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# Shimul accused in 70 cases including 27 murders

## Top leader of outlawed party remanded

From Staff Correspondent

**KHULNA, May 27:** Mahmud Hasan Shimul, 32, alias Shimul Bhuiyan, a leader of an outlawed party and his associate, Jamal, 30, were taken on seven days police remand today.

Jamal, also an armed cadre of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party is one of the chargesheeted accused in the Asha murder case.

Ashabul Huq Asha, joint secretary of Chuadanga District Awami League was gunned down on October 26, 1998.

Police recovered from them two mobile phones and an identity card (No 0119/2000) issued by a newspaper on March 13.

The identity card bears the name of an Abul Hasan but Shimul used it to identify himself as a Khulna-based correspondent of a Bengali daily published from Dhaka.

Police said Shimul was arrested from the house of Shujon, a leader of Jessore city unit of Chhatra League. Shujon is absconding, police said.

An MA in Bengali Literature from Rajshahi University, Shimul joined Purbo Banglar Communist Party in 1986 when he was a student. He is the fourth issue of his parents.

Hailing from Damodar Union under Phulata PS of Khulna district, Shimul is accused in at least 70 criminal cases including 27 murders.

Apart from 40 years' RI in Inman Ghazi Murder Case, Shimul was also given 12 years RI in another case under Arms Act.

During the first phase of interrogation at Jessore police lines yesterday, Shimul named KCC Ward Commissioner Asaduzzaman Litu and Mushfequr Rahman Hirok as 'commanders of the military wing' of his outlawed party, the SP of Jessore told this correspondent last night. He also disclosed that Bifu and Hitler were two other members of the party's 'military wing' in Khulna city, the SP added.

Shimul is accused in eight murder cases in Narail district, while his 'chief bodyguard' Jamal is wanted in 10 murder cases in Chuadanga district.

Jamal slaughtered seven persons in Chuadanga in 1998, the SP said.

"We are determined to recover all firearms and ammunition at any cost which are in possession of Shimul and his armed cadres," he said.

Designated as 'political commissioner' of the party's southern zone, Shimul became infamous after murdering Inman Ghazi of Dumuria in 1993. He created sensation in party politics after shooting down Phulata thana UP Chairman Abul Kashem Sarder in presence of the then TNO Kamrul Islam at his office room at noon.

Police, quoting Shimul's confessional statement, said he played the key role in the physical liquidation of 90 people since 1991. "They were enemies of the people", Shimul told police adding that some journalists were also on his 'hit list'.

Disclosing his links with some political godfathers in Khulna city, Shimul said he recently set up his stronghold in several places in Khulna district to "intensify the operation against class enemies."

He denied his direct involvement in the murders of Mir Elias Hossain Dilip and Afzal Hossain of Jhenidah. "But it was within my knowledge as it was our party decision," he told police during interrogation.

Claiming himself to be a believer in Marxism and Leninism, Shimul admitted his close link also with Indian Naxalites.

"Journalists who write against me are on my hit list," he told police. "I am committed to uphold the line of my party politics, from which some of our cadres deviated," he was quoted as saying.

He said he came to attend a conference of the divisional unit of the party at Ghose Para in Jessore town on Thursday last.

Shimul and his armed cadres are in possession of most of the looted arms including those from Shironi Cable Factory and Akij Jute Mills, police said.

His wife is a final year student of MA in political science at Rajshahi University. Constable Sadek of Jessore Police Lines is his younger brother. He has been transferred to Bagerhat immediately after Shimul was arrested, the Police Superintendent said.

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A slum in the city's Rayerbazar area was totally damaged by the storm at dawn yesterday, killing 11 people. — Star photo

## New computer virus

**WASHINGTON, May 27:** A potent new computer virus is rapidly spreading via US e-mail systems, with the capacity to ravage information systems at businesses around the world, US authorities announced late yesterday, reports AFP.

Officials at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the US government's National Infrastructure Protection Centre (NIPC) say the new infiltrator masquerades as a resume sent by a prospective job applicant.

The subject line of the e-mail carrying the virus is: "Resume — Janet Simons." Computer users opening the e-mail's attachment risk having entire files on their computers deleted.

As with other recent computer viruses, the new virus spreads via Microsoft Corporation's Outlook Program, which handles electronic mail, calendar and address book functions.

So far, the FBI reported that an unspecified number of corporate e-mail systems had been affected — and even shut down — by the new bug, which spreads by mailing itself to everyone in the recipient's address book. (Details on page 5)

## 2 alleged dacoits beaten to death in Feni

**FENI, May 27:** Two alleged dacoits were beaten to death by the villagers at Sarajpur village in Sonagazi thana of the district last night.

The dead were identified as Auowar Hossain, 35, son of Abdul Malek of village Char Chandia and Sumon, 22, son of Mokbul Ahmed of village Sarajpur.

According to police and local people, a gang of seven youths entered the house of Abdur Razak by breaking up the door at midnight and started looting valuables.

The gang also beat up Razzak and other members of the family as they tried to resist them.

When the members of the family cried for help, the villagers rushed to the spot and surrounded the house. They caught two of the gang while others managed to flee.

The villagers beat up the two mercilessly, resulting in their death on the spot.

Police recovered the bodies at 10 am today and sent them to Feni Hospital for autopsy.

## 50 injured as villagers clash in Habiganj

**HABIGANJ, May 27:** At least 50 people were injured, 15 of them seriously, when the villagers clashed over a trifling matter here today, reports UNB.

Of the seriously injured 10 were rushed to Nabiganj Hospital and five to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

Police and witnesses said an altercation ensued over entering of a cow of one Qudus Mia of village Vicirpur in Nabiganj upazila into a jute field of Upari Mia of neighbouring Noaganj village in Baniachang upazila at 9 am.

At one stage both the groups equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other that lasted for hours.

Police from the two respective thanas rushed to the spot but failed to disperse the feuding groups. Later a contingent of riot police from the district headquarters brought the situation under control.

# US certain Pakistan can help round up bin Laden

## Pickering tells Islamabad

**ISLAMABAD, May 27:** After two days of meetings with Pakistani officials, US Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering said today that Washington is certain Pakistan can influence Afghanistan's ruling Taliban to hand over suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden, reports AP.

"It is hard for me to conceive of the fact that Pakistan's continued support for the Taliban is irrelevant to the question of the possibility of Pakistan playing a very constructive role in bringing Osama bin Laden to justice and that remains the United States point of view," Pickering told Pakistani reporters at the end of a two-day official visit.

On the US 10 Most Wanted List, bin Laden is suspected of masterminding the twin US Embassy bombings in East Africa in 1998. Bin Laden is living in Afghanistan protected by the Taliban, who have refused to hand him over for trial either in the United States or a third country.

"We hope in fact that we can encourage in every conceivable way Pakistan to use all of its contacts and all of its relationships with the Taliban to make it clear to the Taliban that the United States considers the harboring of Osama bin Laden as something very unfriendly to American interests," said Pickering.

"Particularly when it is clearly known and fully established that he was responsible for the bombings of our embassies as well as closely connected with, among other things, the individuals now on trial in Jordan, who sought to cause havoc and mayhem at the time of the turn of the year," he said.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied having influence enough with the Taliban to force them to hand over bin Laden.

Pakistan is one of only three countries to recognize the Taliban and is considered to be the Taliban's strongest ally. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also recognize the Taliban.

Pickering is the first high level US visitor to Pakistan since US President Bill Clinton made a five-hour visit in March, when he urged a return to democracy, renewed talks with hostile neighbor India and an end to Pakistani support for militants fighting in Indian Kashmir.

Pickering repeated Washington's call for Pakistan to end aid to militants. Pakistan, while openly sympathetic to the militants fighting Indian troops in Indian-ruled Kashmir, contends it neither arms nor supports them.

India, however, has refused to restart talks with Pakistan until insurgents waging a bloody 11-year-old insurgency are withdrawn from its territory.

# Rehabilitation of people in Mashaldanga still uncertain

## Flag meet proposes jt enquiry commission

**KURIGRAM, May 27:** Although border tension subsided following Friday's flag meeting between BDR and BSF, problems of the residents of Mashaldanga enclave increased as their early rehabilitation remained uncertain, reports UNB.

Miseries of the enclave people, who fled to the mainland for security of their life were compounded with the heavy rains on Friday and Saturday.

Briefing the outcome of Battalion commander level flag meeting today, a BDR official told newsmen that they proposed a joint inquiry commission for solution to the problem. But BSF said such a move required involvement of the district administration and assured the proposal would be communicated to the district magistrate of Kuchbehar.

BSF at the flag meeting admitted that 100 cattle were lifted and 46 houses torched. They have also admitted that 337 residents of 130 families of the enclave fled their homes.

According to a BDR estimate, Indians backed by CRP and BSF looted 82 cattle, 47 goats and lambs, 900 maunds of paddy, 32 maunds of rice and torched 55 houses in the enclave.

When asked for returning of 11 residents abducted by Cen-

tral Reserve Police (CRP) of India, BSF admitted that six persons were arrested for violation of law and order and sent to Duihata jail. BSF said that they had nothing to do with the arrest and they would be tried under the Indian law.

As for another BDR proposal of opening a separate corridor near 6/SR pillar to facilitate movement of enclave residents, BSF said it was a matter of civil administration to decide.

BSF demanded return of an Indian couple that eloped and allegedly crossed into Bangladesh. Whereabouts of them were not known, BDR said.

Informed sources said the problem of Mashaldanga deepened for failure of the district administration, which did not take appropriate action when persecution by the Indians was duly notified on May 20.

In a recent directive, Home Ministry has asked the district administration, BDR and Police to form a joint committee to look into the problems. Accordingly DC, Police Super and BDR Commanding Officer visited Banshaji where the uprooted people have taken shelter. The homeless people there are living in utter distress.

# 180 more UN hostages freed in Sierra Leone

**FREETOWN, May 27:** Guerrillas have released 180 more UN hostages in Sierra Leone, leaving fewer than 100 captives in rebel hands, and President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah has announced plans to prosecute the rebel leader, reports AP.

The UN peacekeepers were handed over Friday to authorities in Foya, a border town in neighboring Liberia, according to government statement released in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. Liberia said fewer than 100 of the original 500 hostages are still in rebel hands.

Meanwhile, Kabbah accused rebel Revolutionary United

Front leader Foday Sankoh of committing serious crimes.

"This time around Sankoh will be prosecuted," Kabbah said in comments carried Friday night on state radio and television — the government's first comment on his fate since the rebel leader's capture earlier this month.

Sankoh was convicted of treason in 1998 and sentenced to death but was later released from jail under the provisions of a peace accord signed last July that was meant to end an eight-year civil war.

Kabbah did not say what charges the rebel chief would face or when a trial would be held.

## Six new thanas inaugurated in Ctg

**CHITTAGONG, May 27:** Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury inaugurated six new police stations at a function at Dampara Police Ground here today, reports BSS.

With the inauguration of these new police stations, the total number of police stations in Chittagong Metropolitan has risen to 12.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who was scheduled to inaugurate the new police stations could not attend the function due to inclement weather.

In a message on the occasion Hasina expressed the hope that the six new police stations in Chittagong Metropolitan would contribute immensely towards improvement of law and order in the area.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) AYBI Siddiqui and CMP Commissioner AT Ahmadul Huq also addressed the function, attended by local elite, government officers and police personnel.

Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury said, it is for the first time that the terrorists are dealt with iron hand and that no criminal whatever party he belongs to is spared. He said the new police stations were set up to serve the interest of any party, but to serve the people of the port city.

## Windies 273

**ST JOHNS, Antigua, May 27:** West Indies were bowled out for 273 in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 269 after lunch on the third day of the third and final Test here on Saturday, reports Reuters.

## One found dead in BCCI bldg

**From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, May 27:** A young man was found dead in the Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI) building today.

The body was identified as Biplab Kumar Banik, 30.

Kotwali police recovered his body from the first floor of the BCCI building.

The first floor of the BCCI building at Nazirer Pool area in the town is reportedly being used by some armed terrorists for long time.

It was not a case of suicide but killing by torture, it is suspected.

None was arrested in this connection, police said.

## Prokrichi-BCS Council rally in city June 12

**By Staff Correspondent**

Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordination Council will hold a rally at the Institution of Engineers in the city at 11 am on June 12 to realise its eight-point demand.

The Council, a joint body of 26 cadre services and professionals, announced it at a press conference at BMA Bhaban yesterday.

Expressing disappointment over government's inaction regarding their demands the Council leaders told the newsmen that they would also hold a national council at the same venue on July 22.

The eight-point demand includes introduction of promotion rules on the basis of intellect and competence, and a six-grade service and wage structures for all officials irrespective of their status as cadres or non-cadres.

The council secretary general Chowdhury Khaleduzzaman read out a written statement at the press conference while its vice-president Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub and other leaders were present.

## Body to probe assault on DMCH nurse

**Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) authorities yesterday formed a five-member committee to probe an alleged assault on a staff nurse by a medical student on May 25, reports BSS.**

The committee headed by the Head of the Cardiology Department Prof Momtaz Hossain has been asked to submit its report within 72 hours.

The committee was constituted following submission of a memorandum to the Director of the Hospital by the nurses.

Earlier, the nurses brought out a procession and paraded the corridors of the hospital demanding exemplary punishment to the student who allegedly assaulted the nurse. They also held a demonstration in front of the office of the director.

Monwara Begum, a senior staff nurse of the hospital was assaulted by Mamunur Rashid, a fifth year student of Dhaka Medical College on May 25 while she was on duty in the Ward No 9.

## Muggers kill one in city

**A young man was killed and three others were injured critically when muggers hurled bomb on them at North Brook Hall Road in the old city last night, reports BSS.**

Local people and hospital sources said Nital Barman, 32, a resident of the area, was killed on the spot and three of his friends sustained bomb injuries at about 8 pm yesterday.

Pedestrians chased the muggers when they waylaid the rickshaw passengers.

The body was sent to the Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, the injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

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