

Amal Bose

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He is survived by his wife, a daughter, grandchildren and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Information and Cultural Affairs minister Abul Kalam Azad expressed deep shock at the death of Amal Bose. They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of bereaved family.

Amal Bose was born at Boalmari in Faridpur district in 1943 and stared his career as a jatra artist in sixties but contributed to jatra, theatre, cinema, TV and radio plays both as actor and director.

He gained huge popularity for his role as 'Mahishashur' in the Durga Puja special TV plays and later sarcastic character as 'Nana-Natee' in the TV show Ityadi.

He was honoured with a National Award for his work in the movie Akjer Protibad. Bose's only directed feature film is 'Keno Emon Hoyer'.

In his professional life, Bose served as a senior officer in Jute Mills Corporation. He went to retirement in 1995.

AL, BNP

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already expressed their formal reactions on the matter.

"Isn't it usual that her [BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's] ultimatum and the ill attempt have links?" Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said at a press conference at the party's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

The BNP has repeatedly used the patriotic army to grab state power and thus made the force controversial in its course of the politics of murder, coup and conspiracy, he said.

Later in the day, the BNP's acting secretary general Fakhru reiterated his party's claim that not his party but AL was involved in all the "military interventions" in the country's politics.

"Awami League men were involved in the assassinations of Sheikh Mujib in 1975 and Ziaur Rahman in 1981, the military coup in 1982, and in forming the unconstitutional government in 2007," he said while addressing a discussion at Diploma Engineers Institution.

It was clear to the people who were involved with the recent "coup plan", the opposition leader said, claiming that the killers of late president Ziaur Rahman were behind such an attempt.

Criticising the AL's allegations that the BNP had links to the anti-state plot, Fakhru said, "It won't be wise to talk about a matter which is still under investigation. The BNP always believes in a democratic process to transform power."

On Sunday, BNP in its first official statement on the army announcement accused AL of involvement in the latest "coup attempt" as well as the other coups in the armed forces.

At yesterday's press conference, Syed Ashraf, also LGRD and cooperative minister, said the failed putsch would continue to have an impact until the responsible were identified and brought to the book.

He also said an investigation into the incident was underway and many had been identified. Drive will be carried out to arrest them.

"The Awami League wanted a national consensus on the issue for the sake of democracy. But they have spoken very irresponsibly," Ashraf said, referring to the BNP's statement.

"Instead of responding to our call to be united, they [BNP] blatantly lied, suggesting that the Awami League was involved in all the coups in the country," the AL spokesman said.

Ashraf said his party had organised the press briefing yesterday in reply to the BNP's reaction over the issue.

Pointing to BNP acting secretary general's Sunday's remarks, he said, "He has propagated some peculiar, unexpected and baseless fictions."

Law loopholes

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"Predicate Offence" through which money or wealth amassed through crimes at home or abroad could be laundered.

Ten new crimes have been added to the list which includes stock market related offences as well.

The new law has made it criminal offence to take advantage of price-sensitive information about the stockmarket before their public disclosure -- known as insider trading, and also attempts to control the market individually or institutionally.

Terrorism or financing terrorist activities, violation of intellectual property rights, extortion, environmental crimes, and tax related crimes have also been included.

The new law has also expanded the list of organisations that must submit reports to the central bank about suspicious transactions using them. The stockmarket and non-government organisations have been added to the list.

Bangladesh's non-profit organisation sector has 60,000 registered societies, associations, clubs, and companies. But there was no overall strategy to identify and address money laundering and the risks of terror financing through these organisations.

Stock dealers and brokers, portfolio managers and merchant bankers, security custodians, fund managers, real estate developers, cooperatives, non-profit organisations, trusts, and company service providers have also been newly included in the list.

In the new law the definition of money laundering has been widened as well. It included laundering off money abroad through over invoicing or under invoicing.

Bangladesh for the first time enacted anti-money laundering act in 2002 being pressured by the United Nations. It was amended in 2005. In 2008, the act was again amended through an ordinance, which was ratified by the current parliament in February 2009.

Driving licences

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"Problems and prospects in the transport sector" at the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority office in the capital.

A film star and road-safety campaigner, Ilias Kanchan, who was also present there, said drivers possessing fake licences could be given genuine licences following a short training and a relaxed written test.

The illegal drivers may be asked to surrender their fake licences to the authorities concerned, who then can train them for 15 days or a month on traffic rules.

Carrying fake licences, over five lakh men in the country drive vehicles regularly and the obstacle to obtaining genuine licences for them is that most of them are illiterate and cannot sit for the written test, Ilias continued.

At the meeting, BRTA Chairman Ayubur Rahman Khan told the communications minister that his intervention was needed to bring about necessary changes in the existing rules for issuing driving licences by relaxing the written test.

In reply, Obaidul said he would take steps soon in this regard.

He criticised BRTA officials for the bureaucratic delays in providing service, especially in issuing vehicle fitness certificates.

Regarding traffic jam,

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan at the discussion said the authorities should go tough to stop car parking on roads and evict hawkers from those to ease congestion.

Giving an example, he said the traffic situation in the city's Motijheel was severe as vehicles remained parked on half of the roads most of the time.

A transport workers' leader said Vigarunnisa Noon School had a car parking arrangement for 750 vehicles but vehicles parked in front of the school causing traffic jam in adjacent areas.

The situation at other academic institutions in the capital was similar, he added.

On traffic signal operation, Ilias Kanchan said that when the red signal was on, traffic police allowed traffic movement but when the green signal appeared vehicles were stopped, which seemed ridiculous to foreigners visiting the city.

He wondered if the electronic traffic signals were of no use, why did the government install them and was spending money on the system.

Traffic chief Mahbubur Rahman of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said most of the age-old signal lights had gone out of order, thus spoiling their synchronisation.

Victim sues

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beating and introduced himself as a DU student, they became angrier and took me to Khilgaon Police Station.

"Later around 10:00am, OC Helal Uddin took me to his office room and forced me to admit to various crimes I had never committed. The OC also injured me on the back, leg and various other parts of my body and at one stage he made a stab wound in my left leg with a sharp machete."

Later, police lodged two separate cases against him -- one for robbery and another for possession of an illegal firearm -- with the police station while he was shown arrested in another false case filed with Mohammadpur Police Station for carjacking.

After the incident he sought help from the higher court, which directed the government and also high police officials to launch special investigations, he said.

Kadar in the case statement also mentioned that he had filed the case following the probe committee suggestion on November 28 and the HC order on December 11.

Following the media outcry, OC Helal, sub-inspector Alam Badsha and assistant sub-inspector Shahidur Rahman were closed on July 29, while Kadar was released on bail on August 3.

"Although Helal Uddin and some of his subordi-

nates at Khilgaon Police Station were involved in the crime, I mentioned only the name of the OC as I do not know the details of the others," Kadar said talking to The Daily Star.

"I wish all the policemen involved in the crimes were punished following investigation."

Replying to a query, he said the incident had seriously hampered his studies. It also meant mental and financial pressure on him.

"As a student, I was not supposed to file cases or fight legal battles, but the incident led me to do so, which is a burden on me," Kadar said. "However, I want to complete my studies and get a job to make my family happy."

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday acquitted Kadar of carjacking following a petition by Inspector Abdur Noor of Detective Branch.

Abdur Noor, also investigation officer of the carjacking case, filed the petition after submitting his probe report to the court on Thursday.

The case was filed two days before Kadar's arrest.

Another Dhaka court will pass its decision next Thursday on the probe report submitted by DB Inspector Mohammad Shahjahan in the robbery case.

Earlier on November 3 last year, Kadar was relieved of another case filed for possessing sharp weapons.

Stocks fall

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Sufiyan and Abdul Hannan.

They were not freed till midnight last night, said Hayatuzzaman Mollah, officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station.

A group of retail investors started demonstrating in front of the DSE building around 12:30pm, blocking the road from Shapla Chattar to Ittefaq crossing.

They put up barricades on the road by igniting different objects, including abandoned wooden boxes and papers.

They walked in processions chanting slogans. They also carried a dummy coffin to signify the death of the investors, but police took it away from them.

Some aggrieved investors also tried to place several brokerage firms under the lock.

At 5:00pm, police charged batons on the agitators to disperse them and traffic movement resumed 15 minutes later.

During the day's trading at DSE, the losers beat the gainers 178 to 63, with prices of 16 securities remaining unchanged. Over 5.04 crore shares and mutual fund units were traded at a value of Tk 233 crore.

Stock experts said lack of active participation of institutional investors coupled with huge sale pressure from retail investors led to the market dipping further.

The experts, however, could not ascertain the reason behind the slowdown in institutional investment.

"If the index hovers below this level for a few days, this may become the new resistance level. If we consider distortion in the index caused by GP and other stocks, the original index value would be around 3,500 points," said LankaBangla Securities in its daily market analysis.

At this level barely any investor has his nose over the water, it said, and added that the overall market PE had come down to 11.41, which is the lowest in the region after Pakistan.

24 top schools

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analysis.

Committee member Prof Shafiqur Rahman, director (secondary) of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, admitted that they have found the allegations true in case of 24 schools.

He however declined to make further comment in this regard.

Eight of the 32 schools followed the policy in charging admission fees.

The committee also said a number of schools find it tough to bear their expenses with the government-fixed admission fees and thus recommended formulating a policy considering time, location of the institutions and expenses.

Meanwhile, another committee on coaching by the schoolteachers in its report suggested that the practice of coaching should be stopped gradually, not overnight.

The committee submitted its report to the education minister on Thursday. In its report, the committee said no teachers will be allowed to run private coaching in their houses, said a ministry source.

Necessary actions will be taken against the violators, the report said, suggesting that school-based coaching may continue for weaker students with the fees fixed by the ministry, the source added.

If necessary, the fees can be increased later, the report added.

The government on January 4 formed the committee headed by a joint secretary (secondary) of the education ministry to look into the practice of coaching and prepare recommendations.

The move came in response to a High Court order that asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to stop teachers working for coaching centres and enact a law in this regard.

EU bans Iranian oil

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least U.S. President Barack Obama as he campaigns for re-election in November.

Meeting in Brussels, foreign ministers from the 27-state EU, which as a bloc is Iran's second-biggest customer for crude after China, agreed to an immediate ban on all new contracts to import, purchase or transport Iranian crude oil and petroleum products. However, EU countries with existing contracts to buy oil and petroleum products can honor them up to July 1.

EU officials said they also agreed to freeze the assets of Iran's central bank and ban trade in gold and other precious metals with the bank and state bodies.

Along with U.S. sanctions imposed on December 31, the Western powers hope choking exports and hence funding can force Iran's leaders to agree to curbs on a nuclear program the West says is intended to yield weapons.

EU SEEKS TALKS

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said: "I want the pressure of these sanctions to result in negotiations."

"I want to see Iran come back to the table and either pick up all the ideas that we left on the table ... last year ... or to come forward with its own ideas."

Iran has said lately that it is willing to hold talks with Western powers, though there have been mixed signals on whether conditions imposed by either side make new negotiations likely.

The Islamic Republic insists it is enriching uranium only for electricity and other civilian uses.

It has powerful defenders against the Western action in the form of Russia and China, which argue that the new sanctions are unnecessary, and can also probably count on China and other Asian countries to go on buying much of its oil, despite U.S. and European efforts to dissuade them.

A member of Iran's influential Assembly of Experts, former intelligence minister

Ali Fallahian, said Tehran should respond to the delayed-action EU sanctions by stopping sales to the bloc immediately, denying the Europeans time to arrange alternative supplies and damaging their economies with higher oil prices.

"The best way is to stop exporting oil ourselves before the end of this six months and before the implementation of the plan," the semi-official Fars news agency quoted him as saying.

He also reiterated that Iran could close the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow channel between the Gulf and open sea through which a third of all oil tanker traffic passes to importers around the world.

Washington has said it will not tolerate any closure, a position underlined by Sunday's passage through the strait of a U.S. flotilla around the carrier Abraham Lincoln, accompanied by two European frigates, Britain's Argyll and France's La Motte-Picquet.

HORMUZ THREAT

While Iran's Revolutionary Guards, possibly aware of their impending arrival, had backed away on Saturday from a threat made by a vice president last month to prevent "even one drop of oil" passing through the strait if the West embargoed Iran's crude, a senior member of parliament said on Monday that the closure remained an option if exports were disrupted.

"If any disruption happens regarding the sale of Iranian oil, the Strait of Hormuz will definitely be closed," Mohammad Kossari, deputy head of parliament's foreign affairs and national security committee, told Fars.

While the Western powers were at pains to describe their naval movement through the strait as routine, a view echoed by the Revolutionary Guards, they also stressed its symbolism.

"On this occasion HMS Argyll and a French vessel joined a U.S. carrier group transiting through the Strait

of Hormuz, to underline the unwavering international commitment to maintaining rights of passage under international law," Britain's defense ministry said in a statement.

In Paris, spokesman Thierry Burkhard said: "It's a sign to Iran if they want to consider it like that."

Iran, the world's No. 5 oil exporter and also rich in natural gas, says it is enriching uranium and developing other nuclear technologies to meet rising energy needs. But the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency reported in November that it had evidence suggesting Iran had worked on designing an atomic bomb.

The unprecedented effort to take Iran's 2.6 million barrels of oil per day off international markets has kept global prices high, pushed down Iran's rial currency and caused a surge in the cost of basic goods for Iranians.

Justice Mahmud

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caretaker government system is not restored," acting secretary general of the party Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said yesterday at a discussion at the Diploma Engineers' Institution in the capital.

The government on Sunday formed the search committee following suggestions from the president.

The committee will recommend two persons for the post of chief election commissioner and two for each of the posts of election commissioners, according to a Cabinet Division circular earlier.

The committee was asked to send the names of the persons to the president within 10 working days after its formation.

In the light of the outcome of his talks with 24 political parties, the president on January 12 sent a letter to the Cabinet Division suggesting formation of a search committee after enacting a law in line with the constitution or through a gazette notification.

No room for bigots

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Some former senior officials, including ex-army chiefs, were present at the seminar, held at the Retired Armed Officers Welfare Association (Raowa) Club in the capital.

Referring to the latest developments in the army, Lt Gen Mainul said some religious bigots had tried to indoctrinate the pious officers in a planned manner. They were so clever that they had targeted the deeply religious officers as a way of carrying out their coup plot. He cautioned that these kinds of schemes must not be allowed to succeed.

In a rare press conference on Thursday, the army said it had foiled a "coup attempt to overthrow the present democratic government".

A band of religious fanatics, comprising mid-ranking officers and their retired colleagues, sought to "disrupt democracy by creating anarchy in the army through cashing in on the religious fervour of others".

In his address yesterday, Mainul said, "We all are pious, and the meaning of our secularism is [that] each and everyone will follow his or her own religion but no one will intervene in the religion of others."

But unfortunately, there are layers in the religion. Besides the pious ones, there are layers such as Dharma Praan, Dharma Parayan, Dharma Bhiru (pious, god-fearing) Dharmio Gorami (dogmatist), Dharmandho (zealots) and Dharma Baboshayee (someone who exploits religion for something sinister).

"In the army, we can accept Dharma Praan and Dharma Parayan, and if we can impart some knowledge to those who are Dharma Bhiru, they too can come along with the first two layers. But it's not fair to have space for Dharma Gora, Dharmandho and Dharma Baboshayee in the institution. The time has come to speak out about these and by saying

these [we] will have to keep the organisation on the right track," the chief of general staff said.

Those in the Dharma Baboshayee layer are so clever that they look for Dharmandho, Dharma Bhiru and Dharmio Gora so they can exploit their weaknesses, he continued. "They [Dharma Baboshayee] do not come to the Dharma Pran and Dharma Parayan."

Those who are Dharmio Gora, Dharmandho and Dharma Bhiru give way to persuasion easily and let themselves be used. They do not understand that they are being used and that is what happened during the plotting for the recent mutiny attempt in the army, he said.

Explaining his observations, Gen Mainul said it was like a smear campaign. When a young boy sprays paint on a wall, it is merely a game to him, but to the owner it is dirt that will cost him a good amount of money.

"So, the way they used the subject it seems it was like a Chehe Khela to them...like a video game."

"...at the end of the day it is something very big which probably many of them did not know...," he said.

All these aspects will have to be taken into consideration while formulating a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy for Bangladesh.

He said he had attended a good number of programmes on this subject, but he found none from the home ministry on each of the occasions. Counter terrorism is for the home ministry. Therefore, no initiative will bring about a result without the home ministry being involved.

He also said, "Today, we--- soldiers, diplomats and people from civil service --- are present here, but there is no news [no representatives] from the navy and the air force. Until he [one] understands there is a problem

about his [one's] security, he does not want to come."

A number of speakers there advised that the government form a National Security Council.

No media were invited to cover the seminar. Only ATN Bangla managed to be present there.

False report

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Akhteruzzaman yesterday appeared before the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim as per its order of January 12.

The doctor apologised profusely to the court saying he was mentally and physically ill when he made the report.

The court, however, exonerated Akhteruzzaman from personal appearance before it.

Following a report published in a Bangla daily, the court on January 12 issued a rule upon the government to explain why Akhteruzzaman should not be punished for making the false forensic report.

The newspaper report said the girl aged 13 years and one month, was raped on November 19 last year. The culprits also threatened to publish videos of the act on the Internet.

India worried

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affairs of Bangladesh", Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna told reporters in response to a question over the recent "attempted coup plot".

He said, "We have very good and strong relationship with Bangladesh and we are well wishers of Bangladesh. Recently, the relationship has been strengthened."

"We wish and that is our desire that there should be stable government in Bangladesh and I hope so", Krishna said.

Anti-Semitism 'deep-rooted' in German society

BBC ONLINE

Anti-Jewish feeling is "significantly" entrenched in German society, according to a report by experts appointed by the Bundestag (parliament).

They say the internet has played a key role in spreading Holocaust denial, far-right and extreme Islamist views, according to the DPA news agency.

They also speak of "a wider acceptance in mainstream society of day-to-day anti-Jewish tirades and actions".

The expert group, set up in 2009, is to report regularly on anti-Semitism.

The findings of their report, due to be presented yesterday, were that anti-Jewish sentiment was "based on widespread prejudice, deeply-rooted clichés and also on plain ignorance of Jews and Judaism".

They added that far-right slogans at football matches were a regular occurrence.

The report's authors put Germany midway in their assessment of other European countries in relation to the spread of anti-Semitism.

They see extremely high levels of anti-Jewish sentiment in parts of Poland, Hungary and Portugal.

Germany's Jewish population has experienced something of a revival since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Bus terminal

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Battalion-4, however, handed him over to Kafrul Police Station, Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of the police station, told The Daily Star.

Rab claimed that he had picked him up from Mirpur-14 area yesterday for loitering suspiciously, added the OC.

The terminals resumed normal operations at 10:00pm, mentioned terminal staff.

Earlier, workers at Fulbaria Bus Terminal parked buses haphazardly on the roads in Gulistan area between 11:00am and 1:00pm to protest the incident.

It created long tailbacks in Gulistan, Paltan, Motijheel and Old Dhaka areas.

The blockade ended after law enforcers assured the workers of tracing Selim.

BCL leader

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hit with two bullets only to be declared dead by doctors.

Saju's neighbour Rezaul Islam, 25, and caretaker of his house Mohammad Billal, 38, took treatment at DMCH for the wounds they suffered in the attack.

Rezaul told The Daily Star over cellphone that a band of seven to eight criminals around 8:00pm stormed a filed where Saju was playing badminton and threw a hand bomb.

"The criminals, all in monkey caps, first hurled a bomb and then rushed to Saju and started chopping him indiscriminately," said Rezaul who suffered injuries in the bomb attack.

The criminals stabbed Billal in the hand as he tried to save Saju.

Saju fell to the ground and begged