

BGB man dies in attack by fraudster

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) member died after being assaulted allegedly by a fraudster from Bhomra border under Sadar upazila in the district yesterday morning.

The dead is Nazrul Islam, 56, company commander of Bhomra Camp of BGB-38 Battalion.

Anwar Hossain alias Palash, who had introduced himself as a journalist of a weekly magazine, hit in the abdomen of Nazrul with his knee following an altercation between the two at Ghoshpara area on the border around 8:00am, witnesses said.

Doctors of Sathkira Sadar Hospital declared the critically injured BGB member dead after he was rushed there.

Col Khalilur Rahman, Khulna BGB sector commander, said the altercation broke out after the so-called journalist failed to show Nazrul his ID card. The fraudster had also tried to accuse the BGB man of taking bribe from a smuggler, he added.

The alleged killer in the primary interrogation admitted that he had no connection with any newspaper or magazine, said police.

Col Khalilur said Palash was hired by some local journalists to collect video clips where BGB men would be seen taking bribes from smugglers.

As per their previous plan, the so-

called newsman went to the spot around 8:00 yesterday.

Few minutes later, the BGB member stopped a man who was trying to smuggle a sack of garlic to India. The man later offered Nazrul some cash to let him commit the crime.

Even though he denied taking the money, Palash captured the entire incident using his cell-phone and tried to accuse Nazrul of bribery, said Col Khalilur.

At one point of their altercation, Nazrul asked Palash to show him his ID card.

Instead of showing it, the criminal hit the BGB member in his abdomen so badly that he fell on the ground unconscious and died on his way to the hospital.

BGB personnel detained Palash and another man named Rony when they were trying to flee, he added.

Two bottles of Indian Phensedyl syrup and liquor were also recovered from Nazrul's possession, he said, adding that the attack was carried out as Nazrul tried to take Palash to the BGB camp for interrogation.

Golam Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sathkira Sadar Police Station, said the body of the dead was handed over to BGB following an autopsy.

A case is being filed, the police officer told The Daily Star around 8:00pm yesterday.

BB finds

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If fired by the BB, any bank official can appeal to the central bank board seeking clearance of allegations.

In his appeal, Islam claimed it was not him but some branch managers and officials were behind the BASIC Bank scams.

Several central bank teams inspected some BASIC Bank branches, including those in Gulshan, Shantinagar and Dilkusha, between 2012 and 2013. The inspections revealed huge scams amounting to around Tk 5,000 crore which was given to clients on forged documents.

The BB board of directors approved a refinance fund of Tk 300 crore for Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB). The board asked central bank officials to ensure not to divert the subsidy funds from the agriculture sector to other sectors.

The RAKUB will get the fund at an interest rate of 5pc from the BB.

Probe to take

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Additional secretary of power division Dr Ahmad Kaikaus who heads the probe committee and Mohammad Hossain, director general of power cell of the power division, also spoke at the programme.

On November 1, people across the country were left without power almost for 10 hours since 11:30am, overshadowing the government's much-lauded achievement in the sector since 2009.

The man who shot Osama

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However, the man who shot bin Laden dead has been named as Rob O'Neill, a 38-year-old decorated serviceman who recently left the unit after 16 years.

He was expected to be unmasked in an interview with Fox News later this month, but on Wednesday his father Tom confirmed his name to the Mail Online.

He said his son shot the al-Qaeda chief three times in the forehead at close range in the secret raid on his house in Pakistan in 2011.

He was one of 23 SEALs who flew into the city of Abbottabad the night of May 2, but the last to see bin Laden alive.

It had previously been unclear precisely how the terrorist leader was killed and how many servicemen had been involved in his death.

O'Neill, who is married with children, was last year interviewed by Esquire magazine, which did not publish his name. He told how he joined the army at the age of 19 as a reaction to his then-girlfriend leaving him.

"That's the reason al-Qaeda has been decimated," he joked, "because she broke my f***** heart."

Talking of the famous mission, he said: "I'm not religious, but I always felt I was put on the earth to do some-

thing specific. After that mission, I knew what it was."

O'Neill, of Butte, Montana, served more than a dozen tours of duty in active combat, including Iraq and Afghanistan, undertaking 400 separate combat missions.

For his service he has been decorated 52 times, up to the level of senior chief petty officer before he left. He was awarded two Silver Stars - the military's third highest honour -- as well as four Bronze Stars with Valour.

He was the lead jumper on the Maersk Alabama, the ship taken over by Somali pirates, whose rescue turned into the Oscar-winning movie Captain Phillips.

It has been reported that his decision to speak out was prompted by losing some of his military benefits by quitting the SEALs after 16 years rather than completing a full 20 years of service.

O'Neill's father defended the decision to go public, saying, "People are asking if we are worried that Isis will come and get us because Rob is going public. I say I'll paint a big target on my front door and say come and get us."

This week the head of the US Naval special forces criticised O'Neill's decision to identify himself.

In a letter to serving members of the Navy's Sea, Air, Land Teams, com-

monly known as SEALs, Rear Admiral Brian Losey, Commander of the Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), and Force Master Chief Michael Magaraci suggested they should consider themselves "quiet professionals" who do not seek glory for missions.

O'Neill is now the second SEAL of the 23 involved in the raid to make his identity public.

Matt Bissonnette, who wrote a book two years ago called No Easy Day about the mission under the pen name Mark Owen, and who also appears on the Fox documentary The Man Who Killed Osama bin Laden, said he had been threatened with prosecution for disclosing classified information.

In their letter, the SEAL leaders said that team mates who breached the "ethos" of keeping quiet about their missions were "selfish."

"We do not abide wilful or selfish disregard for our core values in return for public notoriety and financial gain, which only diminishes otherwise honourable service, courage and sacrifice," they went on.

"Any real credit to be rendered is about the incredible focus, commitment, and teamwork of this diverse network and the years of hard work undertaken with little individual public credit. It is the nature of our profession."

Debate on over review right

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right to move a review petition and if the review petition is maintainable, then how many days a convict would get to file the petition, said the defence.

Jamaat leader Quader Mollah had filed two review petitions with the SC after the release of its full judgment on this appeal, but the five-member bench of the Appellate Division, led by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, dismissed those on December 12 last year. The SC is yet to release the full text of its dismissal order.

The SC on Monday upheld the death penalty of Kamaruzzaman, convicted of committing crimes against humanity in May last year. The same debate surfaced in September after the SC had delivered its verdict in the war crimes case against another Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

While the defence claimed they have the right to seek review as per article 105 of the constitution, the prosecution said a war criminal does not have the right as per article 47 (3) of the charter.

Khandker Mahub Hossain, a lawyer for Kamaruzzaman, assistant secretary general of Jamaat, yesterday said the

SC dismissed Mollah's review petitions after hearing arguments "on merit", and so, the defence believe a war crimes convict has the right to seek review.

There is no scope to execute Kamaruzzaman's verdict until the release of the full SC verdict in his case, claimed Mahub, also the president of Supreme Court Bar Association.

Talking to The Daily Star, Attorney General Mahubub Alam said the SC in its short verdict on Mollah's review petitions could have mentioned whether such petitions are maintainable or not. "Now we hope the full verdict will give a clear guideline on the issue," he added.

The prosecution expects the SC in its full verdict will hold non-maintainable the review petitions of Quader Mollah. If so, the judgment will have an impact on any probable review petition by other war criminals, said the attorney.

On execution of Kamaruzzaman's verdict, he said the SC will send the certified copy of its verdict to the trial court (International Crimes Tribunal-2) for necessary action. Upon receiving the copy, the tribunal will issue a death warrant against the convict.

"The jurisdiction lies solely with the Supreme Court whether it will send the full or short verdict to the tribunal," he mentioned.

Renowned jurist Shahdeen Malik, however, said it is not sure whether the SC's full judgment on Quader Mollah's review petitions would clear all confusion since legal interpretations are different in separate cases.

LAWYERS MEET KAMARUZZAMAN
Four defence counsels of death-row convict Kamaruzzaman met their client at Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

After a 45-minute meeting from 10:15am, defence counsel Shishir Manir said they met their client for his instruction.

The lawyer said they will file a review petition within 30 days after receiving the certified copy of the full verdict of the SC.

Asked whether Kamaruzzaman would seek presidential clemency, Shishir said the issue is not important right now as they will first file a review petition with the apex court.

"If rejected, then he [Kamaruzzaman] will make a decision on presidential mercy," he added.

3 forest officials 'abducted' in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Armed criminals yesterday abducted three forest officials at gun point from Harihappa under Longudu upazila of the district when they went there to mark trees.

The abductees are Md Farid Miah, assistant conservator of forest of Chittagong Hill Tracts North Forest Division; Rabiul Hossain, range officer of Longudu Range; and forester Bibortan Chakma.

Criminals kidnapped the trio when they reached Harihappa from district town. The thugs took them into the deep forest, said Abul Kalam, officer in-charge of Longudu Police Station.

Though the forest department did not inform police about the kidnapping, law enforcers knew it from local people, added the OC.

Obama to request \$6 billion for Ebola crisis

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama is seeking more than \$6 billion in emergency funding to fight the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and respond to cases in the United States, a White House official said Wednesday.

The United Nations has described the Ebola outbreak that has killed some 5,000 people -- most in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone -- as a threat to world peace and security, and issued repeated appeals for aid.

The US response aims to "strengthen our domestic public health systems, contain and mitigate the outbreak in West Africa, speed efforts to obtain and test vaccines and therapeutics, and further reduce risks to Americans" by helping prevent, detect and respond to outbreaks in vulnerable countries, said the official from the Office of Management and Budget.

"These activities are critical to combat the spread of Ebola and reduce the potential for future outbreaks of infectious diseases that could follow a similarly devastating, costly, and destabilizing trajectory," the official said.

US officials have criticized the level of international support for countries hit by Ebola and said foreign governments needed to do more to send doctors and equipment.

The United States has deployed military and civilian personnel to the region to build hospitals and provide logistical and other assistance.

"To help meet both immediate and longer-term requirements, we are requesting over \$4.5 billion for immediate response and \$1.5 billion for a Contingency Fund to ensure that there are resources available to meet the evolving nature of the epidemic," the official said.

So far, the United States has sent nearly 2,000 people, including soldiers, health workers and aid workers, the OMB official said Wednesday.

The US military plans to boost its force in West Africa to as many as 4,000 soldiers.

Much of the US response has been focused in Liberia, the hardest hit country, due to historical links.

The World Health Organization, has so far recorded more than 13,000 cases but admits the real number could be much higher.

Mujib should be sued

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country's struggle for Independence. The elder son of BNP chief Khaleda Zia came up with the fresh attack on Bangabandhu while addressing a discussion in East London on Wednesday to mark "National Revolution and Solidarity Day" introduced and observed by his party.

Pointing to a recent sedition case filed against him, Tarique claimed that he had been sued for "spelling out the real history" of the country.

On October 18, Moshir Rahman Malek, president of Bangabandhu Foundation, filed the case against Tarique for calling Bangabandhu a "Pakbandhu (Friend of Pakistan)".

"Sheikh Mujibur Rahman cannot be the Father of the Nation. He returned to the country with a Pakistani passport [after Liberation]. Someone who accepts Pakistani passport even after Bangladesh's Independence is a citizen of that country, according to law," Tarique said at a discussion in East London on September 29.

On Wednesday, Tarique reiterated that his father Ziaur Rahman, founder of the BNP, was "not only the first one

to proclaim Independence but also the first elected president of the independent Bangladesh."

Neither did Ziaur Rahman assume power forcibly nor did he have anything to do with the killing of four national leaders inside Dhaka Central Jail, he claimed.

Rejecting Awami League General Secretary and IGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam's November 3 remark that Zia was involved with the jail killing, Tarique alleged, "The Awami League itself had committed the crime."

Tarique claimed his father was "under house arrest" at his cantonment residence on November 2, 1975, a day before the jail killing took place.

Earlier at a discussion in London on March 25, he first claimed that Zia was the first president of Bangladesh because he first proclaimed the Independence in 1971.

Tarique was arrested in 2007 during the army-backed caretaker government regime. Around a dozen corruption cases were filed against him. A year later, he was freed on bail and flew to the UK for treatment. Since then he has been living there with his family.

Rohingya camps

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the premier. The refugee camp areas near the Cox's Bazar sea beach would be utilised for the development of tourism, she added.

According to official statistics, some 34,000 Rohingya refugees are now living in Bangladesh. However, the unofficial number of the refugees is two to three lakh.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
Describing Bangladesh as an internationally-recognised role model in tackling both natural and manmade disasters, Hasina said there should be more preparedness for facing any strong earthquake.

"Disasters can come at any moment. So, we'll have to remain alert all the time. There should be more preparedness for facing earthquakes," she mentioned.

The PM reaffirmed her government's resolve to free the country from poverty. "Since we've set an example in tackling natural disasters, we'll have to ensure further socioeconomic development of the country's people," she added.

Renewing her pledge to turn Bangladesh into a mid-income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041, she said some five crore people have graduated from the lower class to the middle class over the last five

and a half years.

Hasina highlighted the construction of silos and godowns with financial assistance from Japan to store food for up to three years so that the country does not need to beg or seek help from others during any disaster.

Referring to this year's floods victims, she said her government had come up with food and necessary relief materials after the flood and directed the ministry to take initiative to build homes for those who have lost their accommodation in river erosion. The government, she added, will provide the victims with khas land, if necessary.

During the 1998 countrywide flood, Hasina recalled, the BBC and some development partners, including the World Bank, had an apprehension that about two crore people would die from hunger. "But, due to our timely steps that didn't happen.... We proved in 1998 that if there's a will, any disaster can be faced."

Referring to the successful rescue operations in the Rana Plaza building collapse last year in Savar, she said the rescue operations lasted for 21 days on humanitarian ground which is very rare in the world.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Mesbahul Alam, secretary of the ministry, were present.

US mulls new tactics to stem wave of cyberattacks

AFP, Washington

As hacking attacks reach epidemic proportions, the US cybersecurity community is looking at new ways to step up defense, including counterattacking the hackers themselves.

US cybersecurity firms have begun unprecedented levels of cooperation to shore up America's key computer networks, and some experts argue in favor of "hacking back," or using offensive tools to improve defense.

Last month, dozens of cybersecurity firms and partners pooled resources in an effort to root out malware believed to originate from a Chinese state-sponsored group, dubbed Axiom.

"We wanted to make absolutely sure we did something that caused them some level of pain," said Zachary

Hanif at iSight Partners, one of the cybersecurity firms involved in the operation.

Although the operation stopped short of "hacking back," the coordination aimed to "throw a large wrench into their engine," according to iSight's Brian Bartholomew, by coordinating defense to remove malicious software from and fortify defenses. The group cleaned up some 43,000 infections over two weeks.

Some experts argue tougher defense is not enough, and that some kind of offensive action is needed to halt the worst attacks in cyberspace.

Stewart Baker, a former assistant secretary of homeland security argues that limited "hacking back" could be justified, even though the legal issues are unclear.

2 secretaries quit

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The government also is taking initiatives to send Abul Kashem, a joint secretary of Liberation War Affairs Ministry (now an OSD), on voluntary retirement for fraudulently obtaining war hero's certificates. KH Masud Siddiqui, former secretary of the same ministry, resigned on October 31, after his freedom fighter's certificate was also found to be fake.

Neaz, Amir and Masud won't have to face departmental actions, as they have resigned.

Under the rules, if any government official goes on voluntary retirement or resigns, there is no provision for withdrawing their resignation letters and that those must be accepted.

The Liberation War Affairs Ministry earlier revoked their certificates that they had collected last year.

Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, senior secretary of the public administration ministry, told this correspondent that the two secretaries' resignation letters were being processed and that Abul Kashem Talukder would face action as per rules.

Asked about departmental action, Naser said it was not applicable to those who already retired.

The four bureaucrats, however, didn't take any benefit using their certificates as they didn't get job extensions.

In his resignation letter, Neaz Uddin said he wished to go on voluntary retirement due to his "physical and mental" condition.

He joined the service on 19 June, 1983, and his retirement date was December 31 this year.

Contacted, he said, "I have made the decision on personal grounds."

Amir Hossain tendered his resignation only hours after Neaz did. He, too, cited personal reasons.

Talking to The Daily Star, he said he served the government for 30 years and thought it was time to go.

But he would not comment on whether his resignation had any link with the war hero's certificate that he had obtained through forgery.

On October 13, the public administration ministry served show cause notices to the four asking why departmental action would not be taken against them for their alleged cheating.

They responded to the letters on October 27, still claiming that they were indeed war heroes.

Later, the Anti-Corruption Commission found they unfairly

obtained the certificates, bypassing relevant laws. The probe also found former state minister for Liberation War Affairs AB Tajul Islam used his unilateral power to illegally issue the certificates.

The ministry revoked their certificates on September 22.

The anti-graft body recommended that the government take action for their misconduct.

According to the ACC report, during the 1971 war Niaz Uddin was 15 years old, Masud Siddiqui 15, Amir Hossain 14, and Abul Kashem just about 12.

In November 2012, the Awami League-led government extended the retirement age of freedom fighters from 59 years to 60. Earlier in April 2010, their retirement age was extended by two years from 57.

After the decision, many public servants took freedom fighter's certificates through illegal means to extend their service tenure.

The government has revoked war hero's certificates of 182 government officials so far this year, as they obtained those through cheating.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the government officials who faked the certificates.

Pak diplomat summoned

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country's internal matter, yet Pakistan could not remain divorced from references to 1971 and its aftermath."

Termining the comments as unwarranted and inappropriate, Additional Foreign Secretary (Bilateral) Mizanur Rahman said they amounted to directly interfering with the internal affairs of Bangladesh.

He added that vested quarters in Pakistan were advised to mind their own business and set their house in order rather than try to interfere with the matters which fell within Bangladesh's domestic jurisdiction.

The additional secretary pointed out that the trials enjoyed support of the mass people in Bangladesh and the wider international community to break the culture of impunity for the crimes against

humanity and genocide in 1971.

"It was only through ensuring justice that the wounds and trauma inflicted by those crimes in our national psyche can be healed and put behind."

Noting the holding of demonstrations and provocative statements by Jamaat-e-Islami in Pakistan, Mizanur Rahman further stated that Bangladesh expects that as a friendly neighbour, Pakistan would refrain from such activities as those may hurt the sentiments of the people of Bangladesh and suggest misplaced sympathies for otherwise undeserving entities.

The ICT-1 on October 29 awarded death sentence to Nizami for committing crimes against humanity during the liberation war.

The Pakistan interior minister in his reaction said it was highly unfortunate that almost 45 years after those tragic chain of events, the Bangladeshi government still seemed to be living in the past and totally ignoring the time-tested virtue of forgive and forget.

He said he was deeply saddened to receive this shocking news and believed that the Bangladesh government had misused the process of law as a political tool against the Jamaat leader.

Earlier on December 17, 2013, Dhaka summoned the Pakistan High Commissioner Afrasiab Mehdi Hashmi Qureshi and deplored the resolutions adopted by the Pakistan National Assembly and Punjab Provincial Assembly expressing concern over the execution of war criminal Quader Mollah.