway ministry would operate seven pairs of special trains to deal with the Eid rush, said Railway Minister Mazibul Hoque.

Meanwhile in parliament, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader claimed that there would be no traffic jams on highways during the Eid.

During a meeting at the office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority yesterday, representatives of shipping ministry, civil and police administrations, and launch owners discussed detailed course of action for

ensuring passengers' safety and their smooth journeys.

They decided on preventing vessels from overloading, preventing passengers from travelling on the roof of vessels, having rescue vessels on standby around the clock, and keeping sufficient life jackets in launches.

At the meeting, launch owner vowed not to carry more passengers than the vessel's capacity and charge extra during the Eid.

Launch owners also criticised the BIWTA and law enforcers, alleging they remain silent when different irregularities, including incidents of extortion, take place during the Eid rush.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan then said, "We have directed law enforcers and other government bodies concerned to take stern action against any thing that might be a con-

cern for passengers' safety."

He also said at a state-run vessel 'Modhumoti' would run before Eid.

At a press briefing at the Railway Bhaban in the capital, Minister Mazibul Hoque said advance rail tickets for July 13-17 would be sold from July 9-13 correspondingly. Similarly, return tickets for July 20-24 would be sold from July 16-20.

Tickets would be available at Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka and Chittagong Railway Station. One individual would be able to buy maximum four tickets.

Mazibul said seven pairs of special trains would operate from July 15 to 26 to cope with the rush. A total of 169 new carriages would be added ahead of the festival.

Inter-city trains would run every day

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Seven road projects prioritised

As result of four-nation connectivity deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday told parliament that the government had prioritised seven road projects after the signing of the motor vehicles agreement for establishing road connectivity among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal.

The projects are expansion of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway and constructions of the Padma Bridge and its immediate approach roads, new four-lane Kanchpur, Meghna and Gumti bridges, four-lane road between Benapole and the proposed Padma Bridge-2, four-lane Joydevpur-Elega-Hatikamrul-Rangpur-Burimari/Banglabandha highway, four-lane Dhaka (Kanchpur)-Narsingdi-Sarail-Sylhet-Tamabil highway, and four-lane Baraierhat-Heako-Ramgarh highway.

The minister said, "...a unique road network would be established among the four countries, which would infuse a new dynamism in the economy of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal and create a new dimension in relationships among these countries." He said private, passenger and cargo vehicles would move between the four countries almost like Europe. The agreement, signed on June 15, is a milestone on communication diplomacy in strengthening sub-regional harmony and solidarity, he added.

The minister said construction of the Padma Bridge was going on in full swing and the piling work would start in October.

He also said construction of the proposed metro rail in the capital would start in February 2016, while an agreement for construction of a tunnel under the Karnaphuli River would be signed late this month with a company nominated by China.

N'ganj sand barge workers go on indefinite strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Workers of vessels carrying sand in Narayanganj went on an indefinite strike demanding a stop to "extortion and attacks" on them yesterday.

The demand came after some people loyal to the lessors of Balumahal allegedly launched an attack on them earlier in the day. The workers also staged demonstration at Ghat No-5 in the city.

Earlier on Saturday, to ensure security of the workers, MA Mannan, a superintendent of police in Narayanganj, held a meeting in the office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, they said.

However, they were attacked the following day, they added.

Sabuj Shikder, general secretary of Bangladesh Noujan Sramik Karmachari Union's central committee, said they had already sent a written complaint to the authorities concerned to hold a meeting with them in this regard.

Jabedur Rahman, additional superintendent of police, said their efforts were going on in this connection.

12 JESSORE 'WAR CRIMINALS' Tribunal seeks charges July 26

Closing arguments by lawyers of 3 Bagerhat 'Razakars' end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the prosecution seeking three weeks' time for preparations, International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked to submit on July 26 formal charges against 12 Jessore war crimes suspects including former BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain.

The charges were due yesterday but Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman said they had received just on June 18 the probe report and other relevant documents from the tribunal's investigation agency.

Completing their probe, investigators on June 14 said they found "evidence" of crimes against humanity the 12

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