

Court Correspondent

Closing the recording of evidence, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 on Wednesday set November 2 for the prosecution to sum up its arguments in the case against war crimes accused Maulana A Sobhan, a top leader of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Tribunal chairman Justice Obaidul Hassan passed the order as the defence counsel failed to produce its defence witnesses (DWs) for providing evidence.

Earlier, defence counsel Mizanul Islam had disclosed that he would place two selective DWs, out of three, before the tribunal in support of his client.

In all, 31 prosecution witnesses (PWs), including two investigation officers, gave their evidence against the Jamaat leader, now in custody.

On December 31, 2013, the tribunal framed charges against accused Maulana A Sobhan for his involvement in crimes against humanity, including genocide, during the 1971 Liberation War.

The tribunal on September 19 last year took cognisance of the charges against Maulana Sobhan as it found a strong prima facie case against the accused under sections 3(2), 4(1) and 4(2) of the International Crimes (Tri-bunals) Act 1973.

On September 20, 2012, Sobhan, the number three man in the Jamaat-e-Islami leadership hierarchy, was held by members of an army intelligence agency at the Bangabandhu Bridge toll plaza in Tangail in a case of violence. Later, the accused was handed over to the police.

The tribunal, upon a prosecution plea, had shown Sobhan arrested in the case of 1971 crimes against humanity.

According to the prosecution, it received allegations like genocide, rape, arson and looting perpetrated by Sobhan, the then leader of Pabna Peace Committee (collaborator) and Pabna district Jamaat ameer, in collaboration with the Pakistan occupation forces, including Razakar, Al Badr and Al Shams, during the Liberation War.

Sobhan had allegedly played a key role in organising Razakar, Al Badr and Al Shams, the auxiliary forces of the Pakistani junta, in Pabna district.