

# AL leader fires shot inside OC's office

OC terms it an accident  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A local ruling party leader allegedly fired a shot inside the office of Nawabganj Upazila Police Station's officer-in-charge Wednesday night.

Seeking anonymity, on-duty police staffs said Ataur Rahman, general secretary of Nawabganj Upazila Awami League, came to the police station around 9:00pm with his licensed shotgun.

Entering the room of OC Ismail Hossain, Ataur was locked in a debate over the profit earned from gambling held in different places of the upazila, said a sentry of the station.

At one stage of their angry exchange, Ataur fired a shot at the ceiling of the room.

"We failed to distinguish the gunshot as crackers were being burst everywhere over Diwali celebration," he said.

Ataur is allegedly involved in organising gambling in many places of the upazila.

However, Ruhul Amin, superintendent of police in Dinajpur, claimed it was an accident.

The OC claimed the incident took place in the station compound, not in his office.

"He came to see if anything was wrong with his firearm. When he had pulled the trigger, the bullet came out," said Ismail.

Visiting the office, The Daily Star correspondent found a hole in the ceiling right above the OC's seat.

Despite several attempts, this correspondent could not reach Ataur over the phone.

Ziaur Rahman Manik, acting secretary general of a faction of Nawabganj upazila AL, said Ataur fired a shot at Nawabganj Jubo League convener Nur Shamim a year ago with his licensed firearm. Later, Shamim filed a case in this connection.

After that incident, one of the Jubo League factions expelled Ataur from the post of general secretary, local AL leaders said.

## His sufferings

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Upazila Nirbahi Officer PKM Enamul Karim gave him the assurance after a visit to his house.

Monir will be given khas land, tin sheets and money to build home, Enamul said, adding he would also be given a job so that he could live without doing strenuous work like rickshaw pulling.

He had sold the land he inherited for the treatment of his eyes but to no avail, the rickshaw-puller told Enamul.

Monir who lost his eyesight at the age of two now lives with his family on a 10-square-feet shanty on another person's land in Feni sadar upazila.

His daughter Afroza Faria, a second grader in a local primary school at Sundarpur in Feni, guides her father when he pulls rickshaw.

The daily ran a report headlined "A father's eyes" that drew local administration's attention to the plight of Monir.

## Facebook says

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laws prohibiting criticism of the state' between July-December 2013.

Facebook said it releases the report in an effort to reform government surveillance in countries around the world by providing more transparency. The latest report provides information about the number of government requests the site received for data and pieces of content restricted for violating local laws in countries around the world.

In the first half of this year, amount of content restricted for violating local laws increased by 112 percent over the second half of 2014, to 20,568 pieces of content, up from 9,707.

Government requests for account data increased across all countries by 18 percent over the same period, from 35,051 requests to 41,214.

US ranked first of all the countries with 17,577 requests about 26,579 users or accounts, of which Facebook provided data for 79.85 percent.

India and the UK were second and third in that regard, with requests for data about 6,268 and 4,489 users/accounts respectively.

India tops the list of governments that blocked Facebook content in their countries, with 15,155 posts being restricted. This is more than three times that of second-placed Turkey, which blocked 4,496 posts.

"We respond to valid requests relating to criminal cases. Each and every request we receive is checked for legal sufficiency and we reject or require greater specificity on requests that are overly broad or vague," said Facebook authorities.

## HAZARI'S MP STATUS

# HC judge feels embarrassed to hear plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court judge yesterday felt embarrassed to hear a writ petition that challenged the legality of holding the office of a lawmaker by ruling Awami League leader Nizam Uddin Hazari.

Justice AKM Shahidul Huq, junior judge of an HC bench, expressed embarrassment without mentioning any reason, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

He said the bench of Justice Zinat Ara and Justice AKM Shahidul Huq yesterday afternoon started hearing his arguments on the rule issued over the legality of Nizam holding a parliamentary seat.

At a stage, Justice Zinat Ara said that her colleague felt embarrassed, Manzill said, adding that the bench will now send the petition to the chief justice.

The chief justice will assign another HC bench for hearing and disposing of the petition, he added.

The HC on June 8 last year issued the rule asking the government and the Election Commission to explain why the ruling Nizam's parliament seat should not be declared vacant.

The rule was issued following a writ

petition filed by Shakhawat Hossain Bhuiyan, a Juba League leader of Feni, claiming that Nizam, who was elected unopposed from Feni-2 constituency in last year's January 5 elections, had resorted to forgery to get out of jail early and run in the January 5 parliamentary polls.

Quoting a newspaper report, Shakhawat in his petition said a Chittagong court had sentenced Nizam to 10 years' imprisonment in an arms case on August 16, 2000. He surrendered to the court on September 14, 2000, and was sent to Chittagong jail to serve his term.

But he was in jail for only five years and released on December 1, 2005, through fraudulence, Shakhawat said.

He said Nizam was sentenced to be in jail until September 13, 2010, and he according to the law of the country - would not have been eligible to run in any parliamentary polls before September 2015.

The petitioner said Nizam could not legally have been a candidate in the parliamentary election of January 5, adding that Nizam had provided false information about serving his jail term to the EC.

## Man killed for protest

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there, he asked Monzil to leave the place. Instead of leaving the place, Monzil was locked in an altercation with my husband," Taposhi said.

At one stage, they roughed up each other. After a few minutes, Monzil along with his men came to the house and beat up Shudhanshu. As the locals resisted the attackers, they went back, she said.

Later, the attackers, equipped with sharp weapons, stormed the house and caught her husband from his room and hacked him inside the house, leaving him critically injured, Taposhi added.

Shudhanshu was taken to Pabna General Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Locals brought out a procession in

Radhanagar Rathgar area around 9:00pm, protesting the killing.

"We are feeling insecure as the drinkers and gamblers often gather near the house and disturb our families. We protest against them, but they do not pay any heed to it," said Moushumi Boshak, niece of the victim.

"We want punishment of the killers for our security," said Provaish Kumar, leader of the district Puja Uddipan Parishad.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

"Police are trying to nab Monzil and his men," said Abdurrahman Al Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

and thanked the organisers.

Chandana Majumdar and Kiran Chandra Roy took stage next, presenting songs from Lalon, Shah Abdul Karim, and even a folksy rendition of Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah's "Bhalo Achi Bhalo Theko".

Arko Mukherjee Collective took the festival by storm, performing a blend of folk songs in Bangla and various regions from India, incorporating elements from Middle-Eastern and European gypsy styles. Along with Styaki Banerjee and his band Fiddlers Green, he got the audience to dance and groove.

Eminent Lalon exponents Shafiq Mondal and Rob Fakir performed next.

Revered Pakistani Sufi exponent Saeen Zahoor and Indian singer, composer Papon also enthralled the audience with their performances. The packed stadium showed no signs of sleep or fatigue.

## Folk music fest begins

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presenting various genres of folk dance originating from different regions of the country.

Farida Parveen, one of the most noted exponents of Lalon songs, came on stage next. With an ensemble dressed in all whites, she sang popular Lalon songs to rapturous applause.

The formal inauguration featured Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Managing Director of Mastranga TV and Square Group Anjan Chowdhury and eminent singer Ferdausi Rahman.

"Square Group, with their title sponsorship of the Bengal Classical Music Festival [due to begin later this month] and now organising this festival, is contributing to the country's cultural arena," Anjan Chowdhury said.

AMA Muhith, before formally inaugurating the festival, said, "Bangladesh can be proud of its love for music,"

and thanked the organisers.

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## Nur Hossain brought back

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filed over the killing of seven people -- Narayanganj City Corporation ward councillor Nazrul Islam, his driver and three associates, and senior lawyer Chandan Sarkar and his driver.

The seven were abducted allegedly by some Rapid Action Battalion men from Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road on April 27 last year.

Nur, who too was a ward councillor of Narayanganj city back then, allegedly bribed the Rab men for murdering Nazrul with whom he reportedly had a longstanding political feud. Lawyer Chandan and his driver were killed as they happened to witness the Rab men abducting Nazrul and his associates.

The murder outraged the nation with Nazrul's father-in-law Shahidul Islam alleging that the Rab men had taken Tk 6 crore from Nur to kill Nazrul.

Three Rab officials -- Lt Col Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, Maj Arif Hossain and Lt Commander MM Rana -- were sacked for allegedly executing the killings in exchange for money.

Immediately after the murders, Nur fled to India. However, he was arrested in Kolkata in June and charged with trespass and possession of an illegal firearm.

West Bengal court on October 16 ordered that Nur Hossain be deported to face trial in Bangladesh.

Sandipan Chakraborty, additional chief judicial magistrate of Barasat in North Chobhish Parganas, asked the authorities concerned to comply with its order by December 16.

Meanwhile, nearly a year after the seven-murder incident, police on April 8 this year submitted the charge sheet in the case, naming 35 people, including

prices of open market sale (OMS) of rice and wheat, food ministry officials said.

The food minister said the price cut in OMS would be announced in a day or two. At present, rice is being sold at Tk 24 a kg and wheat at Tk 22.

As cheaper rice from India got into Bangladesh market in large volumes earlier this year, putting local rice growers in a tight spot, the government imposed a 10 percent duty in May amid widespread criticism that the measure was too little, too late.

Rice millers recommend increasing the rice import duty to 30 percent.

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Govt offers

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## BNP to resist

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government not to execute such a plan.

The government has reportedly decided to remove all graves from the Sangsab Bhaban area to comply with the original design of Sangsab Bhaban by architect Louis Kahn.

Referring to the apparent reason behind the move, Hafiz Uddin said, "How was it possible to keep space for Ziaur Rahman's grave in the design when he was alive?"

Regarding the handing over of Anup Chetia, leader of Indian separatist group United Liberation Front of Assam, to India, he said the opposition party wanted to know which procedure had been followed in handing him over to the neighbouring country.

Jatiyatabadi Aijibi Forum held a rally protesting the reported plan of the government to remove Zia's grave from the Sangsab Bhaban area.

The demonstrators also threatened the government with a tougher movement if it goes ahead with the plan.

Meanwhile, BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon lambasted the government for recent arrests of party members, saying if it wanted to hold credible local government polls, it should release the opposition men immediately. The elections will be questioned otherwise as was the case regarding January 5, 2014 polls.

It has become very tough for BNP men to participate in the upcoming polls since many possible candidates, polling agents and activists have already been arrested, and some have left their localities to avoid police harassment, said Ripon at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters.

Modi visits UK

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Wembley Stadium.

After talks with Cameron, Modi became the first Indian premier to address Britain's parliament and was feted with a flypast by the Red Arrows aerobatics team, which trailed smoke over London in the colours of India's flag.

While Cameron said he wanted to support Modi in his efforts to transform India with improved infrastructure and education, the Indian leader

signalled he wanted Britain to vote to stay in the European Union, saying the country was India's gateway to Europe.

Cameron also said British and Indian companies would announce new "collaborations" worth 9 billion pounds during Modi's visit, but gave few details.

British trade minister Francis Maude outlined some of the new deals.

They included a £1.3 billion investment by Vodafone, a £1.2 billion clean energy contract for technology company Intelligent Energy and a deal for King's College Hospital to open an institution in Chandigarh.

The deals are expected to include India buying more BAE Systems Hawk trainer jets -- the same plane used by the Red Arrows -- for its armed forces.

But when Modi was asked whether Britain should remain in the EU, in a referendum called by Cameron and being held by the end of 2017, Modi said: "As far as India is concerned, if there is an entry point to the European Union, that is the UK".

Modi's visit has also drawn protests.

Up to 500 people held a demonstration outside Downing Street against the visit