

# Ruling MPs refuse

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other AL parliamentarians Abdur Razzak and Suranjit and Krishan Janata League lawmaker Kader Siddiqui.

After much insistence, LGRD Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain labelled Salauddin's remarks as "personal views and government does not own them".

As the opposition lawmakers rejected a previous statement of the chief whip, Bhuiyan launched in the debate and echoed his party colleague's statement, saying: "It was his (Salauddin) personal statement, not government's. And the foreign minister earlier explained it."

"It will be better if the matter is discussed less," the LGRD minister said, adding he did not want to speak, as he was sick.

"I could have requested the speaker to expunge the statement if it had been in the House," he said.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar said he has no way to give a ruling on the issue, as the remarks were made out of parliament -- a judgement that prompted the AL leaders to stage the walkout led by Hamid.

## RAGING DEBATE

"It is unlikely of a gentleman to speak like this," Hamid told the House, blasting Salauddin for his indecent remarks.

He said the government cannot duck the issue by describing Salauddin's remarks as personal, as he is not only a lawmaker but also parliamentary affairs advisor to the prime minister.

Former minister Abdur Razzak

termed Salauddin's remarks "dirty". Terming the defeat of Bangladesh candidate, who bagged 12 out of 57 votes in the OIC elections as a "big defeat of government's foreign relations", the AL lawmaker demanded that the government hold a general discussion on foreign policy in parliament.

Razzak said Bangladesh lost out to Turkey as the ruling coalition nominated whom he called a "war criminal and killer". "The issue must be disposed of. Otherwise, we have to rethink about our presence in parliament."

Suranjit said Salauddin's remark is an offence under the Lunatic Act and he should be sent to an asylum for treatment. He said a member in the British House of Commons would have been detained for such remarks.

AL presidium member Abdus Samad Azad said: "I think the 12 countries that voted for Bangladesh's candidate may feel ashamed of it, thinking whom they voted for."

With the opposition lawmakers demanding government explanations on the issue again, BNP lawmaker Joynal Abedin Faruk shouted without microphone, "Call Salauddin Quader Chowdhury to respond."

Bhuiyan asked the chief whip to deliver a statement. Amid AL lawmakers protest, the chief whip said the BNP did not support any derogatory remarks.

Nasim said Salauddin introduced unhealthy and dirty politics through his indecent remarks and added: "We can't accept the way he attacked the opposition leader."

## Mastermind

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killed on February 11, Abdur Rashid Sheikh alias Tapu on May 20, Shaminul Bashir alias Amit Hassan on May 7, Bulbul on May 7, and Touhid on February 8. All of them were operatives of an outlawed political party and were killed in armed encounters with law-enforcers during arms recovery operations, Mosharraf said in the charge-sheet.

Of the 12 accused, four at present are in jail custody and the rest, eight, absconding. The four held in custody are Shumon alias Nuruzzaman, Bulbul Hossain, Akram Hossain alias Bomarai, and Ali Akbar Shikder.

Names of the absconders are Disco Sattar, Belal, Kachi alias Omar Faruque, Mithul, Saka alias Shawkar Hossain, Altaf Hossain alias BDR Altaf, Mahfuz and Sarwar Hossain alias Saro.

Initially, 22 persons were suspected to be involved in the cold-blooded murder. The IO later dropped five names from the suspect list, as his investigations did not find proofs of their involvement in the crime that outraged the entire media world. The suspects exempted from the charge-sheet are Ananda Bhowmick, Mamun, Manik, Monir and Ujjal.

Local journalists have termed the charge-sheet an eyewash and lambasted what they called was deliberate twisting of facts to save the mastermind of the sensational attack on the press and press freedom.

Additional Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali told the court yesterday there is still time for implementation of the EC decision and the petitioner's seeking a court direction in this regard is premature.

The division bench of Justice MA Matin and Justice Tarik Ul Hakim passed the order on hearing both sides.

Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed in a letter on June 15 to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia asked for deployment of army in each polling centre for Dhaka-10 seat.

The government, however, did not respond to the letter, prompting the Bikalpa Dhara candidate to file a writ petition with the High Court on Saturday.

Some sources identified him as a close aide of a BNP leader with the status of a minister.

Following a clash with his rivals at Gopibong one and a half years ago, Idul and his associate Millat used to stay at room No. 209 and 210 at Jahurul Haque Hall of Dhaka University under the shelter of Tanjir Rahman Tanjil, JCD's hall unit president, sources said.

The criminals were allegedly involved in snatching on the university campus. They snatched the passport and foreign currencies from a pedestrian in front of the British Council a couple of months ago.

As the robbers emerged from the building, the law enforcers caught two of them -- Idul and Kiron.

"When the robbers were being dragged towards the microbus, Idul suddenly pulled out a pistol and shot ASI Aminul Islam in the abdomen pointblank," constable Nizam, who was posted near the building gate, told The Daily Star.

As the policemen were caught by surprise, Kiron also struggled himself free and both Idul and Kiron dived to the ground, firing.

"Other members of the gang, who were scattered around, also started firing. I took shelter under a rickshaw-van and kept on pulling the trigger till my gun magazine was empty," said the constable, who received pellet injuries.

The extortions exploded several bombs this time to make their escape, leaving wounded Idul lying on the street.

As the eight-minute mayhem ended, ASI Aminul and constable Liakot were found lying on the street.

Aminul also received bullet in his chest, Liakot in the ribcage and a police informant, Quddus, in his right knee.

Police arrested Idul with bullet wounds in the chest and found Tk 20,000 on him. Police recovered a sophisticated CZ pistol, two maga-

zines and 30 rounds of bullets.

Other members of the team -- Inspector Salauddin, Sub-Inspector Aziz and Sergeant Zahid -- took the victims to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Idul was admitted to ward No. 30.

During a visit to the DMCH, this correspondent found police guarding Idul in the ward.

Police received the bodies of Aminul and Liakot at 7:15pm on completion of post-mortem and took them to Rajarbagh Police Lines. They will be buried tomorrow.

Identifying Idul as a top criminal of Motijheel, Supratip, Demra and Sabujbagh, police said he has at least 15 murder cases against him.

Barrister Amir-Ul Islam and Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud appeared for the petitioner.

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