

# Same old Feni

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All the 26 arrested from the cars are said to be Nizam Hazari's men.

Nizam was once Joynal's close cohort. Before that he was involved with Chittagong Chhatra League, the ruling AL's student body, and thrived as a cadre of AJM Nasir Uddin, now Chittagong mayor, controlling Agrabad area in 1991-1992. After returning to Feni in 1997, he joined Joynal Hazari's group.

Then in 2000, Nizam landed in jail in an arms case but came out of prison in 2005 securing High Court bail by submitting fake documents. Subsequently, he joined politics in 2008 and became mayor of Feni municipality two years later.

He has been at the centre of controversy since last year's brutal murder of Feni's Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque. All the accused in the murder are close associates of Nizam and there are allegations that the lawmaker had a hand in it, which he denies.

## THE RETURN OF FEAR

When Nizam Hazari entered politics in Feni in 2008, he took a stance against Joynal Hazari, his former boss, to draw public support. It worked because people were looking for a break from killing and violence. But soon, he set his eyes on the so-called "steering committee members" through whom Joynal Hazari once ran the show. Today, most of them are with Nizam, allegedly extorting money from the transport sector and controlling the district's tender and sand business worth crores of taka.

The Daily Star recently spoke to about 50 people in Feni -- locals, businessmen, politicians, law enforcers, administration officials and journalists -- to get an idea of the workings of Nizam and his gang. Few dare to be quoted for fear of reprisal, but almost all of them said Nizam started to follow in the footsteps of Joynal after becoming the Feni municipal mayor in 2010. And after winning the January 5 elections unopposed, he made the district his "own property".

"Nizam has become all in all in Feni and he controls everything," Abdur Rahman, Feni district AL president, told this correspondent.

Asked about the difference between the Joynal Hazari and Nizam Hazari era, he said, "At least some difference of opinions was allowed within the party [AL] when Joynal Hazari was there, but now no one dares to challenge Nizam."

But why so much fear? A local journalist who spoke on condition of anonymity said, "When Ekramul Haque came under attack, Ekram's men were in his car with arms. Still, they could not save him. Now how come you expect people to speak against Nizam?"

During a June 10-12 visit to the district, this correspondent found scarcely any billboard, electric pole or establishment that did not carry posters or banners showing portraits of Nizam Hazari, in a sign of his authority.

Municipal officials alleged the

district BCL grabbed most of the billboards without permission from the municipality ahead of its conference held in May.

"Felicitations to Nizam Uddin Hazari for electing Salah Uddin Feroz and Javed Haider George Chhatra League president and general secretary of Feni district unit," read one thankyou message on numerous billboards and electric poles.

According to the BCL constitution, its office bearers must be elected through its council and a lawmaker has nothing to do with it.

Interestingly, the billboards also had portraits of Alauddin Ahmed Nasim, who does not hold any party post now. Nasim is a former member of the AL central working committee and also former protocol officer of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Locals claim Nasim and an influential minister are Nizam's source of power.

When called for his comment on Thursday, Nasim's phone was found switched off. One of his brothers said he was in Canada.

## ALL FOR POWER

Most incidents of violence and killing in the town take place over establishing supremacy, as independent lawmaker of Feni-3 Haji Rahimullah appears as a challenger to Nizam.

Police records show, the district saw 15 killings since January this year and most of them are political.

The June 2 murder of Jubo League leader Azizul Haque in Sonagazi and the recent recovery of 15 firearms by Rab are the outcome of the conflict between Nizam and Rahimullah, according to locals.

After becoming MP, Rahimullah, also president of Jeddah chapter AL, took control of tender bids in his constituency, making Nizam unhappy, they said.

Contacted, Rahimullah said killing, tender manipulation and extortion were Nizam's main business.

He alleged Nizam masterminded the killing of Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque. "Feni people live in terror due to his [Nizam's] extortion and tender manipulation. He has positioned his hired goons in different areas."

According to him, Nizam collects about Tk 1 crore in extortion daily.

"From vegetable vendors to jewellers, nobody is spared. He has turned Feni into his own property," he told this newspaper by phone on Wednesday.

"I have informed the prime minister about all his misdeeds," he said, adding that Nizam and his men were not allowing him to discharge his duties or hold any meeting and was trying to control everything in his constituency as well.

However, unlike in many other districts, violence over extortion and tender manipulation is rare in Feni. It is partly because of Nizam Hazari's firm control over everything and partly because he has distributed the jobs of extortion from transport sector, tender manipulation and sand

business among his followers. They include Jubo League leaders, AL leaders, BNP leaders and Jamaat men.

In exchange, the lawmaker allegedly gets 10 to 15 percent of the collection.

The Daily Star has obtained their names and party posts but is withholding the names, as it could not contact them for their comments.

## THE DENIAL

A day after Rab arrested 26 people with 15 arms, Nizam Hazari denied that they were his men. But sources said the lawmaker rushed to Lalpur and tried to free them all after the news spread.

Most of the arms are licensed under names of Jubo League leaders, but at the time of the recovery they were not being carried by their owners, Rab officials said.

Locals and politicians there believe the arms recovery was a result of the conflict between Rahimullah and Nizam.

They claimed Rab also nabbed district Jubo League Convener Didarul Kabir Raton and unit Joint Conveners Swapan Miyazi and Sushen Shil from the spot, but Nizam managed to have them released. Later, Nizam and some top district AL leaders went to the Rab office to secure the release of the others but failed.

Talking to The Daily Star, the lawmaker dismissed that people were living in fear.

"Feni is a quiet place now," he said.

He said Feni was rife with violence when Joynal Hazari was in town. "But now it is a place of coexistence. There is no violence here."

He would not comment on the allegation that he controls tender, sand business and extortion in the district and that he gets a share of the money.

Pressed, he said, "You will have to first identify those who made the allegation."

Asked about the arrest of his men with arms, he said, "They are not my men. Rather, they are Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina's men. As a representative of Sheikh Hasina, I went to the spot to have them freed. But they are not my men."

# Floodwater

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department forecast that the rainfall would be less than normal in all divisions next month.

"According to information available to us, the flood situation will improve over time as there would not be heavy rainfall in coming days," said Arifuzzaman, a sub-divisional engineer of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).

On the current flood situation in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban, he said, heavy rain in the last few days caused flooding in the districts. "But the situation was improving there."

The water level of the Brahmaputra and the Jamuna was falling, according to the FFWC.

There is a possibility of flooding in some parts of the country at the end of July, said Arifuzzaman.

# 13 arrested

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Rab-3 Maj Mohiuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that a woman gave Tk 40,000 to Shikder Overseas to go to Lebanon with a job of house help but she was sent to Syria instead in August.

She was forced into prostitution there, he said.

After four months of torture, she managed to contact her family, which brought her home.

According to the woman's passport, she was taken to Dubai legally from where she was illegally taken to Syria.

After returning home, she filed a complaint with Rab, which led to a probe and the raid at the agencies in the capital, he said.

Shikder Recruiting Agency could not show any licence. However, Al-Hasib Overseas managed to show a licence.

The arrestees were: Jasim Uddin, Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Kazi Salman Hossain, Parvez, Siraj Shikder, Jakir Shikder, Jahid Hossain Joy, Shuvo Shikder, Shahidul Islam, ABM Nur Ullah, Rayhan, Hafizur Rahman, and Sagar Mahmud.

# SC upholds

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by the government on June 21. The next day, Appellate Division Chamber Judge Justice Hasan Foez Siddique sent the pleas to the full bench for a hearing.

In its order, the SC yesterday said Fakhru would remain on bail until police submitted its probe report to the lower court, which is hearing the three cases against him.

The SC also ordered the BNP acting secretary general to surrender before the lower court the day the law enforcers would submit their report in any of the cases.

Sagir Hossain Leon, a lawyer for Fakhru, told The Daily Star that there was no legal barrier to his client's release from jail following the apex court order.

Of the three cases, two were filed with Paltan Police Station on December 28 last year and January 4 this year. The other was lodged with Motijheel Police Station on January 6.

On June 21, the HC granted bail to Fakhru in three more vandalism and arson cases.

On April 16, Fakhru, who is accused in 89 cases, had got bail in another similar case.

He was detained from the capital's Jatiya Press Club on January 5, and later, was shown arrested in the seven cases.

# Gas reserve

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continue to increase.

"If the reserves come down for that, it will not be possible to maintain the production at constant rate," Hamid said in a scripted reply.

With time, the production capacity of the existing gas fields will continue to reduce with the reduction of gas pressure, he added.

"Under the circumstances, it will be possible to use this gas for more than 16 years at a limited rate," the minister observed.

# Merit list unveiled

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night. But, it could not do so because of a technical glitch.

Later, three more consecutive dates were set for publishing the list. But the ministry failed repeatedly to do that over the same reason, exposing government's lack of preparation for tackling such issues.

Under the circumstances, over 11 lakh students were worried about getting into their preferred colleges in time.

The education ministry this year introduced an online admission system for 2015-16 academic session, with the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, and Buet coordinating the process.

Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, at a press briefing at the secretariat yesterday, accepted the responsibility for the delay in publishing the list caused due to the technical problem.

"I am responsible for everything. You can write against me," he told reporters.

Sources said the government move to introduce the online admission system in all colleges without proper preparation made the entire admission process complicated, leading to the delay.

The number of applicants was large and the variety of students' choices of colleges had made the situation even worse, sources added.

The admission process allows a student to choose five colleges, of which one would be given to him or her on merit.

Sources said Buet's Institute of Information and Communication Technology, entrusted with the preparation and publication of the list on

the website, also struggled with the huge data of over 11 lakh students.

The second merit list is supposed to be published on July 2 based on the spots available in colleges, said sources.

# British, Canadian, US students feared to have left Sudan to join ISIS

AFP, Khartoum

Twelve students including British Canadian, Sudanese and US citizens are feared to have travelled from Khartoum to Turkey to try to join the Islamic State (IS) group, their university's dean told AFP Sunday.

Another group of British students of Sudanese origin from the same private University of Medical Sciences and Technology travelled to Turkey in March and it is believed they crossed into Syria.

"We confirmed reports from multiple parties that 12 medical students at the university left for Turkey on Friday," dean Dr Ahmed Babikir told AFP.

Khartoum airport authorities confirmed the group had travelled to Turkey and the students' families said they had not seen them since Friday and were unable to find their passports, Babikir added.

It was likely they were trying to reach Syria to join IS because they were still sitting their final exams and had not warned their families they were leaving, Babikir said.

# What exactly does

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deliberated on the meaning of one.

They came to the conclusion that one does not necessarily mean one at all - because it can actually include anything greater than or equal to a half and less than one-and-a-half.

In a patent dispute between two pharmaceutical giants arguing over who owns the royalty rights to a lucrative wound-dressing solution, their lordships sat in judgment over an issue that would have tested the mettle of the finest mathematical logicians; and in the process coined a new legal definition of "one".

It may seem odd that their lordships dare question the meaning of one - it is after all the oldest number we have. Some 20,000 years ago, someone scratched a series of notches along the fibula bone of a baboon with a piece of quartz and in the process left the earliest known record of the number one.

But that was long before the legal argy-bargy between ConvaTec, a global medical products company, and Smith & Nephew, a specialist in "advance wound management" which questioned a patent owned by ConvaTec on a wound dressing involving silver and a salt solution.

The ConvaTec patent covered any salt solution "between 1 per cent and 25 per cent of the total volume of treatment". However, Smith and Nephew devised a competing product that used 0.77 per cent concentration, bypass-

ing, or so it believed, the ConvaTec patent.

A previous judgment in 2013 ruled in Smith & Nephew's favour because of a mathematical quirk known among chemists as the "significant figures rule", which is a way of taking into account errors of measurement.

This judgment ruled that the patent covered any solution greater than or equal to 0.95 per cent and less than 25.5 per cent, which meant Smith & Nephew was free to flog its multi-million pound products without paying anything to ConvaTec.

So in this earlier judgment "one" meant anything greater than or equal to 0.95 and less than 1.5, which produced an uncomfortable asymmetry that did not go unnoticed in last week's judgment. How could "one" include something that is 0.05 less but also include something that is nearly ten times this figure more - for instance 0.49 more than 1?

To correct this, the three Court of Appeal judges used a mathematical approach, known as rounding. It exploits that convention of rounding up or rounding down to the nearest whole number if there are decimal places.

Their lordships concluded that "one" includes anything greater or equal to 0.5 and less than 1.5 - much to the chagrin of Smith & Nephew, whose 0.77 now fell within the realm of ConvaTec's patent.

# Greek banks to remain

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Tsipras did not give details of how long banks would stay shut, or exactly what controls on capital would be imposed.

Greece and its creditors had been locked in talks over fresh bailout money on Friday when the Greek government called a surprise referendum for 5 July over the terms it was being offered.

## 'UNPRECEDENTED ACT'

Eurozone finance ministers blamed Greece for breaking off the talks, and the European Commission took the unusual step yesterday of publishing proposals by European creditors that it said were on the table at the time.

But Greece described creditors' terms as "not viable", and asked for an extension of its current deal until after the vote was completed.

"[Rejection] of the Greek government's request for a short extension of the programme was an unprecedented act by European standards, questioning the right of a sovereign people to decide," Tsipras yesterday said in a televised address.

"This decision led the ECB today to limit the liquidity available to Greek banks and forced the Greek central bank to suggest a bank holiday and restrictions on bank withdrawals."

The Greek prime minister said he had sent a new request for an extension to the bailout.

"I am awaiting their immediate response to a fundamental request of democracy," he said.

The announcement comes after a particularly turbulent few days for Greece.

The current ceiling for the ECB's emergency funding -- Emergency Liquidity Assistance (ELA) -- is €89bn (£63bn). It is thought that virtually all

that money has been disbursed.

The ECB was prepared to risk restricting ELA because the failure of the bailout talks cast new doubt on the viability of Greek banks - some of their assets depend on the government being able to meet its financial commitments, the BBC economics correspondent Andrew Walker reports.

He adds that it is a fundamental principle of central banking that while you do lend to banks that are temporary difficulty, you only do so if they are solvent.

# 2 lakh

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Some 21 people were reportedly killed in rain-triggered incidents in the district till Saturday. However, there is no news of new casualties.

Contacted, Anupom Saha, acting deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar, said the relief activities couldn't be sped up due to a breakdown in road communications.

Sources at the district's relief and rehabilitation office said they had so far distributed Tk 17 lakh in cash and 230 tonnes of rice and other relief materials among the victims.

Besides, local lawmakers, political party leaders, different social and cultural organisations are distributing relief among the flood-hit people.

The army is also distributing relief among the victims, said Ramu Cantonment Maj Kamal Pasha.

Reaz Ul Alam, Ramu upazila chairman, said the government relief efforts were inadequate.

Saimum Sarwar Komol, lawmaker of Cox's Bazar Sadar constituency, said the relief activities would continue until the flood situation improved.

# Gazaa year on after war

The shelling may have stopped, but there's little relief for those left behind

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

No human being is advised to go for more than 24 hours without water, especially in an area like Gaza where summer temperatures regularly climb above 30C. But during the 50-day conflict with Israel that erupted a year ago this week, to seek water was to risk death.

That was what killed Doha's parents. They went out at night at the height of Israel's aerial bombardment. "It was dangerous on the streets," said the shy 17-year-old, "but they had to make the journey so that we had some water to drink. They were very near our house when the bomb hit them. They were both killed in a huge blast."


Between 8 July 2014, when Israel launched Operation Protective Edge against militants in Gaza, and 26 August, when it declared a ceasefire, more than 2,200 Palestinians - most of them civilians, including 551 children, according to the UN - were killed. The toll on the Israeli side was 73, six of them civilians, including one child. Some 11,000 Palestinians were wounded and 500,000 displaced.

A year on, much of Gaza remains in ruins but nowhere is the destruction worse than around Rafah. There are whole streets where nothing moves except the Palestinian flags fluttering among the heaps of rubble. During the conflict more than 12,600 houses in Gaza were destroyed and another 6,400 rendered uninhabitable. One of them belonged to Doha's family. Now the schoolgirl lives in a single room of a relative's house with her brother Mohammed, 10, and a disabled woman who Doha looks after. "Life here is desperate," she said. "We have lost our parents and our house. We have very little."

One thing Doha and Mohammed do now have is clean water. The Catholic aid agency, Cafod, supports the work of the charity Islamic Relief in the region and has funded it to install a water filter in the home. "There was a time before the filter that we didn't have clean water for five days," she said.

On top of all the other miseries inflicted by the Israeli blockade on Gaza since 2007, water has declined in both quantity and quality. What supplies there are can be expensive or dirty. "The issue of water in Gaza is beyond what you can imagine," said an Islamic Relief worker. "There is high salinity and it is full of nitrates." But with a "reverse osmosis" filter fitted to the tap and connecting pipes, any water that a family can obtain can be purified for drinking and cooking.

Doha's story is just one of many in which the inhabitants of Gaza faced the choice last summer between mortal danger and going without water. On many occasions Israel warned residents to stay indoors or to evacuate certain areas, after which anyone on the streets would be a legitimate target.



## Meghna Petroleum Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)  
58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong

### Tender Notice

1.	Name of the procuring entity	Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong.			
2.	Invitation of tender for	Package No.	Description	Cost of tender documents	Earnest money
		Lot-01 Pur-099 Dt. 28-06-2015	Procurement of Product Delivery Meter 2" dia	Tk. 2,000/-	Tk. 1,50,000/-
		Lot-02 Pur-100 Dt. 28-06-2015	Procurement of Gear Pump/Screw Pump with Squirrel Cage Induction Motor and Starter	Tk. 1,500/-	Tk. 60,000/-
		Lot-03 Pur-101 Dt. 28-06-2015	Procurement of Diesel Engine Driven Centrifugal Pump (20 HP)	Tk. 1,000/-	Tk. 40,000/-
3.	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM). Tender to be submitted in two separate envelopes, one for technical offer and the other for commercial offer.			
4.	Last selling date of tender document (for all lot)			July 29, 2015	15.00 hrs.
5.	Tender closing time and date (for all lot)			July 30, 2015	15.00 hrs.
6.	Tender opening time & date (for all lot)			July 30, 2015	15.15 hrs.
7.	Name & address of the offices for (for all lot):				
	Selling of tender documents	1. Purchase Section, Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. 2. Meghna Bhaban, 131, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
	Receiving of tender documents	1. Purchase Section, Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. 2. Meghna Bhaban, 131, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
	Opening of tender documents	1. Purchase Section, Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. 2. Meghna Bhaban, 131, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.			
8.	Qualification of tenderer (for each lot)	a) The tenderer shall have minimum 05 (five) years overall experience in the supply of imported products. b) The bidder must be authorized dealer/agent/sub-agent/sole distributor of the manufacturer. c) The tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum 03 (three) numbers supply orders of imported goods of minimum Tk. 30.00 (thirty) lac each (for Lot-01), Tk. 15.00 (fifteen) lac each (for Lot-02) & Tk. 10.00 (ten) lac each (for Lot-03) within last 5 (five) years. i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. d) Tenderer must have minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of Tk. 50 (fifty) lac (for Lot-01), Tk. 20 (twenty) lac (for Lot-02) & Tk. 15 (fifteen) lac (for Lot-03).			
9.	Special instruction (for each lot)	The technical offer must comprise the following: (a) Work order with experience certificate as specified in the tender schedule. (b) Proper authorization from manufacturer/dealer/agent/sub-agent/sole distributor. (c) Original catalogue/detail technical literature. (d) Import registration certificate (for Importer). (e) Offers must be submitted in the bidder's printed letterhead pad. (f) Certified copy of valid trade licence. (g) Certified copy of TIN certificate. (h) Certified copy of VAT registration certificate. (i) Earnest money. (j) Original money receipt of purchasing the tender documents. (k) Any other documents as specified in the tender schedule. After opening/scrutiny of the technical offers the successful bidders will be advised the date & time of opening of the commercial/financial offers to enable their attendance as per schedule.			
10.	Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or part of any tender without showing any reason whatsoever.				

Note: If the tender cannot be received/opened on the date of schedule due to any uncontrollable reason, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at same time and same place.

GD-2260