

# Patuakhali war crimes suspect

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produced before the court yesterday.  
**SUBHAN'S CASE**  
The prosecution yesterday completed closing arguments in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan and the defence started placing their arguments.  
Prosecutor Zaed Al Malum yesterday took around 15 minutes to complete their legal arguments that started on Sunday.  
Initiating their arguments, Subhan's counsel Mizanul Islam said the incidents narrated in the charges might have taken place in 1971, but his client was "not involved".  
Subhan, a naye-e-ameer of Jamaat, faces nine charges including genocide

committed in Pabna during the war. He, however, pleads not guilty before the court.  
The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam adjourned the proceedings until today.  
**ICT-1**  
A war crimes case against fugitive Abdul Jabbar has entered the last stage as state-appointed defence counsel Mohammad Abul Hasan yesterday completed cross-examining last prosecution witness and investigation officer Helal Uddin.  
The International Crimes Tribunal-1 has fixed November 25 for hearing closing arguments from the prosecution.

The defence yesterday suggested that first prosecution witness Shoebur Rahman Golder was a leader of Jatiya Party and testified against Jabbar, who was a party colleague, due to an intra-party conflict.  
Helal said, "It's not true."  
In reply to another question, the witness said it was not true that he had submitted a fabricated investigation report to ensure Jabbar's punishment.  
The defence also suggested that the documentary evidence against Jabbar had been cooked up to harass his client.  
The witness denied the suggestion.  
Jabbar faces five charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity.

# Interpol launches most-wanted list

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Qatar on a military airplane.  
Sergey Darminov, 50, is thought to have led an illegal crab-fishing operation in Russia that netted \$450m. Another, Adriano Giacobone, 57, is wanted on charges that include illegal transport and discharge of toxic waste, poisoning water beds, kidnapping, illegal detention, carrying of firearms, aggravated theft and violence against a police officer.  
A joint Interpol-UNEP report earlier this year linked the revenues from environmental crime to extremist militias such as the Lords Resistance Army in Uganda, the Janjaweed in Sudan and al-Shabaab in Somalia.  
While sources say there are indications connecting some of the fugitives under investigation to terrorist groups, Interpol will officially neither confirm nor deny them.  
The law enforcement agency stresses that members of the public should report any sightings of the fugitives to Interpol or their national police force, and not approach them directly.  
"We consider all of these people to be dangerous, especially because the nature of these crimes required the involvement of organised criminal networks," Carvelli said.  
The public appeal follows an inquiry by 23 officers into the whereabouts of 139 suspects wanted by 36 countries. The investigation has been code-named Operation Infra-Terra.  
Since its launch last month, Operation Infra-Terra has raised the profile of Interpol's environmental

crimes unit, which focuses on illegal exploitation of the world's flora and fauna, and hazardous waste dumping.  
Past Interpol public appeals have focused on themes like fugitives in the Americas, and led to over 600 arrests. Officers working on Operation Infra-Terra now hope for similar results.  
"Until recently, environmental offences were not even considered a crime by many countries but as the years have passed, they have realised that environmental crime is a serious internal threat to our societies," said Andreas Andreou, a criminal intelligence officer with Interpol's environmental security unit. "It involves organised criminal networks which smuggle drugs, weapons and people. If a poacher need guns, for instance, here we have a crossover with arms trafficking."  
Routes for trafficking ivory may also be used for trafficking weapons and the more profitable line may then be used to finance other ventures, Interpol say.  
In the future, the agency intends to focus its activities geographically, with illegal logging and timber trade inquiries centred on the Americas, efforts to protect wildlife species - particularly tigers - undertaken in Asia, pollution investigations that pinpoint Europe, and a crackdown on the poaching of elephants and rhinos in Africa.  
Rhinos have already disappeared from several Asian and African countries and 94% of rhino poaching takes place in just two countries - Zimbabwe

and South Africa - where it has increased from an estimated 50 animals in 2007, to over 1,000 in 2013, due to the involvement of crime syndicates.  
Between 20,000-25,000 elephants are killed every year in Africa, and forest elephant populations are thought to have declined by 62% between 2002-2011.  
A letter co-signed by 81 MEPs was sent to the European commission last week calling for urgent action to address the problem.  
"The unprecedented scale of illegal poaching is fuelling instability and driving many species to the brink of extinction," the Liberal MEP Catherine Bearder said. "Unless we take action now, our grandchildren will only be able to see wild animals such as elephants, lions and rhinos in their history books."  
Persuading officials in some countries to address the problem remains an uphill battle, and stricter law enforcement efforts and penalties may be needed internationally, Interpol sources say.  
**'RE-ENACTING NOAH'S ARK'**  
Ahmed Kamran is wanted for an environmental crime that resembles a macabre inversion of Noah's Ark, reenacted at Tanzania's Kilimanjaro airport. Shortly before he jumped bail, witnesses told a Tanzanian court how Kamran, 29, paid for and oversaw the loading of more than 100 live animals and birds - including giraffes, impalas and wildebeest - onto a military plane bound for Qatar.

# Navy rescues

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earlier. After the ransom is paid, the victims cross into Malaysia from Thailand on foot.  
Cases filed with several coastal police stations suggest that there are over one

hundred brokers and traffickers active in about 40 spots along the Cox's Bazar coast.  
Reports run by the international media, including The Guardian and Reuters, revealed last year that the trafficking increased following religious persecution of minority Muslim Rohingyas in Myanmar.  
Crammed in the cargo holds of boats, the victims hardly receive any food during their journey to Thailand, the reports said.

every consequence.  
BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed at a press briefing at party headquarters has meanwhile said, "Baksal failed in 1975 and the same thing will happen to the second Baksal."  
Quoting Imam, he said Hasina had faith in her adviser, adding, it was obvious that the premier had to keep faith in them, with whom she led the "misdeeds".

# PM's adviser lies

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He couldn't give any satisfactory explanation for his assurance about favouring BCL men in BCS viva voce if they qualified in written exams.  
Fakhru, also the spokesperson of the party, said Imam had revealed the truth of the "conspiracy" behind the January 5 polls.  
Four days after assuring Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of helping them in the viva voce test of

people, he said.  
**WHAT HE TOLD BCL MEN**  
Speaking at the BCL programme, Imam referred to the role of police and administration during the January 5 election, and said he talked to officials concerned in all upazilas, and asked them to form mobile courts with pro-AL officials to help hold the election.  
"They [pro-AL officials] stood by us and sacrificed their lives for us. Nineteen of our policemen were killed brutally by Jamaat-Shibir men. They all were our men," he said, explaining the advantage of having party men in the administration and how the AL benefited from this.  
**HIS EXPLANATION ON BCS VIVA**  
Imam yesterday said it is certain that meritorious people would be in the public service. I clearly said that BCL men would have to study, and they would get jobs only when they pass written tests. There is no question of any misunderstanding about it.  
He said if they had any bad intention like former PM Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman to give party men public jobs by any means, they would not have told the BCL men to study hard to qualify for government jobs.  
**IMAM'S PREVIOUS STATEMENT**  
Four days ago, he said the BCL men would just have to try and overcome the hurdle of written test in civil service exams. The rest would be taken care of.  
"We will see how much we can help you with the viva voce," the adviser said.  
"Whenever I take anyone's curriculum vitae to the prime minister or request her to give someone a job, she asks whether the person was involved in Chhatra League politics and also about his or her contribution to politics.  
"Many of you [BCL activists] often request for a job ... is there anyone who cares about you more than our

leader and I do? We are trying our best to ensure jobs for you ... Our leader has told us to arrange jobs for you by any means," he said.  
The BCL men have little time to study as they work for the party and help the government in its tasks. But others who compete in the BCS exams don't have to work like them, said the adviser.  
**WHAT PROMPTED HIM TO BRIEF MEDIA?**  
When Imam learnt that Hasina and other top AL leaders reacted sharply to his statement, he tried to contact the premier.  
He called the PM over the phone several times but the premier didn't respond, according to sources in the AL and the PMO.  
The adviser then talked to several senior party leaders, including Tofail Ahmed, to get their support but failed.  
Imam convened a meeting of the AL sub-committee on publicity affairs on Sunday, thinking that it would give him a chance to brief the media after the meeting.  
But he didn't attend the meeting as a few party leaders advised him not to brief the media without the PM's consent, said AL and PMO sources.  
When Imam learnt that senior leaders at Saturday's AL parliamentary board meeting slammed him for his controversial statement, he became desperate to meet the PM.  
He then contacted two of the PM's advisers to help him. Both the advisers assured him of help. One of them, Mashiur Rahman, was present at yesterday's press conference.  
On Sunday, Imam went to the Gono Bhaban to meet Hasina, but he was denied an audience with her. He then requested some officials there to convey to the PM a message that he wanted to clarify his position over his controversial statement.

# Mamata

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Bangladesh and an end to the plight of people residing there, certain issues needed to be sorted out.  
"I have all the good feelings towards Bangladesh and the people living in the enclaves and I want their problems to be solved. But there are certain important issues for a resolution of the problem," she said.  
Mamata, who was in Delhi to attend a function to mark the 125th birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, said the two key problems relate to loss of territory of West Bengal in the process of exchange of enclaves and that has to be addressed.  
Secondly, she said, there is the question of managing funds for rehabilitating the people who want to leave the enclaves and settle in West Bengal.  
She said the Indian government should bear the financial burden for rehabilitating and resettling the people who leave enclaves in Bangladesh and settle down in West Bengal because the state government is already cash-starved.  
Mamata said her government opposed in the parliamentary standing committee meeting last month an Indian government's proposal for clearing the constitution amendment bill needed to pass by Indian parliament to implement the LBA.  
The Narendra Modi government is keen to have the bill passed in the coming winter session of parliament, beginning on November 24. While it has majority in Lok Sabha, it lacks the same in Rajya Sabha where Trinamool's support is important.  
Mamata said she does acknowledge the problems faced by people residing in the enclaves in accessing essential services like healthcare, connectivity and education but wants the other issues to be addressed before the bill is passed to operationalise the LBA.

# World running

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said in its annual report that it "expects to continue to outperform the global chocolate market".  
But it also reiterated fears raised by Mars Inc of a global shortage of cocoa and the impact that could have on the individual consumer.  
Fiona Dawson, the then-UK president of Mars chocolate, warned in 2012 that the global cocoa sector "may suffer a 1 million tonne shortage by 2020 because of the increasing economic and environmental pressures on cocoa farms", adding: "It's just not sustainable."  
Last year, Kennedy's Confection magazine editor Angus Kennedy said the future of chocolate could be threatened altogether by that date - and added that the "chocolate bar of the future" would be made with so little cocoa it will be "nothing like the chocolate we know and love".  
Barry Callebaut said cocoa prices rose in 2013/14 from around £1,600 per tonne to more than £2,000 per tonne - despite "strong" crops from major regions including Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. This price rise, the company said, "has been fuelled by fears related to the Ebola outbreak in some West-African countries... el Nino forecasts... as well as financial speculation".  
Despite the shortage warnings, the increase in demand for chocolate was almost seven times greater in Asia compared to that of traditional European markets, the manufacturer said.  
In South America, the market for chocolate expanded by a massive 7 percent. Brazil, once one of the world's great cocoa manufacturers, has in recent years become a net importer.  
Efforts are being made to address the problems faced by the cocoa industry - in June, Barry Callebaut organised the second annual "Chocovision" conference to "foster collaboration" across manufacturing businesses.  
But there are concerns that repeated warnings in previous years have simply not been listened to. In 2010, John Mason of the Ghana-based Nature Conservation Research Council, predicted that "in 20 years, chocolate will be like caviar". He said: "It will become so rare and expensive that the average Joe just won't be able to afford it."

# Tarique asked

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press release yesterday.  
Earlier on October 19, Advocate Mashiur Rahman Malek, president of Bangabandhu Foundation, filed a seditious case against Tarique for the adverse remark on Bangabandhu.  
Following a court order, Detective Branch of police is investigating the matter.  
Tarique, now in London, is a fugitive accused in the August 21 grenade attack cases. He is also facing 15 other criminal cases.

# HT Imam comes under fire

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Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Imam claimed the premier was aware that he was going to hold a press conference and advised him indirectly to clarify his position.  
During an informal discussion in the cabinet meeting, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed drew the PM's attention to the matter and asked her whether she had advised Imam to clarify his position. Hasina in response said she was totally unaware that she gave the go-ahead to Imam to hold the media briefing. "It's a blatant lie," the sources quoted the PM as saying.  
Hasina said she had no communications with Imam since November 12. She did not give any appointment to Imam to meet her and even did not receive phone calls from him for the last four days.  
Joining the discussion, another minister said Imam's comments are more harmful to government than those by former minister Abdul Latif Siddique on hajj and Prophet Muhammad (SM). Imam has given a weapon to those, including the BNP, who have been speaking against the January 5 polls, added the minister.  
Also the president of ruling Awami League, Hasina expressed her resentment against Imam for "illegally" removing the general secretary of the AL Ullapara upazila unit of Sirajganj from the post and picking his son Tanveer Imam, also the local lawmaker, for the post.  
"I asked him [Imam] why general secretary Shafiqul Islam, a former lawmaker and dedicated leader of the party, has been removed. He [Imam] told me that Shafique was corrupt," a

minister quoted the premier as saying.  
The PM said she had nominated Imam's son for the parliamentary election though he was never involved in AL politics.  
Without naming Imam, she told her colleagues that such kind of people always undermine all the achievements and image of the government by making controversial statements.  
She warned the ministers and state ministers of not making any controversial remarks while holding responsible positions in the government.  
The PM in this connection referred to the action taken against Abdul Latif Siddique who has been dropped from the cabinet and removed from all party posts.  
Talking to The Daily Star, Shafiqul Islam said he was dropped from the upazila AL committee illegally on November 14. "Nobody can drop me from the committee without either expelling me from the party or dissolving the committee," he claimed. He visited the Gono Bhaban last night to meet the prime minister.  
**SEND DELEGATION TO USA**  
The PM asked Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed to send a delegation to the United States to know about the functioning of the trade unions in their garment factories. She told the minister to write a letter to the US government about sending the delegation.  
Hasina made the suggestion after the minister informed her that US envoy in Dhaka Dan Mozena recently wanted to know from him about the trade union facilities at the garment factories in export procession zones.

# Probe focuses

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commented on the page. Now we are verifying the facts we've got," said Nahidul Islam, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, who is supervising the murder investigation.  
Most of those who shared or praised or commented on the outfit's Facebook page belong to Jamaat-e-Islami and Shibir, and many of them are expatriates in London, Spain and other European countries.  
"One of them with a profile name Darshonik Shahrir has been found to be the owner of the Facebook page. He was a dedicated Shibir leader in Rangpur a few years ago," he said.  
Police are investigating the current position of Shahrir who changed some of his Facebook profile information yesterday, he added.  
Two assistant commissioners of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police are working in a team with the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police on the internet materials and they are also tracking some mobile phone records.  
**THE MURDER CASE**  
Two days into the murder, police arrested 29 Jamaat-Shibir men so far in connection with the killing but implicated only 11 of them in the murder case filed by the RU Registrar Entajul Haque, said Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Motihar police station.  
The 11 include Humayun Kabir, principal of Islamia College and also chief coordinator of Motihar Thana Jamaat unit, Fazlul Haque, another teacher of the college, and a madrasa teacher.  
Prof Shafiqul's family is yet to file any case against the killers, said Alamgir.  
**RMP BOSS REMOVED**  
Meanwhile, RMP Commissioner Mahbubur Rahman was withdrawn yesterday morning over allegations of his leniency with criminals.  
Mahbubur Rahman will be replaced

by DMP additional commissioner Md Shamsuddin, RMP sources said.  
Earlier on Sunday, Rajshahi-2 lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha had sent a letter to the home minister detailing Mahbubur's leniency with criminals.  
Talking to The Daily Star, Badsha, also general secretary of Workers Party, he blamed the police administration for patronising Jamaat-Shibir men in the city for the last one year.  
"Police did not take action against Jamaat men who are engaged in smuggling of drugs. Moreover, they released many Jamaat men in cases filed against them for violence and attacks on the police in the last one year," he said.  
He also criticised Mahbubur Rahman for not attending the monthly law and order meetings as well as ignoring the decisions taken in the meetings.  
**RU PROTESTS**  
As per the announcements made on Sunday, RU teachers and students yesterday boycotted classes and examinations demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the killers. They will also boycott classes today.  
Over two hundred teachers of the university wore black badges and formed a human chain under the banner of "Progressive Teachers Society" in front of the senate building on the campus at around 10:00am.  
RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin, Pro-VC Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan, among others, addressed the human chain.  
At 11:00 am, over a thousand teachers and students of sociology department brought out a mourning procession which paraded the main streets on the campus and formed a human chain on the Paris Road of the university.  
RU Kendrio Sangskritik Jote performed protest songs in front of the university central library around 11:00am.

# Peacekeepers

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Among the three Ebola-hit countries -- Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone -- Bangladeshi peace keepers are mainly deployed in Liberia where 2,812 people died till November 14. The disease has so far claimed 5,177 lives worldwide.  
The official said Bangladesh Army had already supplied 86 personal protection equipment (PPE), 100 pieces of sterilised gowns, 1,000 disposable caps, 1000 shoe-covers and sufficient amount of medicines to the troops in the country.  
Besides, the United Nations has also supplied the Bangladeshi peacekeepers with similar number of the protective equipment.  
The Bangladeshis have also been instructed to suspend all sorts of physical contacts with the civilians and stop giving them leftover foods, he added.  
They are also told to measure their body temperature using thermal scanners regularly and washing their hands whenever they return from outside.  
Asked, the top army officer said the supplied protection gears are sufficient for all the 550 UN peacekeepers in Liberia.  
He also said if needed, both the Bangladesh government and the UN will provide the peacekeepers with more safety equipment.  
The Bangladeshi peacekeepers include 60 medics who the army official said would be handy in emergency cases.  
The troops are also being discouraged to come to Bangladesh on leave and even if they visit the country, they will properly be screened at the three international airports, the army official said.  
Meanwhile, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) advised people coming home from the three coun-

tries not to return there until the countries are declared Ebola-free.  
The advice has been given as part of the programmes taken to prevent the virus from entering the country, said sources.  
Dr Be-nazir Ahmed, a DGHS official, has said some 300 civilians including 100 staff and officials of Brac, an international organisation, had been in the three African countries, but many of them returned after the Ebola outbreak in December last year.  
"Now only 25 to 30 people including around 10 Brac officials are staying in those countries," he said.  
"We have requested Brac to pull their staff back home to reduce the risk of the infection," the DGHS official added.  
As of October 30, around 6,000 doctors, clinicians and nurses from upazila, district and national levels were trained up on Ebola screening and treatment.  
If anyone is found infected at any corner of the country, members of a rapid response team will rush to the spot and act as per the direction, said Prof Mahmudur Rahman, director of Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).  
Army and police also have some trained members to tackle the disease, he said.  
Mahmudur who is also a member of the Technical Committee on Ebola Control, also 16 nurses, paramedics and doctors of Bangladesh Army have already taken the requisite training given jointly by IEDCR and DGHS.  
To treat Ebola patients, the authorities have also set up a separate 20-bed isolation ward at Kurmitola General Hospital in the capital and similar arrangements have been made in 16 other hospitals in different districts.