

Sayedee's son barred from raising nat'l flag

BSS, Pirojpur

Zianagar Upazila Chairman Masud Bin Sayedee, also the son of war crimes convict Delawar Hossain Sayedee, was barred yesterday from hoisting the national flag at a Victory Day function in the upazila.

As per a circular of the upazila administration, Masud was scheduled to raise the national flag at the programme. But the administration later changed the decision in the face of strong protests from the local freedom fighters and requested Upazila Muktijoddha Commander M Belayet Hossain to do the job.

Belayet raised the national flag amid thunderous applause from several hundred freedom fighters, students and youths.

In another development, freedom fighters boycotted a Victory Day function at Bhandaria upazila as Upazila Chairman M Uzzal Talukder, son of alleged Pakistani collaborator late Ashraf Ali, hoisted the national flag.

Sayedee is now behind bars. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on September 17, 2014 awarded him imprisonment until death, commuting his death penalty given by International Crimes

First time

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districts became Bangladeshis and this was the first Victory Day of Bangladesh they could celebrate.

Mofizur Rahman, chairman of Garati village, said, "This day will forever be written in history in golden letters. We are celebrating the Victory Day for the first time. We could not celebrate it earlier though we lived inside the country."

Bashir Uddin was a freedom fighter.

Though it was for people like him that Bangladesh was liberated in 1971, he could not celebrate the Victory Day.

"It was very unfortunate for me. Living in an enclave was painful," said the man, aged around 65.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor recited a poem, "Amar Porichoy" written by Syed Samsul Haque, while State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Tarana Halim inaugurated Gramophone 3G service there.

Eminent singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bonya led a chorus performance of "Dhono dhanney pushpe bhora, amader ei Bashundhara" and "Purba digonte surjo uttechhe", reigniting the spirits of patriotism among the audience.

In Lalmonirhat, former enclave-dwellers hoisted flags at their homes, held rallies, exchanged sweets, organised cultural programmes and offered special prayers to celebrate the occasion, reports our correspondent there.

Teenager Mousumi Akhter, who along with her younger brother Sifat attended the Victory Day programme at Bhiarkuti village, said it was an amazing experience for her.

"I have never felt so much joy," she said as she was walking in a Victory Day procession.

Festivity and fanfare marked the Victory Day celebration in Dashiarchhara, a former enclave in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram. People there placed flowers at the newly made memorial for the Liberation War martyrs at Kalirhat Bazar and offered special prayers for the freedom fighters who had laid down their life for independence.

Altaf Hossain, president of the Dashiarchhara unit of former India-Bangladesh Enclave Exchange Co-Ordination Committee, said, "It's so amazing. We can taste the joy of liberation for the first time. It's an experience that we never had before."

US to create

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Deputy Defence secretary Robert Work said "The commercial world has already made this leap."

Speaking at a national security forum co-hosted by the Centre for a New American Security and Defence One, he admitted "The Department of Defence is a follower." He also said cyber battles would rely on AI.

"You cannot have a human operator operating at human speed fighting back at determined cyber tech," Work said. "You are going to need have a learning machine that does that."

"We believe strongly that humans should be the only ones to decide to when use lethal force. But when you're under attack, especially at machine speeds, we want to have a machine that can protect us."



Some Chhatra League men beating up an Islami Chhatra Shibir activist during a clash at the Shaheed Minar of Chittagong College on the Victory Day yesterday. The violence between the student fronts of the Awami League and the Jamaat-e-Islami left three injured and prompted the college authorities to vacate the dormitories.

Chhatra Shibir flexes

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patronising Shibir.

Later, the college authorities asked the students to vacate their dormitories.

Nurul Azim Rony, general secretary of Chittagong city BCL, said Shibir men hurled brick chunks at some 30 to 40 BCL activists at the Shaheed Minar on the campus around 11:00am and chased them out of the campus.

The Shibir activists then locked the main gate of the college, said Organising Secretary Hasmat Ali Rasel of the BCL Chittagong College unit, who was present at the scene.

"They had also fired shots at us," he said, adding that more brick chunks were thrown at them when they took position in front of the gate.

As more Chhatra League men joined the group, they too started hurling brick chunks at the Shibir men while trying to get back inside the college premises.

On information, policemen stepped in and fired shots in the air to disperse both the groups, said Aziz Uddin, officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar Police Station.

Around 1:00pm, witnesses said, the BCL men went inside the campus through another gate. There they caught and beat up a Shibir activist before police rescued him.

Then they confined Prof Jesmin Akhter to her office for about half an hour, alleging she was patronising Shibir -- an allegation rejected by the principal.

After being driven out of the campus, the BCL men blocked the nearby college road for a few hours, demanding that the college be freed from Shibir activities.

According to BCL leader Nurul Azim Rony, Chhatra League resumed its politics on the campus in 2009 after around a three-decade-long absence due to Shibir's influence.

Chittagong College and nearby Mohsin College are known to be Shibir strongholds.

Shahadat Hossain, president of Chittagong College Shibir, could not be reached despite repeated attempts.

Additional law enforcers were deployed on the campus.

DORMS CLOSED
In the evening, the Chittagong College authorities closed four dormitories until further notice.

Principal Jesmin said male students were asked to vacate their halls by 8:00pm yesterday and female students by 10:00am today.

She also said a five-member committee would be formed to investigate yesterday's incident.

Meanwhile, the BCL men damaged some windows of Mohsin College buildings with brick chunks during the clash. This forced the college authorities to close two of its dormitories.

Not third gender, female

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Additional Secretary to the EC Secretariat Mokhlesur Rahman said it was their right to take part in the election. If anyone wants to participate as a third gender, he or she could write their sex next to the male and female boxes in the form.

Returning Officers, however, said the nomination of a candidate would be cancelled if there was a difference between the nomination form and the NID card regarding his or her gender.

Braving all odds, Diti and Sumi are taking part in the municipality polls in two south-western districts. Diti is running for the reserved seat for women at Kolaroa municipality in Sakhira while Sumi at Bagharpara municipality in Jessore.

Both Diti and Sumi opted to join the battle of ballots to serve the people and fight against social discrimination. Their participation in the elections has created much enthusiasm among locals and the administration.

Local Awami League has extended its support for Diti, who is also the general secretary of Jubo League Ward-9 in Kolaroa upazila.

Rights body Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) hailed the decision of the participation of the hijras in the polls and hoped that more would come forward and join politics for ensuring their rights.

It also demanded that the government keep the option for the third gender in all forms.

Mahuya Laya Salia, programme coordinator of MJF, said it was a positive sign that the third gender people were taking part in the local body elections.

"People will be able to learn more about them, and their attitude towards them [third gender people] will change," she said.

Representation of the third gender in politics and election would create space for leadership development, Mahuya said, adding, "They will take part in the national elections in future."

She demanded that the government change all forms incorporating the third gender.

Talking to The Daily Star, Diti said she wants to stand beside the helpless and the poor.

"I want to make a contribution to social change and development of roads and infrastructure in my area," she said, adding that people in her locality took her very positively and the local AL was backing her.

Sumi contested the 2010 municipal election as a councillor candidate. She lost by only 13 votes.

She said people in her locality inspired her to take part in the polls again. "I love my people and want to stand beside them during their times of need," she told The Daily Star.

There are 10,000 hijras living in the country, according to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Welfare in 2013.

Mir Quasem

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Alam said the apex court might start hearing the appeal next month as the court would reopen on January 3 after the ongoing annual vacation.

He hoped that most of the 10 pending appeals in war crimes cases would be heard and disposed of by the SC within next year if the current pace of court proceedings continued.

On December 8, the Appellate Division of the SC concluded hearing the appeal of war crimes convict Motiur Rahman Nizami, ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, and fixed January 6 for delivering the verdict.

Apart from Quasem, other appellants in war crimes cases are Jamaat Assistant Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam and Senior Nayebe Amir Maulana Abdus Subhan, expelled Brahmanbaria Awami League leader Mobarak Hossain and former state minister Syed Mohammad Qaisar.

Two international crimes tribunals had convicted and sentenced them to death for committing crimes against humanity during the war in 1971.

Besides, the government filed an appeal with the SC seeking death penalty for former Jatiya Party lawmaker Abdul Jabbar, now on the run.

The ICT-1 on February 24 last year had sentenced Jabbar to imprisonment until death in absentia for crimes against humanity.

The SC has so far disposed of the appeals of five war criminals. Four of them have been executed. They are Jamaat leaders Abdul Quader Mollah, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

Another war criminal Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee has been behind bars as the SC commuted his death sentence to jail until death.

The ICT-1 had sentenced Sayedee to death for crimes against humanity.

Mobile phone registration

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people would have to complete biometric registration of their SIM cards and enlist their handsets in a government database.

Sources claimed that Tarana had a meeting with Sajeeb Wazed Joy, prime minister's information and communication technology affairs adviser, on Tuesday where it was decided that registrations of IMEI numbers of handsets would be required to have mobile phone services in Bangladesh.

No one can now buy a SIM without providing fingerprints at the customer care centres of carriers, said Tarana while launching the SIM registration system at Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) office.

The government plans to complete biometric SIM registration within the next four months, she

said. She sought cooperation from people, carriers, and the BTRC to execute the plans smoothly.

Bangladesh is the second country to initiate human-body based identification to ensure correct identities of mobile phone users and curb crimes committed with mobile devices.

All six carriers have executed pilot projects of biometric registrations, and installed required devices connected to the national identity card database of the Election Commission.

The month-long pilots ended on December 15, and carriers found many mismatches between the subscribers' fingerprints taken at their customer centres and those stored in the NID database.

Carriers have installed 81,500 fingerprint-recording devices collectively, which would be

increased to over one lakh soon, officials said.

"The government has decided to allow a person to register 20 SIM cards against a single national identity card," Halim said.

For now, those without NID's could also buy SIMs, but only if they get the cards within six months, BTRC officials said. They will have to give their fingerprints at the time of buying though, they said.

Currently, there are 13.19 crore active SIMs in Bangladesh, and each of those will be checked, and if needed, re-registered with accurate information.

BTRC Chairman Shahjahan Mahmood urged carriers to remind customers to complete registration in time. He said the process puts Bangladesh on the same level as that of developed countries in ensuring correct identification of

Freedom debt being repaid

FROM PAGE 1
as he brought his 10-month-old daughter Tasmia Samrin Adrita at the celebration on Dhaka University campus.

Referring to the ongoing trial of war criminals, he said, "It is a very special Victory Day for us as some notorious raskars who had committed crimes against humanity in 1971 have already been hanged. Now it is time to go forward. And we expect a country without corruption."

Kalpona Akhtar Kona, an MBA student of Uttara University who came to the DU campus with her three-and-half-year old daughter Arisha, told The Daily Star, "Pakistan being the defeated country still stands against Bangladesh and cannot tolerate the trial of war criminals who had committed crimes against humanity during the Liberation War."

She said the Bangladesh government should sever ties with Pakistan. A number of street children dressed up as guerrilla freedom fighters by applying mud all over their bodies and using broken tree branches as rifles. They were performing in a mock play in front of the Udyan's Shikha Chirontan.

One of them, Md Rafiqul Hasan, said, "We are feeling proud playing the roles of freedom fighters. If we were born before 1971 and took part in the Liberation War, we would kill all the raskars like Quader Mollah [war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah] and Mujaheed [Ali Ahsan

Mohammad Mojaheed]."

Trial of 21 cases of crimes against humanity has been over at the International Crimes Tribunal, which was set up in 2010 to try the local collaborators who had assisted the Pakistani Army in committing crimes against humanity in 1971. Of the 24 accused, four were executed and two died while in prison. The rest are either fugitives or their trial is pending at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Underprivileged children took part in a photo exhibition and a drawing competition at Hakim Chattar of DU.

"I am drawing a boat carrying a national flag," said Kanta, a class I student who is also a domestic help. She did not know the significance of the Victory Day before she came here yesterday.

The day commenced with a 31-gun salute followed by tributes of President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the National Mausoleum in Savar in the early hours.

The Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, the Chief Justice, ministers, the leader of the opposition, chiefs of the three services, members of parliament, freedom fighters, diplomats, and civil and military officials paid their homage to the martyrs afterwards.

Later, the president attended as the chief guest a colourful parade, which began at 10:30am at the National Parade Square in the capital.

the Indian Armed Forces, led by Lt Gen (Retd) Vishnu Kant Chaturvedi, joined the celebration. They had fought the war along with Bangladeshi forces in 1971.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, accompanied by her party men, paid her respect to the martyrs at the mausoleum later in the day.

The day was a national holiday. Print media outlets brought out special supplements and electronic media aired special programmes on the occasion.

Pak HC

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the Pakistan High Commission said in its rebuttal.

This is the last thing expected to happen in a brotherly, Muslim country, it said.

"Pakistan would like to reiterate the fact that a strong and prosperous Bangladesh can only add to Pakistan's strength, rather than in any way, diminish it," the high commission added.

OUR REPLY
The Daily Star in its report did not publish the name of the diplomat cited in a confessional statement made by an arrested member of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh. Neither did the newspaper publish her photo.

The report published yesterday was on the basis of the confessional statement given by the JMB operative on December 6.

The JMB operative, Idris Sheikh, confessed to his link with the Pak diplomat and receiving money from her.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Bangladesh Office
3rd Floor, Bay's Galleria, 57 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Tel: + (880-2) 989-1897, 989-1899 Fax: + (880-2) 989-1689
www.jica.go.jp

Invitation for Tender (Works)

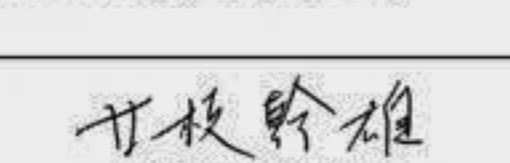
No: JICA(BD)12-0200 Date: 17-12-2015

Tender Notice Number: JD-3/2015-2016

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the under mentioned works as per terms and conditions stated below:

SI	Package No	Name of Works	Tender Security (Taka)	Time of Completion	Price of Tender Documents
1	Works-03/2015-2016	Construction of Hydraulic Structures for Bajail-Borochala Subproject (SP ID-51003) in Upazila: Sakhipur, District: Tangail	8,60,000.00	450 days (15 Months)	Not Required
2	Works-04/2015-2016	Construction of Road Improvement for Bajail-Borochala Subproject (SP ID-51003) in Upazila: Sakhipur, District: Tangail	7,25,000.00	390 days (13 Months)	Not Required
3	Works-05/2015-2016	Construction of Local Market Improvement and Office Building for Bajail-Borochala Subproject (SP ID-51003) in Upazila: Sakhipur, District: Tangail	3,10,000.00	365 days (12 Months)	Not Required

- Name of Procuring Entity : Japan international Cooperation Agency (JICA) Bangladesh Office
- Name of Project : Capacity Development Project for Participatory Water Resources Management through Integrated Rural Development (JICA-LGED TA Project)
- Source of Funds : Japan international Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Government of Bangladesh
- Date, Time & Place of Pre-Tender Meeting : **SI-1:** Date: 28/12/2015, Time: 9:00 AM
SI-2: Date: 28/12/2015, Time: 12:00 AM
SI-3: Date: 28/12/2015, Time: 3:00 PM
Place: JICA Bangladesh Office, 3rd Floor, Bay's Galleria, 57 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
- Last Date, Time & Distributing Places of Tender Document : Date: 7/1/2016, Time: During Office Hours; and Places are: 1. JICA Bangladesh Office, 3rd Floor, Bay's Galleria, 57 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
2. Executive Engineer, LGED, Tangail, Natore and Jhalakathi
- Date, Time & Place of Receiving Tender Document : Date: 10/1/2016, Time: 10:00 AM; and Place: JICA Bangladesh Office, 3rd Floor, Bay's Galleria, 57 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
- Date, Time & Place of Opening Tender Document : **SI-1:** Date: 10/1/2016, Time: 12:00 AM
SI-2: Date: 10/1/2016, Time: 2:00 PM
SI-3: Date: 10/1/2016, Time: 4:00 PM
Place: JICA Bangladesh Office, 3rd Floor, Bay's Galleria, 57 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
- Eligibility of Tenderer : 1. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor shall be **3 (three) years** as per TDS (ITT 14.1(a))
2. The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in construction works of at least **1 (one) contract** involving similar structural components and of similar complexity and methods/ construction technology successfully completed within the last **10 (ten) years**, each with a value of at least for **SI-1:** Tk 2,55,00,000.00, **SI-2:** 2,17,50,000.00 and **SI-3:** 93,00,000.00 as per TDS (ITT 14.1(b))
3. The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than for **SI-1:** Tk 4,12,00,000.00, **SI-2:** 4,00,00,000.00 and **SI-3:** 1,86,00,000.00 in the period of best 3 years of the last 5 years as per TDS (ITT 15.1(a))
4. The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of the Tenderer shall be for **SI-1:** Tk 60,00,000.00, **SI-2:** 60,00,000.00 and **SI-3:** 30,00,000.00 as per TDS (ITT 15.1(b))
5. Tenderer shall have to submit Attested copy of Trade License, Latest Income Tax & VAT Certificate
6. Tenderer shall have to fulfill all other requirements as per TDS.
- Name, Position & Address of Tender Inviter : Mr. Mikio Hataeda, Chief Representative, JICA Bangladesh Office, 3rd Floor, Bay's Galleria, 57 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.


 (Mikio Hataeda)
 Chief Representative
 JICA Bangladesh Office