

# Dulu given 8 years

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brothers Nabi Talukdar, Anisur Rahman Talukdar, Mujibar Rahman Talukdar, Rafiq Talukdar, cousins Nurunnabi Talukdar, Abidur Rahman, Mujibar Rahman nephews Rantu, Belal, Helal, Bulbul, Dalm, Dollar, nephew-in-law Rahim Newaz and Natore municipal ward commissioners Sadru Huda Dambel, Sohag and Nasim Khan.

The other convicts include former president of Jatiyati Chhatra Dal (JCD) Natore unit Dewan Shahin, secretary Mostafizur Rahman Shahin, BNP workers Mintu Ratan, Hazrat, Shaffi 'gunman', Shanti Master, Mamun, Razzaq, Kuddus, Alamgir, Hafizul, Majibur, Azizul, Jalal, Aziz, Rahim, Bux, Golap, Kalu, Kausar, Tofazzal 'Rajakar' and Saiful.

The court acquitted five accused in the case including district Jibol Dal General Secretary Babul Chowdhury, Rupchand, Mohsin, Majnu and Junaid.

ADM Rawnak Mahmud read out order portion of the 53-page judgement amid tight security and in presence of 28 of the 94 accused including Dulu.

**JUDGEMENT** In the verdict, Dulu and Atikur were sentenced to five years in prison for arson, one year for causing damage and for looting, one year for rioting with deadly weapons and one year for directly guiding and abetting the crime.

The other accused were given five years' jail term for arson, one year for damage and for looting, and one year for rioting with deadly weapons.

**CASE** Jatiyati Chhatra Samaj Natore district unit President Asaduzzaman Shah had filed the case with Nalanda police station (PS) on February 25 accusing 105 people.

On May 3, Officer-in-Charge of Nalanda PS Arman Hossain submitted two charge sheets – one for arson and looting and another under explosives act – accusing 94 people.

Later the charge sheets were sent to the ADM's court and the district judge's court. Charges were framed at the ADM's court on June 27.

# Dipjol gets 17 yrs

**FROM PAGE 1** defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 10 prosecution witnesses.

On January 15, the joint forces raided the Mirpur house of BNP leader and film actor Dipjol and seized huge illegal firearms and ammunition.

They seized a .22 bore rifle, a 12 bore shotgun, a magazine of .22 bore rifle and 317 rifle bullets from the first floor flat of Dipjol.

Following the seizure, Assistant Sub-Inspector Asaduzzaman of Mirpur Police Station filed an arms case against Dipjol accusing him of possessing arms and bullets illegally.

Dipjol, an accused in 12 more criminal cases including for murder, extortion and abduction, has been absconding since the raid on his house.

Dipjol was a contender for BNP ticket for January 22 parliamentary polls (later cancelled) from Dhaka-11 constituency. Failing to get BNP nomination, he decided to contest the polls as an independent candidate.

**WARRANT AGAINST HARRIS**

After accepting the charge sheet, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, issued arrest warrant against Harris, in connection with a graft case.

The investigation officer prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against Harris and ordered attachment of all his properties, as he has been absconding.

The case was filed on March 25, as Harris by abusing power took a private car of National Tea Company and handed it over to Badal, who is now in custody.

**SALAHUDDIN CASE**

The same court issued arrest warrant against wife and two sons of former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed from Demra in the capital in a graft case.

The accused are Salahuddin's wife

# JMB ruled supreme

**FROM PAGE 1** They personally controlled police officials including superintendents of police in Rajshahi, Naogaon and Natore for their political and personal interest and prevented those who took initiatives to stop militant activities in the region.

Even the then state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar left the responsibility of the region's law and order with Aminul's personal whim.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad, who was deputy inspector general (DIG) in Rajshahi range in 2004, is one of the witnesses of Aminul's defiance of the existing legal and administrative systems to establish his control over the region.

The IGP told The Daily Star last month, "I talked to the home minister twice or thrice on this matter, but he kept on pushing me towards Aminul Haque. When I talked to district minister Aminul Haque, he said, 'Do not talk on this matter. You do not need to pursue this matter. This has come from the highest level. From the prime minister to Tarique Rahman, everyone knows about it.'

"I have told Aminul several times that you are the local minister and I am the DIG. I cannot allow this to go on. He asserted again saying this matter has the approval of the prime minister and Tarique Rahman," the DIG said.

Bangla Bhai swung into action in certain upazilas of Rajshahi, Naogaon and Natore after outlaws,

## Circular

**FROM PAGE 1** questions regarding the validity of the circular.

In this context, the NGO Affairs Bureau under the Chief Adviser's Office yesterday issued a new circular, signed by AKM Humayun Kabir, assistant director of the Bureau, cancelling the circular until further notice.

The Bureau directors held a meeting yesterday after an NGO delegation discussed the matter with the Director General (DG) of the Bureau M Alimushan, sources said.

They said the delegation, led by chairman of Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) Muhammad Ibrahim, expressed its grave concern over the issue and put forward some reasons that would lead to serious problems in implementing their ongoing and future programmes for the poor and disadvantaged.

Dulu's armed cadres unleashed a reign of terror in the areas exploding bombs and firing shots, the charges said.

**REACTION** Complainant Asaduzzaman expressed his joy over the judgement. "When the incident occurred, I believed my life is also threatened. And I thought I would not get justice ever."

He said all the affected people are somehow linked with the Awami League and Dulu acted against them with a political motive. "Dulu tried to progress and sustain in politics by killing his rivals".

Public Prosecutor Abdul Kader and assistant PP Shamsul Haq Bhuiyan expressed satisfaction at the verdict. Depositions of all the 26 witnesses corroborated each other and proved allegations against the accused without any doubt, they said.

Defence lawyers Shakhawat Hossain and Mozammel Hossain said they would appeal to higher court against the verdict. Most of the witnesses are relatives of the complainant and they have political rivalry with Dulu, the lawyers said.

Moreover, the complainant and witnesses are convicts in Gama murder case. So, they made false depositions, the defence said.

## Teacher

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Owner of the coaching centre Emadul Haq quoted a local woman as saying that between 2:15pm and 2:30pm she saw three youths coming down hurriedly from upstairs, who left the place on a motorcycle parked near the coaching centre.

They looked abnormal, the woman told Emadul.

Badsha and Sanwar Hossain were the given the charge of recently inaugurated 18th branch of the coaching centre at Faridabad in old part of the city, Emadul said. Badsha told Emadul that a local gang demanded toll from Badsha and threatened to 'see him' as he told the gang that he was merely a teacher and could not afford to give any toll.

Emadul said a dreaded criminal gang of Kalabagan and Dhamondi area demanded toll from him three years back. As he refused to provide them the toll, they sprayed bullets and blasted bombs at the Kalabagan centre, after which he filed a case.

The victim's younger brother Jalal said his brother had to send his wife and three kids back to their village home in Jhalakathi a few months ago as he could not afford to keep them in Dhaka.

Since then he and his brother were staying at a mess at Gendaria, Jalal said, adding that Badsha earned roughly Tk 4,000 a month from the coaching centre.

## Hasina

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residence while that of Hasina to the sub-jail through the prison authorities.

Khaleda received the notice the following day (July 18) and Hasina received it a day later.

On Wednesday, the ACC, upon a petition by Khaleda Zia, extended the deadline by another seven days to submit her wealth statement.

The notices to the former prime minister were issued in accordance with section 26(1) of the ACC Act, 2004 and section 17 of the ACC Rules, 2007 allowing them seven working days to comply with the directives.

## Ex-CCF Gani

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the ACC on June 26, the couple showed their assets of Tk 3,70,15,000. But the ACC later found more assets of around Tk 4,30 crore.

The joint forces arrested Osman Gani at his Uttara residence on May 29. During the raid, they found Tk 1 crore kept at some unusual places inside the house.

The forces also recovered two passports.

## Bush welcomes

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credentials at the White House in Washington on Wednesday, an official handout said yesterday.

The US president described Bangladesh as a role model among "moderate and tolerant Muslim nations," saying that the country has demonstrated its unflinching commitment to democracy by organising innumerable elections.

Appreciating current reform programme of the caretaker government, Bush said he supports the anti-graft drive and initiatives to realise tax.

Receiving the letter of credence from Ambassador Humayun Kabir, the US president said both Bangladesh and USA have strong faith in democratic values and are committed to work jointly for mutual economic development and combating terrorism.

He assured cooperation as the ambassador sought duty- and quota-free access of Bangladesh products to the US market.

Bush praised the Bangladesh government's steps to build the country's economy on a strong base as well as its efforts to alleviate poverty. He also assured the ambassador of continued US support to Bangladesh's economic development.

Ambassador Humayun Kabir extended warm felicitations and wishes to President Bush on behalf of the president, the chief adviser and the people of Bangladesh.

# JMB patron Aminul

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attempt to murder and section 387 for extortion and 1 year's simple imprisonment under section 342 for wrongful confinement and six months' imprisonment under section 143 for unlawful assembly.

They were fined Tk 20,000 each-Tk 10,000 each under sections 326 and 307-and Tk 5,000 under section 387.

JMB torture victim Fazlur Rahman had lodged the case on March 30 with Bagmara Police Station. The poor farmer of Hasanpur village in the upazila was abducted, tortured and forced to pay ransom for his release from the militants in April 2004.

Sub-Inspector Mukhtar Hossain submitted the charge sheet of the case on April 23.

## JUDGE'S EXPLANATION FOR THE VERDICT

Briefing the court before announcing the verdict, Judge Rezaul said it is well known that Bagmara was the centre of JMB's rise and there was a torture camp at the Hamirkutsa house of accused Korban Ali's father Ramjan Kaya who is widely known as a Razakar (collaborator of the Pakistan armed forces) during the Liberation War of 1971.

"Incidents of lynching people were almost open and common during the tenure of the previous [BNP-led four-party] alliance government and through such incidents the JMB militants not only took the law in their hands, but they expressed their no-confidence on the law of the land," the judge said.

"What the JMB militants had done in the areas on the plea of cleansing Sarbhara communist outlaws were no different from the deeds of these outlaws," he added.

About former minister Aminul and BNPL leader Shish, the judge said the accused persons were influential in their areas and the militants continued their brutalities following direct and indirect patronisation of these two persons.

Referring to several verses of the holy Quran and Hadith, the judge said Islam is a moderate religion and it does not support any such torture and force on people to abide by the religion.

Executed JMB operations commander Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhai had said in his statement that Shish Muhammad was sent to visit him and executed JMB chief Abdur Rahman in Bagmara during their "anti-outlaw" operations.

Bangla Bhai and his men also visited Shish Muhammad's houses at Tanore in Godagari upazila and

Upashahar Housing Estate in Rajshahi city and Shish, also chairman of Mundumala municipality, gave the militants money, the statement said.

## REACTIONS AT COURT

Hearing the judgment, JMB's Bagmara adviser Lutfar started shouting, "I do not honour the verdict...it is partial."

Other accused present in the dock and their relatives in and outside the court burst into tears.

"My husband is Fazlur's [the plaintiff's] cousin and he was implicated in the case out of jealousy and rivalry over land. He was never linked with militants," Kajal Rekha, wife of convict Nazul, said.

Public Prosecutor Ekramul Haque said, "The JMB came into being, flourished and continued criminal activities with the finance and assistance of barrister Aminul Islam, Shish Muhammad other ruling party men of the BNP-Jamaat alliance. So, the judgment is appropriate."

Additional PP Nurul Islam said, "Minister Aminul was responsible for the district and its law and order. He came to learn about the rise and criminal activities of the JMB through various newspaper and media reports. But, he did not take any action against the criminals."

"Aminul's silence [about the militants' activities] corroborated the deposition of witnesses and it is proved that he was one of the abettors and conspirators," he said, adding, "Aminul and other politicians directly and indirectly financed and patronised the JMB and they instigated the militants to collect tolls for their smooth operation."

The additional PP said four prosecution witnesses told the court that they saw the militants talking with former minister Aminul over mobile phone and that the militants boasted before them of having links with the minister and his men.

Lawyers Hamidul Haque, Mansur Rahman, Ankur Sen and Abul Kalam moved for the defence. They said the case was false and filed with an ulterior motive to harass personal and political rivals taking advantage of the changed political atmosphere.

They said the prosecution side did not come up with enough witnesses and evidence. Moreover, they could not show any material evidence against the accused persons.

Korean Labour Ministry's Deputy Director Hwang Hyo-Jung in her presentation said that the migration cost under the EPS system will be around \$700 to \$800, but it will be finalised in consultation with both the countries.

"This time, the workers can go to Korea only through BOESL, and nobody should communicate with any other private recruiting agencies," she said.

Those interested to go to South Korea will have to undergo a Korean language proficiency test, which will be conducted in Bangladesh by the Korean labour ministry, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Abdul Matin Chowdhury said.

Only those who will pass the test will be included in the roster, he said adding that the workers will then have to fill in a form with detailed information about them and desired salaries. Only the workers selected by the South Korean employers will be sent.

South Korea will hire workers for sectors like agriculture, construction, fisheries and other services, he said adding that they cannot say exactly how many workers South Korea will take.

Bangladesh's food insecurity would increase if the WB-suggested policy of crop-diversification towards high-yield crops is followed, he added.

The report also recommended immediate hike in power and gas prices to at least cover all operating cost, which would be part of the automatic pricing formula that is already under government consideration.

Although remittance from Bangladeshi expatriates exceeds foreign assistance in the country, the report has not looked into ways to link up expatriates in generating economic growth, he added.

He ruled out the possibility of deterioration of law and order situation, as the operation aimed at curbing corruption would also form a social resistance committee to eliminate "terrorism".

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