

Martyr's daughter

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against humanity, including genocide, murder of Bangalee civilians, and of burying people alive.

Beauty Khanam, the daughter of subedar major of East Pakistan Rifles Jabbal Hossain, gave a heart wrenching description on how her father was taken away on Alim's order and her family members' efforts to have him released.

Her mother, one brother and husband went to the Joypurhat Shanti Committee office at least six days to know the whereabouts of her father and to have him released, emotion-choked Beauty said.

"I want justice for my father's killing," said Beauty, the eighth prosecution witness.

On November 19, Golam Rasul, husband of Beauty, also narrated the same incident and give a similar description.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam recorded Beauty's testimony before adjourning the case proceeding until December 5 when she would face cross-examination.

During her 54-minute testimony from Panchbibbi said she was a class-IX student in 1971 and was 15-16 years old.

She said her father Jabbal Hossain, a subedar major of East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) in Chittagong, attacked the Pakistani army and opened the EPR arsenal for Bangalee EPR men during the war.

He was injured as the Pakistani army opened fire, said Beauty.

In the first week of May, 1971, two armed force's men brought her injured father and his family members to her in-law's home in Dhurail of Panchbibbi.

Feeling insecure, her father, mother and other family members including Beauty moved to the home of Najimuddin in the neighbouring village of Fiska Para, she said.

She said, "Razakar Alamuddin was living beside Fiska Para. Getting information about my father's presence at Najimuddin's home, he informed Joypurhat subdivision Shanti Committee chairman and Razakar commander Abdul Alim.

"And on the order of

Tarique

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leader of the country's 16 crore people. His birthday is being celebrated across the country as well as abroad," he told a procession before the party headquarters in the capital's Nayapalton.

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, youth front of BNP, organised the colourful procession to mark Tarique's 48th birthday.

However, none of the BNP leaders present at the programme spoke on the Anti-Corruption Commission's claim of recovering 20.41 lakh Singapore dollar. The money was funneled to Singapore by Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Fakhrul blasted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her recent comment that by changing the country the BNP chief would take it backwards.

"The government has totally failed to run the country. When we talk about changing the country and moving it forward, it makes the government angry," he said.

BNP leaders Mirza Abbas, Goyeswar Chandra Roy addressed the procession, among others.

The procession marched through the streets of Kakrail, Shantinagar, Mallbagh, and Moghbazar.

JOINT MEETING
Dhaka city unit BNP yesterday held a joint meeting at the party headquarters to make the Nov 28 grand rally by the BNP-led 18-party alliance a success.

The alliance earlier announced to hold the rally to press home its demand for restoring the caretaker government system in the constitution.

Razakar commander Abdul Alim, Shanti Committee and Razakar members and the Pakistani army suddenly attacked Najimuddin's home on Eid-ul-Fitr, which was probably on November 20, 1971, and my father was taken to Panchbibbi Shanti Committee office first," Beauty said.

She said when her father was taken away, Alamuddin shouted, "I have informed Abdul Alim about the bird [Jabbal] and on his [Alim's] orders, he [Jabbal] was sent to the nest by the Pakistani army and I was awarded [for this]."

Her mother Kulsum Begum and brother Jahangir Hossain and her husband Golam Rasul went to Panchbibbi Shanti Committee office where they came to know that his father was taken to Joypurhat Shanti Committee office, said Beauty.

"After going there, they saw Abdul Alim. My mother, brother and husband humbly requested Alim to release my father. My mother even cried grabbing Alim's legs [to release my father]," said Beauty.

Alim informed them that his father was appointed to Bogra intelligence branch and following this information, they went to Bogra but returned home not being able to find her father, said Beauty.

On the next day, her mother, brother and husband again went to Abdul Alim and informed him about not finding Jabbal in Bogra, said Beauty.

Alim then told them that her father fought against the Pakistani army in Chittagong and that was why he would not be released, she said.

Later, doctor Farid Uddin, Jabbal's friend, informed them that members of the Shanti Committee and Razakar had killed Jabbal following orders of Alim.

"Hearing this, my mother, brother and husband returned home and my mother told us whilst crying that we have become orphans from today. Abdul Alim killed your father," said Beauty.

22 teachers

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Three hall provosts, two assistant proctors, four high officials and 13 house tutors of different halls have sought to resign from their posts.

The resignation letters addressed to the registrar of the university were submitted to the Islamic University Teachers Association (IUTA) office yesterday, said Prof Yakub Ali, president of IUTA. "As the VC, Pro-VC, treasurer and registrar were not available, the letters will be sent to them on Monday," Yakub Ali said.

The move came at a time when the university was facing a crisis since it recruited 152 teachers and staff against 76 posts, on September 8.

On November 19, around 25 teachers were injured when some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League attacked a peaceful sit-in by the teachers on the campus at Shantidanga.

When contacted, Dr M Alauddin, VC of the university, told The Daily Star over phone that he is not aware of the submission of any resignation letter yet.

The hall provosts are Dr Mamunur Rahman, Prof Dr Waliullah and Mohammad Selim of Khaleda Zia Hall, Lalon Shah Hall and Ziaur Rahman Hall respectively.

The two assistant proctors are Md Kamruzzaman and Dr Mofiz Uddin.

Four officials are: Tapon Kumar Joddar, director of computer centre, Prof Dr Mahabur Rahman, administrator of Institute of Islamic and Education Research (IIER), Prof Dr Jahangir Hossain, coordinator of Bangladesh National Cadet Core (BNCC) and Dr Ruhul Kuddus Saleh, general secretary of Itover Scout.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held on the campus yesterday on the occasion of 34th founding anniversary of the university, where the IUTA leaders called upon the VC, his deputy and the treasurer to step down for the welfare of the institution.

Good to see int'l rules

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Singapore by Koko, possibly between 2004 and 2007, when his mother Khaleda Zia was in power.

Koko has already been tried in absentia and given six years' jail term and fined around Tk 39 crore for laundering the amount together with his associate, Ismail Hossain Salmon.

In his reaction, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekaruzzaman said, "It is definitely good news in terms of the capacity of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the government to curb corruption, and at the same time to bring back the assets laundered."

Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said the recovery established the truth that the BNP had indulged in corruption and money laundering during its tenure.

Khaleda Zia "should offer an unconditional apology" to the nation because she had been telling lies about the corruption of her two sons, he added.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said the recovery proved the main opposition party chairperson "is a blind, loving mother".

However, BNP lawmaker Mahbubuddin Khokon, who was a counsel for Koko in the money laundering case, said the ACC did not clearly say whether the money belonged to Koko or not.

"The money may be owned by the Singaporean company. So, the news that the government is circulating about the money belonging to Koko is politically motivated," he told The Daily Star.

Koko is neither a director nor a shareholder of any Singaporean company and he has no bank account there, he added.

Akbar Ali Khan, former caretaker government adviser, termed the recovery a very good development, but said this single incident would not bring about any significant change in the fight against money laundering.

"But if the government continues the battle against it and brings more money back to the country, it will send a strong message to people who siphon off money," he added.

Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, echoed Akbar, saying: "It is a very good example. But the hurdle remains as money has been siphoned

off to many other countries and we have to bring it back."

Some might see it as "politically motivated," but the fact is Koko would not have been able to launder the money if his mother were not in power, he added.

If Bangladesh becomes a member of Edmond Group, a global alliance of about 130 countries, it would be easier for the government to handle money laundering cases and bring the money back.

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon said: "It is certain that Khaleda's two sons were engaged in corruption."

"Tarique Rahman and Koko are symbols of corruption. I urge Khaleda to put her two sons on the righteous path."

Jatiya Party Presidium Member Ziauddin Ahmed, also a political adviser to the party Chairman HM Ershad, said the truth had finally come out. It proved that Koko was involved in money laundering.

Matiur Rahman Akanda, assistant publicity secretary of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, a key political ally of the BNP, said his party would give its reaction after a getting a clear picture of the development.

Jubo League's Jewel arrested

FROM PAGE 1
The court ruling came following a petition by Nazim Ahmed, editor of weekly Shoptopomo, who sought HC's directive on law enforcers for arresting Jewel and Ameer."

Sub-inspector of South Keraniganj Police Station Monirul Haq, also investigation officer of the case filed in connection with the abduction, said they had arrested Jewel at about 2:00pm in Keraniganj and DB personnel took him to the DB headquarters in the capital.

Despite repeated attempts, no DB official could be reached for comments.

Sources in the police and Rab said Parag's abduction was plotted by Jewel Molla, who had helped Ameer get released from prison on a HC bail nearly two months ago.

Jewel had planned to abduct Parag to get ransom from his father. An armed gang led by Ameer abducted the child on Jewel's instructions, said the sources.

But police didn't arrest Jewel because of his political clout. They claimed that they had no trace of him though Jewel held a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club on November 18 claiming himself innocent.

During the hearing on Nazim's petition filed on November 21, Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder told the court that law enforcers had reportedly arrested Al-Amin, a close aide of Ameer, and seized a motorbike on Tuesday.

The petition said police arrested six suspects for Parag's abduction except for

them admitted to their involvement in the crime and disclosed the names of Ameer and Jewel as the main plotters.

Nazim prayed to the court for issuing directives on law enforcement agencies to arrest the duo in the interest of the people and said, otherwise, law and order will deteriorate.

The HC bench of justices A H M Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Farid Ahmed fixed November 29 for a hearing on the ruling.

Desperate

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set off for Malaysia by the sea, reports a correspondent in Cox's Bazar.

Coast guard and BGB officials said legal measures would be taken against the detained Bangladeshis, while the Rohingyas would be sent back to Myanmar.

According to official statistics, coast guard arrested 80 people and seized four engine-boats for attempting illegal journey to Malaysia in one year until last month.

Besides, members of BGB 42 Battalion rescued 209 others as of yesterday from September.

Local sources said some people and illegal Myanmar citizens in the area often risk their lives on illegal trips to Malaysia in search of a better future there. But they end up either being drowned in the sea or arrested by the security men in Thailand, Singapore or Malaysia.

Revenge, if Kasab's body

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handed over to the Taliban.

"If his body is not given to us or his family, we will, God willing, carry on his mission," Ahsan told The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location. "We will take revenge for his murder."

India secretly hanged Kasab on Wednesday and buried his body at the jail in the city of Pune where he was executed.

Indian external affairs minister Salman Khurshid said on Wednesday that the government would consider any request from the Pakistani government or Kasab's family to hand over his body, but no such request had been received.

Kasab was the lone surviving gunman from the three-day attack in Mumbai, India's financial capital, which targeted two luxury hotels, a Jewish centre, a tourist restaurant and a crowded train station.

The nine other gunmen were killed during the siege.

The attackers entered Mumbai by boat on 26 November, 2008, carrying cellphones, grenades and

automatic weapons. Their rampage through the city was broadcast live on television, transfixing the nation and the world.

It severely damaged relations between Pakistan and India, nuclear-armed neighbours who have fought three major wars against each other.

After Kasab was captured, an Indian judge sentenced him to death in May 2010 for waging war against India, murder and terrorism, among other charges. Kasab confessed that the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba was behind the Mumbai attack. The gunmen were in regular phone contact with handlers in Pakistan during the siege.

Indian officials accuse Pakistan's intelligence agency of working with Lashkar-e-Taiba to plan the attack - an allegation Islamabad denies.

Lashkar-e-Taiba was formed with the help of Pakistani intelligence over two decades ago to put pressure on India over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Pakistan has since

banned the group but has seemingly done little to crack down on the militants. Many analysts believe they still have state support.

Unlike Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistani Taliban have focused their fight against the Pakistani government, not India. The group has rarely spoken out about issues related to India, making its comments about Kasab unusual.

Ahsan, the Taliban spokesman, said the group was unsure whether Kasab was working on behalf of Pakistani intelligence, as the Indians claim, which would make him suspect in the eyes of the Taliban.

"If he was used by someone, then it was between him and God," said Ahsan. "If he did all this to please God and was not used by someone, we will complete his mission."

India offered no official comment on the Taliban's threat. However, an Indian government official said it will be a test for the Pakistani government to see whether it will allow its soil to be used again for an attack on India.

SONALI LOAN SCAM Ex-DGM gives confessional statement

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A former high official of Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch yesterday confessed to a magistrate that over Tk 2,686 crore was sanctioned from the branch to Hall-Mark Group.

AKM Azizur Rahman made the confessions in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Azizur was earlier suspended from the post of deputy general manager for alleged involvement with the Hall-Mark loan scam.

In his confession before Metropolitan Magistrate Keshab Roy Chowdhury, Azizur said some of his subordinate officials of the branch in league with some officials of Hall-Mark Group had made all arrangements for sanctioning the loan, said court sources.

Azizur named several people, including Hall-Mark Group Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud and its General Manager Tushar Ahmed, who helped him and his officials in sanctioning the loans on forged documents.

The official said he, as a chief official of the branch, could not avoid the responsibility, even though most of his subordinate officials were more or less involved in scam.

After recording his statement, Azizur was sent to jail.

Earlier, Tanvir and Tushar had given confessional statements before magistrates in two graft cases on different dates.

According to a Bangladesh Bank investigation report published in May, the controversial Hall-Mark Group and five other companies took Tk 3,547 crore in loans from the state-owned bank between 2010 and 2012 on forged documents.

Of the amount, Hall-Mark alone swindled Tk 2,686 crore.

After the discovery of the scam, Sonali Bank itself audited the branch and found that it had lent Tk 3,606 crore to these companies by flouting banking rules.

Koko's

FROM PAGE 1
An ACC probe found Koko was the owner of Fairhill.

In the case, the ACC pinpoints Koko's dealings with China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd for constructing the New Mooring Container Terminal and with Siemens for supplying and setting up equipment for Teletalk mobile phone company.

Trying him in absentia, a Dhaka court on June 23 last year sentenced Koko to six years' rigorous imprisonment. It also fined him around Tk 39 crore and ordered confiscating the laundered money.

Salmon was handed down the same sentence.

Abu Saeed said the ACC was yet to interrogate expatriate Habibur Rahman, who hails from Habiganj, and implicate him in the money laundering.

Koko left the country for Bangkok for treatment on July 19, 2008 after getting out of jail on parole. He was arrested on September 2 the year before along with his mother from their cantonment residence.

This is the first time the ACC has investigated overseas money laundering and corruption.

The probe was conducted with the help of the Singapore authorities following a mutual legal assistance request under the UN Convention against Corruption. The ACC obtained many documents from Singapore.

The Attorney General's Office and Bangladesh Bank have played a vital role in the investigation.

A Singapore court ordered the return of the money to Bangladesh, the ACC chairman said, adding that bringing back US \$9,32,672.81 was also underway.

He thanked the United States, FBI and US Justice Department and Singaporean authorities for their contributions in the recovery.

Ensure transparency in party functioning

NGOs ask Election Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representatives from a number of non-government organisations yesterday asked the Election Commission to increase supervision of political parties registered with it to ensure the parties' accountability and transparency of their activities.

In talks arranged by the commission at the National Economic Council in the capital, they also spoke of strengthening the EC for holding free and fair elections.

"The Election Commission should play a significant role in ensuring good functioning of the political parties," said Rafiqul Islam Khokon, executive director of Khulna-based NGO Rupantar, adding the organisation would cooperate with the EC if it made any move to this effect.

Chief Executive of Light House Harun ur Rashid urged the EC to do what it takes to get the political parties' compliance with the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

CEC Rakibuddin Ahmad did not say anything in response to these suggestions. He, however, spoke on

redrawing boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies.

"We are taking your opinions. We will work in line with the law. On receiving opinions from the political parties, we will publish a draft on redrawing boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies," Rakibuddin said.

Some NGO representatives were of the view that the EC should not increase the number of parliamentary constituencies in the cities, including the capital. Some, however, told the EC to double the number to 600 though the commission has no role in this matter.

Brotee Chief Executive Officer Sharmin Murshid said the EC should not change its stance because of the protest against redrawing boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies. The commission should act according to the law, she said.

More than 50 representatives of different NGOs joined the discussion on issues relating to the next parliamentary elections upon invitation from the Election Commission. Other election commissioners and EC officials were also present.

How Laden's body

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the Associated Press under freedom of information. The news agency said they were heavily blacked out but nonetheless offered the first public disclosure of government information about the al-Qaeda leader's death.

Bin Laden was killed by a navy Seal team that swooped on his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

One email stamped secret and sent on 2 May by a senior navy officer briefly describes how bin Laden's body was washed, wrapped in a white sheet, and then placed in a weighted bag. According to another message from the Vinson's public affairs officer, only a small group of the ship's leadership was informed of the burial.

"Traditional procedures for Islamic burial was followed," the 2 May email from Rear Admiral Charles Gaouette reads. "The deceased's body was washed (ablution) then placed in a white sheet. The body was placed in a weighted bag. A military officer read prepared religious remarks, which were translated into Arabic by a native speaker. After the words were complete, the body was placed on a prepared flat board, tipped up, whereupon the deceased's body slid into the sea."

Earlier, Gaouette, then the deputy commander of the navy's Fifth Fleet, and another officer used code words to discuss whether the helicopters carrying the Seals and Bin Laden's body had arrived on the Carl Vinson.

"Any news on the package for us?" he asked Rear Admiral Samuel Perez, commander of the carrier strike group that included the Vinson.

"Fedex delivered the package," Perez responded. "Both trucks are safely en route home base."

The emails include a reference to the intense secrecy surrounding the mission and why few records were held. "The paucity of documentary evidence in our possession is a reflection of the emphasis placed on operational security during the execution of this phase of the operation," Gaouette's message reads.

Recipients of the email included Admiral Mike

New device

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It can detect whether people are bored, stressed or excited and can be used in market research, therapy or science.

It is also being tested by autistic volunteers -- it can read their feelings, where words fail to communicate their emotions.

It's helping those with seizures and autism better understand and manage their behaviour.

In fact anywhere there's emotion; there could be an application for this kind of sensor -- helping people across the globe better understand themselves.

Mullen, then the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and General James Mattis, the top officer at US Central Command. Mullen retired from the military in September 2011.

The Obama administration has kept a tight hold on materials related to the Bin Laden raid. The AP said that in response to separate requests from the AP for information about the mission, the defence department replied in March that it could not locate any photographs or video taken during the raid or showing Bin Laden's body. It also said it could not find any images of Bin Laden's body taken while it was on board the Vinson.

The Pentagon said it could not find any death certificate, autopsy report or results of DNA identification tests for Bin Laden, or any pre-raid materials discussing how the government planned to dispose of Bin Laden's body if he were killed.

The defence department also refused to confirm or deny the existence of helicopter maintenance logs and reports about the performance of military gear used in the raid.

Govt forms

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Uddin Ahmed, the committee has been asked to submit a report within 48 hours said officials of the ministry.

The move came following reports of two newspapers that the question paper for the mathematics exam had been leaked in some areas of the capital.

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Primary Education found no trace of question paper leak in its primary investigation. It found that only suggestions for possible questions had been sold.

"Some of those suggestions just happened to be in the question paper," said Shyamal Kanti Ghosh, director general of Directorate of Primary Education.

Over 2.11 lakh examinees out of over 29 lakh were absent countrywide yesterday, the second day of the examination taken by general and madrasa students of class-V.

According to the directorate's control room, about 94 percent of general students and 84 percent of madrasa students showed up in yesterday's examination while some 1,58,326 general students and 53,069 madrasa students were absent.

The Dhaka division had the highest number of absentees from both the groups. A total of 70,783 students were absent on the second day of the exam in the division alone, according to the directorate's data.

A student was expelled in Dhaka division yesterday reportedly for resorting to unfair means in the exam.

The examination ends on November 29.