

## BCL leader hacked to death in Narsingdi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Unidentified criminals hacked to death a BCL leader in Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi yesterday evening.

They swooped on Mainuddin, 28, organising secretary of Narsingdi unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League, with sharp weapons in Putia Bazar area around 6:00pm, said police.

The BCL leader died on the spot. The motive behind the murder could not be known.

The victim's body was sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital for autopsy, said Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Narsingdi Sadar Police Station.

## HC summons

FROM PAGE 16

and professional groupings. Yesterday, the court asked the government to direct the heads of all hospitals across the country to ensure surgery by "proper" persons and to maintain healthy and safe operation theatres in the hospitals.

The HC bench of Justice Qauzi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain asked the government to submit a report after complying with the order in two weeks.

Besides, the court ordered the government to form a committee within a week to investigate the RMCH incident and submit a report before the HC in four weeks.

It also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned of the government to explain in two weeks why they should not be directed to ensure better and safe treatment and quality and effective medical services to patients in all hospitals.

The health secretary, the director general of Directorate General of Health Services, the secretary general of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council and the director and the registrar of RMCH have been made respondents to the rule, Deputy Attorney General Bishwojit Roy told The Daily Star.

During the hearing, petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told the court that the RMCH incident showed a very pitiful picture of the country's health services.

Hundreds of people die and get infected due to improper and defective operations, he argued, adding that the people of the country are deprived of

## Language martyr

FROM PAGE 5

adding that thenceforth her heirs had been possessing the land.

They built some tin-shed shops on some portion of the land to earn a living, he said.

Ain Uddin said recently they had applied for Review Survey (RS) mutation to the office of the assistant commissioner (land).

But the ward councillor Safar Ali applied to the deputy commissioner and assistant commissioner (land) request-

ing not to provide the mutation and filed the case alleging that they were not the heirs of Hasina Bibi, he said.

Ain Uddin said the councillor also demanded extortion money from them, an allegation Safar Ali denied.

## Govt lying over

FROM PAGE 16

We have information that Joy [Sheikh Hasina's son] was behind it."

The BNP didn't brief reporters about the two-hour meeting between its chief and the journalist leaders.

The Daily Star could not independently verify if Khaleda made these remarks. A couple of journalist leaders who were present at the meeting confirmed she made the remarks, but none of them would speak on record.

The audiovisual message purportedly from al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri urged the Muslims in Bangladesh to wage an intifada (popular uprising) to confront the "crusader onslaught against Islam".

The message alleged that thousands of people were being killed in the streets of Bangladesh for protesting the "collusion of the anti-Islam secular government with a bunch of trans-

gressing secularists".

At last night's meeting, the BNP chief said al-Qaeda doesn't exist in Bangladesh, and it never did.

"People will never allow al-Qaeda to carry out activities on the Bangladesh soil," Jahangir Alam Pradhan, general secretary of a faction of Dhaka Union of Journalists, quoted Khaleda as saying.

Turning to the upazila election, she said the government wanted to make the local polls one-sided. "But it is now upset to see the BNP-backed candidates contesting the election," Khaleda was quoted by Pradhan as saying.

She also told the journalist leaders that the BNP-led alliance would launch a fresh anti-government agitation after the party reorganises its front organisations.

"On March 1, I will visit Rajbari as part of the anti-government programme. And this time, the government has to step down," Elias Khan, general secretary of Dhaka Reporters Unity, quoted her as saying.

# Cops crossed limits at RU

### Says NHRC chief; fact-finding committee blames BCL, RU officials for Feb 2 attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police crossed their limits and did wrong by attacking Rajshahi University (RU) students who protested fee hikes and evening shift master's courses, NHRC Chairman Mizanur Rahman said yesterday.

Mizanur made the remarks when members of a fact finding committee, comprised of former RU students to investigate the February 2 incident, handed over their report to him at his office in the capital.

According to the report, the attack was a pre-planned one as some top officials of the RU administration, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi metropolitan police and BCL leaders of RU unit had held a meeting just before the incident.

Police along with BCL leaders and cadres carried out the attack while some top RU officials, including three assistant proctors -- Shakhawat Hossain, Sirajul Islam and Helal Uddin -- led the assault, it said.

Around 100 students of RU and eight journalists were wounded on the day, as armed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men backed by police attacked the students.

The NHRC chairman demanded that the persons responsible for the attack be identified immediately and brought to book.

"Following the attack, I wrote to the

home boss (a letter) asking him to inform the NHRC about the steps the ministry had taken to apprehend the gun wielding attackers. But the ministry is yet to send its reply," he said.

The report of the fact finding committee made a series of recommendations, including formation of a truth commission to probe the incident, removal of RU vice-chancellor, pro-VC, registrar, proctor Tariqul Hasan and all assistant proctors so that they cannot influence the probe.

It found that the injured students could not get admitted to hospitals fearing police harassment as police and the RU administration filed cases, accusing 750 unnamed students.

The report also said the RU authorities were trying to evade their responsibility by passing on the blame to Jamaat-Shibir.

"Who waged the movement is immaterial as every person has the right to get involved in a peaceful movement. So the government cannot drop the issue of justice by raising the issue of Jamaat-Shibir," Mizanur said.

The RU authorities should bear the injured students' treatment cost, he added.

The eight-member fact finding committee was formed on February 4. Arif Reza Mahmud, a member of the committee, handed over the report to the NHRC chief.

## Centre correct-none!

FROM PAGE 1

superintendent, SM Anwarul Karim, their carpentry trainer Arif Mondol and automobile engineering teacher Zahir were also responsible for their situation.

"I often saw my son with bruised eyes and cheekbones. He told me that teachers had beaten him," said Jorina Begum, mother of a 14-year old. She came running to the centre after the authorities had informed her that her son was injured and in a "bad state".

In efforts to keep outsiders in the dark about the management, the overall environment, and the physical condition of those who had harmed themselves badly, the Gazipur Juvenile Development Centre has not been letting anyone in except for children's guardians.

Three hundred and eight children, including convicts, are living in the centre that has the capacity to house 200.

The juveniles whose cases are on trial are kept there with the convicts for 22 hours of the day, as claimed in the letter.

Sixteen of the last week's protesters are not yet convicted. They are facing trial.

"International conventions do not allow keeping convicts and children on trial at one place," said Quazi Riazul Haque, chairperson of the children's rights committee of National Human Rights Commission.

Many of the inmates are violent and are often locked in vicious fighting, said people in the neighbourhood who see this all through the windows of the dormitories.

"If the children are violent then it must be investigated if the counsellors [at the centre] are doing their job properly," said former inspector general of police M Enamul Hoque who had dealt extensively with juvenile crimes.

Five counsellors are employed at the centre to look after the mental well-being of the children.

Asiya, the mother of Rajib, 14, said she had once seen her son with bandaged arms and forehead. When asked, Rajib told her that older boys had beaten him up.

Besides, drug addiction is rampant at the centre, said Aminul Islam, a programme manager of child rights organisation Aparajeyo Bangladesh. He had worked on a project at the centre in 2009.

## 140 more workers

FROM PAGE 16

charges Tk 22,100 for a one-way trip to Kuala Lumpur from Dhaka.

"We have taken the decision due to frequent disruption in flight schedules of Biman," Begum Shamsun Nahar, director general of the BMET told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The disruption causes annoyance to Malaysian employers who come to airport to receive their employees," she added.

The DG, however, said they would send the migrants by Biman once the schedule of the national flag carrier gets regular.

Brushing aside the allegations, Biman Managing Director Kevin John Steele said, "Biman flight leaves late at night (usually very popular), but I think Malaysian local time has now changed by one hour. This means that the scheduled arrival time of the flight into Kuala Lumpur, is too early for them to arrange clearance and collection of the workers."

It is nothing to do with any disruption. We are seeing if we can do anything

"Of the current inmates, 45 have been held under the Narcotics Control Act," said Nasima Begum, secretary of the social welfare ministry.

There is no facility inside the correction centre for drug rehabilitation.

When asked why, Ayub Hossain, director general of the social welfare department, claimed the centre did not have any drug addict.

Azhar Ali Miah, deputy director of the Gazipur social welfare department, said, "They [children] do not have access to drugs at the centre. How can there be any drug addict?"

Requesting anonymity, police sources, however, told The Daily Star that the children were given small amounts of drugs they had been addicted to to keep them from becoming violent.

All these issues, however, appear insignificant to the children whose daily basic needs are not well taken care of.

"My child slept on the floor throughout this winter without any pillow and blanket," lamented Jahanara who came to visit her son.

The process of obtaining food and other resources often takes a long time as it gets caught up in bureaucratic tangles, said Aminul, the programme manager of Aparajeyo Bangladesh.

Children do not get enough soap for proper hygiene, their toilets are often overflowing and there is often very little food, said Mohammad Anisur Rahman Bhuiyan Firoze, convenor of the Gazipur office of Bangladesh Manabadhikar Council. He had worked with the juveniles for a long time.

"I have even found cases when parents brought food and money for their children, but the authorities kept those for themselves," he added.

Azhar, social welfare deputy director in Gazipur, refuted the allegation. He said the children were allowed to step out to meet their guardians so they could hand the gifts themselves.

Mohammad Joynal Abdul Maishbandari, who came to see his son, said how he had once been locked in a balcony, and the goods he had brought were confiscated by the authorities.

Mohammad Ali Asgar, whose younger brother is an inmate, shared a similar experience. "They tore my shirt and lungi, beat me up and took away

to change the schedule," Kevin added.

Earlier, around 2,300 Bangladeshis went to Malaysia by Biman. The last group of 99 migrants left the country on January 29.

The total migration cost for a Malaysia bound worker will now stand at around Tk 28,200 instead of around Tk 23,200 for a change in airline.

A total of 150 Bangladeshis will leave the airport tomorrow (today), the BMET director general said, adding that some 715 Bangladeshis might leave the country for plantation jobs by this week.

Bangladesh and Malaysia signed a memorandum of understanding in November 2012 to introduce the government arrangements for the recruitment of Bangladeshis, keeping the private recruiting agents out of the migration process.

About 14.5 lakh Bangladeshi workers aspiring for jobs in Malaysia registered their names with the government

## Keep watch on 390 presiding officers

EC asks ROs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has directed the returning officers of 32 upazilas to keep watch on 390 presiding officers and scrutinise their previous records.

The EC made the move after an intelligence agency identified presiding officers to be loyal to anti-government camp.

An intelligence report last week said those presiding officers were involved in negative activities and criticised the government while carrying out their duties.

"We didn't take any decision on the report, rather we've directed the returning officers to decide whether they would act as presiding officer or not," an election commissioner told The Daily Star yesterday.

If the 390 presiding officers are on duty, the returning officers should keep a vigil on them, he added.

Meanwhile, the EC on Monday asked the returning officers to take special measures for ensuring security of religious minorities during the upazila polls.

The special measures include enhancing patrol by law enforcers at minority-dominated areas; conducting mobile courts round the clock; keep a vigil on those who were involved in previous attacks on minorities, arranging secret monitoring at different vulnerable polling centres and involving community people in escorting minorities.

The EC has identified around 40 percent of the total 6,889 polling centres in 97 upazilas as "important" (vulnerable), according to EC sources.

## Four-yr-old

FROM PAGE 16

plastic bag full of his possessions on Monday by Andrew Harper, Jordan's representative to the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees.

Aid workers helped the boy cross the border into Jordan and a follow-up tweet from Harper yesterday let the world know that Marwan's family had been found.

"Just to let you know that Marwan was safely reunited [with] his mother soon after being carried across the Jordan border," he shared on Twitter, along with a second picture of the boy being carried by an aid worker.

It is unclear how long the boy was separated from his family.

A reporter tweeted on Monday evening that a UNHCR official said Marwan was only 20 steps behind his family after he became lost during the confusion of the crossing.

Nonetheless, the picture of the isolated boy has struck a chord, perhaps because it serves as a reminder of the many young children who have lost or become separated from their families due to the conflict.

The picture of Marwan was one in a series of pictures posted by Harper in the last few months, as the aid worker documents the 'endless tide' of refugees fleeing Syria into Jordan.

## Hospital manager

FROM PAGE 16

gave her an injection which deteriorated her condition. She eventually died around 6:30pm, said the bereaved husband.

"After killing my wife, Shahin offered to pay us the transport cost and asked us to leave the hospital immediately. But we did not leave," Madan said.

Four and a half hours of her death, a local journalist came to know about this and informed the Superintendent of Police of Thakurgaon.

The SP then sent Officer-in-Charge of Thakurgaon Police Station Firoz Khan to the hospital. Police recovered the body at around 12:00 midnight and sent it to the Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy. However, Shahin and his partner Kamruzzaman Babu had already fled the spot.

Later, Executive Magistrate Wasimul Bari conducted a drive yesterday morning and sealed off the hospital after shifting its patients to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital. Assistant manager of the hospital Ferdous Alam and nurses Shila Rani Sarker and Shahnaz Pervin were arrested during the drive.

However, sources said Shila and Shahnaz were not present at the hospital when the operation was performed as their duty had ended at 3:00pm.

Victim's husband filed a murder case early yesterday against co-owners

## IO asked

FROM PAGE 2

to grant them bail in both cases.

After examining the contents of bail petitions yesterday, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Mohammad Ullah fixed March 5 for passing further order on the matter.

Assistant Attorney General Gazi Md Mamunur Rashid represented the government in the case.

## Pakistani website first

FROM PAGE 1

Balakot Media, The Daily Star has found many jihadi posts presented in the name of the organisation.

"6 April 5 May 6 May and realisation of Bangladesh", an audio clip posted in mujahideenmedia.wordpress.com, is one of such items. It slams the Shahabbagh movement, Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League government and brands them as enemies of Islam. It also claims at least 3,000 Muslims were killed during the crackdown on Hefajat-e Islam activists in Motijheel in the early hours of May 6, 2013.

Interestingly, the audiovisual message said to be Zawahiri's starts with photographs from a rally of Hefajat-e Islam, a Qawmi madrasa-based radical organisation.

The Hefajat, however, denies links with the post.

During a press briefing at the Rab headquarters in the afternoon, Rasel admitted he circulated the clip through his Facebook page and blogs.

"I have shared the dawahilallah link of the Zawahiri clip in amardeshvabna.blogspot.com and my Facebook page. I admit I am partly responsible for publicising the link in Bangladesh," he said.

"I have long been following dawahilallah.wordpress.com. So, I receive email from its admin whenever anything is posted or uploaded in the blog."

He received an email notification to his ID krasel73@yahoo.com from the Pakistani blog about the so-called Zawahiri message.

Rab officials said the clip was once again uploaded in dawahilallah.wordpress.com on February 4, this time with the title "Bangladesh: Genocide behind a Wall of Silence".

On February 8 this year, Rasel uploaded this message under the title "Silent Genocide in Bangladesh" in his blog islameralo.wordpress.com.

In the meantime, Jihadology, which describes itself as a clearinghouse for jihadi source materials, released the item on January 14, saying this was a new message of Zawahiri and it was presented by As-Sa al, known as the media house of al-Qaeda.

This time the title was "Bangladesh: A Massacre behind a Wall of Silence". However, it surfaced in the mainstream media not until February 15.

On May 7 last year, Rab said, a message from krasel73@yahoo.com was sent to dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir, an e-mail ID of the then Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Its title was "Mass killing on protesters in Dhaka at night by armed Joint Forces at least killed thousand."

Rasel claimed he removed some IDs from the admin panels of his blogs for their jihadi write-ups. He, however, admitted many of his Facebook friends write posts in favour of Jamaat-e-Islam and militancy.

At the briefing, Rab Media Wing Director Habibur Rahamn said Rasel spread the audiovisual message through

several Facebook IDs and page basherkella2 and blogs.

"He is an IT expert and very active with Facebook and blogs -- amardeshvabna.blogspot.com, islameralo.wordpress.com and amardeshvabna.wordpress.com. He was very active to have the message widely circulated."

Through spreading the message, Rasel had tarnished the country's image and violated the ICT Act, the Rab official added.

During yesterday's raid, the Rab seized three cell phones and many jihadi books from his possession.

Two hours later, in a separate raid at his village home in Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur, the elite force seized two laptops and some Islamic books, said Rasel's relative Bilkis Begum over the phone. She added that Rasel's family members who were present during the raid went into hiding afterwards.

The Rab said it had found documents on militancy in the laptops.

Rasel used to live an isolated life, mess owner Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Rasel rented a room at the mess in January 2011. "The Rab members came to my house around 1:45am and picked him up from his room. The law enforcers also seized three mobile phone sets and some religious books," Mizanur said.

"Rasel used to remain absent from his room, and his parents never came to the mess to see their son in the last three years," he said.

Seven more students -- two second-year students and five first-year students -- of Tangail Textile Institute live in the other three rooms of the mess.

**CONFUSION REMAINS** The government has yet to confirm whether the message was indeed from the al-Qaeda chief. Additional home secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed said the authorities were still working to verify its authenticity.

But ruling Awami League Publicity Secretary and ex-minister Hasan Mahmud, who was dropped from Sheikh Hasina's new cabinet, believes the clip was Zawahiri's.

"So far as I know the clip was released from Arizona in the US. I think it was Zawahiri's on behalf of al-Qaeda," Hasan told reporters at the AL president's political office in Dhanmondi yesterday afternoon.

However, talking to The Daily Star, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said, "We just can't deny we failed to notice the clip when it first surfaced online. There may have been some weaknesses in our monitoring system."

He said a cell would soon be set up at the home ministry only to monitor writings about Bangladesh on the internet.

"We are going to hold a meeting of the cabinet committee on law and order on Thursday. The audiovisual message will be one of the topics there. We will also discuss the formation of the cell at the meeting."

He also said all government agencies had been put on alert.

## Khairat Hossain's call

FROM PAGE 16

Nawabpur Road, the crucial question under discussion being whether or not to break Section 144 imposed by the government.

According to Badruddin Umar, a majority of individuals attending the meeting were clearly against a violation of Section 144 and it was only a handful, among whom was Oli Ahad, convener of the Dhaka University State Language Committee, who advocated action through ignoring the restrictions clamped by the authorities.

Earlier, the East Bengal Legislative Assembly met in session. With 80 of its 123 members present, Khairat Hossain asked for a discussion on the ban imposed on the Pakistan Observer. His suggestion was opposed by chief minister Nurul Amin who, however, told the legislature that the move had been taken in the public interest. If the step had not been taken, he stated, order would have broken down. The speaker of the assembly then rejected Khairat Hossain's demand and hence

## Court accepts

FROM PAGE 2

ordered to attach his property.

It directed the officers-in-charge of Dagonbhuiyan and Pallabi police stations in Feni and Dhaka to submit a report by March 20 on execution of the warrant.

On January 28, detectives charged Jasimuddin and seven NSU students including Rana in the murder case.

Among them Jasimuddin, Md Faisal Bin Nayem alias Dweep, Maksudul Hasan alias Anik, Ehsan Reza alias Rummam, Nayem Sikdar alias Iraj, Nafis Imtiaz and Sadman Yasir Mahmud are behind bars.

The charge sheet mentioned Jasimuddin as the "instigator" while

Rana as the "planner".

The investigation officer in the charge sheet said the students had vowed to kill "atheist bloggers" after reading Jasimuddin's books and listening to his sermons.

They targeted Rajib for his blog posts under the nickname "Thabababa" and got divided into two groups.

The "intel group" was to collect his details and track him down and the "execution group" to carry out the murder.

After the murder, radical Islamists spread propaganda that Shahabbagh movement organisers, including Rajib, were "atheists". Hefajat-e Islam, a Chittagong-based Islamist group, began