

Mahmudur's testimony 'irrelevant' Says state defence counsel at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The state defence counsel for former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday argued that the testimony of witness Mahmudur Rahman, editor of Amar Desh, is "irrelevant" to the case filed over the July atrocities.

State Defence Amir Hossain said this after concluding cross-examination of Mahmudur Rahman at the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

At one stage of the cross-examination yesterday, the defence counsel opposed Mahmudur's statement submitted before the tribunal on Tuesday and said there is no basis for portraying Hasina's regime as a 15-year rule of "extremely corrupt and crimes against humanity".

Such comments are not applicable to accused Hasina and Asaduzzaman, he argued.

10 burnt in gas cylinder blasts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 10 people sustained burn injuries in gas cylinder explosions at a warehouse in Charpara area, on the border of Chandanaish and Sattkania upazilas in Chattogram, early yesterday.

According to the Fire Service and Civil

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Raisul Huq Bahar's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Today is the seventh death anniversary of AKM Raisul Huq Bahar, a freedom fighter and journalist.

Bahar was born on April 1, 1952 at Companiganj, Noakhali.

He died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in the port city on September 18, 2018.

Bahar was a guerrilla commander and led many operations including Kaibalyadham Railway Bridge Operation at Pahartoli, Chattogram in the 1971 Liberation War.

Before joining journalism in 1972, he was an accounts officer of Chattogram Port.

He was the Chattogram bureau chief of The Daily Star (2010-2015). He also served the Suprohat Bangladesh and Dainik Purbokone as associate editor.

Six years on, project still stuck

FROM PAGE 3 months were lost to bureaucratic procedures before implementation could begin.

"The work stalled mainly due to delays in the master plan and land acquisition. Now, the university and the army are monitoring the project jointly. We hope to complete it within the revised timeline [December 2026]," said JnU's Chief Engineer Helal Uddin Patwary.

Earlier, on January 12, students staged a protest, boycotting classes and exams, and went on a hunger strike, demanding that the entire project be handed over to the Bangladesh Army for its speedy implementation.

Consequently, on January 16, the education ministry issued a notice, assigning the work to the army.

According to the government order, the army is tasked with constructing internal and external roads, surface drains, lake protection, an army base camp, and electrical installations.

Meanwhile, the previous contractor would continue

with the other parts of the project under the supervision of the army and JnU authorities.

However, due to a lack of coordination among government offices, alongside financial complications, the work hasn't progressed much.

Contacted, Project Director Lt Col Iftekhar Alam said, "The project will be completed in two phases. The first phase is scheduled to be finished by December 2026. Work on the base camp has already finished, and other works will commence once funds are released."

In 2016, following a series of protests over several years, the then-government pledged a second campus for JnU.

The project received Ecenec approval in 2017, with plans for academic and administrative buildings, dormitories, research facilities, and sports grounds across 200 acres.

Although JnU formally received 188.60 acres in early 2020, complications held up the remaining 11.40 acres for nearly five years. Only this June did the university secure the

full 200 acres.

Initially scheduled for completion in 2020, the project has already missed three deadlines. At one stage, the finance ministry even suspended funding, halting construction until student protests reignited pressure.

In this regard, JnU Vice Chancellor Prof Rezaul Karim said, "The project got stuck after missing deadlines, and the ministry stopped funding. However, it has now resumed. We are hopeful that the first phase will be completed in time."

No security

FROM PAGE 3

was celebrated in a more vibrant atmosphere than last year, he urged law enforcement agencies and Puja committees to work hand in hand to ensure peace and order.

He also cautioned against spreading misinformation during the festival. "Durga Puja is a celebration that draws people of all religions, not just Hindus," he said, adding that a new mobile application has been launched to share real-time updates on any incidents.

Kamal Ahmed

FROM PAGE 3

senior editorial roles at the BBC World Service in London, where he served as editor of the Bengali Service and later as senior producer. He produced and anchored news programmes and chaired over 100 editions of BBC Bangladesh Sanglap. He also moderated nationally broadcast mayoral debates in collaboration with the Bangladesh Election Commission.

In Bangladesh, he has served as consulting editor of Prothom Alo, chief sub-editor of The Financial Express, and contributed to leading regional publications, including Himal Southasian. He began his career at Dainik Desh and also worked with The Daily Star, and The Telegraph.

He led the Media Reform Commission under the interim government headed by Professor Muhammad Yunus, delivering a comprehensive reform agenda within five months.

He also played a pioneering role at United Nations Radio, where he launched its first-ever Bangla service and produced weekly programmes for nearly a decade. Having studied law and history at Dhaka and Rajshahi universities, Kamal is widely regarded for his investigative reporting, newsroom leadership, and contributions to media policy reform.

Encroachment, waste dumping push Burai Beel to the brink

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Burai Beel, a natural wetland located near eastern part of Tangail district town, is rapidly shrinking due to continuous pollution and encroachment.

Once used by locals to travel from neighbouring areas to the district town, Burai Beel also served as a natural reservoir of local fish species, allowing local fishermen earn a living.

Rafiqul Islam, another resident, said, "Just two

A section of locals has built structures by filling the canal in various places. As a result, the mouth of the canal has become elevated and the flow of water has stopped. Waterlogging occurs whenever it rains," he said.

Gautam Chandra Chanda, divisional coordinator of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said, "If the boundaries are not immediately demarcated, the illegal structures are not removed and the wetland is not excavated, this important waterbody may be lost

contacted the adjacent Municipal, Karatia and Gharinda union land offices to inquire about the waterbody, the offices could not provide any information.

Tangail Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nahida Akter said she did not know anything about the



decades ago, we used to bathe in the clean water of Burai. Now it is very polluted and dirty. The waterbody was full of native fish and migratory birds used to flock here during winter. Now there is nothing. It is shrinking day by day, and for most of the year there is no water."

forever."

Ratan Ahmed Siddiqui, general secretary of Tangail River Canal Waterbody Protection Movement Committee, said they have been demanding protection of Burai Beel for a long time but no action has been taken.

When this correspondent

waterbody. She would talk about it later after finding out.

Md Shihab Raihan, deputy director of the Local Government Department and administrator of Tangail Municipality, said the government is actively considering a project to address the issue.

ACC sues S Alam, 42 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case against 43 individuals, including prominent business figures and senior officials of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, over the alleged embezzlement of Tk 363 crore from the bank's Gulshan branch in Dhaka.

Among the accused are S Alam Group Chairman Md Saiful Alam, Nabil Group Managing Director and CEO Md Aminul Islam, and former Islami Bank Chairman Prof Md Nazmul Hasan.

The case, lodged yesterday with the ACC's Integrated District Office, Dhaka-1, centres on a fraudulent loan sanctioned in the name of a paper-based company: Naba Agro Trade International.

ACC Director General Md Akhtar Hossain

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

BNP leader's wife hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A local BNP leader's wife was hacked to death in Tangail Sadar upazila on Tuesday night.

The deceased, Lily Akter, 40, was the wife of SM Anisur Rahman Uttam, general secretary of Mogra union BNP unit.

Police and locals said like every day, Lily went to her husband's bakery factory in Kuizbari Bazar around 9:30pm when masked assailants attacked her with sharp weapons.

She was declared dead at General Hospital.

Her nephew, Mehedi Hasan, told reporters that Anis was not at the bakery at that time. They suspect the criminals came to kill Anis, but killed his wife instead after failing to find him.

Anisur said due to rain he had not gone to the bakery and was at the bazar during the attack.

Tanvir Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said they are investigating the incident.



Sonali Bank PLC.

Establishment and Engineering Division
Engineering Department
Head Office, Dhaka
Phone: +8802-223351050
Email: dgmeed@sonalibank.com.bd

e-GP Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Additional Chief Engineer, Establishment & Engineering Division, Sonali Bank PLC, Head Office, Dhaka for the procurement of following works:

Sl. No	Tender ID	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Last selling/ downloading date & time	Tender closing/ opening date & time
1.	1149737	Supply and installation of 115Kwp On-grid Solar System (Including net metering unit) at Somali Bank Staff College, Utara, Dhaka.	21 Sep, 2025 12:00	06 Oct, 2025 12:00	06 Oct, 2025 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/HelpDesk.jsp>).

GD-2032
Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Local Government COVID-19 Response and Recovery Project (LGCRP)
205/4, Hall Mark Group (4th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sarani, Mirpur
Dhaka-1216
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0000.660.07.012.23-8514

Date: 17.09.2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited in e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Project Director, LGCRP, LGED for the procurement of:

SI	Tender ID	Description of items	Publishing date & time	Last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
1	1153033	Development of Digital Infrastructure for 45 Nos. C Type ULGI (Desktop Computers with UPS, Printer & Scanner etc. for Operating MRAS)	18-September-2025, 14:00	05-October-2025, 16:00	06-October-2025, 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and offline/hard copy(s) will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

NSM Zillur Rahman
Project Director
Tele: +880244826494
E-mail: pd.lgcrp@lged.gov.bd

GD-2036

Q. Q. I. W. S.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Manikganj

www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.5600.000.07.139.25-3665

Date: 17/09/2025

Invitation for Tender (works)

e-Tender Notice No.07/2025-2026

e-Tender's is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following packages.

SL No.	Tender ID & Package No	Name of Works	Tender Method	Tender last selling & Submission Date and Time
1	1152625 GDP-3/MA-32.1 Remaining	Remaining Work Estimate of Construction 90.00m long PSC Girder Bridge on Gujuri Bazar -Mokimpur Latif house Road at Ch.1550m under Upazila : Sadar , District : Manikganj (Road ID:356465041)	OTM	08 October-2025 16:00 & 09 October-2025 16:00

These is online Tender's where only e-Tender's will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branch.Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

(ABM Khorshed