

TOXIC LIQUOR Death toll rises to 8 in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Four more people, who fell sick after drinking toxic liquor in Rangpur city on Monday night, have died, raising the death toll in the incident to eight.

The four are Abdul Majid, 34, Khushi Lal Das, 35, and Abdul Aziz, 35, of Tajhat Bihari Bazar, and Jaharul Islam, 45, of Dimla in the city.

Of the dead, Majid and Khushi died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on Tuesday night. Aziz died at the same hospital yesterday, while Jaharul at his house.

Earlier on Tuesday, four people died after consuming the toxic liquor in the city's Tajhat Bihari Bazar.

Abdul Quader Jilani, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said they filed eight cases in this connection on Tuesday night.

He said police arrested 44 people for their alleged involvement in the incident.

Meanwhile, Amin Mondal, brother of deceased Nasim Mondal and Monu Mondal, has lodged a murder case against 24 people with the police station.

Sub-inspector Azizul Haque, in-charge of Mahiganj police camp, and Hasan Ali, assistant sub-inspector of the police camp, were closed for "their negligence of duty", said Abdul Razzak, superintendent of Rangpur police.

"We will take necessary action against them after investigation," the police official added.

Police and locals said at least 10 people became sick after having toxic liquor at the house of one Abdul Rahim Chhya at Tajhat Bihari Bazar on Monday night.

Locals alleged that Chhya had been selling locally made liquor for long. A large amount of liquor was recovered from his house yesterday.

After the incident, Chhya and his family went into hiding.

Cops beat

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seekers held a rally at Central Shaheed Minar and Raju Sculpture at Dhaka University around 10:00am, demanding a fresh medical and dental admission tests over allegations of question paper leakage.

After the rally at Raju Sculpture, they marched towards Shahbagh with a procession yesterday. Police stopped them in front of the Public Library and a scuffle broke out, said the agitators.

Law enforcers then detained 10 admission seekers from the spot and took them to Ramna Police Station.

As the Chhatra Front activists went to Shahbagh around half-an-hour later to protest the detention, police dragged 16, including some female activists, inside the service delivery room of Shahbagh Police Station.

They beat them up locking them in, claimed Naima Khaled Monika, president of Dhaka city unit of SCF. "The male cops pulled my hair and some of our female activists and dragged us to the police station," she added.

Three other activists -- Animesh Roy, Bikash Kumer Das and Nikhil Kumer Nath -- were injured in the beating. They received treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, she said.

Animesh Roy said, "In the room, they turned off the lights and beat us with rifle butts." Police, however, refuted the allegation.

"We tried to bring the situation under control, nothing else," said Mohammad Ibrhaim Khan, additional police commissioner of Ramna Division.

Asked about the allegation of torture on the demonstrators, Abdul Baten, deputy commissioner (Ramna division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the students attacked police. "We will take appropriate steps if any of the policemen did any excess."

About the detention, he said they would release the 10 detainees once their guardians arrive.

Khaled Saifulah, a representative of the Chhatra Obhibhabok Oikko Forum, yesterday at a press briefing at Central Shaheed Miner called for a "March to Dhaka" programme to be held today.

Meanwhile, around 100 students and interns of Sir Salimullah Medical College interrupted the admission process of new students and formed a human chain inside the medical college, demanding investigation into the alleged question paper leakage and cancellation of admission of those who passed the admission tests.

Meanwhile, a Supreme Court lawyer moved the High Court yesterday seeking the court's order to cancel the medical admission tests and a judicial inquiry into the question leak allegation.

Wait now is for SC

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for committing crimes against humanity.

According to Mahbub, the SC is likely to hear the review petitions after it reopens on November 1, as there is no urgency to hear those during the vacation.

The attorney general, however, said there was urgency to hear such petitions, and the apex court could hold the hearing during vacation if it wishes.

The SC went on a 44-day annual vacation on September 18 and will reopen on November 1.

Meanwhile, the SC sent copies of the full judgments to the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

Contacted, Shahidul Alam Jhinuk, registrar of the tribunal, said his office received copies of the verdicts around 7:30pm yesterday.

He said they would submit today the copies to the tribunal, which is expected to issue warrants of execution.

Once issued, the warrants would be sent to the jail authorities, district magistrates concerned, and both home and law ministries, added Shahidul.

Sixty-seven-year-old Mojaheed is now in Dhaka Central Jail while sixty-six-year-old Salauddin is in Kashimpur Jail-1.

The attorney general said the jail authorities could start the process of executing Mojaheed and Salauddin after getting copies of the full judgments.

If the convicts file review petitions, the process would automatically come to a halt and remain so until the SC disposes of the petitions, he said.

Through the petitions, the two war crimes convicts could pray to the apex court to examine whether there was any error in the judgments on their appeals.

If the review petitions are rejected, the last option for the two will be to seek presidential mercy.

Usually, a review petition is entertained in case of serious factual mistakes in the verdict or wrongful application of the law in punishing the accused.

A death sentence cannot be executed while a review or demency petition is pending, according to an earlier SC order on Abdul Quader Mollah's review petition.

In that order, the top court said review petitions should be disposed of on a priority basis.

The war crimes accused are tried under International Crimes Tribunal Act 1973. Since this law has no provision for filing review petitions, the SC exercised its inherent power to reach the decision on Mollah's petition to allow both the defence and the prosecution to seek a review.

Jamaat leader Quader Mollah was executed on December 12, 2012, for war crimes committed in 1971.

OBSERVATIONS

In the 191-page verdict on Mojaheed's appeal, the highest court referred to the intellectual killings, and said: "The aforesaid wholesale atrocities had been committed by the members of Badr Bahini as were committed by the members of the SS, the SD and the Gestapo Bahinies during Second World War.

"The pattern of the killings and of the circumstances under which those took place bring to mind the bitter memory of the Hitlerite hordes' onslaughts on culture. It was the cruellest blow to all the Bangalees.

"It was cold blooded savagery. Such barbaric, gruesome and brutal crime which the Badr Bahini committed at the instigation of the appellant [Mojaheed] is comparable with Hitler's gas chamber genocide. The entire world witnessed such genocide and brutality committed by Al- Badr

Bahini ... Definitely he [Mojaheed] was a war criminal."

In its 217-page judgment on Salauddin's appeal, the SC observed that he had "committed crimes with highest ruthlessness and extreme atrocity".

"He persecuted civilian and unarmed people, tortured them to death, caused disappearance of innocent people and helped in disappearing people in collaboration with the occupier Pakistani Army."

The SC said the prosecution was able to establish clearly that Salauddin had thoroughly designed plans and common objectives to commit those crimes. He had done all those brutal offences with specific intention to exterminate the Hindu community and his political opponents from that locality.

CASE BACKGROUND

On June 16 this year, a four-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha unanimously upheld the death penalty of Mojaheed for planning and instigating the killing of intellectuals and professionals at the fag end of the Liberation War.

It was the first time that an ex-minister was sentenced to death for war crimes. Mojaheed is also the first war crimes convict facing death for the killing of intellectuals and professionals.

In 1971, the Jamaat secretary general was chief of the infamous Al-Badr Bahini, an auxiliary force of Pakistan army, responsible for abducting, torturing and killing freedom fighters, intellectuals and pro-liberation people.

The SC upheld his life sentence, handed down by the ICT-2 on July 17, 2013, for killing composer Altaf Mahmud, Jahir Uddin Jalal, Badi, Rumi (son of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam), Jewel and Azad at the Old MP Hostel at Nakhpalpara in Dhaka.

The highest court also affirmed his five years' jail term for confining and torturing Ranjit Nath, a civilian, at a Bihari camp in Faridpur.

Mojaheed, who was a technocrat minister during the BNP-Jamaat alliance rule in 2001-2006, came under harsh criticism for his audacious comment in 2007 that there were no war criminals in the country.

Also an accused in the August-21 grenade attack case, he was arrested in June 2010 in a case filed for hurting religious sentiments. He was shown arrested in a war crimes case in August the same year.

On July 29 this year, the SC bench led by SK Sinha upheld the death penalty of ex-BNP lawmaker Salauddin for the brutal killing of Natun Chandra Sinha, Awami League leader Mozaffar Ahmed and his son; and two acts of genocide in Sultanpur Banikpara and Unasattarpara villages in Raozan where 74 villagers were massacred.

It also upheld his 20 years' jail sentence, handed down by the ICT-1 on October 1, 2013, on two charges: acts of genocide at Maddhya Gohira Hindupara and at Jagotmallopara in Raozan. At least 37 people were killed in the two villages.

The SC also affirmed the tribunal's verdict that sentenced him to five years' imprisonment on each of two charges of abducting, confining and torturing Saleh Uddin, who later became vice chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, and Nizamuddin Ahmed, who later became a journalist.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday claimed that its Secretary General Mojaheed has been a victim of the government's conspiracy to make the party leaderless.

In a statement, Jamaat acting ameer Mokbul Ahmad demanded the release of Mojaheed and other detained

Pilgrims blame

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killed hundreds of pilgrims," Mahbubur Rahman, a businessman from Tangail said.

After spending the whole day at Arafat Maidan, hajis came to Mujdalifa on Wednesday where they stayed overnight under the open sky.

In the morning [Thursday], all the hajis walked to Mina from Mujdalifa to take part in the symbolic stoning of the devil.

Shahadat Hossain, a retired school teacher, told The Daily Star that the Saudi security forces blocked two exit points of the five-storey round structure built for throwing stones so that the large entourage of the prince could pass. He said the closure prompted many to change their direction, thus creating a veritable chaos.

Another haji Alamgir Hossain said, "I saw many falling down on the ground and being trampled in the crazy crush."

Another haji Sharifa Moni said people who were going to Mina by wheelchairs became the worst victims. She also said the unbearable heat was also a reason behind the heavy tolls.

Saifen Ara's husband Moniruzzaman said many hajis, especially those who were on wheel chairs, died due to suffocation.

A top official of Criminal Investigation Department, told The Daily Star on Wednesday that many died of suffocation as there was no mark of injuries to their bodies.

Ebadat Hossain, 50, a businessman from the capital's Hatirpool area, expressed grave dissatisfaction over the management of Hajj by the Saudi government.

"We did not get any help from them (Saudi officials). We were treated like dogs and cats," he said on Tuesday night.

Holding the Saudi authorities completely responsible for the tragic incident, he said there was a huge rush of the pilgrims who could not find a way to get out as the two main exit points.

Another pilgrim from Chittagong, Mohiuddin Ahmed, 55, said, "So it is our right to get proper services from the Saudi government. But their security management is really frustrat-

Still no clues

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has said the Italian Embassy in Dhaka has primarily agreed with the Bangladesh government that the murder was not carried out by the Islamic State militants, as claimed by SITE Intelligence Group, a US-based company that tracks online activities of Jihadi organizations.

After a meeting with Italian Ambassador Mario Palma at the home ministry, Kamal told reporters, "There are some eyewitnesses. We have collected some video footages of the incident though the images are not clear. Detectives are analysing those. We hope we will be able to reach a conclusion soon."

Responding to a query on the issuance of travel alerts by some diplomatic missions, the minister said it was unexpected. "There has been no such situation in the country yet that requires issuance of travel alerts."

Echoing the minister, Director General of Rab Benazir Ahmed said, "This is not the first time that such a crime has been committed in Bangladesh. Similar incidents have happened in the neighbouring countries as well. Such international reactions [that followed the Tavella's killing] is not expected over a single incident."

He was talking to the press while visiting the killing spot in Gulshan yesterday.

After murdering Tavella, the killers didn't take any of his belongings, which means mugging was not their motive, said the Rapid Action Battalion boss. "They wanted to demean the whole nation."

He said the elite force was carrying out a shadow investigation to assist the Detective Branch (DB) of the DMP, which has been assigned to probe the incident.

Deputy Commissioner (Media) Muntasirul Islam of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said they were investigating the murder with priorities on militant links, and the victim's personal or professional enmity.

The DMP yesterday formed a special team of 11 police officials, including a deputy commissioner and four additional deputy commissioners of the DB, to assist the investigation officer, said Muntasirul.

Apart from the Rab chief and DB investigators, a number of other intelligence officials visited the crime scene yesterday.

Russia

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planes hit three provinces, reports AFP.

A US-backed Syrian rebel group has claimed that Russian warplanes have hit its positions in central Syria.

The group, known as Tajamu Alezzah, wrote with heavy sarcasm on Twitter yesterday that "eradicating terrorism appears to begin with attacks" on its locations in the central city of Latamna in the province of Hama, according to the Associated Press.

But an unnamed US official told Reuters that so far they did not appear to be targeting IS-held territory.

The strikes came as Putin and US President Barack Obama push rival plans on ways to defeat the Islamic State group in Syria and on the future role of the country's embattled leader Bashar al-Assad.

"They gave us a heads-up they were going to start striking in Syria," a US defence official said. "It was in the vicinity of Homs."

Iran blasts

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Iranian officials say Saudi Arabia has not done enough to identify and transfer the bodies of the victims to Iran. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said yesterday that Iran will not allow a single Iranian to be buried in Saudi Arabia.

"Saudi Arabia failed to help the injured and are causing trouble in transfer of the bodies to Iran ... the slightest disrespect to Iranians will be met with a harsh reaction from us," Khamenei told graduates of the Iranian Army's military academies in the city of Noshahr.

"We have shown self-restraint so far, but the Saudis should know Iran is more powerful and has more capabilities and they cannot compete with us in any front," he added.

Iranian officials have said the overall total death toll in the crush on Thursday near Makkah is more than 1,000. Saudi Arabia has confirmed the deaths of 769 people.

PM surprised

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killing of the Italian national, Hasina said a message from Chicago claimed links of IS with the killing. But nobody from Bangladesh claimed the responsibility for the murder so far. Bangladesh's intelligence agencies have not received any information like that, she added.

There is certainly a strong force behind the killing, said the PM.

She said terrorism and militancy are not the problems only in Bangladesh, they are a global phenomenon. Bangladesh believes in peace, not in militancy, noted the premier.

Bangladesh, she said, doesn't want emergence of militants. She expressed sadness at the murder of the Italian.

SLATING OF BNP, JAMAAT

Hasina said her government was taking measures to contain terrorism and militancy. But the BNP-Jamaat alliance stayed away from the last general election and chose the path of killing people, she alleged.

The BNP-Jamaat started politics of killing in February 2013 and continued it till 2014. They again resorted to terrorism from January to March 2015, complained the PM.

Bangladesh will put on trial those responsible for burning people alive. No killer would be able to escape trial, she warned.

Replying to a question, the PM said under the parliamentary system, the second largest party in parliament is the opposition party.

"So, if you believe in democracy, particularly in parliamentary democracy, you should have to accept the second biggest party in parliament as the opposition party."

Terming the BNP and Jamaat "militant and terrorist organisations", she said people will decide which party will be the opposition party.

The PM said there are some people in Bangladesh who are out to create an abnormal situation by killing people.

NO EARLY POLLS

Enquired about a mid-term election, Hasina said there is no chance of holding a national election in the country before 2019.

Supporters of militancy and terrorism who don't want to see Bangladesh's progress and development may seek a general election ahead of schedule, she added.

"The next election will be held as per schedule in line with constitutional provisions."

The PM said those who had plunged the country into politics of killing and coup have links with international terrorism. The government has been implementing various programmes to free the nation from terrorism and militancy, she added.

"The war criminals and killers of Bangabandhu will certainly try to create an unstable situation in the country. They are trying ceaselessly to do this."

The government is making all-out efforts to ensure that a peaceful situation prevails in the country, Hasina noted.

Terming her visit to New York a successful one, the PM said the UNGA has adopted the crucial Post-2015 agenda, a very pro-people goal for sustainable development of nations, particularly the poor ones.

She said she had very successful bilateral meetings with the leaders of India, Japan, the Netherlands and China.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Hasina said the country's constitution allows equal rights to every citizen and the people of every faith will practice their religions freely.

"If anybody doesn't practice his religion, it's up to him. But none can

hurt the sentiment of the theists."

She said her government was trying to find ways to stop such acts by taking measures in this regard.

Hurting the religious sentiment of others is a violation of others' constitutional rights. The authorities concerned must take measures to stop this. Otherwise, such incidents would recur, she mentioned.

Responding to another query by a journalist, the PM said courts will decide whether Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman would be punished or not in corruption and grenade attack cases. However, she said she always favours punishment of the perpetrators of such crimes.

AUSSIES' TOUR OF BD

Regarding the Australia national cricket team's tour of Bangladesh, Hasina said they were still not clear why the team was not going to Dhaka.

Pakistan and India played in Bangladesh in the past. Even matches of Cricket World Cup were hosted by the country. Only Australia can clarify on why they decided not to visit Bangladesh, she said.

Bangladesh hosted a number of sports events over the previous years with complete security and no untoward incident occurred then, the PM noted.

She said the law enforcement agencies and all other organisations concerned have enough expertise to ensure players' security.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Foreign Minister A H Mahmood Ali, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN Abdul Momen and PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim were present.

Palestinian flag

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"As long as Israel refuses to cease settlement activities and to release of the fourth group of Palestinian prisoners in accordance with our agreements, they leave us no choice but to insist that we will not remain the only ones committed to the implementation of these agreements, Abbas said.

"We therefore declare that we cannot continue to be bound by these agreements and that Israel must assume all of its responsibilities as an occupying power."

Abbas has in the past threatened to dissolve the PA and hand sole responsibility for the West Bank to Israel if there is no chance of a peace deal.

The PA was set up as an interim administration for the major Palestinian cities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the 1993 Oslo Accord. It was envisaged that a comprehensive treaty would be concluded within five years.

However, more than two decades of talks with Israel have failed to achieve a final peace settlement and an independent Palestinian state. The last round of negotiations collapsed in April 2014.

'PROUD DAY'

Writing in the Huffington Post on Tuesday, Abbas had said the raising of the Palestinian flag at the UN would be "a most emotional and proud day".

The UN General Assembly passed a motion earlier this month to raise the Palestinian and Vatican flags. Israel voted against the motion, along with the United States and six other countries. Forty-five countries also abstained.

Israel's permanent representative to the UN, Ron Prosor, said at the time that the move was a "blatant attempt to hijack the UN". He insisted that the only way Palestinians could achieve statehood was through direct negotiations.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার			
বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো			
ফিন্যান্স, এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন এন্ড এমআইএস			
পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (৮ম তলা, ব্লক-১)			
ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭			
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	পরিসংখ্যান মন্ত্রণালয়/পরিসংখ্যান ও তথ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ।	
২.	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো।	
৩.	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	৫২.০১.০০০০.১১২.৬২.২১.০৫(অংশ-১)-৩২৪০; তারিখঃ ৯/০৯/২০১৫ই।	
৪.	দরপত্র সম্বন্ধে পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।	
৫.	বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস	রাজস্ব খাত (GOB)।	
৬.	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম	পরিসংখ্যান ভবনে স্থাপিত ৪০+৪০৮ Maintenance & Servicing of 40+408 Line Digital PABX System ব্যাবহারিক ভিত্তিতে পরিচালনা, রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও সার্ভিসিং সংক্রান্ত।	
৭.	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	GR6	
৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১৪/১০/২০১৫ (বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)।	
৯.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১৫/১০/২০১৫ (দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)।	
১০.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৫/১০/২০১৫ (দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকায়)।	
১১.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনাকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	পরিসংখ্যান, ফিন্যান্স, এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন এন্ড এমআইএস, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (৮ম তলা, ব্লক-১), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।	
১২.	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পরিসংখ্যান, ফিন্যান্স, এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন এন্ড এমআইএস, বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো, (৮) পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (৮ম তলা, ব্লক-১), ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।	
১৩.	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	আজাহী দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা কর্তৃক কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত হালনাগাদ (২০১৫-১৬) সালের বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধ সনদ (টিআইএন) ২০১৪-১৫, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদপত্র (বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে পূর্ববর্তী ও (তি) মাস সন্মের মধ্যে) ও সনাক্তি কাজে ও বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।	
১৪.	প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র	হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদপত্র, সনাক্তি কাজে ও বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র ও কাগজপত্রসমূহ ১ম শ্রেণীর নাম সনাক্তি গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হতে হবে।	
১৫.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র।	
১৬.	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	বিবরণ	দরপত্র জামানতের টাকা
	GR6	পরিসংখ্যান ভবনে স্থাপিত ৪০+৪০৮ Maintenance & Servicing of 40+408 Line Digital PABX System ব্যাবহারিক ভিত্তিতে পরিচালনা, রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও সার্ভিসিং সংক্রান্ত।	১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা ফেরতযোগ্য (মহাপরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ