

They did it for money

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However, leader of the 10-member kidnapping gang Ameer Hossain alias Langra Ameer, a listed criminal active in Old Dhaka and Keraniganj, is still at large along with his accomplices Al Amin and Akash, law enforcers say.

Ameer is a close friend of Juba League President Aminul Islam Jewel of Shubhadda union in Keraniganj and Chhatra League leader Sajedur Rahman Saju of Jurain.

Law enforcers suspect the two political leaders might have some roles in the abduction.

Of the seven, six persons including two students were arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion. Both youths were present with motorbikes on the spot during the abduction.

The six persons are: Zahidul Hasan, 18, an HSC student of Dania College in Shonir Akhra, Mohammad Ali Rifat, 19, an aeronautical engineering student at a private institute in Uttara; Kala Chand, 30, now a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver; Abul Kashem, 35, brother-in-law of Ameer, and Rizvi Ahmed Onik, 18, and Alfaz Hossain alias Masud, 18, friends of the two students.

They were paraded before the media at the Rab headquarters in Uttara yesterday afternoon.

The Keraniganj police arrested Mamun Miah, 43, of Shuvadya Purba Gram, from Munshiganj. He is also brother-in-law of Ameer.

Rab officials said Zahid and Rifat had participated in the abduction while Kala Chand acted as a spy to keep track of the movements of Parag and his family members from around their house before the incident.

Kashem, Rizvi and Alfaz had sheltered the kidnappers at their residences and kept them informed about the presence of law enforcers.

Son of businessman Bimol Mondol, Parag was abducted on November 11 and he was found three days later from Atibazar, two kilometres off the boy's residence.

Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, director of Rab's Intelligence Wing, said Parag's family paid a ransom of Tk 50 lakh in cash for his release.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

At the press briefing, all the six claimed they became involved in the kidnap for money but do not know the amount of the ransom.

Describing his part in the crime, Zahid said he along with Rifat was present on the spot with his motorbike.

Ameer and Al Amin had opened fire on Parag's mother, sister and car driver as the latter tried to resist the kidnapping.

"After the shooting, Ameer, Al Amin and Akash sped away with Parag while I and Rifat returned to our localities," he added.

According to Zahid and Rifat, Ameer had a feud with Parag's father. He hired

them, saying Parag's father had bought his land and was not paying up.

Both youths claimed they were unaware of the abduction plan.

Rifat added, "My father is a CNG driver and I was facing difficulties in financing my studies. I agreed to help Ameer because he proposed to give me Tk 18,000 every month for the studies."

They knew Ameer through local Chhatra League leader Shajedur Rahman Saju.

Zahid, however, said he just went there to help Ameer recover the so-called money Parag's father was not paying up.

Kala Chand told the press, "I was just appointed around a month ago to keep an eye on Parag and his family members."

"I was promised a reward of Tk five lakhs with which I planned to buy an auto-rickshaw," said Kala Chand, adding that he had not received any money yet.

His family members told The Daily Star that he had been working for Bimol Mondol's battery factory at Tantibazar for eight years till 2009. Later, he started driving auto-rickshaw to earn a living.

These three suspects said they did not know where the boy was hidden after the abduction.

Ameer's brother-in-law Kashem claimed he first came to know about the incident when Zahid, Rifat and another youth had gone to his Bhakurta house in Basila to look for Ameer.

Onik and Alfaz claimed innocence and said they came to know about the abduction from Zahid and Rifat.

Rab is now trying to arrest Ameer, who resumed criminal activities after coming out on bail recently, his associates, Commander M Sohal of the elite crime buster said at the briefing.
MAMUN ON REMAND
Meanwhile, Mamun Mia, brother of Ameer's first wife Eti, was placed on a seven day-remand. Eti, picked up on Sunday and later released, provided detectives with information about the suspects.

Mamun, arrested in Nimtoli of Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj, was produced before a Dhaka court with a 10-day remand prayer. The court granted seven days, Shakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of South Keraniganj, said.

Police sources said apart from criminal activities, both Ameer and Mamun were engaged in sewing machine business.

"During the interrogation, Mamun said they planned the abduction to arrange a large investment," said an official of Detective Branch-South.

Sanwar Hossain, senior assistant commissioner of DB-South, said they had information that Ameer and Mamun contacted one

another before and after the abduction.

Contacted, both DB official Sanowar Hossain and OC Sakhawat Hossain said they were yet to be sure whether the six persons detained by Rab were really involved in the abduction and shooting as the arrestees were yet to be handed over to police.

The police and DB officials claim they have no information about the payment of ransom.

They said police asked the criminals through Eti to return Parag. Eti called the gang and said if anything happens to the boy, the police will kill her and her son.

Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to take proper steps ensuring security of Parag and his family, reports BSS.

A two-judge bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury and Justice Farid Ahmed issued the order responding to a writ petition filed by Nazim Ahmed, editor of weekly Saptabarna.

SEC asks

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board meeting.

The DSE at a board meeting on November 8 discussed about the IPO (initial public offering) prospectus of Orion Pharma, which had received regulatory approval from the SEC on October 16 for raising Tk 240 from public.

The Premier bourse also made some observations on the Orion Pharma IPO and sent the observations to the SEC on November 13. The DSE in its observations said it did not get adequate time to analyse the Orion Pharma IPO.

However, the SEC in the show-cause letter said Orion Pharma's IPO prospectus was submitted to the commission and the twin stock exchanges on April 29 and approved by the regulator after five and a half months.

Five months is an enough period for doing analysis on any company's IPO prospectus, said the SEC letter, signed by SEC Director Mohammad Rezaul Karim.

The DSE has no authority to make observations on an approved IPO or the observations do not have effectiveness, the market watchdog said in the letter.

Moreover, media reports were published based on the DSE observations on Orion Pharma IPO before sending the observations to the SEC by the bourse.

It was completely unexpected, and it may create confusion among the general investors over the Orion Pharma IPO, according to the SEC letter.

As per the IPO plan, Orion Pharma will float four crore ordinary shares of Tk 10 each at an offer price of Tk 60, including a premium of Tk 50.

The subscription of the Orion Pharma IPO will start on January 6 next year.

PM, Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1
friendship will translate into deeper involvement in future."

The AL always admires the CPC's efforts to shape China, with the world's largest population, as a global leader, said Sheikh Hasina.

The 18th National Congress of the CPC is significant in its election of excellent leaders to steer China to greater heights, and to strengthen the existing ties between the two countries, she added.

She expressed her thanks to China for its support for and cooperation with Bangladesh.

"I am confident that under your wise and able leadership the same [support and cooperation] would continue with even more vigour. I also wish you good health, a long life and success in all your noble endeavours."

In separate message, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said Xi Jinping's election is a true expression of the trust that the people of China have in him. "You bring with you great experience and proven wisdom."

She, on behalf of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), conveyed to him her "most sincere and heartfelt felicitations" on his "assumption of this very important office".

The BNP chief said China has continued to make substantial progress under the leadership of the Communist Party since the birth of the People's Republic of China in 1949. "Today, China stands tall as a strong and stable nation."

The assistance and cooperation of the government of China for the socio-economic and infrastructure development of Bangladesh over the last three decades is a testimony to the depth of relations between the two nations, she added.

Khaleda wished Jinping good health and the people of China greater progress and prosperity.

D-8 meeting

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yesterday.

The premier's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi will represent her at the summit, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said.

"The prime minister had been very much looking forward to visiting Islamabad to attend the meeting of D-8 of which she was one of the founder members."

"But she has had to cancel her plan because of a conflict in her schedule," he said.

Azad further said that the premier had a previous commitment to attend the Armed Forces Day celebrations in Dhaka on November 21.

And that is why it would be impossible for her to reach Islamabad for the summit the following morning, he added.

The D-8 (Developing 8) countries comprise Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Iran, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Indonesia and Malaysia. The second summit of the group was held in Bangladesh in March, 1999.

Launching

FROM PAGE 1
Sobhan, Dr Kamal Hossain, Prothom Alo Editor Matur Rahman and Prof Mesbah Kamal will discuss the book.

In his autobiography, Nayar narrates his eyewitness accounts of the various important events of the sub-continent, including the adoption of Pakistan resolution in Lahore in 1940, the partition of the sub-continent in 1947 and the birth of Bangladesh.

The book will be available at the Hay Festival at Bangla Academy and also at book stores including Prothoma, Book Worm, Pathok Samabhes, Sagar Publishers, Gyankosh and Words n' Pages. Readers can also buy the book from The Daily Star office at a discount.

Daily Star Books will bring out quality books from authors around the world under arrangement with foreign publishing houses. The Bangladesh editions of these books will be more affordable than the foreign editions.

Hay Festival opens in city

FROM PAGE 20
The contemporary interpretation of Bangla classics and the nuanced translations of the most treasured verses of Bangla literature were an indication of the overall vision of this year's Hay Festival: to add another dimension to Bangla art and culture.

Some 100 eminent Bangladeshi and 30 international writers will be engaged in 30 panels to exchange ideas and share their works and journey to the world of literature.

Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman, president of Bangla Academy, said the academy joined the festival to make Bangladeshi literature known beyond the confines of its borders.

AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, also spoke on the occasion.

Celebrated writers Philip Hensher, Selina Hossain and Mohammad Hanif and publisher of HarperCollins in India VK Karthika shared the stage to talk about the literary works that changed their lives and ways of thinking.

Peter Florence, director of Hay Festival, said it was really exciting to share stories, dreams, aspirations and experiences of people irrespective of race, class, nationality, gender and sexual orientation.

"We come to celebrate writers who imagine the world not only how it is, but how it might be," he said. "We get the extraordinary opportunity to imagine humanity and find out how much of it is shared."

Prominent writer Vikram Seth remembered the sorrow and sacrifice with which Bangladesh was born. "One of the major sources of that sacrifice was language, which is why it is particularly significant, of course, why the second Hay Festival is being held here, in these grounds, in Bangla Academy," said Seth in his welcome speech.

Following the welcome speeches, the *Kichhapala of Soyfulmuluk-Bodiuzzaman*, a popular piece of folk drama from Mymensingh, performed by Islamuddin

HAY FESTIVAL DHAKA 2012 TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

10:00am: CONSPIRACIES (Main Stage) Anis Ahmed and Mohammed Hanif talk to Sameer Rahim.

10:45am: TALES OF LIBERATION (Main Stage) Philip Hensher, Kamila Shamsie and Anisul Hoque talk about the Bangladesh Liberation War. To be moderated by Tahmima Anam.

11:00am: ACROSS THE BORDER (On the lawn) Kolkata poets Gautam Chaudhury and Probhal Kumar Boshu recite their verses along with Oriyan poet Sitakant Mahapatra.

11:45am: DEBUT DIRECTORS (Main Stage) Celebrated actress and director Nandita Das and producer Catherine Masud discuss their first feature films, Firaq and Matir Moina. To be moderated by Sharbari Zohra Ahmed.

12:30pm: NARIR LEKHA, NARIR DEKHA (Main Stage) Four Bangla novelists Selina Hossain, Umme Muslima, Masuda Bhatti and Anwara Syed Haq discuss their works. To be moderated by Shahnaz Munni.

2:00pm: CHINAMAN (KK Tea Auditorium) 2012 Commonwealth Book Prize winner Shehan Karunatilaka in conversation with Fakrul Alam.

2:45pm: VIKRAM SETH (Main Stage) The beloved author of A Suitable Boy talks about his life and works with publisher and novelist David David.

3:45pm: TWO GIANTS (Main Stage) Fakrul Alam, Rafiqul Islam and Sitakant Mahapatra discuss the two iconic figures of Bangla literature, Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam.

5:45pm: LAUREATES (Main Stage) Syed Shamsul Haq discusses his body of work with National Poet of Wales, Gillian Clarke. To be moderated by Kaiser Haq.

6:30pm: KULDIP NAYAR (Main Stage) Kuldip Nayar, veteran Indian journalist, columnist, human rights activist and author, noted for his long career as a left-wing political commentator. His memoir, Beyond the Lines, is newly published in Dhaka. Panel discussion moderated by Mahfuz Anam. Beyond the Lines is the debut publication of the Daily Star's new publishing venture, Daily Star Books.

enthralled the Dhaka audience. The *Kichhapala*, which forms part of a long tradition of oral history dating back to the 16th century, featured folkdance and music.

Highlighting Bangla Academy's involvement with the Hay Festival, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said in his closing speech: "The Bangla Academy should not just promote Bangla literature amongst people who speak and know Bangla; it is also its responsibility to spread and popularise our literature across the globe."

"Writers create the fundamental link between one human being and another that we all aspire to do but fail to do. And the writers do it for us," he added.

Rosemary Arnott, director of British Council, the global partner for Hay Festival, said, "The rebel poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam, once proclaimed, 'Even though I was born in this country and in this society, I don't belong to just this country, this society, I belong to the world,' and that is such a true saying for the second Hay Festival in Dhaka."

Throughout the inaugural event, the speakers reiterated the need for translating the Bangladeshi literary works.

This year's festival aims to showcase the diversity of Bangladeshi literature and culture, highlighting not just Bangladeshi writers who write in English but also those writing in Bangla.

I trained to be a freedom fighter

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against him.

The assistant secretary general of the party added that he had left Dhaka on March 11 or 12 in 1971 for his village and spent the rest of the year and almost the entire 1972 running a shop there.

According to the charges framed against him, the Jamaat leader had actively taken part in the killing of at least 381 unarmed people in Mirpur of Dhaka and Keraniganj areas in six separate incidents between March 26 and November 25 of 1971.

At least three prosecution witnesses - Shafiuddin Mollah, Amir Hossain Mollah and Abdul Majid Palowan - testified that they had seen Quader Mollah with a rifle in his hand directly taking part in the killing of Bangladeshes.

During his around one-and-a-half-hour testimony, the accused said he had passed his matriculation examination in 1964 and intermediate exams from Faridpur Rajendra College in 1966 and BSc from the same college in 1968.

"I enrolled on MSc in physics at Dhaka University in December 1969 and was a residential student of Dr Mohammad Shahidullah Hall," said Quader Mollah, adding that he had worked as a teacher for one year before his enrolment at Dhaka University.

According to the charge-framing order, Mollah, then president of Dhaka University's Shahidullah Hall unit Islami Chhatra Sangha, then student wing of Jamaat, organised the formation of Al-Badr with the members of the student body in 1971.

Al-Badr, an anti-liberation force, collaborated with the Pakistani army in committing crimes against humanity and genocide, especially killing the intellectuals at the fag end of the war, according to the prosecution documents.

He said he had an exami-

nation on March 12-13 but the exam was postponed following the historic March 7 speech of "founder of the nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman".

He claimed he had left Dhaka for his village on March 11 or 12 following the advice of the chairman of his department, adding that students who had returned to the village used to meet at Amirabad High School ground every day.

He added following a call from a retired "JCO", whose name he said could be Mofizur Rahman, a number of university, college and high school students had assembled there.

"Mofizur Rahman said he would train us for war and for this purpose, he collected some dummy rifles," said Mollah, adding, "He said the political problem might not be solved and we have to take preparation."

"On that evening, as per his advice, around 30 to 40 students assembled and after taking preliminary tests, he selected almost all of us. From that day, we started PT [physical training] and parade," Mollah claimed.

Their training was postponed when the Pakistani army arrived in Faridpur on April 30 or May 1, said the Jamaat leader. It resumed a few days later but again stopped after the Pakistani army had marched towards Barisal from Faridpur.

During his stay at home, Mollah used to visit the house of Moulavi Mohammad Ishak alias Dhala Mia Pir and give private tuition to his two daughters, said the accused. Ishak gave him some money to run a business at Ishak shop at Choddarashi Bazar formally known as Sare Satrashi Bazar, he added.

"During the rest of 1971 and almost the entire 1972 I used to go to the market on Saturdays and Tuesdays and sit at Pir Saheb's market shop and run the business,"

Mollah continued.

Mollah's statement contradicts with his earlier speech he made before the tribunal on May 28 after the charge-framing order of the case.

On that day, Mollah said he had left Dhaka on March 12 or 13 and returned to Dhaka once in July for some 15 days to take part in an examination.

Mollah yesterday said he had communication with Faridpur Awami League leaders Mosharraf Hossain and Shahjahan Talukder in 1971.

Around noon, the three-member tribunal headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam, adjourned the case proceeding till 2:00pm as Mollah felt unwell.

Later, the tribunal adjourned the case proceeding until Sunday as the accused did not recover.

Mollah is expected to give the rest of his testimony on Sunday.

On May 28, the tribunal framed six charges against Mollah for his alleged involvement in murders and mass killings during the war.

CABLE REPAIR

Internet to be slow in next 4 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Internet users in the country would face slow service for four days due to repairs being done to the submarine cable near Thailand and Malaysia.

Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Ltd officials said connections through Singapore would face disruption but the European channels would be trouble free.

The repair work of the cable would start this morning, they said.

Alal freed on bail

UNB, Dhaka

Juba Dal President Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal was released on bail from Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

Leaders and activists of the youth wing of BNP received Alal with garlands after he came out of the prison around 11:45am. They chanted various slogans.

Earlier on October 2, the pro-opposition activists clashed with law enforcers in Naya Paltan and Kakrail areas and set fire to two vehicles when news spread that ruling party men foiled an opposition rally in Netrakona.

Police arrested Alal from near the party's central office on the following day in connection with the violence.

Later, a Dhaka court sent him on a two-day remand.

The law enforcers filed three cases against over 500 pro-opposition leaders and activists, including Alal, with Paltan and Ramna police stations in connection with the incident.

The Juba Dal president had recently secured bails from the High Court in the cases.

4 hurt as JCD men clash at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

Four activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal unit of Chittagong University (CU) were injured in a clash between two groups over internal feud on the university campus in the port city yesterday.

The injured activists are CU Chhatra Dal President Aminul Islam Touhid, 30; Abdullah Al Noman, 23; Rupok Mia, 24, a Masters student of Political Science department and Pavel Sheikh, 24, Masters student of Accounting and Information Systems. They were given first aid at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Saifuddin Salam Mithu, CU Chaatra Dal general secretary, said a group led by Nur Huda Sohel, former deputy publication secretary, made the attack when they were at a meeting in front of CU School and College campus around 3:30pm.

However, Sohel denied his involvement in the attack.

MKA rejects

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those do not hesitate to attack the country's law minister without any reason, what is the use of dialogues with them?

"Let us crush them first then other issues can come up," he said after a meeting with US Under Secretary of State Maria Otero and US Ambassador Dan W Mozena at his office.

Earlier, a statement of the US embassy yesterday expressed concern at the recent violence across Bangladesh and urged for dialogue for resolving differences.

"The ability to engage in peaceful protest is a fundamental democratic right; there is no justification for the resort to violence. We believe dialogue is the best means for resolving differences," it said.

Ashura

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Committee at the Islamic Foundation conference room with its Director General Shamim Mohammad Afzal in the chair, said a PID handout.

Mohammad Bajlur Rahman, joint secretary of the information ministry, Hasan Jahangir Alam, joint secretary of the religious affairs ministry, Khatib of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Maulana M Salah Uddin, among others, were present.

Ashura is observed on the 10th Muharram to commemorate the Karbala tragedy in which Hazrat Imam Hossain (RA) along with his family members and followers embraced martyrdom.

The day is a public holiday.