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## Shipu murder case

# Kamal Majumder's son, four others get 40 years

## Another sentenced to three years

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Ziauddin Ahmed Jewel, son of former Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder, and four others were sentenced to 40 years in prison yesterday, nearly two years after they shot dead Ifekher

Ahmed Shipu, a cellular phone trader, in the city's Banani area.

Another accused in the sensational murder case was given three-year rigorous imprisonment.

Besides Jewel, the others jailed for 40 years are Naimuzzaman Zobayer, Shafiu Alam, Joy Hasib,

Kazi Sharif Ahmed Saikat. The one sentenced to three years in jail is Kazi Arif Ahmed Sagar. Saikat and Sagar are brothers.

Three of the convicts -- Jewel, Zobayer and Shafiu -- have been absconding since the murder of Shipu and they were sentenced in

absentia.

Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Judge of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, delivered the 74-page judgement yesterday in a packed courtroom.

Ifekher Ahmed Shipu, 38, a

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## Verdict not fair, says Shipu's wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khaleda Ifekhar, wife of slain businessman Ifekher Ahmed Shipu, has rejected the judgement in her husband's murder case as "totally unacceptable".

The brother of the victim who is also complainant of the case said he would appeal with the higher court against the verdict.

Talking to The Daily Star at her Banani residence in the city, Khaleda commented that her family was terribly disappointed with the verdict and that they have been deprived of fair judgement.

Khaleda further said their two children are now unable to comprehend what they have lost and what has been done to address it. But as they will be growing up they would realise that the killers of their father escaped capital punishment. The convicts should have been handed out capital punishment as they were directly involved in the killing, Shipu's wife observed.

The verdict was sympathetic to the accused, not to the victim or his family, she said. Shipu's mother Rabeya Ahmed was too sick to comment on the verdict.

Shipu's brother Ishtiaque Ahmed told The Daily Star in his Banani residence that he was 'not at all happy with the verdict'. He said he

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Army personnel inspect an AK-47 and an M-16 automatic rifle recovered from Fatikchhari in Chittagong during yesterday's Operation Clean Heart.

PHOTO: STAR

# Army recovers AK-47, M-16 from Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army seized eight sophisticated weapons, including an AK-47 and an M-16 assault rifle, from the border areas in the hilly district of Khagrachhari yesterday, the 14th day of the countrywide crackdown on criminal.

Also yesterday, the residence of a former state minister was raided in Khulna and a listed criminal and

accused in a sensational murder case was arrested from Fatikchhari in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

In the capital, meanwhile, troops picked up three Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists, including the vice-president of the party's Narail unit, from the south gate of the Bangladesh Secretariat.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports that an army team seized a cache of illegal arms and ammuni-

tion from a Kanchannagar tea garden in Fatikchhari.

The AK-47 and the M-16 aside, the seizure list includes two single-barrel guns, a cut rifle, a light gun and huge ammunition plus an arms carrying pouch.

During another raid in the same area, the troops arrested Nurul Abedin Paran, accused of killing Advocate Nurul Islam in Laxmipur.

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PHOTO: STAR

Three of the convicts in the Shipu murder case, Joy Hasib, Kazi Sharif Ahmed Saikat and Kazi Arif Ahmed Sagar, are being escorted by police after the verdict was delivered yesterday.

## ISPR refutes report on cop's death...

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) in a press release yesterday said the reports published in different newspapers on the death of police constable Kalachand Tripura of the Rajakhali police camp under the Pekua Police Station in Cox's Bazaar were not correct.

The press release says, "At 2.30am on October 23, an army team went to Rajakhali area and was waiting for three other teams near the police camp. At the time, the chief of the team called the on-duty constable, Wajed Ali. During their conversation, Kalachand arrived there in a lungi.

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## ... denies assault of old woman

The ISPR also contradicted reports published in different newspaper on October 29 which said army personnel allegedly beat up the wife and the mother-in-law of a police sub-inspector (SI) after taking them to an army camp in Muggda in the city.

An ISPR press release said the incident was not properly reported in the news media. The army personnel did not beat up the wife and mother-in-law of a police sub-inspector (SI), it said.

"Taking advantage of some silly incidents, it is understood that some

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# US concern at army drive

## Operation Clean Heart should continue "only as long as absolutely necessary"

UNB, Dhaka

The United States has expressed concern about reports of "abuses" during the army operation in Bangladesh and urged the government to find ways other than troops to improve the law and order permanently.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher, at a press briefing in Washington on Wednesday, said the Bush Administration hopes that Bangladesh troops will continue in anticrime drive "only as long as absolutely necessary".

The US suggested that the army needs to maintain human rights norms and "deployment should not be used to harass the government's political opponents."

"We hope that this operation, though it was ordered by a democratically elected government, will last only as long as absolutely necessary and that other measures will be taken to bring about permanent improvement in law and order," Boucher said.

## 11 die as bus falls into canal in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur

At least 11 people were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident at Dhuldi on Faridpur-Daulatdia highway yesterday.

Police and witnesses said a Jessore bound passenger bus from Narayanganj fell into a canal braking the railing of Dhuldi bridge at about 2.15 pm as driver lost control over the steering.

Army, police and fire brigade personnel rushed to spot and recovered 11 bodies from inside the bus, which was under water till 6 pm.

The injured passengers were rushed to the Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Of the dead, driver of the bus Abdus Salam, 35, and two children - Yeanabi, 11, and Laboni, 5, -- were identified.

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When his attention was drawn to the US government concern, Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury told reporters yesterday that the report of US concern has been posted on the Internet and "this has not yet been conveyed to us formally".

He, however, said there is assurance that troops would not be kept even a day beyond necessity.

Asked whether US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters conveyed the US concern to Foreign Minister Morshed Khan on October 24, Chowdhury said it was a routine meeting when the deployment of army was one of the many issues that came up.

On a query about allegations of human rights violation during the army operation that reportedly left 15 people dead so far, the Foreign Secretary avoided reply saying it is the concern of the Home Ministry.

However, US spokesman

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