Jubo League man arranged it

Sabuj and his cousin Abu Bakar Siddique Swapan, both tutors at a local coaching centre, were kidnapped from their homes by a gang around 4:00am on Monday. Islami Bank employee Elias Uddin

was kidnapped when he was going home from a mosque after evening prayers on April 21. And Yusuf Ali Sohagh, a student at

Mymensingh Homoeopathic Medical College, was picked up from his home early on April 20 by a group of seven to eight, all wearing police uniform, according to the general diary filed by his family. Family members of all the four alleged

law enforcers were behind the abduction.

The three that went missing on April 19 from Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital are Suhel Rana, his brother Morshed Alam and Basir Uddin. They are all from Bhaluka of Mymensingh. It could not be immediately known why they came to Dhaka.

Family members said they did not file any case but informed the police verbally about their going missing.

On February 23, an armed gang of 10-15, all masked, ambushed a prison van in Trishal and snatched away three convicted JMB militants -- two of them on death rows. A policeman was killed in the ambush. The attack on the Dhaka-

the van carrying the three was going to Mymensingh to produce them before a court in a sedition case. About five hours after the incident, police captured Rakib from Shakhipur of Tangail. He was killed in a "shootout" at

Mirzapur of Tangail about 14 hours

Mymensingh highway took place when

after his arrest. Rakib and Salehin were sentenced to death and "Boma" Mizan to 37 years in prison in different cases. Salehin and "Boma" Mizan remain traceless since.

Asked to comment on Sabuj's claim that a Jubo League leader helped the militants



headquarters yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

flee, a top Rab official said they did not buy his claim. "An accused always tries to shift the blame on other people." At the briefing, Sabuj said he runs a

coaching centre named Jagaran Tutorial Home at Panchgao village at Bhaluka. "One day a senior leader asked me

over the phone to do a job. I and three of my friends met him. He told us that we have to pick one of his guests from Bhoradoba and drop him at Fulbaria. Six to seven youths will be needed for this task," he said. Asked to name the senior leader, he

said it was Ataur Rahman Kamal.

On February 23, he said, he was instructed from a microbus, which took part in the ambush, that a person would go to him from a prison van and he would have to take him to Fulbaria.

"Rakib was sent to Fulbaria on a

motorbike through a dirt road," he said, adding that he did not know who took the other two as several groups were working for the job. Contacted, Kamal, also a lecturer at

Sonar Bangla Degree College at Batajorh, rejected Sabuj's claim outright. "I'm a son of a freedom fighter.

Question of my doing such a heinous act does not arise," he told The Daily Star. His father Mujibur Rahman, vicepresident of Bhaluka upazila AL, said,

"We were shocked to hear Sabuj's claim that my son was involved in snatching the JMB militants. We have good relations with Sabuj's family." Sabuj's father Shamsuddin Munshi

said Kamal could not do such a thing. "Sabuj might have mentioned his [Kamal's] name because of the pressure on him."

THE BRIEFING Of the eight arrested, five people on three

motorbikes led by Sabuj were trailing the prison van, said Rab's Legal and Media Wing Director ATM Habibur Rahman. The five were Yousuf Ali Sohag, 20,

Morshed Alam, 22, Suhel Rana, 28, Swapan, 28, and Elias, 34. The two other arrested are Anwar

Hossain, 40, and Basir Uddin, 20. They are manpower brokers, and they

tried to send Suhel and Morshed abroad after the incident, Habibur added. He would not give the dates of their

arrests, saying it would compromise the investigation. But he did not explain how disclosing the dates of arrest would "compromise" the inquiry. Habib said each of the six were

supposed to get Tk 20,000 for the job. Describing the ambush, he said as

soon as the prison van reached Signboard point of Trishal, a motorbike and other vehicles waylaid it. The militants who were already at the

spot started shooting and exploding crude bombs. As Rakib escaped from the van, he was taken to Fulbaria on a bike belonging to one of the arrestees, Habib said. He added Rakib knew beforehand the

arrangement for his safe passage. "Several groups took part in the

operation but three groups were assigned particularly for ensuring safe passages for the three JMB leaders," he said, adding that the groups did not know each other's mission. Asked about the whereabouts of

Salehin and "Boma" Mizan, Habib said they are working to catch them.

Cause for concern

FROM PAGE 1

them until Rab paraded them before the media yesterday.

Along with them, four others were presented in the briefing, three of whom went missing from the capital's Kamalapur railway station on April 19, family members said.

All the three -- Suhel Rana, his brother Morshed Alam and Basir Uddin are from Bhaluka of Mymensingh.

Asked when they were arrested, Rab Legal and Media Wing Director ATM Habibur Rahman said, "They were picked up at different times from different places."

But he refused to give the specific dates of their arrest. Under the law, arrestees must be

produced in court within 24 hours of their detention. But the law was flouted in this case, as in many other cases, raising serious

questions about abductions and about the identities of those involved in such incidents as the country continues to see a spree of kidnap and disappearances. Between January and March, 39

people have fallen prey to forced disappearances allegedly by law enforcers, according to Ain o Salish Kendra. The parading of the four abductees by the Rab yesterday has also left many

seriously considering the repeated claims by the families of missing persons that the law enforcers were behind the abductions. "In the name of combating crime, Rab has created a trigger-happy culture.

There are allegations that they are violating the right to justice of the alleged criminals. They are cooking up cruel theatrics to cover up their abductions and other misdeeds which people find difficult to believe," said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of About the three persons, he told The

Daily Star: "I also notice a kind of cruel theatrics and it is natural to question the authenticity of the narratives. Questions may be genuinely raised whether they are taking the law into their own hands. This is leading to an erosion of public

Brutality at RU

PRESSURE?

Cops point finger at Shibir men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tuesday's brutal attack on two Chhatra League leaders at Rajshahi University was carried out allegedly by Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres. "The modus operandi of the attack

suggests it was an act of Shibir," said Proloy Chichim, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP). The way Abdullah Al Masud and

Togor Mohammad Saleh were attacked matches other assaults that Shibir carried out on the campus in the past, said the police official.

attackers were identified Shibir cadres of the RU.

"Their motive was to take revenge and to regain supremacy on the campus," he added. On Tuesday, a group of miscreants,

allegedly Shibir cadres, ambushed Masud, assistant secretary of the RU unit BCL and Togor, scholarship affairs secretary of the university unit student front of the ruling Awami League, in front of Ziaur Rahman Hall around 8:15am. They cut tendons of both hands and legs of Togor and severed Masud's right ankle and cut the tendons of his left leg.

Police said a special kind of cutter was used for severing the tendons and a number of Shibir people were arrested earlier with such contraptions.

The victims are currently undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Traumatology and Rehabilitation

(Nitor) in the capital. "Masud is now at the ICU (Intensive

Bangladesh

The United States has said it wants

greater political inclusion in

Bangladesh for a more stable and

prosperous future of the South Asian

press for greater political inclusion,

without which a more stable and

prosperous future is put at risk," said

Nisha D Biswal, US assistant secretary

of state for South and Central Asia at

the US state department.

"In Bangladesh, we continue to

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

nation.

US for stable, prosperous

Care Unit). His right leg has been amputated already. And it is uncertain whether his left leg could be saved," Atikur Rahman, vice president of the RU BCL, told The Daily Star from the Nitor over the phone.

Earlier on Sunday, Masud and Togor had beaten up Madar Bux Hall unit Shibir president Waliullah Mahmud and handed him over to police.

"Shibir men threatened Masud and other leaders over the phone and vowed revenge after the incident", said Atikur. The BCL leader said the attack was

an act of retaliation and Masud could Police also claimed that some of the identify some of the attackers to be from the History department of the univer-

Meanwhile, RU teachers and students and different political organisations demanded exemplary punishment of the attackers. Over two hundred teachers and

students of folklore and history departments, which Togor and Masud were students of, formed a human chain on the campus.

The BCL brought out a procession on the campus and vowed to resist Shibir activities on the RU premises.

PROTEST RALLY AT DU

The BCL staged a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, protesting the Shibir attack on two BCL leaders at RU.

At the rally, acting president of the organisation Joydeb Nandi demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

"Otherwise, we will launch a wave of movements at all universities across the country simultaneously," he added.

The four-time elected lawmaker left behind his wife, one son and two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death. Nasim was elected lawmaker from the Jatiya Party in 1986, 1988, 2008 and 2014.

He was the elder son of two-time lawmaker Samshuzzoha and brother of Shamim Osman, an Awami League lawmaker from Narayanganj-4.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minster Sheikh Hasina expressed their deep shock at the death of Nasim and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family, reports news agency BSS.

Political and business identities apart, Nasim's name has always been discussed along with his brother's (Shamim Osman) in Narayanganj because of their clout in certain circles allegedly controlling the industrially and commercially rich township. Many people in Narayanganj point a finger at Osman brothers for their alleged blessings to gangs involved in extortion, controlling Jhut and transport businesses and land grabbing in the district.

Nasim's son Azmeri Osman is the main suspect of the sensational murder of Tanvir Mohammad Toki, an A-level student and son of Rafiur Rabbi, former president of Narayanganj Sangskritik Jote.

On August 7 last year, the Rapid Action Battalion busted the city office of Azmeri as part of their investigation in the murder case and found some evidence of torture

US praises

Bangladesh's foreign and domestic policies are heavily influenced by the region's major powers, particularly India. In past years, the India-

Bangladesh relationship provided openings for transnational threats, but the current government has demonstrated its interest in regional cooperation on counterterrorism.

Regarding countering radicalisation and violent extremism, the report lauded various steps taken by the government, especially the education ministry's move to oversee the madrasas and develop a standard national curriculum that includes language, math, and science modules, as well as minimum standards of secular subjects for all pri-

The government of Bangladesh is also actively expanding economic opportunities for women as a stabilising force against violent religious extremism, it added.

mary schools up to the eighth grade.

Nasim Osman | Killed for kidneys

FROM PAGE 1

accomplice, Delwar Hossain, who along with Chand Ali doped and kidnapped the kid near his home on April 22.

Khalil, Chand, Delwar and Matin are from Tafabari village.

Early next day, they took the child under the Udhunia bridge where they met three others -- including a "physician" -- who came in a motorbike from Savar in Dhaka.

It was the "physician" who conducted the "operation". He and his two accomplices left the scene with the



Khalil, arrested on Monday

kidneys preserved in a saline solution. According to Khalil, the deal for this job involved Tk 1 million. He was

it was done, he was offered Tk 20,000 which he claimed to have refused. Contacted, Sub-Inspector Abdul Jalil of Ullahpara Police Station said two four-inch-deep cuts were

supposed to get Tk 2,00,000. But after

seen on both sides of the child's abdomen during inquest. He doubts whether it was really done by a doctor.

The rest of the culprits are yet to be arrested.

Try lawmen involved

FROM PAGE 1

have been behind forced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, and unlawful destruction of private property.

In the report titled "Democracy in the Crossfire: Opposition Violence and Government Abuses in the 2014 Pre-and Post-Election Period in Bangladesh, the HRW also blamed both the government and the rival political parties for the violence centring on the January 5 elections.

After the elections, security forces unlawfully arrested opposition leaders, naming them as suspects in violent attacks, according to the report.

The report says researchers documented the killing or unlawful arrests of 19 opposition leaders and activists surrounding the polls. In nine of the killings, authorities claimed that the victims were killed in "crossfire" during gunfights between the security forces and armed criminals. In all nine cases, there is strong reason

to question the official account, the HRW

In several of the alleged crossfire cases,

witnesses said the killed person had been detained hours or days earlier, contradicting government claims, the report mentioned. Security forces have little credibility

when they simply claim that suspects die

in crossfire, as they have regularly

invoked the "killed in crossfire" expla-

nation to justify what the evidence later showed to be cold-blooded executions of detainees or suspects. "In particular, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has committed systematic human rights violations with impunity since its founding in 2004, which contributes directly to the

culture of ongoing abuses," the report

states. The rights watchdog urged to government to disband the Rab and replace it with a fully accountable civilian law enforcement agency dedicated to fighting crime and terrorism.

"The Bangladeshi government needs to stop protecting its security forces, and make good on public pronouncements of zero tolerance for impunity," said Brad Adams, Asia director of the HRW.

To this end, the HRW urged the government to establish an independent, external body to conduct prompt, impartial, and independent investigations into all allegations of violations by law enforcement agencies including the police, Rab, and Border Guards Bangladesh.

OPPOSITION BLAMED FOR POLLS VIOLENCE

Quoting Bangladeshi human rights organisations, the HRW said hundreds were killed and injured in violent attacks surrounding the controversial elections. The 64-page report says opposition

party members and activists on numerous occasions carried out petrol bomb attacks and sometimes forced children to carry out the attacks.

For the report, the HRW interviewed more than 120 people, including victims, their family members, and eyewitnesses and they blamed the BNP and Jamaate-Islami activists for some of the

attacks. The rights body called upon the government to investigate all attacks on religious minorities and prosecute the

Modi flouts

The latest phase saw riveting contests involving some big-wigs of the two sides, including Modi in Vadodara constituency in his home state of Gujarat, Sonia in Rae Bareli constituency in her home state of Uttar Pradesh, senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley in Amritsar in Punjab state and his party chief Rajnath Singh in Uttar Pradesh state's capital city Lucknow.

for the 26 parliamentary seats in Gujarat where Modi is not only making his debut in national elections but is also looking for a clean sweep in order to bolster his chances of becoming prime minister. His win against Madhusudan Mistry, the Congress nominee in Vadodara seat, does not appear to be in any doubt. Modi, who has been leading BJP

successfully in state legislature elections at a stretch since 1998, is also contesting another parliamentary seat in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

The next key battleground was the northern state of Punjab, where BJP

and its ruling ally Shiromani Akali Dal faces a strong anti-incumbency, whose benefit may go to Congress and upstart anti-graft outfit Aam Aadmi Party founded by Arvind Kejriwal. In the previous parliamentary polls, Congress won eight seats.

The 14 seats that went to poll in Uttar Pradesh yesterday were crucial for Congress, BJP, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party. Congress All eyes were glued to the voting had good returns from these seats in 2009 winning six, followed by SP four, BSP three and BJP one. BJP this time banked on Modi's popularity to see a reverse trend while BSP led by Mayawati is relying on its core Dalit-Muslim vote bank. In most of her election rallies, Mayawati spoke about issues relating to socially backward castes and sought to attract Muslims by attacking Modi.

Congress may not this time find it easy to retain its 2009 success in Uttar Pradesh but Sonia Gandhi is not expected to face much problem to win Rae Bareli seat for a third consecutive time.

UN vows to prevent 'another Rwanda' in South Sudan

AFP, Juba

Top United Nations rights officials vowed Wednesday to do everything in their power to prevent conflictwracked South Sudan from sliding into genocide, and warned the warring factions they would be held responsible if famine breaks out.

Firing off a damning attack against South Sudan's President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said she was "appalled by the apparent lack of concern about the risk of famine displayed by both leaders." The comments came after Pillay,

accompanied by a special genocide envoy, held talks with the rival leaders, and a day after the UN made a desperate appeal for a one-month truce to avert a famine and humanitarian disaster.

pointed with the parliamentary elecindependent media, and civil society.

She was testifying before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on Wednesday on assessing US foreign assistance priorities in South Asia, according to the US state department website. The US, said Biswal, was disap-

tions earlier this year, which were followed by harassment of opposition, "In addition to this harassment, we

disappearances and abductions. We have also strongly reiterated to the government the importance of maintaining the independence, effectiveness, and integrity of Grameen Bank, she noted. Appreciating Bangladesh's achievement in various sectors, the US official

are concerned about reports of contin-

uing extrajudicial killings as well as

said one must acknowledge the important gains Bangladesh has made in improving health, food security, and economic opportunity for its citizens. On labour issues, she said the Bangladesh government has made

some progress in registering unions, harmonising standards, and begining factory inspections, but much remains to be done. "Bangladesh must end harassment of labor activists, hire more inspectors to carry out quality inspections in a

timely manner, and reform its national laws and Export Processing Zone regulations to meet international