

Govt to confiscate



Lt Col Khandaker Abdur Rashid



Lt Col Shariful Haque Dalim



Lt Col SHMB Nur Chowdhury



Lt Col AM Rashed Chowdhury



Capt Abdul Mazed



Risaldar Moslehuddin Khan

FROM PAGE 1
Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star after the meeting at his secretariat office. Their properties could have been confiscated during the trial in accordance with the law, but no decision was then made to this end, he added. The minister, however, would not reply to a query as to why the government was so late to decide on the matter. In 2009, the Supreme Court upheld the death penalty of 12 killers, including the six fugitives. Of the 12, Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Bazlul Huda, AKM

Mohiuddin Ahmed, Mohiuddin Ahmed were executed on January, 27, 2010. Another convict, Aziz Pasha, died in Zimbabwe in 2001. The trial began in a Dhaka court in 1997. A top official present at yesterday's meeting said the government would find out their properties through the sub-registrars offices. The law minister told reporters that the government had decided to request the Bangladesh missions and the governments of the countries where the convicted killers are suspected to be hiding not to issue any

Main culprit

FROM PAGE 1
However, there has been confusion over the arrests as Dhaka Metropolitan Police denied arresting Ameer or his close aide Al-Amin. The Keraniganj police also declined to comment on the arrests.

A DB team raided the house of Khalil Mondol at about 10:30 pm in Goaland terminal area where Ameer and his right-hand man Al-Amin had been holed up, said the sources.

The DB men arrested the two suspects and seized the motorbike they had used during the kidnapping on November 11.

Sub-inspector Monirul Huq, investigation officer of the case filed in connection with the abduction, accompanied the DB team.

Both the suspects have been brought to Dhaka for questioning.

Sources said the suspects, who had fired shots at Parag's mother, sister and their driver during the abduction, had probably taken shelter in Khalil's house a couple of days ago.

The sources, however, could not say how Khalil was connected with the suspects.

Soon after the police operation, a Rab team raided the area to arrest Ameer but learnt that DB police had already detained him.

Rejecting the news of the arrests, DMP Deputy Commissioner (Media and Public Relations) Masudur Rahman said, "The news of Ameer's arrest is not true."

DB police and Rab had earlier contradicted each other over payment of ransom for freeing the kidnapped boy. Rab had claimed that Parag was freed after paying a ransom of Tk 50 lakh, while police said Parag was freed as they put pressure on the kidnapers' family members.

Doulatdia Union Parishad Chairman Nurul Islam Mondol said he had knowledge that police arrested two youths from Khalil's house at Mondolpara.

Mohammad Abul Basher, officer-in-charge of Goaland Police Station, told The Daily Star over the phone that both Rab and DB police had sought support from his station on Tuesday night.

"I am not sure whether they arrested anyone from my area. DB police arrived at Goaland Tuesday evening

and left the area early today after a drive."

Confirming the arrests, a top police officer in Rajbari said, "Apart from arresting the two suspects, the law enforcers seized the motorbike they used for kidnapping the minor boy."

Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, director of Rab's Legal and Media Wing, said, "On information, one of our teams from Faridpur went to Goaland to arrest the abductors. But police had already picked up a person named Al Amin before the Rab team reached there."

Armed criminals abducted Parag, son of Bimol Mondol, shooting his mother, sister and their driver near their house in Shubhadda Paschimpara while they were about to board their car for going to school on November 11 morning.

Three days after the abduction, the criminals left the boy at Atibazar in Keraniganj about two kilometres away from his house.

PARAG RETURNS HOME
A week after Parag was freed, he left the capital's Square Hospitals, where he had been undergoing treatment, and returned home yesterday afternoon.

Parag and his mother Lipi Rani Mondol left the hospital under police escort around 2:30pm and returned home by minibus around 3:00pm, said Parag's uncle Pradeep Kumar Dutta.

During the departure, Lipi said, "I am at a loss for words. I thank the media, the prime minister and the people of the country from the core of my heart."

Parag was admitted to the hospital soon after he was found abandoned by his abductors in the early hours of November 14.

The child was hit in the head by a pistol butt when he was abducted. During his confinement, he was injected with sedatives.

His mother was first admitted to a hospital in the capital with gunshot wounds in the chest and the leg. She was shifted to Square Hospitals a day after Parag was admitted there.

"Police have been deployed at Parag's house for his security and his family's," said Parag's uncle.

With the media rushing after Parag, hundreds of people thronged his house to take a glance at him.

JCD'S HARTAL Six houses torched in Rangamati

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangamati**

The dawn-to-dusk hartal called to protest the killing of two leaders of pro-BNP student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) ended in the district yesterday.

Despite the hartal being in force, all kind of vehicles were on the road while businesses were functional too. No one even brought out any procession or organised meetings during the day.

However, six houses including those of Uijanu Marma -- the alleged mastermind in the killing of two JCD men -- and her relatives were burnt down by the victims' family members around 10:00am at Sonaichhari village in Betbungia union under Kawkhali upazila.

Paiching Marma, father of deceased Ching Khai Mong Marma, yesterday filed a murder case with Kawkhali Police Station at 4:00pm accusing 21 persons including Uijanu, said Shayamol Kanti Barua, officer in-charge of the station.

Police arrested Uijanu, a wine maker and seller, from her house yesterday. All the other accused are relatives of Uijanu, said Kawkhali police.

"It's [killing] not an incident between the Awami League and the BNP. It was completely a family conflict," said the OC.

The hartal supporters could not bring out processions in the town as police barred them from doing so, said Abu Sahadat Sayem, president of JCD's district unit.

Paithui Marma, 21, and Ching Khai Mong Marma, 20, were beaten up by Uijanu and her relatives on Sunday night after an altercation over repaying arrears. The duo went to her house to take liquor.

The victims succumbed to their injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital on Tuesday night.

They used to go to the house of Uijanu everyday to take liquor and they had a big outstanding bill to pay back. "The brawl ensued when Uijanu asked them to pay the arrears," said the OC.

Jamaat seeks 2 more months for amending party charter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday sought two months from the Election Commission (EC) for making necessary amendments to its constitution in order to retain its registration.

Earlier, on November 4, the EC sent a letter to Jamaat asking it to submit by December 5, its amended constitution.

The letter addressed to Jamaat's secretary general was pointed out some provisions in the party's charter which do not conform to the country's constitution and Representation of the People Order (RPO).

"The EC will hold a meeting to decide whether it will give time to Jamaat," Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad told reporters at the EC Secretariat premises.

The RPO clearly stipulates that a political party will be disqualified from getting registered if any provision in its charter contradicts the country's constitution and the RPO.

Moreover, registration with the EC is a prerequisite for any political party to contest the parliamentary polls.

Jamaat registered with the EC before the parliamentary polls on December 29, 2008 after bringing some provisional changes to its constitution.

It was supposed to submit its final amended constitution by January 24, 2010 but Jamaat did not respond, in spite of being asked again in April, 2010.

The EC gave Jamaat a fresh time frame this year though its deadline expired around three years ago.



Critically injured Takim at the emergency section of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital before he was taken to the operation theatre last night.

PHOTO: STAR

Shibir men

FROM PAGE 1

AKM Tawhid Alam Akheruzzaman alias Takim, former vice president of RU unit BCL who had brandished firearms during October 2 violence on the campus.

Witnesses said six unidentified youths appearing on two motorbikes had attacked Takim when he was with two friends was passing by Khaleda Zia Hall.

The youths hit Takim on the head with a hammer and stabbed his left arm and cut the tendon of his left leg when he fell on the ground, said witnesses, adding that the attackers left the scene chanting "Allahu Akbar".

On-duty police and students rescued and rushed Takim to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Takim is now in the Intensive Care Unit after hours of surgeries.

"He sustained a grievous injury to the head and lost a huge amount of blood. He is now unconscious and in a critical condition," said Ekramullah, head of surgery department at RMCH.

Ahmed Ali, president of RU unit BCL, blamed Islamic Chhatra Shibir for the attack.

"Our activists have identified some of the attackers as Shibir cadres. Besides, the nature of the attack is typical of Shibir," he said.

About an hour after the attack on Takim, BCL activists of the city attacked Jamaat-run Retina Medical and Dental Coaching Centre in the city's Bosepara area.

They broke into the two-storey coaching centre, damaged furniture and documents and set fire to those.

Later, they tried to break into Islamic Bank Hospital in Laxmipur area, but failed as employees had locked the main entrance.

Agitated BCL men then torched a motorcycle parked in front of the hospital and damaged some roadside shops owned by Jamaat men.

RU sources said BCL activists held a procession on the campus around 11:00pm. Several gunshots were heard and a cocktail (homemade bomb) was blasted in front of Madar Bux Hall during the time.

Meanwhile, top leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student wing Islamic Chhatra Shibir could not be

reached over the phone. However, political affairs secretary of Rajshahi city unit Jamaat denied the allegation of Shibir involvement in the attack on Takim.

"It may have been an act of miscreants or result of BCL infighting," he told The Daily Star.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner SM Moniruzzaman said the situation on the campus was under control and that police had been deployed there and in different city points.

TAKIM'S PROFILE
Takim got admitted to the philosophy department at RU in 2007-08 sessions. He was not allowed to sit for the first-year final examination due to poor attendance. In 2010, his studentship was cancelled for not attending required number of classes in two years.

In spite of this, Takim was made the vice president of RU unit BCL in June 2011. On July 16 this year, he was expelled from the party due to his alleged involvement in the killing of BCL's Bangla Hall unit joint convener Abdullah Al Hasan. Takim hit newspaper headlines when he brandished firearms during a Shibir-BCL clash on the campus on October 2. He sustained an injury in his hand during the clash.

Media
FROM PAGE 20
Bangladeshis," said Chowdhury.

On November 10, The Daily Star ran a report where Sen, via an e-mail, refuted an attribution made by Finance Minister AMA Muhiith over a comment on another Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

In the e-mail, Sen shared points of conversation with Muhiith at the VIP lounge of Bangkok Airport last month.

In the discussion, Sen praised Bangladesh's rapid progress on economic and social matters in recent years, but, he felt, the country's achievements did not get the acknowledgement in the world media that it deserves.

Sen said the treatment of Yunus, and its interpretation in the outside world, might have been overshadowing Bangladesh's stellar achievements -- in the western media.

Chowdhury read out some points of Sen's statement, published in The Daily Star in full.

"We have done extremely well. We have done better than most countries in the world by overcoming challenges such as floods and disasters. We can take pride in it," the adviser said.

He cited investment inflows from China, rising remittance and the country's progress in education, health and poverty reduction in this regard.

But the local media does not highlight these achievements, Chowdhury alleged.

"Government criticism is one thing. But who else will do if we do not portray our country," he asked.

"Criticise us, my weaknesses and mistakes, at the same time, showcase the country. If our media do not do it, who will give the big picture of Bangladesh," Chowdhury said.

Citing the former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's famous 'basket case' comment, he said: "We had to take four decades to prove it wrong."

Gaza truce agreed

FROM PAGE 1

could be heard throughout the Gaza Strip, and residents also released fireworks into the night sky, where Israeli drones could still be heard buzzing overhead.

"The resistance has triumphed," some shouted, alongside chants of "God is greatest."

Foreign Minister Mohammed Kamel Amr of Egypt, which brokered the ceasefire in days of marathon talks, announced the cessation of hostilities at a joint news conference in Cairo with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The accord, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, calls on Israel to "stop all hostilities... in the land, sea and air including incursions and targeting of individuals" and urges the Palestinian factions to end "rocket attacks and all attacks along the border".

If it holds, within 24 hours, Israel would be required to start implementing procedures to open Gaza's border crossings and allow the movement of people and goods.

"This is a critical moment for the region," Hillary said. "In the days ahead, the United States will work with partners in the region to consolidate this progress."

Nearly 24 hours after a truce had been expected to

take hold, and after a day of violence that killed another 18 Palestinians, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he was prepared to give peace a chance.

"Netanyahu spoke with (US) President Barack Obama and agreed to his recommendation to give a chance to an Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire and thereby give an opportunity for the stabilisation of the situation and a calming of it," said a statement.

The agreement came after a day of shuttle diplomacy -- led by Hillary and UN chief Ban Ki-moon -- which was marred by more deadly cross-border violence between Israel and militants in Gaza.

Ban Ki-moon welcomed the truce but said that details of the deal still need to be ironed out.

"We are encouraged and relieved that they have reached this ceasefire," Ban told reporters after meeting with King Abdullah II hours after he flew to Jordan after engaging in shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Ramallah aimed at bolstering the peace efforts.

Hopes for a truce appeared to have been faint just hours earlier as a blast tore through a bus in Tel Aviv and Israel hit back with deadly raids on Gaza City and elsewhere in the coastal Palestinian territory.

The blast, which injured 17 people, occurred very close to the Israeli defence ministry and was quickly denounced by Netanyahu's spokesman, who tweeted: "This was a terrorist attack".

Condemnation poured in, with Washington branding it "outrageous," Moscow denouncing it as a "criminal," and France and Germany calling for an urgent and lasting ceasefire in Gaza.

Soon after, another six Palestinians were killed in air strikes on Gaza City.

One of the strikes hit the tower housing AFP's offices, killing a toddler in a neighbouring building, a health ministry spokesman said. No AFP journalists were inside at the time.

Another air strike shortly afterwards on central Gaza killed a four-year-old girl, medics said.

Israel launched its offensive on November 14 with the targeted killing of a Hamas military chief, hitting more than 1,500 targets. At least 155 Palestinians have been killed, and five Israelis have died.

Gaza militants fired more than 1,500 rockets at the Jewish state, killing three people and injuring dozens, and Israel's vaunted Iron Dome anti-missile system intercepted more than 420 of them.

voiced dismay over the slow pace of the trial and asked Pakistan to bring the masterminds to book.

Sindh said the Indian High Commission in Islamabad informed Kasab's family of the execution.

As many as 166 people had been killed in the terrorist attack, said Maharashtra Home Minister RR Patil.

"I sincerely believe that this [the execution] is a tribute to all the innocent people and the officers who lost their lives."

India's main opposition BJP welcomed the execution.

"Better late than never. Kasab's hanging will act as a balm on the wounds of the people of Mumbai but their wounds are still fresh. They will get relief only when Kasab's handlers across the border are brought to justice," said BJP spokesperson Shah Nawaz Hussain.

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End to AIDS

FROM PAGE 20

newly infected with the disease, which can be transmitted by blood and by semen during sex, is falling. At 2.5 million, the number of new infections in 2011 was 20 percent lower than in 2001.

Deaths from AIDS fell to 1.7 million in 2011, down from a peak of 2.3 million in 2005 and from 1.8 million in 2010.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the most severely affected region with almost one in every 20 adults infected, nearly 25 times the rate in Asia, there are also almost 5 million people with HIV in South, South-East and East Asia combined.

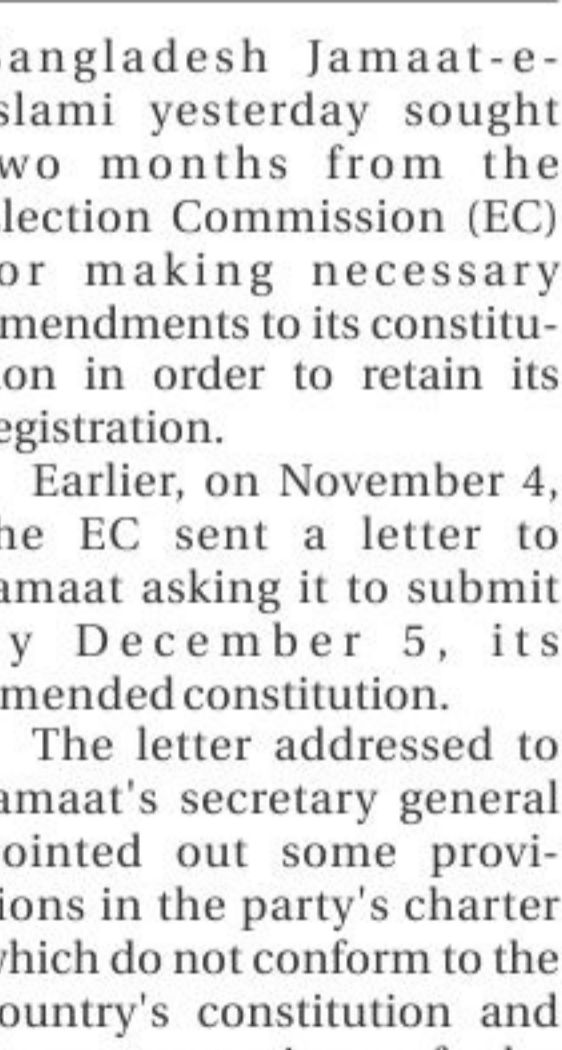
"Although AIDS remains one of the world's most serious health challenges, global solidarity in the AIDS response during the past decade continues to generate extraordinary health gains," the report said.

It said this was due to "historic success" in bringing HIV programs to scale, combined with the emergence of new combination drugs to prevent people from becoming HIV infected and from dying from AIDS.

Since 1995, AIDS drug treatment - known as antiretroviral therapy - has saved 14 million life-years in poorer countries, including 9 million in sub-Saharan Africa, the report said.

Bimol Mondol carries his son Parag out of Square Hospitals yesterday, as the boy along with his mother Lipi, in the wheelchair, has been released. Kidnappers had recently taken away Parag shooting his mother in the process. He was recovered on November 14.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



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PHOTO: STAR

Kasab hanged

FROM PAGE 1

Kasab, 25, the one of the attackers captured alive, was hanged at 7:30am in Pune's Yerawada jail, Indian Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde told the media. He was buried inside the jail complex.

The execution came after President Pranab Mukherjee turned down Kasab's mercy petition on November 5.

On the night of November 26, 2008, the terrorists armed with automatic weapons sneaked into Mumbai on a boat and launched a well-coordinated attack on multiple targets in the city, including the iconic Taj Hotel.

They continued the mayhem for three days before Indian security forces eliminated nine of them and arrested Kasab.

The abiding image of Kasab, strapping with ammunition and holding a Kalashnikov rifle, was captured

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