

## Sayedee now to appeal for acquittal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War criminal and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee will file a petition with the Supreme Court seeking review of its verdict that commuted his death penalty to jail until death.

He would seek acquittal from the charges in which he was found guilty, Masud Sayedee, son of the convict, told The Daily Star after meeting his father at Kashimpur Jail-1 in Gazipur yesterday.

Three lawyers accompanied Masud during the visit.

Earlier on Tuesday, the government filed a review plea seeking death penalty for Sayedee.

"My father has decided to file a review against the Supreme Court judgment. He has given necessary instructions today to his lawyers in this regard," Masud said, adding that the plea would be filed by January 21, as his father was officially informed about the SC's full judgment on January 6, though it was released on December 31 last year.

The review petition has to be filed within 15 days from the date when the accused receives a certified copy of the full judgment or is officially informed about it, according to the SC judgment on the review petition of Abdul Quader Mollah, who was executed in December 2013.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on February 28, 2014 sentenced Sayedee to death for killing Ibrahim Kutti and one Bisa Bali in 1971.

Following two appeals by Sayedee and the government, a five-member bench of the apex court on September 17 last year delivered a short order based on majority views commuting Sayedee's death sentence to imprisonment until death.

## PAY SCALE PROTEST

# Docs observe 2-hr work stoppage

## Patients suffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Patients suffered immensely as doctors at public hospitals across the country observed a two-hour work stoppage yesterday protesting "discrepancies" in the eighth national pay scale.

Even after waiting in queues for long, many patients and their attendants had to return home failing to see the doctors who abstained from work from 12:00noon to 2:00pm.

Rustam Ali and his six-year-old daughter Sumaiya were two victims.

The man along with the girl, who fractured her left hand while playing, went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 10:00am.

"I bought a ticket and we stood in a queue for some two hours. But all of a sudden, doctors said they would go for the work stoppage," he told The Daily Star.

After waiting at the hospital's outdoor for around four and a half hours, they went back to their home in Bikrampur.

Usually, the outdoor opens at 8:00am and closes at 2:30pm.

Moniruzzaman and his son Mohammad Milon, 15, student at a college in Shariatpur, faced a similar ordeal yesterday. Milon had fractured his spine in a recent accident.

"We waited in the line for four hours until 10:00am. Then the doctor came, prescribed my son an X-ray and asked us to come again later," said Moniruzzaman.

He alleged that the physician did

not see his son properly.

Many outraged patients at the outdoor were seen shouting at the doctors.

Dhaka Medical College Teachers Association General Secretary Debesh Chandra Talukder said they observed the same programme on Monday and Tuesday protesting "discrepancies" in the eighth pay scale.

He said as per the pay scale, bureaucrats can be promoted to grade I whereas doctors only up to the grade III.

He said they would continue the work stoppage today. They are likely to declare their new course of action after meeting other doctor leaders.

Asked about patients' sufferings, Debesh said, "It is not that we did not see the patients at all. We stopped our work only for two hours."

Hospital sources said the doctors at the emergency unit and some general wards are not observing the work stoppage on "humanitarian grounds".

Uttam Kumar Barua, director at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital, said the two-hour work stoppage was part of their movement against "discrimination" in terms of grades between bureaucrats and doctors.

This correspondent also talked to the authorities of the Mitford Hospital, National Institute of Traumatology, Orthopedic and Rehabilitation (Nitor), and other hospitals across the country. They said some of the doctors there took part in the programme yesterday.

## Same old

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organised to respond to PM's Tuesday's speech.

Hasina addressed the nation, marking the completion of her two years at the helm of the second successive government.

The incumbent government has banished democracy from the country, Fakhru said, adding repression of opposition supporters and those, who did not agree with government activities, was unprecedented in the last two years.

The BNP leader claimed that 440 people had been subjected to political killing and 267 others to forced disappearance. Moreover, some 337 were maimed in this period, he said.

As many as 21,083 political cases have been filed against more than four lakh people and over 17 thousands are languishing in jail after their arrest, Fakhru said.

"The government's main target is to hold on to power by snatching people's rights."

The BNP leader also accused the government of politicising all the democratic institutions to establish one-party rule.

The January 5, 2014 national polls were farcical, through which the Awami League stayed in power for the 2nd time, he said.

Turning to PM's speech, Fakhru said Hasina had not said anything about how the electoral system would be freed from party influence.

He added that Hasina's statement that the media in Bangladesh was enjoying complete freedom during her government was untrue and unacceptable.

Meanwhile, the ruling Awami League's Joint General Secretary Mahabul Alam Hanif said the BNP might be declared illegal if people of the country wanted so.

"People are the source of all power," he said at a press conference at the party president's Dhanmondi office in the capital.

The press briefing was organised yesterday to counter remarks made by the BNP's acting secretary general.

Hanif alleged that the opposition party was trying to mislead people when they were marching towards development and hoping for a better

## Malaysia

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police officers were "obese".

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said yesterday officers will now have to pass a fitness test before they can rise up the ranks, and that a new fitness programme has been introduced for overweight cops.

Besides limiting their effectiveness as crime fighters, the problem has led to a "high mortality rate... caused by diabetes and high blood pressure" in the corps, Khalid was quoted saying by news portal Malaysiakini.

"We, as the management of the Royal Malaysian Police, need to find a way for the sake of their families, and for them, to be made aware that they need to exercise and to stay fit," he said.

Police officials have said hundreds on the force call in sick every day.

Nearly half the population of relatively prosperous, food-loving Malaysia is overweight or obese, according to a 2013 study by UK medical journal The Lancet, compared to global rates of around 30 percent.

Experts blame a diet marked by spicy curries made with fattening coconut milk, carb-heavy rice dishes, sugary drinks and a penchant for late-night eating.

Muslim-majority Malaysia also has historically lacked a strong tradition of active outdoor leisure pursuits due in part to its sweltering weather, Islamic modesty, and shortage of public spaces for exercise.

Some 2.6 million adults have diabetes, a figure authorities expect to spike to 4.5 million in 2020. Malaysia has a population of nearly 30 million.

## Pakistan detains 'mastermind'

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scheduled for tomorrow.

While the detention of several individuals was announced in a press release from the Pakistani prime minister's office on Wednesday, it did not mention Azhar's name.

But citing Pakistani intelligence officials, Reuters reported that Azhar indeed was among those taken into "protective custody" three days ago.

However, Delhi says Islamabad has not officially informed them about JeM chief's detention, reports NDTV.

"We have not received official word on detention of Masood Azhar," said Vikas Swaroop, spokesperson for the Indian foreign ministry.

Citing government sources, NDTV says it is highly unlikely that India will proceed with talks loosely set for tomorrow between the foreign secretaries of both countries. A decision will be taken today, after National Security

## Children the planners

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He says within 40 days the road work suggested in the children's plan will be completed by the union parishad, with 15,000 people in the union set to benefit.

"In the monsoon months, to move along our mud roads is to suffer," says Khadiza Begum, 35, of Umedpur village. "There are several stretches of broken road, and in places it is low and easily flooded."

"Children can hardly reach schools in the rainy season," says Razzak Bepary, another Umedpur villager. "Adults too face troubles moving about when the roads become very muddy, especially where the roads are low."

The children's plan for the union includes raising the height of key road stretches.

Though there are several concrete and brick roads already, many locals have difficulty in reaching these better constructed roads in the first place. They have to negotiate muddy approach roads to get there.

"As children, we imagine first the problems experienced by children," says HSC-level student Nazmul Islam. He is a member of the NGO

programme's children's club at Parerhat which formulated the road improvement plan.

"During the monsoon season, many children have difficulty coming to school because of the bad road conditions," he says. "That's why we made some suggestions to the chairman for road construction work."

The union parishad will develop over four kilometres of roadway along five roads in Umedpur, Hoglabuniya, Togra, Nollbuniya, Baroykhali and Uttar Lahuri villages. The roads will be 10 feet wide and be raised by about 3 feet.

To the community's advantage, 207 workers have been made available for the construction under the 40-day Employment Generation Project for the Poorest, with work due to be completed by the end of this month.

When monsoon arrives in 2016, for the first time many of Parerhat's children will have little trouble reaching school. For adults too, the improved roads promise ease of movement. It's a development outcome made possible by a union parishad and chairman willing to listen to the area's youngsters and take action to address their concerns.

## Education now global

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To promote the DAAD scholarship programme, Prof Devang V Khakhar, director of IIT Bombay, visited different Bangladeshi universities in a four-day tour.

Talking to The Daily Star on Monday, the director stressed on building institutional linkages between India and Bangladesh as the countries face similar kinds of problems.

"When we make connections with countries which are somewhat similar, then comes a lot of motivation to work on similar programmes and research. India and Bangladesh should work together because we have similar kinds of problems. And hence working together would give an advantage," he said.

He said most of issues facing the nations like Bangladesh and India are of a multidisciplinary nature. And therefore, the countries should educate students in broad way and encourage people from different disciplines to work together.

During his stay, Prof Devang visited Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Military Institute of Science and Technology, Chittagong University and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology.

He said he was impressed to see the facilities at some of the universities like BUET and MIST.

"And that is one of reasons why we are keen to building up academic link-

ages and together we can do meaningful work. There is a great potential for doing joint researches. And finally when we do research we would like to make a contribution at the international level," he said.

Prof Devang feels that a nation has to be innovation to take things forward.

"We've seen in our lifetime some fantastic innovations like cell phones. A constant innovation is going all around the world and countries like ours also have to participate in that innovation. To be able to do that we have to develop our capabilities in a broad way."

The head of the IIT Bombay suggested that Bangladesh should keep on improving the quality of education.

"Quality is really the key thing because the impact it can have is very significant," he said.

Talking about the future plan on Bangladesh, Prof Devang said they are committed to building strong links with the universities of Bangladesh.

"And we are slowly finding our partners," he said. "We would like to see at the level of students and faculty a lot of interaction and exchange. I think that will benefit both the institutions," he said.

IIT Bombay is recognised worldwide as a leader in the field of engineering education and research. It gives 30 fellowships a year to international students for PhD studies. Besides, it has joint PhD programme with Monash University.

## Ramna loses Kanakchampa

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Sheraton Hotel) on Minto Road and the other in Baldha Garden in Wari, eminent botanist Prof Dwijen Sharma says in his book *Shyamali Nisorga*.

None of them exist now. The one near the hotel was chopped down while the other one died.

Naturalist Bipradas Barua had also planted a *Kanakchampa* sapling on the premises of Shishu Academy.

"I took a sapling from there and put it inside a tub in my house. But it took three years for the flowers to bloom. Later on, I planted a *Kanakchampa* plant at the Ramna Park," Prof Dwijen told The Daily Star recently.

He said the park authorities were present there and they knew that it was pretty rare.

"I saw the plant in a forest in Sylhet some 30 to 40 years ago. But I doubt whether somebody will find it in the wild now."

However, many might still have it at their private gardens, he added.

Contacted, naturalist Mokaram Hossain, also general secretary of Taru Pallab, an environmentalist group working in the city, said currently just one such plant is left near Shishu Academy and only a handful of others in Mirpur Botanical Garden.

"We are not aware of any other *Kanakchampa* plant in this city," he said.

In a newspaper article on trees, Mokaram Hossain says the *Kanakchampa* is a small growing deciduous plant that can reach in between 6 to 10 feet in height. It is a single stem plant having branches atop. It brings

lovely reddish new leaves in the spring. The small golden-yellow flowers also bloom in the spring (end of March and April).

Later, the leaves get greener but the flowers still bloom for a few weeks before they stop blooming. The flower is full with pollens and attracts a lot of bees and other insects.

During a visit to the Raman Park, a custard apple, an African Tulip, an Agar and many other trees were seen standing in a row near the nursery at the northern end. However, the *Kanakchampa* plant was gone. Only its stump was there.

The gardeners have also chopped down some other plants, including Lady's Umbrella and Gamari.

"Dwijen Sir had planted an Agar Tree here. But somebody has cut it down as well," Mokaram said pointing to the area.

Piles of leaves and branches of tree along with bushes were seen near the office of the park authorities.

Asked about the *Kanakchampa* plant, Anawarul Haque, in-charge of Arboriculture, department of Housing and Public Works, said he had no idea who had chopped it down. "I just know it was cut down last week."

"I was with Dwijen Sharma sir when he planted it," he said, adding that they have not launched any probe into the matter yet.

But a staff at his office, wishing not to be named, said a gardener "mistakenly" cut down the rare plant.

Currently, there are over 5000 trees in 68.5 acres of the Ramna Park, said naturalist Mokaram Hossain.

## Goodbye, dear old friend

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and get the surrender" and shortly after noon, he stepped off his chopper with the surrender deed in hand. When it was handed to Rao Farman Ali after a quick look by Niazi, the former objected to the clause that the surrender would be to the joint command of India and Bangladesh.

An angry Farman Ali said, "It is not acceptable to me ... Please delete the words Freedom Fighters."

"It has come from Delhi. Either you take it or leave it," Jacob asserted, saying that they would take responsibility to protect their men only if they had surrendered maintaining the conditions put forth in the surrender document.

As Niazi was dillydallying, Jacob told him that the Pakistan army had only half an hour to decide. Niazi had no alternative but to accept the terms thrust upon him. Jacob then asked Jagjit Singh Aurora, then general officer commanding-in-chief of Indian army's eastern command, to come to Dhaka for the surrender ceremony.

"I wanted him to surrender in front of the people of Dhaka. He said, 'I won't surrender, I'd surrender in Dhaka office.' I said, 'No, you would surrender in the

Racecourse Maidan [now Suhrawardy Udyan] in front of the people of Dhaka," the Indian army veteran told newsmen on March 8, 2008 in Dhaka.

On March 27, 2012, the Bangladesh government conferred the Friends of Liberation War Honour on him for his colossal contribution to the creation of Bangladesh.

Born in 1923 in Kolkata in what was then Bengal Presidency under British-ruled India, Jacob Farz-Rafael, whose family had migrated from Iraq in the middle of 18th century, was a Jew.

Jacob had joined the Indian army at the age of 19 and also fought in World War II and the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965 before he retired in 1978.

After his retirement, he also served as the governor of western Indian state of Goa, north Indian state of Punjab and the federally-administered territory of Chandigarh.

Jacob wrote a highly acclaimed book "Surrender at Dacca" in which he elaborated on the surrender of 90,000 Pakistani troops in Dhaka.

The book, first published in 1997, begins with the Pakistan army's crack-down on Bangladesh on March 26, 1971 and then moves on to the outbreak of

full-scale war and the subsequent military operations leading to the surrender of Pakistani troops.

Among other issues, Jacob in his book highlighted the role of the Mukti Bahini and the great contribution they made towards the liberation of Bangladesh.

"The full credit goes to them as they did the real job. Their acts of valour won the nation independence," he told newsmen in Dhaka in March 2008 while talking about the gallantry of freedom fighters "who emerged as terror for the Pakistani troops".

The book also had its share of controversies as it allegedly undermined the role of his senior officer JS Aurora who had signed the treaty of surrender in Dhaka.

Paying tribute to Jacob, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "RIP Lt Gen JFR Jacob. India will always remain grateful to him for his impeccable service to the nation at the most crucial moments."

In her condolence message, Congress President Sonia Gandhi described Jacob as a "brave son of India".

"A brave son of India, his role in the Bangladesh liberation war has a special place in the war history of the world," she added.

## Bangladesh moves 4 notches up

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22nd position in 2015 from 26th a year before when it debuted on the index, according to the ranking released on Monday by AT Kearney, the world's leading management consulting firm.

The GSI ranks the top 55 countries for outsourcing worldwide on the basis of metrics in three categories: financial attractiveness, people skills and availability, and business environment.

In South Asia, only India and Sri Lanka are ahead of Bangladesh.

Highlighting the success, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak said the several international recognitions Bangladesh achieved in the past few years were results of different effective initiatives taken by the government.

"We really need to focus on the development of the industry. In association with the industry, the government will undertake various initiatives including e-governance in order to

help domestic companies expand their footprint in the local market development," he said in a Facebook post yesterday.

Shameem Ahsan, president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services, said, "Moving up by four notches [in the GSI] proves that we have achieved sustainable growth in the IT sector."

"We need to be more persistent in developing local market if we want to make it to the top 10 in next three years," he said.

In the 2016 GSI, India, China, and Malaysia remain the top three offshoring destinations, and Asia continues to dominate with six of its countries among the top 10.

While this year's report examines the trajectory of offshoring cost arbitrage to low-cost developing countries and the rise of some new locations, the real story lies in the disruption being felt throughout this already disruptive industry in levels of automation of business processes.

"Even though the top six or seven countries are landing in the same order this year as 2014, looking forward, this could all change radically because the very nature of what's being outsourced is changing," said Arjun Sethi, global leader of AT Kearney's Strategic IT Practice and principal author of the study.

"For the first time, we have a trend -- automation -- that could displace the leadership of the likes of India and China in outsourcing. Technology's relentless progress continues to transform in unanticipated and fundamentally different ways not only where work is moving to, but how and by whom -- or by what -- it is being done."

"The new business model associated with this automation threatens established concepts of offshoring, while expanding the market," he said.

The GSI, launched in 2004, helps companies make key location decisions for offshoring and industry development projects with objective guidance.

## Minor boy granted bail after 2 years

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said he would be in the custody of Faisal.

"I spotted the boy around a month ago at court. I talked to him when he claimed to be innocent in tears," Faisal told The Daily Star.

He quoted the boy as saying to him that police had arrested him when he was going to visit his grandmother's home in the airport area.

The child's mother is working as a domestic help abroad, Faisal said, adding that the boy also had talked about his elder brother but he could

not be traced.

According to the prosecution, the child was arrested after five street beggars had cited his involvement in bomb explosions.

Besides, the child admitted to police that a tea vendor named Ruman had given him Tk 500 and told him to explode crude bombs in the area.

Upon an investigation, Sub-inspector Lokman Hossain of Biman Bandar Police Station, on January 6 last year pressed charges against him.

The boy has been tried under the juvenile act while two other accused in

the case are being tried at another Dhaka court.

Additional Public Prosecutor of the Juvenile Court Abdus Sattar Dulal said no lawyer had prayed for his bail earlier.

Moreover, they did not find any relative who would take him home after his bail.

"Therefore, we did not raise any objection against the bail petition after advocate Faisal moved it," the PP said.

The other accused of the case -- Ruman and Monsur -- have already been granted bail.