

# 2 arrestees on 8-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two arrested suspects in blogger Niloy murder case will be brought face-to-face with the victim's wife, a detective said yesterday.

"As part of our investigation, we'll produce the duo before the victim's wife Asha Moni to see if she can recognise them," Deputy Commissioner Mahub Alam of the Detective Branch (east) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police told The Daily Star.

If the arrestees are not identified by Asha Moni as her husband's killers, it will not necessarily prove that the two don't have any link with the murder, said the DB official.

Law enforcers arrested Saad-al-Nahin and Masud Rana, both suspected members of outlawed militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team, from the capital's Uttara and Mirpur on Thursday, six days after assailants hacked Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy to

death at his Goran residence in the city.

The two denied their involvement in the murder, but gave vital information about some suspects, said detectives.

Nahin is a nephew of State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chhunna. Nahin along with three others was arrested in April 2013 for attempted murder of blogger Asif Mohiuddin in January that year. The four were later freed on bail.

## TWO REMANDED

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Nahin and Rana on eight-day remand in the case after detectives produced the two before it, seeking 10-day remand for each of them.

DB Inspector Mahbubur Rahman, also the investigating officer of the case, told the court that they had adequate information and evidence about the involvement of the two in the murder.

## Indian SC

FROM PAGE 16

Mishra and Justice Amitava Roy also asked the Border Security Force (BSF) to respond to a petition filed by Felani's father Nur Islam questioning the clean chit given twice by a BSF special court in West Bengal to a constable, accused of shooting the 15-year-old girl, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Felani was returning from India with her father through Anantapur border in Kurigram on January 7, 2011 when she was killed.

Secretary Kirity Roy of rights body Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM), co-petitioner of the writ, told The Daily Star over the phone that they had filed the writ around 12 days ago.

He, however, could not immediately say the time the Indian SC gave the respondents to reply.

The final hearing on another writ seeking a fair trial of the murder and compensation is due in October, petitioner advocate Salma Ali told The Daily Star.

## 7 youths

FROM PAGE 16

would be able to confirm the cause of death after the results of the viscera tests.

"The autopsy reports will be sent to the authorities concerned within a couple of days. Pieces of internal organs have already been sent to Mohakhali Chemical Lab in Dhaka for viscera tests," Safikul Islam, resident doctor at the hospital, told The Daily Star.

Wishing anonymity, a doctor, however, said they did not find any evidence of rape.

According to victims' families, the accused had been stalking the girls on their way to school for over two years.

On Thursday, Sumaiya and Happy left their homes at Mostafapur village around 3:00pm to attend tuition classes at school.

Around 4:30pm, four youths aged between 18 and 20 brought the girls to Madaripur Sadar Hospital unconscious and claimed that the victims had taken poison. They died at the hospital.

Ziaul Morshed, officer-in-charge of Madaripur Sadar Police Station, said, "We have already arrested Rafiq and Shipon and are trying to arrest the others."

## Back to basics

FROM PAGE 16

Before their arrival Odrinti, in the Rhodope mountains near the Greek border, had a population of five.

The quiet appeals to Stefan Gumbrich, the pony-tailed consultant who quit his job in 2013 and left a girlfriend behind. He is "trying to slow down my brain that was always racing", he said, while goats were milked in a nearby pen.

The group originated in Germany when Juergen Hummes, a 57-year-old carpenter-turned-shaman from Moenchengladbach, gained a following for healing through spiritual counselling, meditation and administering herbs and mineral stones.

The group has acquired half a dozen ramshackle houses in the village, where years of rain and neglect have chewed away at the clay walls.

"There is no electricity in the old houses and we plan to keep it that way," said Nadine Mukherjee, a 37-year-old former nurse. "We just want to live a life that is as close to nature as possible."

## Shock, surprise

FROM PAGE 1

Gen Shafiullah and said: "The president wants to talk to you. You come with me."

Infuriated at Dalim's insolence Shafiullah replied, "Dalim, I am used to weapons. If you want to use it, then do it. But do not keep your gun pointed at me."

"If you want to talk to me, ask your troops to keep their arms out of the room," continued Shafiullah.

"Sir, the president wants you in the radio station," Dalim said.

"The president is dead."

"Sir, you should know Khandaker Mushtaque is the president now," replied Dalim.

"Khandaker Mushtaque is your president now, not mine," said Shafiullah.

"Sir, do not make me do something for which I did not come," said Dalim, annoyed.

It was Dalim, who earlier in the morning had taken over the radio station at gun point. He broke the news of the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the overthrow of his government with a radio announcement: "I am Major Dalim speaking; the president has been killed..."

Advised by Col Taher, Dalim went to the army headquarters to bring the chiefs of three services to the radio station and force them to express their support for the coup with radio announcements.

Col Taher, who was leading the Gono Bahini of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), a left-wing party of socialist political activists and military officers, to stage a revolution against the Bangabandhu government, had gone to the radio station that morning.

There he found Khandaker Mushtaque, Taheruddin Thakur, Maj Gen Khalilur Rahman and Major Dalim. He then advised Dalim to bring the chiefs of three services to the radio stations and Dalim started for army headquarters.

Dalim's hostile entrance at the army headquarters flanked by armed soldiers spread fear among others.

When two jeeps carrying Dalim and his men raced to the entrance of the army headquarters, Momin, commanding officer of Bengal Lancers, signaled the jeeps to stop.

The jeeps screeched to a halt and Dalim jumped off his jeep with his submachine gun shouting: "Shut up, move out of the way."

Army officers present there scattered, clearing Dalim's path. He entered the office of General Shafiullah. Deputy Chief of army Gen Ziaur Rahman was also present there.

Surprisingly, after the coup announcement on radio, senior officers of the army sat and debated at the army headquarters on how best to deal with the majors.

A couple of officers demanded immediate action against the majors but a majority of them were unsure of what to do and were in favour of waiting until the situation became clearer.

They did not want to take risks as Gen Shafiullah was known to be a man without initiative and his authority was always challenged by his deputy, Major General Ziaur Rahman, Indian intelligence sources were to reveal later.

In this confusion, Major Dalim did not find it hard to engage in an altercation with the army chief.

A while later after the conversation, the door of the army chief's office opened. Gen Shafiullah came out of

his office. He was looking gloomy. Maj Dalim was behind him with his Sten gun. Gen Zia was following Dalim.

Gen Shafiullah got in his own car to go to the radio station.

With a smile Gen Zia invited Dalim: "Come on Dalim, get in my car."

"No sir, I don't get in a General's car," replied Dalim. He got in his jeep. Gen Zia in his own car followed Dalim's jeep.

Within a few minutes, they reached the office of the first Bengal unit line under 46th brigade inside Dhaka cantonment.

A junior officer, Capt Hafizullah received Gen Shafiullah and took him to the office of the commanding officer.

Major Rashid, a leader of the coup, was already present there. Some soldiers, who had been part of the coup, were present there as well. Two idling tanks were parked conspicuously outside.

Gen Shafiullah saw the troops of the 46th brigade were agitated. One officer of the brigade pulled down a framed photograph of Bangabandhu from the wall and smashed it on the ground.

Surrounded by junior officers, Gen Shafiullah made phone calls to the Air and Naval chiefs and asked them to come at the Bengal line.

Major Rashid approached Shafiullah and said: "Sir, let's go to the radio station. All are waiting for you there."

Hafizuddin, a major of the 46th brigade, also asked Shafiullah to go to the radio station.

Deputy Chief Gen Zia did not arrive at the Bengal line.

By this time, the air force chief Air-Vice Marshal AK Khandaker and the naval chief Admiral MH Khan arrived there.

The air chief and the naval chief were also forced to follow Gen Shafiullah to the radio station.

Escorted by Dalim and his troops, Gen Shafiullah and the chiefs of air and navy reached the radio station.

"Shafiullah, congratulation, your troops have done an excellent job, now do the rest," Khandaker Mushtaque, who was waiting at the radio station, told Shafiullah.

"What should I do?" asked Shafiullah.

"You should know it better," replied Mushtaque.

Earlier in the morning, Major Dalim was repeatedly announcing on radio: "Sheikh Mujib has been killed. I have seized the state power. Curfew has been imposed."

Hearing Dalim's announcement, Taher Uddin Thakur, state minister for information of Bangabandhu's government, had a brief consultation with Mushtaque and concluded that such announcement by Dalim should not be continued.

He wrote a new announcement on a paper that read: "Sheikh Mujib and his autocratic government has been overthrown. The military has seized the powers under the leadership of Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed. Curfew has been imposed."

Then the new announcement was recorded in Dalim's voice and was broadcast repeatedly throughout the day.

After arrival of Gen Shafiullah and the chiefs of air and navy, BDR, and Police, Taher Uddin Thakur drafted the speeches for them. Their recorded speeches were broadcast on radio. In their speeches, they expressed their allegiance to the new regime.

After sometime, Gen Zia, Gen Osmani and Col Taher came to studio-

2 from where the recorded speeches of the chiefs of the services were broadcast.

But expressing his allegiance was not enough for Gen Shafiullah. He was asked to attend Mushtaque's swearing in as the president in the afternoon of August 15. He attended the ceremony but was not allowed to leave Bangabhaban after that.

Taheruddin asked him to stay. "Do not leave. A conference will be held," Taheruddin had said. Gen Shafiullah had to stay at Bangabhaban until the morning of August 18.

August 24 brought more surprises for Gen Shafiullah. He received a phone call from President Mushtaque at noon. Mushtaque asked Shafiullah to meet him at Bangabhaban the same afternoon.

At the meeting, the new president offered him a diplomatic posting in a foreign mission.

"Who is replacing me?" Shafiullah had asked.

"Zia" Mushtaque had replied.

Shafiullah had declined to leave the country.

"Do not think of staying here," Mushtaque had advised.

Shafiullah returned to the cantonment and found Gen Zia had already taken over as chief of army staff and was holding a meeting with other officers. #

[This report has been prepared based on the depositions of witnesses in the Bangabandhu murder case and the books: Mission R&AW" by RK Yadab; "Rise and fall of JSD: Politics in turbulent Period" by Mohiuddin Ahmed; and "Three army coups and some untold tales" by Lt Col MA Hamid.]

## Two 'Bangladeshis'

FROM PAGE 16

and Joynal Abedin, Myanmar national Zia Ur Rahman, and local agents Sohail Parvez Khan and Masood Ali Khan, said the police official.

Lt Col Abul Kalam Azad, intelligence wing director of Rapid Action Battalion, could not immediately confirm whether Faizal and Joynal were Bangladeshis or they had any links to terror outfits.

According to Indian police, Nasir, while in Pakistan, came in contact with his distant relative Abdul Jabbar, a leader of Hujj, who indoctrinated the arrestee to accept terrorist ideology.

"Later, Nasir came to India through Bangladesh-India border in 2010 and stayed in different places of the country," the joint commissioner of Indian policesaid.

In Hyderabad, Nasir met the other arrestees. Nasir received illegal immigrants said to be from Bangladesh and Myanmar and provided them with shelter at the residence of Masood.

The arrestees also allegedly arranged Indian passports for the illegal immigrants by using fake ID cards.

According to the senior police official Rao, on the instructions of Abdul Jabbar, Nasir received one Ziaur Rahman alias Waqas, a Pakistani national, who is an accused in the Dilsukhnagar twin blasts, in West Bengal and helped him flee India after the blast.

Reacting to another query, Rao said right now Nasir is a trafficker and was arranging Indian passports for foreign nationals, for the purpose of employment.

"He [Nasir] claims so but we suspect something more than that..." he said.

Police claimed to have seized four Indian passports, one Bangladesh passport, nine cell phones and around 100 fake ID proofs from the arrestees.

## TIMELINE

FROM PAGE 1

After killing Kamal, army officer Mohiuddin and his accomplices go around the house hunting for Bangabandhu and they find him standing calmly with his pipe in hand on the front veranda. Seeing him, even killer Mohiuddin is taken aback. He cannot shoot Bangabandhu. He merely utters, "Sir, please come with us".

As they bring him down the staircase, Bangabandhu shouts, "Where are you taking me?" At this point, Bazlul Huda asks Mohiuddin to move away and Noor opens fire at the president. Along with him, most members of his family are killed. Thus, the disgruntled army officers achieve their mission without any resistance.

Two other groups of army personnel launch simultaneous attacks on the residences of Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni and Abdur Rab Serniabat and kill them along with their family members.

Later in the morning, Major Dalim announces on the radio, "Autocrat Sheikh Mujib has been killed".

Masterminds of the coup, Major Faruk and Major Rashid, as per their plan, prepare to install Awami League leader Khondokar Moshtaque in the presidency.

Moshtaque is sworn in as the new president in the afternoon. He addresses the nation and describes the killing and coup as a "historic necessity". Martial law is declared countrywide for an indefinite period and curfew imposed in the capital.

Chiefs of three services are forced to express loyalty to the new regime.

Moshtaque appoints 10 ministers and six state ministers, most of whom are AL leaders, to form his cabinet.

AUG 16

Bangabandhu is buried at Tungipara in Gopalganj. Other victims are laid to rest at Banani graveyard amid an unprecedented tense situation.

The situation in Dhaka cantonment remains tense.

Saudi Arabia and Sudan recognise Bangladesh as an independent country and the Moshtaque government as well.

AUG 17

Former prime minister and senior AL leader M Monsur Ali is invited by President Moshtaque to Bangabhaban. The footage of the meeting is broadcast on state-run TV and photographs are published in the newspapers to mislead people.

AUG 18

Britain, Jordan, Japan, Myanmar recognise the Moshtaque government.

AUG 19

Army chief Gen Shafiullah convenes a meeting of brigade commanders at army headquarters. The meeting ends in chaos. Chain of command in the force remains in disarray.

AUG 20

President Moshtaque through a declaration announces that the constitution remains in force subject to the president's orders and martial law regulations. He also announces that he has assumed all powers of the state.

Five more state ministers are appointed.

AUG 21

Moshtaque visits ailing Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani at hospital.

AUG 22

Chief Justice ASM Sayem and Speaker of Parliament Abdul Malek Ukil call on Moshtaque at Bangabhaban.

US recognises Moshtaque government.

Heads of diplomatic missions in Dhaka call on Moshtaque.

AUG 23

Four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, M Mansur Ali, Tajuddin Ahmed and AHM Kamaruzzaman -- and 22 others are detained under martial law regulations on charges of corruption, anti-social activities, nepotism and abuse of state powers.

Moshtaque issues martial law proclamation with provisions for capital punishment for corruption and possession of illegal arms, and formation of martial law tribunals to deal with these offences.

AUG 24

In a surprise move, General Ziaur Rahman is suddenly made army chief, replacing General Shafiullah. Major Rashid and Major Faruk, staying at Bangabhaban since the change-over, force Moshtaque to make the sudden change at the top in the Bangladesh Army.

General MAG Osmani is appointed defence advisor to the president. Brigadier General Ershad, who was in India on training, is promoted to the rank of major general and made deputy chief of army staff.

AUG 26

President Moshtaque sends message to Pakistan's Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, expressing his desire to strengthen ties with Pakistan.

AUG 27

India, Oman and Hungary recognise Moshtaque government.

AUG 28

Two martial law tribunals are set up to conduct trials of those detained under martial law regulations on various charges.

AUG 30

President Moshtaque issues ordinance imposing a ban on political activities and formation of political parties, and introducing provisions for punishment for violations of the ban.

AUG 31

Moshtaque issues an order scrapping the declaration relating to the formation of BAKSAL.

China recognises Bangladesh.

## Feud over money

FROM PAGE 16

cattle market at Aftabnagar ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. Gama had got the lease in 2013, but last year a group of Chhatra League men secured the lease, locals said.

In May this year, one of those BCL leaders of Badda unit, Mofazzal Hossain Rahin, was killed by gunmen. Some Swetchhasebak League leaders were blamed for the murder, they added.

This time, Gama was desperate to get the lease again. Many other leaders of pro-AL organisations were also in the race, which created tension.

"This might be a reason behind Gama's murder," said a local youth, who requested anonymity for fear of retribution.

Another reason might be the race over controlling the jhut business, according to locals and family members.

Gama had taken control of the jhut business of a garment factory near Badda Link Road after the death of another influential leader of Swetchhasebak League, Baul Sumon, in June.

A feud surfaced soon after he took the control of the business as he had rivals, said a police official, asking not to be named.

"My brother was killed because of an internal feud. No

one from outside would come to kill him," said Ripon, brother of Gama.

However, Pankaj Debnath, general secretary of Swetchhasebak League, denied there was any internal feud in his unit.

Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, said, "We are looking into the matters of jhut business and cattle market lease."

The shooting happened around 9:00pm on Thursday at the Badda Adarsha Nagar Panir Pump area when seven to eight leaders and supporters of local Awami League and its associated bodies were discussing the programmes to observe the National Mourning Day (August 15).

Four people were hit in the attack carried out by three to four gunmen, eyewitness Harun-Ar-Rashid, organising secretary of ward-6 AL, told this correspondent after the shooting.

Two of the injured -- local AL leader Shamsuddin Molla, 53, and Feroz Ahmed Manik, 42 -- were declared dead after they were taken to United Hospital.

A fourth injured, Abdus Salam, owner of a rickshaw garage, was undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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