

Be more cautious

Court asks parties enforcing political programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court in its observation in the Bishwajit Das murder case verdict has asked political parties to be more cautious while enforcing political programmes.

"If political shutdowns, blockades and processions result in ferocity and disorder, then in the near future we will have to see many more killings like that of Bishwajit Das. This cannot be the desire of any peace-loving patriot of the country," said Judge ABM Nizamul Haque of Speedy Trial Tribunal-4.

The court sentenced eight Chhatra League men to death and 13 others to life in prison for killing Bishwajit, a tailor.

The attack on the 24-year-old happened during an 18-party alliance blockade, and those who attacked Bishwajit were bringing out an anti-blockade procession, the judge said.

"Therefore, in case of such political programmes like hartal or blockade, both the supporters and the opponents will have to be extremely careful about saving democracy and upholding the rule of law. They have to relieve people from fear for their lives and damage to their properties...", he observed.

Instability, anarchy, disorder, brutality, violence and killing cannot be the desire of any conscious human being, he added.

Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury

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moveable and immovable property was Tk 62.63 lakh. However, the amount has shot up to Tk 41.64 crore in last five years, according to a wealth statement recently submitted to the Election Commission.

Their wealth and property include cash, bank deposit, investment in Modhumoti Bank, business, BSP and FDR, motor vehicle, ornaments, electronics, furniture, shrimp enclosure, land and buildings.

The AL leader has invested Tk 20 crore in Modhumoti Bank, while the couple have invested another Tk 13.19 crore in shrimp enclosure.

In the last election, Liton, whip of parliament and nephew of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, claimed his annual income was Tk 4.48 lakh from business.

However, the income of Liton and his wife has increased to Tk 14.67 crore in 2013. Their income sources include agriculture, shrimp enclosure, business, bank interest, allowance from parliament as whip and honorarium from business organisations as director.

Liton is set to be elected uncontested in the next parliamentary polls from the Madaripur-1 constituency. He could not be reached over phone as his cellphone was found to be switched off.

Death valley

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Police Station for the last five months.

Sitting on his small bed, 53-year-old Nazrul narrated to The Daily Star the horrifying tale of how Jamaat-Shibir men had been unleashing terror on him since the war tribunal delivered the verdict sentencing Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee to death on February 28 for his crimes against humanity.

"It is better to die than to live a life like this," said Nazrul trying hard to hold back his tears.

"The first attack came a day after the [Sayedee] verdict when around 200 zealots, mostly Jamaat-Shibir men, swooped on my home and those of my three relatives in Kuchpukur village, shouting 'Naraye Takbir, Allahu Akbar'," he said.

The next morning, a false announcement was made using the loudspeakers of four mosques in Kuchpukur and three surrounding villages of Kashempur, Baliadanga and Babulia that police were coming to raid the areas, he went on to say.

The Jamaat-Shibir men then blocked the road leading to the villages by felling trees and launched a second wave of the attack, torching six more houses belonging to his brothers, brothers-in-law and nephews. Before setting the houses on fire, they looted valuables.

"They even burnt the Quran," he added.

"Sensing danger, we had sent our females and children to neighbours' houses while my brothers and I fled on motor-cycles," said Nazrul.

Though Kuchpukur is hardly five kilometres from the district town, it took several hours for the law enforcers and fire fighters to reach the spot as the roads were blocked in a planned manner.

Around a month later, four criminals, allegedly patronised by Jamaat, shot him on his way home from Satkhira town. He sustained bullet wounds in the abdomen.

And around five months ago, the same group of criminals hurled eight crude bombs inside his fertiliser shop when he, his brother-in-law Jahan Ali and elder sister were there. All three sustained injuries and Jahan's right leg had to be amputated from the thigh.

Since the bomb attack, Nazrul had been staying in the police barracks with instructions from police and the local administration.

On December 5, a group of identified criminals entered the houses of his elder brother Sirajul Islam and brother-in-law Kawser Ali. They shot Sirajul dead and left Kawser critically wounded.

Kawser made it out alive as he had pretended to be dead under a bed after receiving a bullet in the hand, Nazrul said.

"After the death of my father during the Liberation War, my elder brother brought us up with a father's affection. I wish the criminals killed me instead of my brother," he said fighting back tears.

"I cannot see my wife and children," said the father of three.

Fearing more attacks, he has sent his daughter, who just passed the Secondary School Certificate examinations, to his maternal uncle's home and rented a house in the town for his sons and nephews.

After all these agonising months, Nazrul now is slightly relieved as Habibullah Hobi alias Hobi dacoit, one of the attackers who had allegedly been under the Jamaat's aegis, was killed in a joint drive by police, Border Guard Bangladesh and Rapid Action Battalion in the district on December 15.

He also expressed his disappointment with the party leaders saying, "They do not even enquire about me."

"I am hiding in a police station to save my life at a time when my party is in power. I cannot think what will happen to me and my family if the government changes," said Nazrul.

The publicity secretary of Satkhira Jamaat unit Azizur Rahman denied Jamaat involvement in any of the attacks carried out on Nazrul. He claimed that Nazrul was a victim of internal feud of Awami League.

When asked why there was an announcement from a mosque before the attack, he said mosques were open establishments and that anyone could go in and take control of the microphone.

SENTENCED TO DEATH



RAFIQUL



MAHFUZUR RAHMAN



EMDADUL



RASHEDUZZAMAN



SAIFUL



RAJON



NOOR-E ALOM



KAYYUM

8 BCL men to hang

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The BCL men who got death penalty are: Rafiqul Islam Shakil, Mahfuzur Rahman Nahid, Emdadul Haque Emdad, GM Rasheduzzaman Shaon, Md Saiful Islam, Qayum Mia Tipu, Rajon Talukdar and Noor-e-Alam Limon. Of them, Rajon and Limon are on the run.

The ones given life imprisonment are: AHM Kibria, Saiful Islam Saiful, Golam Mustafa, Alauddin, Obaidul Quader Tahsin, Imran Hossain, Khandaker Md Yunus Ali, Tarique Bin Zohur, Azizur Rahman, Al Amin Sheikh, Monirul Haque Pavel, Mosharraf Hossain and Kamrul Hasan.

Of them, only Kibria and Mustafa are behind bars while the others have been absconding.

The incident took place on December 9 when Bishwajit, 24, was going to his Amantion tailoring shop at Shankharibazar from his house at Hrishikesh Das Lane in Sutrapur.

As he was walking through the road in front of Bahadur Shah Park, a crude bomb went off nearby around 9:00am during the BNP-led opposition's blockade.

Immediately, a group of activists of Jagannath University BCL unit swung into action. They mistook Bishwajit for a blockader, and chased him.

Bishwajit ran for his life and hurried to the second floor of a nearby building. The BCL men hunted him down as he tried to take shelter in a dental clinic on that floor.

They dragged him down to the street. For about five minutes, the BCL men hacked him with sharp weapons and beat him with iron rods and hockey sticks.

Bishwajit made a desperate attempt to escape and finally managed to free himself from the attackers. As he crossed the road, he collapsed.

Some pedestrians then took him to the Mitford Hospital where he died.

TV channels and newspapers carried reports on the murder with visuals and pictures of the attackers, who were identified as BCL activists studying at Jagannath University.

Later, the university authorities expelled the students whose photos were published in the reports.

On December 13, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad made a startling statement, claiming that no BCL activists were involved in Bishwajit's murder.

Speaking to reporters at the Prime Minister's Office, he gave particulars of six alleged murderers, including two ex-members of Islami Chhatra Shibir, a pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body.

At that time, some AL ministers also commented that Bishwajit's attackers were not BCL activists, rather they were infiltrators.

In its judgment yesterday, the tribunal said the punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender.

The death convicts can appeal against the verdict to a higher court in 30 days after receiving a copy of the judgment.

The court also said if the convicts got released on political grounds, it would be unjust for the victim's family, and such brutal killings will take place time and again.

The trial began on June 14 with the deposition of Jalal Uddin, sub-inspector of Sutrapur Police Station, who filed the case the day Bishwajit was killed.

The court took into cognisance the confessional statements of four accused, TV footage, and pictures published in national dailies.

During the investigation, the four -- Shakil, Nahid, Emdad and Shaon -- made confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

Police pressed charges against the 21 BCL

Mollah hanging

FROM PAGE 1

Turkish authorities lost little time in passing a sentence of death on him. To be sure, the sentence was later commuted to imprisonment for life because Turkey wished to be part of the European Union. Ocalan remains in jail, with the authorities showing little interest in reaching a deal with him and his party.

The Turkish authorities, with their record of being behind the systematic killings of the country's Armenian population --- close to 300,000 Armenians were murdered in 1895; no fewer than 30,000 Armenians were put to death on a single day in 1909; and even now the persecution goes on --- should have remembered how 3,000,000 Bengalis were killed in the genocide perpetrated by the Pakistan army and its local collaborators in 1971. Or was it a convenient way for Erdogan to go into a denial of history mode, both about Turkey's own record and that of Pakistan?

Then again, let it not be forgotten how the Turkish army undertook military action against Cyprus, an independent country, in July 1974, effectively partitioning the island into two zones. Since that time, Cyprus has remained an issue of international concern.

All of this is a record that does not do Turkey proud. Erdogan, in his frenzied reaction to the Mollah execution, did not deem it proper to go over the facts. Bangladesh's people, who have consistently demanded justice in the matter of those abducted and killed in 1971, wonder why the Turkish government did not do the simple thing of studying the record, the documents and the evidence related to the Mollah trial. Through their attitude, the Turkish authorities have given the impression of how deeply antagonistic, indeed how less than diplomatic they are towards the government and people of Bangladesh. They would have done better had they gone into the historical background of the war crimes trials before commenting on them.

Will the Bangladesh Foreign Office, now that it has taken action against Pakistan's position on the Mollah issue, move to tackle the Turkish government --- quickly, firmly and purposefully?

Abdus Shahid

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polls in 2008 said his annual income was Tk 2.59 lakh and his wife had no income at all. But in 2013 the couple has an annual income of Tk 50.76 lakh.

Shahid is set to be elected uncontested from the Moulavibazar-4 constituency in the next polls scheduled for January 5, 2014.

Jahangir Kabir Nanak

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The couple now have wealth worth Tk 8.28 crore together which was Tk 97.84 lakh before the last parliamentary polls held on December 29, 2008. Of the total wealth, Nanak's wife owns Tk 5.07 crore, which was Tk 52 lakh earlier.

Nanak, also joint general secretary of Awami League, and his wife had an annual income of Tk 9.43 lakh in 2008, according to his wealth statement submitted to the EC before the previous parliamentary polls.

But after the election, their annual increased to Tk 46.47 lakh.

The Daily Star tried to contact Nanak over the phone for the last three days to know how their money had increased. He could not be reached.

Nanak was elected from Dhaka-13 constituency in 2008. He has already been elected uncontested in the parliamentary election slated for January 5 next year.

WEALTH & PROPERTY

Nanak and his wife had cash Tk 11.55 lakh before the last polls. Now they have in hands cash Tk 93.39 lakh together, eight times higher than the previous figure. The former state minister and his wife had savings in bank worth Tk 20,000 and Tk 2.3 lakh respectively, while now they have Tk 40 lakh and Tk 79 lakh respectively. Nanak had share business worth Tk 3.2 lakh which remains the same. However, his wife's share business worth Tk 2.9 lakh has increased to

Tk 1.44 crore.

In postal savings he had Tk 10 lakh, while his wife had Tk 12.9 lakh. Now they have Tk 27 lakh and Tk 1.6 crore respectively. The price of their motor vehicle was Tk 15.25 lakh in 2008 which is Tk 63.06 lakh now, according to Nanak's wealth statement.

Nanak in his 2008 wealth statement mentioned that he had only 10 decimals of agricultural land worth Tk 35,000. Now he has 1.92 acres and 30 decimals of such land. The AL leader in the statement said he did not know the price of the 1.92-acre land. He however has shown the price of 30 decimal land as Tk 11 lakh.

Nanak and his wife had three katha and two decimals of non-agricultural land respectively. The price shown in the last election's wealth statement was Tk 3.6 lakh and Tk 15,000 respectively.

In the current wealth statement, Nanak has shown that he has 149.17 decimals of land, of which he owns 44.83 decimals worth Tk 28.17 lakh.

He also showed that his wife had a 1,874-square-foot flat worth Tk 25 lakh in 2008. Now he shows a flat under his wife's name which is worth Tk 17.5 lakh. He had no building in 2008, but now he shows he has a building worth Tk 1.3 crore.

The AL leader, however, has declared that he has a Tk 2.5 crore home loan from Agrani Bank.

Abdul Mannan Khan

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elections. According to a statement submitted to the Election Commission this month, they have wealth worth about Tk 11.03 crore.

In the affidavit, he however did not clarify the sources of his money elaborately.

The Daily Star tried to reach him over the phone for more than 10 times and sent him a text to know how he increased his wealth 107 times in just five years, but he did not respond.

The annual income of the former state minister and his wife was Tk 3.85 lakh, of which his wife's was Tk 2 lakh, before the last polls. But after the elections, their yearly income increased to Tk 3.28 crore, including his wife's share of Tk 1.76 crore, giving their income a 100-fold rise.

As shown in his latest statement, Mannan earned Tk 1.45 crore while his wife Tk 1.73 crore from miscellaneous sources -- fish farms and remittance. But he did not give the details of how much money they had earned from which particular source as wanted in the affidavit form.

WEALTH & PROPERTY

Mannan, an Awami League leader who was elected lawmaker from Dhaka-1 constituency, and his wife had moveable wealth and property including cash, shares, bank deposit, vehicles, gold, electronics and furniture worth around Tk 6.47 lakh in 2008.

This time the couple has declared moveable wealth and property worth Tk 2.15 crore, an

increase by 208 times. Interestingly, they have no money in any bank, as per Mannan's wealth statement.

They had no savings certificates or Fixed Deposit Return (FDR) in 2008, but now they have Tk 50 lakh in savings certificates and FDR.

Mannan and his wife had cash Tk 51,000 and Tk 25,000 respectively before the ninth parliamentary elections. Now they have Tk 40 lakh and Tk 15 lakh respectively, according to the wealth statements.

The AL leader in his previous affidavit mentioned that he and his wife had non-agricultural land worth Tk 2.45 lakh, which has now increased to around Tk 1.96 crore.

They had no apartment, house or building as mentioned in the 2008 wealth statement, but now Mannan has two apartments and one building worth Tk 3.64 crore. They had no fish farms ahead of the last election, but this time they have shown that they own 10 fish farms inherited from their parents.

Mannan in his first year in office maintained a tough stance against land grabbers, but in the following years his position reportedly grew softer.

Mannan Khan was AL's Office Secretary and its prospective candidate for Dhaka-1 constituency. But AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina removed him from the party position this month and gave the seat to a Jatiya Party candidate to contest.

Aslamul

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fortunes of Aslamul Haque but for the fact that he became a ruling party lawmaker from Dhaka-14 constituency in the 2008 election?

An alleged land grabber, Aslam did not mention in his wealth statement submitted to the Election Commission this month that he owns a couple of power plants.

He grossly undervalued his 14,567 decimals of land (above 145 acres) and claimed that he and his wife had net assets worth only Tk 4.94 crore after deducting their bank liabilities of Tk 4.70 crore.

As per his statement for the 2008 election, the net value of their assets was Tk 1.44 crore.

For this election, he valued his 14,178 decimals of land at Tk 95.11 lakh and the 389.54 decimals of land of his wife at Tk 97.89 lakh without mentioning where the pieces of land were. Interestingly, with the Tk 95.11 lakh, even 14 decimals of land cannot be bought in or around Dhaka city.

In 2008, he had shown that his five acres of land was on average priced at Tk 6,466 a decimal. A piece of land of about 1.15 acres in Amin Bazar, on the outskirts of the capital, was valued at just Tk 3.75 lakh.

This time, the lowest value of per decimal of land he mentioned was around Tk 670, which is insanely low and the price of land going down in Bangladesh is almost unheard of.

The couple owns two cars worth around Tk 1 crore, a flat valued at Tk 1.43 crore, shares worth just under Tk 1 crore, 83 tolas of gold, and cash Tk 2.71 crore, according to his statement submitted to the EC.

In 2008, he had claimed that he had 120 tolas of gold.

For this election, he showed the capital of his business (Mayesha Properties Development) was just Tk 7.25 lakh from which he claims to earn Tk 9.52 lakh yearly and his wife earned around Tk 6.15 lakh from an investment of around Tk 8.85 lakh.

In 2008, he claimed to have a yearly family income of just under Tk 5 lakh but this time he says it is Tk 35.70 lakh, including his salary as a lawmaker which is Tk 13.51 lakh a year.

He said he and his wife had 96,675 shares valued at Tk 100 each, an increase of 16,800 shares over 2008.

In the last statement before the EC, he mentioned Mayesha Properties Development as his business but the same statement says his establishment had expanded to real estate, chemical imports and consumer products and trading.



HSC student Shimul Ahmed in hospital after Islami Chhatra Shibir activists cut the tendons of his legs and left arm in front of the fine arts department of Rajshahi University. Shimul is the joint convener of Ruet Agrani School and College unit of

PHOTO: STAR

Shibir men cut BCL leader's tendons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Shibir activists yesterday cut the tendons of both legs and the left hand of a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader in Rajshahi city.

The victim, Shimul Ahmed Duke, 20, is a joint convener of Motihar thana unit BCL, the pro-Awami League student body.

Duke, a second-year student of Agrani School and College, was first taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) and then referred to Dhaka.

Ziaur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station, said some seven activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami, with firearms and sharp weapons waylaid Duke near Rajshahi University Fine Arts Institute around 11:30am.

Duke was going to his college by rickshaw with the president of the college unit, Shibir Raju Ahmed, his classmate and friend.

The attackers, some covering their faces, stabbed Duke severely in his legs, arms and back, leaving him critically injured.

As local shopkeeper Rentu came forward to save him, the Shibir men brandished a pistol and ran away, said Duke's uncle Jahangir Alam.

Locals rescued Duke and whisked him off to the RMCH where he underwent two hours of surgery.

Tendons of both his legs and left hand were chopped at three or four places, and Duke also was stabbed in his back, said Prof BK Dam, head of the RMCH orthopaedic surgery department.

Duke needs immediate vascular surgery as his veins were damaged at many places and so he was referred to Dhaka, he added.

After the attack, Raju went into hiding. Family members of Duke alleged that Raju was behind the attack.

Meanwhile, police detained two Shibir activists for their alleged involvement in the attack, said Ziaur.