

Limon

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retired judge to investigate the incident.

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman, who was present in the court, expressed satisfaction over the HC order, saying Limon has the right to get bail.

The state is constitutionally duty-bound to ensure security of every citizen, he said, adding that everybody should be conscious about duty.

Meanwhile, joint secretary of home ministry said the ministry has formed a one-member committee and assigned Additional Divisional Commissioner Shaukat Akbar a week ago to probe the matter.

Limon, who had been undergoing treatment in Orthopaedic Hospital in the capital, was sent to Jhalakathi jail on Tuesday.

He was then shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital under police custody on Wednesday.

A team of Rab-8, led by Deputy Assistant Director Lutfor Rahman, shot Limon in the leg while he was fetching his family's pet calf from a field near their house in Chhaturia village of Jhalakathi on March 23.

The same day, DAD Lutfor Rahman filed two cases against Limon and several others with Rajapur Police Station on charges of possessing arms and ammunition, obstructing law enforcers from discharging their duties, and attempted murder.

Later, Limon's wounded leg had to be amputated.

Limon's mother filed a case against six Rab men on April 11. Rajapur police initially refused to take the case even after a court order. They, however, recorded the case on April 26 following a 48-hour deadline by a Jhalakathi court to take the case.

Advocate Zi Khan Panna, and Advocate Idrisur Rahman were also present for the petitioner in the court yesterday.

Our correspondent from Barisal reported that Limon, now in a prison cell of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal, is counting moments for his release.

"Limon and us are now counting moments for his release, although our advocate and the officials told us that we have to wait till Sunday to receive the official order and for its execution", Tofazzal Hossain, Limon's father, told The Daily Star in the hospital yesterday afternoon.

The victim's mother Henoara Begum appealed for a fair and speedy investigation of the case lodged by her against the six Rab personnel, and demanded withdrawal of alleged false cases against Limon.

"The government should bear the medical expenses, compensate and rehabilitate my son, and give him a government job as his dreams have been shattered following the incident," Henoara said.

Mugged

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and Mohammad Rafiq, 35.

Rafiqul Islam Mia, sub-inspector of Mirpur Police Station quoting the victim said Anwar was waiting for a vehicle at Mirpur-1 to go to his office at Mohakhali.

Suddenly, a white microbus appeared around 9:15am and five men on board offered him a ride, the SI said.

After he climbed into the vehicle the muggers pointed a machete at him and took away his mobile phone and Tk 1,700 in cash.

Later, they dropped him at Rainkholra in Chirikhana Road and headed towards the Staff Quarters area.

However, Anwar jumped into a CNG run three-wheeler and followed the microbus till he overtook it. Soon, he sighted a police vehicle at Paikpara and signaled it to halt.

Kazi Ashraful Azim, assistant commissioner of police (Gulshan zone), who was on that vehicle immediately barricaded the road with the car and prevented the microbus from escaping.

He arrested four of the six muggers while two of them managed to flee the scene.

Police seized the microbus and recovered one machete, an iron rod, the snatched cell phone and Tk 1,700 from the muggers.

It was a genocide

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of their leaders was involved with Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams.

"When we showed him a video clip of brutal killings during the Liberation War and enquired about it, he [Nizami] said it was genocide and mass killing," said M Sanaul Huq of the four-member investigation team after the interrogation ended at 5:10pm.

"Motiur Rahman Nizami also admitted that mass rape and killing of the country's intellectuals took place during the Liberation War. But he denied his involvement very tactfully," Huq told reporters.

Huq also said when the investigators showed Nizami different documents of Pakistan that mentioned his involvement with Al-Badr and Al-Shams, he admitted his involvement with the two auxiliary forces.

"But my speech to Al-Badr activists and other activities and assistance in 1971 were related to inspiring people that I was bound to do due to death threats by the Pakistani army," Huq quoted Nizami as claiming.

The investigation team led by Abdur Razzak quizzed Nizami about his role and political affiliation and entire activities before, during and after the Liberation War.

The investigators also interrogated him on the basis of information and evidence they have collected during investigation into allegations against Nizami.

They started quizzing him at 10:00am and continued it till 5:10pm with over half an hour lunch break. He was brought to the "Safe Home" from the Dhaka Central Jail at 8:40am.

As he was asked different questions by the investigators, Nizami said he is now 70 and can hardly remember the incidents that took place 40 years ago.

His physical condition was normal and a doctor checked his health twice at 10:00am and 1:00pm during the interrogation.

Investigator Huq told the reporters Nizami was responding very slowly and was taking much time to give his replies.

DoE stops bridge

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capital with its Purbachal housing project in Rugganj, said a report headlined "Balu filled up for a bridge" carried by The Daily Star on Thursday.

Following this, Mohammed Munir Chowdhury, director of monitoring and enforcement wing of DoE, conducted a drive and seized 85 big piling pipes from the construction site yesterday.

"They've filled up almost two-thirds of the Balu in a gross violation of the law," Munir said.

"We've measured the filled-up area and found it to be 4,550 square feet," he added.

The Rajuk action has choked the river to such an extent that two engine boats can hardly pass together through the point.

The Environment Protection Act (amendment) 2010 requires environment clearance certificate from the DoE for any government and non-government development project.

But Rajuk, the city authority, did not obtain the clearance nor undertook any environmental impact assessment before launching the project. It also did not take permission from Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), the government agency for protecting the city rivers.

The project was taken up in 2008 and was expected to be completed by November next year.

Summoned at the DoE, project director Anwar Hossain initially denied filling up of the river.

"He then tried to convince the environment department saying it [the bridge] was a government project and it was not a problem to fill up the river," an official said requesting anonymity.

When pressed further by the DoE officials, he admitted to violating the relevant laws.

"But we did not put any pressure on him for this," he continued.

The investigators also showed Nizami different newspaper clippings including one from the daily Sangram, mouthpiece of Jamaat-e-Islami, that substantiate Nizami and his party's anti-liberation role.

In reply, Nizami claimed those newspapers exaggerated facts while publishing news.

In the middle of the interrogation, Nizami was allowed to talk to his counsel waiting at an adjacent room. At around 1:00pm, the Jamaat chief took lunch with his lawyer and the doctor.

On quizzing Nizami further, Huq said, "As he avoided his questions regarding his involvement in different incidents very tactfully, we need to interrogate him further to get clear answers from him."

"We have specific evidence of his involvement in different matters related to crimes against humanity. But he avoided those issues and in some cases he did not present a clear picture. So we need to quiz him further," he added.

Nizami was sent back to the jail after the interrogation. The investigators said they have maintained international standard and transparency during the interrogation.

Nizami's counsel advocate Tajul Islam and the doctor from the prison hospital were staying at the adjacent room in compliance with the instruction by the International Crimes Tribunal.

The tribunal allowed the interrogators to quiz Nizami and Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed on two dates at the "Safe Home". Mojaheed will also be interrogated on similar charges there on May 8.

BRIEFING OF NIZAMI'S COUNSEL
Talking to reporters, advocate Tajul Islam alleged the investigators issued threats and put pressure on his client during the interrogation.

He also claimed Nizami did not say anything to the investigators during the entire interrogation.

Review of talks

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"We got many important recommendations on different constitutional issues during the talks. We, all members of the committee, will carefully examine those at our next meeting on Sunday," he said.

The committee formed last year held talks since April 24 that ended on May 4.

The ruling Awami League and its allies in the grand alliance led by it -- Jatiya Party, Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Ganotantri Party, National Awami Party -- joined the talks and placed recommendations.

The opposition BNP boycotted the dialogue terming it a "dark design" and "conspiratorial".

But a number of former chief justices and eminent Jurists and other citizens and editors of national dailies took part in the talks organised by the House body and gave suggestions.

"The talks were unprecedented and historic since similar talks were never held in Bangladesh," Suranjit said.

Asked whether the special committee will again seek BNP's views on changes to the constitution, Suranjit said they will think about it.

He mentioned that BNP also did not nominate any lawmakers from the party to represent it in the committee.

Indian

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Moni received Ansari and his spouse Salma Ansari at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at around noon.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina later called on the visiting Indian vice president at Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

The two leaders discussed bilateral matters and issues of common concern.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed the reporters after the meeting.

The press secretary said the prime minister thanked the Indian vice-president for his visit to Bangladesh and put emphasis on working together for the welfare of the people of the two friendly countries.

The Indian vice-president appreciated the move to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore by the two neighbouring countries.

The vice-president also visited Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, placed wreaths and stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of respect to the memory of the great leader.

The Indian vice president will leave Dhaka for home this afternoon.

31st BCS exams

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the commission at the PSC yesterday, said PSC Controller of Examinations (Cadre) AYM Naser Uddin.

About 1.68 lakh candidates are expected to take the test at 118 centres in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet simultaneously at 10:00am, he added.

"The result would be published in shortest possible time," he also said.

On January 26, PSC published the advertisement on 31st BCS against the 2,108 vacant posts of general and technical or professional cadres.

Battery-run

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unlicensed vehicles at the communications ministry yesterday.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain said the municipalities would not renew the registration of the existing battery-run vehicles and those should have to be banned within a certain period. The timeframe will be fixed later.

Permission will not be given for further local production of those vehicles while the existing 2.50 lakh vehicles will not be allowed to ply on the highways.

Besides, the meeting decided that locally-made vehicles like Nasimon, Karimon and Bhatbati would not also be allowed to ply on the highways.

Achievements in 10 'unlawful' yrs

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Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank in which he served as the managing director, those ten years were the golden time of phenomenal rise and glorious shine. Bangladesh also shone bright with him and Grameen Bank.

Set aside the fact that it was the deeds during that decade that actually caught the attention of the wider world and eventually brought Nobel to the country, Grameen Bank became a model to be emulated in 40 countries -- from China to America, from Bolivia to India -- across the globe to set millions of impoverished people free from the yoke of poverty. Millions of faceless people suddenly got their faces back as human beings. For once, the world had a solution to help the end-of-the-line people come out of poverty.

And with the transformation of Prof Yunus, whom the international community regards as the messiah of the poor, Grameen Bank also shone in its ledgers. If the simple and traditional parameters of banking are applied to measure its progress during that ten years, its achievements were astounding.

For one, Grameen Bank's deposits increased 20 times; its profits soared to a new height; and the number of its members tripled.

The year 2000 -- when, according to Bangladesh Bank, Grameen's founder Professor Muhammad Yunus exceeded the mandatory retirement age -- saw the bank making a profit of only Tk 1.1 crore. The next year, its profits jumped six times.

Since then, there was no looking back for the microfinance bank in terms of profit.

In its history, Grameen Bank posted profits exceeding Tk 100 crore thrice after that period.

The bank had deposits of nearly Tk 105 billion and outstanding loans of Tk 68 billion, as of 2010.

The bank stepped into the new millennium with 23.78 lakh members across the country. Their number has tripled to 83 lakh -- 97 percent of them women -- at the end of the last year.

Its coverage reached great heights during that period. The microcredit institution had 68,467 centres covering 40,225 villages in 2000. It now operates in 83,458 villages with 144,106 centres, covering the whole of Bangladesh.

Grameen Bank doubled its branches in a decade to 2,562 in 2009 from 1,160 in 2000.

Since its inception, the bank has disbursed Tk 622.26 billion.

The bank charged the lowest interest rate -- 20 percent -- in the sector in Bangladesh, where allegations of charging a lending rate as high as 45 percent are rife.

The bank has not only provided means of livelihood to the country's poor, but also created jobs for more than 22,000 people by doubling its staff in the last one decade. The majority of its employees are from the poorer section of the society. The bank and its legendary founder Prof Yunus jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to create economic and social development from below" in 2006.

The achievement, seen as the best prize for the country since the independence, gave the sector a strong boost at a time when critics started to question the effectiveness of microfinance programmes in Bangladesh as well as other countries across the globe.

The bank received the prestigious Gandhi Peace Prize in 2000 awarded by the Indian government and Petersberg Prize four years

later by the Development Gateway Foundation of USA.

These followed the Independence Day Award in 1994 and World Habitat Award by Building and Social Housing Foundation in the UK in 1997.

US President Barack Obama conferred Prof Yunus the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honour that recognises the awardees' contribution to the nation and the world, in August 2009.

Prof Yunus' dedication to lift people out of poverty brought him more than 110 awards including the Bayreuth Leadership Award 2009, SolarWorld Einstein Award 2010, PICMET Award 2009, Gold Medal of Honor Award, USA 2009, Golden Biatic Award 2009, Eisenhower Medal for Leadership and Service 2009, Estoril Global Issues Distinguished Book Prize 2009, World Affairs Council Awards, California 2008, Global Humanitarian Awards 2008, and RED CROSS Gold Medal 2007.

The long list also includes Seoul Peace Prize 2006, Global Citizen of the Year Award 2006, King Hussein Humanitarian Leadership Award 2000, and Sydney Peace Prize 1998.

Yunus' microcredit concept of giving small loans to the poorest of the poor without any collateral in an exception to conventional banking methods, has given birth to thousands of similar organisations in Bangladesh as well as other countries across the world.

The Grameen Bank model has been applied in 40 countries around the globe. It was first replicated in Malaysia in 1986.

In January 2008, Grameen America opened its doors to underserved people, who do not have access to banks and mainstream financial institutions

in the world's biggest economy.

Although a new player in the domestic microfinance industry, Grameen America saw considerable growth in the first year. It disbursed more than \$350,000 in micro-loans and registered more than 165 borrowers in the first three months.

Grameen America opened a branch in Omaha, Nebraska in 2009, making it the first microfinance institution in Omaha and Grameen America's first operational branch outside New York City.

It also opened two additional branches in the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn in January, 2010. All the branches have witnessed rapid growth in the short period of their operation, according to Grameen America that has more than 5,000 borrowers.

Washington-based Grameen Foundation supports microfinance institutions in countries including India, China, Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Bolivia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, the United States of America, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Yemen, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Grameen Bank model continues to be replicated around the globe, despite the fact that Bangladesh Bank relieved Yunus of the post of managing director of Grameen Bank on claims that his reappointment to the position was not done in line with the laws that govern the microcredit organisation -- a decision that stunned his countless admirers across the world.

Pak army threatens

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of top generals. It said Gen Ashfaq Kayani told his colleagues that a decision had been made to reduce the number of US military personnel to the "minimum essential" levels. The statement gave no details on the numbers, and a spokesman declined to elaborate.

The US has around 275 declared US military personnel in Pakistan at any one time, some of them helping train the Pakistan army. US officials were not immediately available for comment.

Earlier, the Pak government had warned of "disastrous consequences" if the US staged a similar attack on its territory.

It said the Inter-Services Intelligence agency had given initial information to the CIA about bin Laden, but claimed the "CIA did not share further development of intelligence on the case with the ISI, contrary to the existing practice between the two services."

The raid on bin Laden has sharpened tensions between the two countries. But while some US lawmakers have been calling on Washington to cut its aid to the country, the Obama administration and British Prime Minister David Cameron have indicated they would continue with their policy of engaging with the country.

And in a further sign of fractious relations between the allies, senior Pakistani security officials told Reuters that US accounts had been misleading in describing a long gun battle at the compound in Abbottabad where bin Laden and four others were killed by an elite squad of US Navy SEALs.

"It was cold-blooded," said one Pakistani official when asked if there was any exchange of fire. After an initial account of a 40-minute firefight, US officials have now been quoted saying only one person fired at the raiding party, and that only briefly as the helicopter-borne assault team arrived.

Also yesterday, photographs acquired by Reuters and taken about an hour after the US assault show three dead men -- not including bin Laden -- lying in pools of blood. No weapons could be seen in the closely cropped images obtained by Reuters.

Based on the time-stamps on the pictures, the earliest

the US assault on bin Laden's compound show three dead men lying in pools of blood, but no weapons.

The photos, taken by a Pakistani security official who entered the compound after early Monday, show two men dressed in traditional Pakistani garb and one in a t-shirt, with blood streaming from their ears, noses and mouths.

The official, who wished to remain anonymous, sold the pictures to Reuters. None of the men looked like bin Laden.

'FOG OF WAR'
The White House has blamed the "fog of war" for its changing stories. Citing US officials, NBC television said four of the five people killed, including bin Laden himself, were unarmed.

The New York Times quoted officials in the administration of President Barack Obama saying bin Laden's courier fired the only shots against the Americans, in the early stages of the raid, from a guesthouse in the sprawling, high-walled compound.

"I know for a fact that shots were exchanged during this operation," said one Pentagon official.

Another senior Pakistani security official said no shots were fired inside the building where bin Laden was found.

"The people inside the house were unarmed. There was no resistance," the official said.

The two Pakistani officials declined to describe the sources of their information but confirmed several people from the compound were detained.

Pakistan's GEO TV quoted military sources saying bin Laden's Yemeni-born wife told them the Saudi-born al-Qaeda leader had lived in Abbottabad for five years but had never ventured out.

Photographs taken by a Pakistani security official about an hour after the assault show three dead men -- not including bin Laden -- lying in pools of blood. No weapons could be seen in the closely cropped images obtained by Reuters.

one was dated May 2, 2:30am, approximately an hour after the completion of the raid in which bin Laden was killed.

Reuters is confident of the authenticity of the purchased images because details in the photos appear to show a wrecked helicopter from the assault, matching details from photos taken independently on Monday.

US forces lost a helicopter in the raid due to a mechanical problem and later destroyed it.

The pictures are also taken in sequence and are all the same size in pixels, indicating they have not been tampered with. The time and date in the photos as recorded in the digital file's metadata match lighting conditions for the area as well as the time and date imprinted on the image itself.

The close-cropped pictures do not show any weapons on the dead men, but the photos are taken in medium close-up and often crop out the men's hands and arms.

One photo shows a computer cable and what looks like a child's plastic green and orange water pistol lying under the right shoulder of one of the dead men. A large pool of blood has formed under his head.

A second shows another man with a streak of blood running from his nose across his right cheek and a large band of blood across his chest.

A third man, in a T-shirt, is on his back in a large pool of blood which appears to be from a head wound.

US acknowledgment that bin Laden was unarmed when shot dead had raised accusations Washington had violated international law. 020

The exact circumstances of his death remained unclear and could yet fuel controversy, especially in the Muslim world.

Pakistan faced national embarrassment, a leading Islamabad newspaper said, in explaining how the world's most-wanted man was able to live for years in the military garrison town of Abbottabad, just north of the capital.

Utilise Yunus'

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finance adviser to a caretaker government; Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of Centre for Policy Dialogue; and former central bank governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed made their statements after the Supreme Court dismissed two petitions filed in connection with Yunus' removal from the post of Grameen Bank managing director.

Akbar Ali Khan hopes an amicable solution to the issue is still possible. "If the government agrees, there is scope for a peaceful solution to be accepted by all."

He said the government could appoint the Nobel Peace Prize winner as the chairman of the bank and the Supreme Court verdict is no bar to it.

Khan mentioned of the demands by the bank's directors and employees in this regard.

Debapriya Bhattacharya said the court verdict does not preclude the government from taking a measure to find an institutionalised role of Prof Muhammad Yunus so that Grameen Bank continues to draw upon his experience, wisdom and reputation.

Former central bank governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed said if the government accommodate him [Yunus] in any advisory role in Grameen Bank, the transitional leadership would be benefited.

"Grameen Bank has become a world class model. His [Yunus'] sudden leave would bring any good result neither for the bank's 83 lakh borrowers nor for the government," said Ahmed.

Oil prices

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the government did not follow it.

Yusuf Hossain added the process of BERC is long, and that could be the reason why the government took the decision without any consultation with the BERC.