

# Radicals behind father's killing



Ansar Al Islam Bangladesh-2 group in supposedly their Facebook page claims responsibility for the murder of Prof Shafiu Islam.

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the slain professor.  
"He was progressive but never involved in politics. He preached humanism. This is what the radicals like Jamaat-Shibir men did not like and these are the people who killed him," Javin said over the phone from their ancestral home in Gaibandha where his father was buried yesterday.

Prof Shafiu, 48, was hacked to death by unknown assailants near his house in Choddopai area on the outskirts of the city on Saturday.

Hours after the killing a group calling itself Ansar Al Islam Bangladesh-2 claimed responsibility for the murder in a post on its Facebook page.

**20 DETAINED**  
In Rajshahi, law enforcers detained 20 people, including a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader, in connection with the murder.

Jamaat leader Humayun Kabir, principal of the city's Islamia College, was arrested in Binodpur area. He coordinated many of Jamaat-Shibir's violent activities in Motihar Thana area, said AKM Nahidul Islam, deputy commissioner (East) of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP).

Police did not disclose the identities of the others detained after RU Registrar Prof Entajul Haque filed a murder case with Motihar Police Station.

DC Nahidul said the murder was planned and the detainees were being interrogated.  
"Shafiu's faith in Baul philosophy and his close association with bauls might have angered Jamaat-Shibir men and like-minded militant outfits," he said.

On the claims of the so-called Ansar Al Islam Bangladesh-2, Nahidul said police are investigating it. "We have already sent a letter to police headquarters for investigating those web materials."

However, the group's claim might be a ploy to divert attention from the real killers, he suspected. "It may be the

case that members of another group have done it but they are trying to pass the blame on to a fabricated outfit."

Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said: "The group might be one of the splinter cells of militant group Ansarullah Bangla Team which carried out many secret killings."

However, echoing Nahidul, he also said the real killers might create the Facebook page to hide themselves.

RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin, too, said it was a planned murder.

"The university authorities have asked law enforcers to arrest the killers immediately," he said.

**"A GOOD SOUL"**  
On the Facebook page, Shafiu Islam was termed "murtad" (atheist). The group which claimed the responsibility for the killing, referred to a Daily Sangram report that Shafiu had banned burka in his class when he was the chairman of Sociology department in 2010.

"Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! Our Mujahideens today have murdered a murtad [atheist] who had prohibited female students from wearing burka [veil] in classrooms," says one of the posts on the page.

In a fresh post yesterday, the militant outfit also termed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina "murtad" and said Shafiu was a greater "murtad" than Feraun and Hasina.

Shafiu's colleague Prof Mustafijur Rahman, however, said Shafiu never showed any disrespect towards his students' beliefs or attires.

"Shafiu was obsessed with Sufism and the mystical beliefs of Lalon. We've never heard of any student complaining against him. He was loved by all," he said.

**PROTESTS AT RU & DU**  
Outraged by the killing, RU teachers yesterday boycotted classes and examinations while Dhaka university teachers staged demonstrations demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers.

Over a thousand teachers, students and university staffs brought out a silent procession wearing black badges in front of the RU Senate Bhaban at 11:15am.  
"We, the teachers, are not safe at all," said Prof Shamsul Alam Sarker.

Demanding immediate arrest of the killers, RU Teachers Association announced that all classes and exams would be boycotted today and tomorrow. They also warned of tougher programmes if law enforcers failed to submit the charge sheet in 15 days.

In a protest rally on the DU campus, Prof Akhter Sultana, chair of Mass Communication and Journalism department, said if the killers went unpunished, such incidents would continue to happen.

Different student organisations brought out processions both on RU and DU campuses, demanding arrest and punishment of the killers.

**AUTOPSY REPORT**  
The Forensic department of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday submitted Shafiu's autopsy report to the police, calling it a homicide from fatal head injuries.

"We found five fatal injuries in his head and neck from sharp-edged weapons," said Assistant Prof Jubaidur Rahman of the RMCH.

**3 RU TEACHERS KILLED IN A DECADE**  
With Prof Shafiu, three RU teachers were killed in the last ten years.

Muhammad Yunus, a professor of Economics, was killed at Binodpur on December 24, 2004. On January 28, 2010, a lower court sentenced two JMB men to death in the case.

On February 1, 2006, Prof Sheikh Taher Ahmed, 59, of Geology and Mining department was murdered inside his residence on the campus. A Rajshahi speedy trial tribunal awarded death penalty to four people, including a pro Jamaat-e-Islami teacher Mia Mohammad Moinuddin of the university, in May 2008 for the killing.

# Close shave

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any delay, we would have been forced to board the boat leaving for Malaysia," said Mohammad Yusuf, 15, one of the abducted kids.

Yusuf was kidnapped along with his classmate Mohammad Ibrahim, 16, on their way to Madrasa-e-Ashrafia, Kashemul Ulum at Mithapanirchhara in Teknaf.

Ibrahim's father Farid Ahmed said both the boys stay in the madrasa dormitory. They come to their houses in Lombori at the weekend for having lunch.

"They were kidnapped around 4:00pm on Friday while they were returning to their dormitory," said Farid.

In the evening, their family members and teachers found that they had gone missing. Their parents came to know about the abduction at night when the kidnappers contacted them over mobile phones.

They took up the matter with the 42 BGB Battalion's Commanding Officer Abu Zar Al Zahid, as the abductors asked the two families to arrange Tk 3 lakh each to be paid in ransom once the boys reached Thailand.

"We were shaken to the core ... We are scared even now," Farid told this correspondent after the BGB rescued



Khuilla Yunus Nuruzzaman

his son.  
Yusuf said the brokers beat them up after they were taken to a house.

"With our hands and legs tied, we were confined to a room. The brokers also painted 'AA' on our hands," he said.

Mokter Hossain, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said, "People from areas other than Cox's Bazar and Teknaf come here willingly to go to Malaysia by sea."

"The brokers usually bring the fortune seekers, saying the journey is safe and that they would get a good job once they are in Malaysia.  
"But the fact is all these people, who come here willingly or are brought against their will, become captives of the traffickers in coastal

areas. They are not allowed to leave," said Mokter.

He couldn't say how many brokers were active in the area, but said 49 cases were filed with his police station over trafficking since January. And seven of the cases are related to abduction.

The rescued victims were released after they testified before a magistrate. The three brokers were sent to jail in the case filed by the BGB for abduction and human trafficking.

Sub-inspector of Teknaf Police Station Sanaul Islam, also investigating officer in the case, said the two boys were taken to Khuilla's house after the abduction.

Khuilla is also an accused in a robbery case, he added.

# 2 BGB men

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The dead are Nayek Subedar Mohammad Abul Kashem and Sepoy Mohammad Hasan. They are members of 16 BGB Battalion in Ranggarh of the district.

Lt Col Khaled Bin Yusuf, commanding officer of the battalion, said the explosion took place around 11:25am when a regular training of the BGB members was going on.

While Nayek Hasan was trying to throw a grenade, it went off in his hand as he could not handle it properly. The blast killed Sepoy Kashem, who was very close to Hasan, on the spot and injured four others, said the BGB official.

Hasan died when he was taken to Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka by a helicopter, Khaled added.

The injured -- Capt Tayeful, Nayek Subedar Md Masud, Lance Corporal Md Siraj and Sepoy Moshirul -- have been undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

# Djokovic wins ATP Finals

## Federer withdraws

AP, London

Roger Federer has pulled out of the ATP Finals less than one hour before his title match with Novak Djokovic, handing a third consecutive title to the top-ranked Serb.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion, who saved four match points in his semifinal win over Davis Cup teammate Stan Wawrinka, said back problems prevented him from playing.

Federer told fans at the O2 Arena: "Unfortunately I'm not match fit. I can't compete at this level with Novak in a finals like this." The Swiss added: "I hope you understand."

The 33-year-old Federer spent nearly three hours on court on Saturday evening.



Federer, whose back problems ruined his 2013 season, is set to play in the Davis Cup final with Wawrinka next week against France.

# Dozens witnessed; cops in the dark

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They, however, could not read what those letters were, as the man always kept a distance from the locals that night.

Of the government agencies that usually conduct drives to detain someone, only the members of the Detective Branch of police wear such jackets with "DB" written on its back.

Besides, some of them were carrying heavy firearms which were unlike anything used by patrol police, said Mohammad Rubel.

Rubel runs a tea-stall a few yards from the Golartek residences of the abducted book trader brothers, Omar Faruk and Firoz Sarder, and was the first to encounter the gang of abductors that night.

"Around 2:00am on Thursday night, a group of 10-11 people got off from a big white microbus at the entry of the [Golartek] lane, and came to my tea stall. One of them was wearing a lungi. I had only a few customers, mostly rickshaw-pullers at that time," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Brandishing firearms, they told me to close the shop. Then they took us along with two community security guards hostage. They searched us and seized the mobile phones of three," he said.

"Three men with firearms stood on guard while the others went towards the gate to the buildings where the brothers lived."

"The gate was locked. Having failed to open it, the men came back and asked me if I had any tool with which

they could break open the lock.  
"When I said no, they went back to the gate and two of them scaled the wall and got inside.

"About half an hour later, the men brought the two brothers out, forced them into the white microbus and sped away," Rubel said, adding that before leaving, the "mysterious men" returned the three mobiles they had



Omar Faruk Firoz Sarder

seized.  
Faruk and Firoz have been living in the neighbourhood for the last seven years. Faruk lived on the ground floor of a two-storey building with his wife, two children and parents while Firoz lived on the ground floor of an adjacent three-storey building with his wife and their twin sons.

Firoz's wife Meena said that she heard someone knocking on the door, shouting, "Fire! Fire!" and asking everyone to come out.

"When my husband opened the door, he saw two men outside. One of them asked his name. The moment he said his name, the man caught my husband by the collar and started beating him while asking where Faruk

lived."  
Despite heavy beating, Firoz was not giving them Faruk's whereabouts.

By then, the manager of the building and his wife had come downstairs, hearing the commotion.

"When I saw how mercilessly they were beating Firoz, I told them that Faruk lived in the next building," the manager's wife Shirin told The Daily Star.

"The two men then took the keys to the main gate from my husband. They opened the gate and let their fellows in. They were armed. Then they started kicking on the door of Faruk's house," she continued.

Once inside Faruk's home, they started looking for his mobile phone and seized his wife's, said Shirin.

They kept beating Faruk till he gave away his phone, which was put on charge at a neighbour's house, she said adding that after getting their hands on the cell phone, the men left with the brothers.

By then, all the residents of the two buildings had woken up. They all watched the gunmen taking away Faruk and Firoz.

Except for the two cellphones, they took nothing else, said the family members.

However, Officer-in-Charge Rafiqul Islam of Darussalam Police Station said they still didn't know who might have carried out the abduction. "We are trying our best to find the brothers."

There was no complaint, case or general diary against the two brothers, he said.

# Beheading image appears again

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depraved organisation this is" and called Kassiga "selfless humanitarian worker".

Cameron also said he wants Jihadi John to "face justice" for his crimes rather than be killed after it was reported that the ISIS militant, who is British, was wounded in a US-led air strikes carried out last Saturday. It is believed he was taken to hospital after the attack in Western Iraq.

Asked at the end of the G20 Leaders Summit in Brisbane whether he hoped Jihadi John, he said: "I want Jihadi John to face justice for the appalling acts carried out in Syria."

The White House said the US intelligence community was working to determine the authenticity of the video. National Security Council spokeswoman Bernadette Meehan said that if the video was authentic, the White House would be "appalled by the brutal murder of an innocent American". She said the White House expressed its deepest condolences to Kassig's family and friends.

Kassig's parents released a statement asking for their son to be "remembered for his important work" and said they were waiting for the authenticity of the video to be confirmed.

At the end of the 15-minute, 53-second video released by Al Furqan media yesterday morning, a man who looks and sounds like the British terrorist stands over what appears to be the severed head of Peter Kassig.

The militant appears to be uninjured and is dressed in the same clothes as in previous videos -- a full black robe, a leather knife belt and a balaclava-style mask over his face showing only his eyes.

Speaking to the camera, he says: "This is Peter Edward Kassig, a US citizen of your country. Peter, who fought against the Muslims in Iraq whilst serving as a soldier in the American army, doesn't have much to say. His previous cellmates have already spoken on his behalf.

"But we say to you, Obama ... you claim to have withdrawn from Iraq four years ago. We said to you then that you were liars, that you had not withdrawn. And that if you had withdrawn you would return even after some time -- you would return."

He adds: "Your forces will return greater in number than they were before.



We also remind you of the haunting words of our Sheikh Abu Musab al-Zarqawi told you. The spark has been lit here in Iraq and its heat will continue to intensify by Allah's permission until it burns the crusader army."

He said ISIS would "bury" American soldiers under Syrian soil.

In one of the most gruesome and horrifying scenes to be officially published by ISIS media outlets, the British terrorist is also seen leading ISIS fighters in a mass beheading of men claimed to be combatants loyal to Syrian president Bashar al-Assad.

Dressed in desert camouflage, ISIS soldiers are shown collecting hunting knives from a box and leading out their prisoners, whose hands are bound with plastic ties. All are dressed in black trousers and shirts.

While over a dozen ISIS jihadis, who appear to be from a mix of heritages, stand over the unarmed prisoners, the man who appears to be Jihadi John makes an address to the US president, as in previous videos.

"To Obama, the dog of Rome, today we are slaughtering the soldiers of Bashar and tomorrow we'll be slaughtering your soldiers. With Allah's permission we will break this final and last crusade and the Islamic State will soon like your puppet David Cameron said will begin to slaughter your people on your streets."

The men are then beheaded, the filmmakers employing slow motion, multiple camera angles and sound effects to achieve maximum horror.

Entitled "Although the disbelievers like it", the film also gives a three-minute potted history of Islamic State since the invasion of Iraq by western allies in 2003 and celebrates recent pledges of allegiance from jihadi fighters from Libya, the Sinai, Algeria and Yemen, claiming

that the era of division amongst jihadi fighters was over.

The British militant claims the beheadings were carried out in Dabiq, a town due north of Syrian city of Aleppo and around 25km from the Turkish border, which many Isis fighters believe will be the scene of an apocalyptic showdown that will hasten the end of days.

The Daily Mail wrote that it has received an independent account of how Jihadi John was injured and rushed to hospital after a devastating air strike in Al Qaim, in Anbar Province, Western Iraq.

Jihadi John, the Briton who beheaded two British and two American hostages held by Islamic State terrorists, has been injured in a US-led air strike, according to reports received by the Foreign Office.

The masked "executioner" with a London accent is believed to have narrowly escaped death when he attended a summit of the group's leaders in an Iraqi town close to the Syrian border last Saturday.

The meeting was targeted by American and Iraqi jets. The joint mission left at least ten ISIS commanders dead, and around 40 injured.

The secret, heavily guarded meeting took place last Saturday in a makeshift underground bunker beneath a house in Al Qaim. At least 30 tribal elders from various parts of Syria and Iraq gathered to pledge allegiance to Al-Baghdadi, according to a well-placed Syrian source. He said Jihadi John, as a senior ISIS figure in his own right, who goes by the nomme de guerre Jalman Al-Britani, was also present.

A nurse who treated the wounded in a hospital in Deir-az-Zour, confirmed that one of the names on the injured list was Jalman, saying it was "the one who slaughtered the journalists".

It is not clear how seriously the British fanatic was hurt, but the source said that both he and Al-Baghdadi were rushed to the Al Qaim General Hospital for treatment.

ISIS members issued urgent calls through the local mosque's loudspeakers, appealing for the town's residents to donate blood at the hospital.

One source added that Jihadi John, Al-Baghdadi and the other wounded ISIS personnel were then driven to Syria, and travelling 200 miles north along the Euphrates valley to the ISIS stronghold of Raqqa.