

Arrestee

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statement of a case.

Corporal Faruk Bhuiyan of military police lodged the case with Kafilur Police Station on Sunday night accusing Jamirul Islam Manik, 32, of the attack, OC Sikdar Shamim Hossain of the police station told The Daily Star last night.

The case was filed under military law, he added.

Jamirul attacked Samidul Islam, 27, with a sharp weapon at the checkpoint. Two army members, who were on duty with Samidul, chased the attacker and captured him with the help of police and locals from a house where he holed up for around 20 minutes, said witnesses.

Samidul suffered injuries in the neck, cheek and fingers. He received treatment at Combined Military Hospital in the city.

The accused was not handed over to police, said the OC.

In a press release on November 10, the Inter Service Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) said a member of Military Police sustained minor injuries as a pedestrian attacked him with a sharp weapon while on duty in the Kafilur area in the morning.

Other members of military police, who were on duty there, detained the suspected attacker. A probe into the incident was underway, added the release.

Public unity

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liberation war in an independent country."

In his speech, Journalist Abed Khan said the government should build-up confidence in people by hanging all war criminals immediately.

Cultural personality Ramnedu Majumder said, "Terrorism is a global threat now and terrorists attacked Paris recently, which is why people from every class should play more vigilant role to defeat these evil forces."

Liberation war museum trustee Dr Sarowar Ali, economist Prof M M Akash, among others, also spoke at the event.

In the afternoon, Imran H Sarker led Gonojagron Mancha held a cultural rally at Shahbag intersection, demanding immediate arrest of the killers of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan and the attackers of bloggers.

"Terrorists have declared war against Bangladesh," he said.

Earlier Uddichi Shilpigosthi performed protest songs against the killings while leaders and activists, later in the evening, lit up candles to honour the martyrs.

Cops asked

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chiefs to ensure that all the officers and constables under their command assemble and disassemble arms "off and on" to learn the knowhow, apart from the annual firing practice.

The instructions were issued on Monday as senior police officials believe, according to highly placed sources, that cops should keep practising operating arms more often than once a year.

The policemen often get puzzled at moments that require instant action and they in many cases do not even know how to operate the weapons they are carrying during their duty, some senior police officials told The Daily Star yesterday.

The lower-tier cops will spend some time once a week taking training at their respective stations from senior officials, they said.

Several officer-in-charges of different police stations under Dhaka Metropolitan Police confirmed The Daily Star of receiving the directives.

The move came hard on the heels of a November 4 attack on a police checkpoint in Ashulia that left a constable dead and another critically injured. The incident exposed a lack of skill, training, professionalism and seriousness in the lower tier of police as five constables, despite being armed with rifles and shotguns, could not resist two armed attackers.

Police sources say during the six-month basic training, constables shoot only 90 bullets from four different firearms -- Chinese Type 53 Carbine, shotgun, sub-machinegun and pistol -- for two days of shooting practice at different centres.

Besides, while on the job they are allowed to fire 40 bullets from Type 53 rifle, shotgun and pistol at a daylong annual programme.

In the 18-point directives, a copy of which has been obtained by The Daily Star, the PHQ asked the unit chiefs to set up scanning facilities at all police installations and search all visitors at the entrances of the police, DMP, SB, CID and RAB headquarters, and other installations of the force.

It also strictly prohibited entry of any unregistered vehicles into the police installations.

The police headquarters wants high walls or barbed-wire fences around the police installations, and the unit chiefs to pay surprise visits to the units under their command.

The unit chiefs were asked to implement the orders within five working days and report it to the inspector general of police.

NBR slated

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complications.

The attorney general's office gets NBR's cooperation on customs-related issue, but the picture is very dissatisfactory in case of income tax issues, he said.

"The state is facing losses as you [the NBR] are not communicating and coordinating with us."

Mahbubey said cases involving thousands of crores of taka are pending with courts, and it is not acceptable that the plaintiffs would continue to get time for the cases.

Justice Md Habibul Gani said the NBR should have a cell at the Supreme Court for coordination of the cases. The officials of the cell cannot be transferred at will.

"Sometimes, NBR officials give decisions that are out of their jurisdictions, resulting in filing of petitions."

Though grievances are there against the NBR, the tax authority has not pursued the court to hear cases, particularly those involving huge amounts of money, he said.

In many cases, the NBR officials bypass the orders of the appellate and HC divisions, he said.

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha called for making new laws, saying many of the existing laws have become obsolete.

The justice system is running under old laws dating back to 1872 or earlier, he said.

Laws have been amended, but it has been done in a way that they lost originality, he said.

"I say this in all platforms that our laws are obsolete in this 21st century. All these old laws have to be scrapped, and we have to write these laws anew to make them suitable for this modern era."

The chief justice also stressed the need for strengthening the Law

Commission that would draft laws for parliament to approve.

He said 3.8 lakh cases are pending with 100 judges at the Supreme Court, and six benches are there to speed up the settlement of business and tax related cases.

Former law minister Shafique Ahmed said judges should be given power to decide whether a case would be forwarded for the ADR.

Some 571 cases involving Tk 4,637 crore have come under the ADR mechanism. Of those, 518 have been settled, allowing the NBR to realise Tk 119 crore, mostly related to income tax.

JS withdraws

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The committee said although the bill sought to bypass SC's authority in a bid to ease the functioning of development activities, it contradicted with the constitution's Article 112 that says all the branches of executive and judiciary will assist the SC.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, chief of the parliamentary watchdog Rafiqul Islam said: "The act is over 107 years old. So the committee recommended changing the law in light with the demands of modern age."

Blasting the withdrawal of the bill, a few opposition lawmakers said some irrelevant issues remained in important bills as these were placed before the House without doing proper home work.

On Monday, the Local Government (Zila Parishad) (amendment) Bill, 2015 was also withdrawn from parliament.

Sources said the move came as the government high-ups thought that it won't be able to hold the zila parishad elections at this moment.

'Act of terror' downed jet

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"It is not the first time that Russia confronts barbarous terrorist crimes", Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a meeting with his security chiefs.

"The murder of our people in Sinai is among the bloodiest crimes in terms of victims, he said in comments released yesterday, vowing to hunt down those responsible.

"We will search for them anywhere they might hide. We will find them in any part of the world and punish them," he said.

The confirmation of the attack -- the deadliest against a Russian target since the Beslan school massacre by Islamist rebels from the North Caucasus in 2004 -- comes days after a chain of attacks claimed by the Islamic State group killed at least 129 people in Paris.

Russia's security chief Alexander Bortnikov told Putin that the passenger jet carrying tourists back from Egyptian resort Sharm el-Sheikh on October 31 was brought down shortly after take-off over the Sinai peninsula by a home-made bomb containing explosives of "foreign production" with a force equivalent to one kilo of TNT.

"We can say unequivocally that this was a terrorist attack," Federal Security Service (FSB) head Bortnikov said.

The FSB later said it would pay "\$50 million for information helping to arrest the criminals."

A group linked to IS had earlier claimed responsibility for downing the plane, and Russia had halted all flights to Egypt despite refusing to endorse growing suspicions in Britain and the United States that the plane was blown up by a bomb.

Putin did not expressly blame IS for the attack on the passenger jet but pledged to step up air strikes in Syria where Moscow is conducting a bombing campaign it says is targeting the IS and other "terrorist" groups.

"The combat work of our aviation in Syria must not only be continued. It must be intensified so that the criminals understand that vengeance is inevitable," Putin said.

Russia has been conducting strikes in Syria since late September in support of the forces of President Bashar al-Assad while the US and its allies are flying a separate campaign targeting IS.

SC judgment

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Chowdhury.

The bench, which was scheduled to hear the review petition of BNP leader Salauddin yesterday, deferred the hearing, as his lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain sought time, saying he was not prepared for placing arguments.

Mahbub also represents Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mojaheed.

During yesterday's hearing on Mojaheed's review petition, Mahbub prayed to the Appellate Division to acquit his client on the charge of killing intellectuals in 1971. He said there was no specific allegation against Mojaheed.

The lawyer, however, did not ask the apex court to acquit Mojaheed or commute his sentences on three other charges.

The apex court on June 16 this year upheld the death penalty of Mojaheed, chief of infamous Al-Badr force, for planning and instigating the killing of intellectuals and professionals towards the end of the country's Liberation War.

The top court also upheld his life sentence, originally handed by a war crimes tribunal, 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 Nakhapara in Dhaka. It upheld his five years' jail term for confining and torturing Ranjit Nath, a civilian, at a Bihari camp in Faridpur.

The tribunal had also given him death penalty for mass killings at Bakchar village in Faridpur, but the SC commuted his death sentence to life term on this charge.

Citing a document, Mahbub yesterday told the court that Al-Badr force was operated and led by the Pakistan military in 1971, and therefore, Mojaheed, a civilian, was not its commander.

He said at last 42 cases were filed with different police stations across the country in 1972 for killing intellec-

tuals in 1971, but Mojaheed was not mentioned in any of the cases.

Mojaheed had no "command responsibility" for the killings and he could get the benefit of doubt in the charge, Mahbub argued.

Opposing the petition, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam asked the apex court to affirm his death penalty. He said Mojaheed, as the leader of Al Badr and Islami Chhatra Sangha, was responsible for killing the intellectuals in 1971.

Mojaheed had planned, and encouraged and instigated his followers with his speeches to kill intellectuals and professionals, he said.

He said Mojaheed, and other war criminals like Ghulam Azam and Motiur Rahman Nizami, were seen at the Physical Training College at Mohammadpur in Dhaka where the Pakistan army and their collaborators confined and tortured the pro-liberation people, including freedom fighters in 1971.

The attorney general said the pro-liberation people and the prosecution would be disappointed, if the war criminal like Mojaheed was acquitted of the charge.

He said anti-liberation forces like Jamaat-e-Islami and Al Badr were still issuing threats to the pro-liberation people, including Prof emeritus Anisuzzaman and eminent writer and essayist Hasan Azizul Haque.

He said any person could be tried and punished by the court for committing criminal offences even if his or her name was not mentioned in a case statement.

On October 14, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mojaheed and BNP's Salauddin submitted the review petitions.

The SC upheld the capital punishment of the two leaders in June and July after hearing their appeals against the verdicts delivered by the war crimes tribunal.

The tribunal issued death warrants on October 1, a day after the SC released the full verdicts.

4 to die

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The convicts are Shamim Mondol, 24, Akash Mondol, 24, and Jahid Hasan, 24, of Rajbari district, and Babul Hossain Rajib, 22, of Faridpur.

Shamim and Jahid were produced in the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka before delivery of the verdict but Akash and Babul, who secured bail from the High Court in 2013, did not show up.

Fifteen-year-old Zakia Akhter Champa was gang-raped and killed because she had refused to marry Shamim, Babul said while giving his confessional statement.

The girl of class-IX at Pordia Girls' High School in Kanaipur union went missing from a wedding ceremony at Kashemabad village in the same union on the night of December 13, 2012.

Her body was found hanging from a tree at the village the next morning.

Champa's elder brother Hasibul Islam filed a rape and murder case with Faridpur Kotwali Police Station the same day, accusing six people, including their neighbour Salam Matabbar, his son Shamim Mondol and four others.

The police pressed murder charges against five in May 2013. The victim's family rejected the charge framing and appealed for a fresh autopsy.

As ordered by the court, the body was exhumed for a second post-mortem that concluded that the victim had been raped before the murder.

The four convicts were also sentenced to life-term imprisonment for raping the girl and fined Tk 1 lakh each.

Another accused of the case, Mousumi Akhter Sumi, a relative of Shamim, was acquitted yesterday since she was not found guilty of being involved in the incident.

Underage driver

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To prevent them from getting away, police shot at the car," said Abu Bakar Miah, officer-in-charge of Uttara East Police Station.

At one stage, the driver and his friends, all A-level students, fled on foot after ditching the white station wagon on Road 9/C, Uttara Sector 5.

Following recent attacks on checkpoints, policemen have been asked to keep at least one man on standby with a loaded gun and open fire the moment they are under attack.

According to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, the car was registered to SC lawyer AKM Asiful Haque who lives in the capital's New Eskaton area.

When this correspondent went to the address yesterday, the security guards said there was none in the apartment.

Asiful was in London and his wife and children were away, they said.

The source close to the family said the four boys, all from wealthy families, narrowly escaped the police firing. "Severely traumatised, one of them is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in the city."

Asiful's only son drove the car out when the driver was out for lunch, the source said.

The station wagon was in police custody and a general diary was filed in this connection.

In another incident of reckless driving on October 12, underage Fareez Rahman rammed his SUV into two rickshaws while racing with another car in Gulshan allegedly in a drunken state. Four people were injured in the incident.

Matin refuses

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However, while in police custody he had agreed to admit to his involvement in the killing, said Zehad Hossain, an inspector of the Detective Branch of police and investigation officer of the case, in the forwarding report submitted yesterday.

Matin's not giving confessional statement would not be any issue in proving charges brought against him as another suspect spoke of his involvement in the murder, said a senior lawyer wishing not to be named.

According to the provision, the police have no further scope to take him on remand in the case.

Police earlier claimed someone had contacted Russell and two other youths to do the job and that the trio killed Tavella in the capital's diplomatic zone on September 28.

The others are Tamjid Ahmed alias Rubel alias "Shooter" Rubel and Minhazul Arifin Russell alias "Bhagne" Russell.

They were arrested on October 25 along with Shakhawat Hossain alias Sharif whose motorbike was used for killing Tavella, according to police.

All the four arrestees gave confessional statements under the Section-164 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Of them, Sharif did not admit to his involvement in the murder.

Detectives arrested Matin on November 4 at Benapole border while he was trying to leave the country, police said.

However, his family claimed he was picked up from his Badda residence 13 days earlier.

Dhaka, Delhi agree

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"The promise we have made today to share intelligence was also there beforehand. On the basis of such information sharing we have done some work in the past," Mozammel Haque Khan, senior secretary to the Bangladesh home ministry, told a briefing after the meeting.

The two sides wrapped up the talks through signing of "joint minutes of agreements".

Mozammel termed the meeting "most successful and satisfactory" among all home secretary-level talks in the past.

Sources said during the meeting, Bangladesh strongly urged India to bring down the number of killings of Bangladeshis on the border to zero.

Although India has been assuring Bangladesh of doing so for quite a long period, such incidents are still quite frequent.

Since February, at least 26 people have been killed on the border by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

"Our target is to bring down border killings to zero level and the Indian authorities have agreed on [fulfilling] our demands, and assured us of working on it sincerely so that in the days ahead no tension prevails on the border," Mozammel said at the briefing.

He also said they have to educate citizens of both the countries so that they do not trespass and obey international rules and regulations. "It will make the duties of the BSF and the BGB much easier," he added.

India argued that it is tough to bring down the number of such killings to zero until smuggling on the border stops, meeting sources added.

India requested Bangladesh to seriously look into if there is any Indian insurgent in Bangladesh in disguise, and about their activities.

Mozammel said they have clearly told India that there is no camp and activities of any Indian insurgent group in Bangladesh. Sometimes they may stay here in disguise but the Bangladesh authorities are not aware of it.

"India would share if they get any information immediately. Our people involved in intelligence collection are also on alert. So, I think we will be able to solve any problem related to any sort of terrorism or insurgency through intelligence sharing and cooperation," he added.

Meeting sources also said both the countries decided to exchange wanted criminals hiding, or staying in jails as

soon as possible so that criminals do not consider their neighbouring countries as their safe "haven".

Bangladesh also urged India to simplify its visa formalities for Bangladeshi citizens.

At the meeting, Bangladesh and India also agreed to work for stopping woman and child trafficking, smuggling of drugs like phensidyle from India, stopping trespassing of Indian fishing trawlers into the Bangladesh territory.

Indian Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi, who led the Indian delegation, did not make any comment after the meeting, despite journalists' request.

PM FOR STRONGER COOPERATION

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for further strengthening cooperation between Bangladesh and India in various fields for their mutual benefits.

She came up with the view when visiting Indian Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi met her at her official residence Ganobhaban, reports UNB.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

He said Hasina expressed her satisfaction with the success of the home secretary-level talks.

The Indian home secretary said he had fruitful discussions with his Bangladesh counterpart earlier in the day as the two sides signed a treaty minutes after the meeting.

He also said the two secretaries signed a Standard Operative Procedure (SOP) on coastal shipping.

About implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement, Mehrishi said the first batch of people living in the former enclaves in Bangladesh would go to India today, added Ihsanul.

Court denies

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Khandakar Golam Sabbir Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman Mintu and Hormuj Ali are now in jail, while Mohammad Abdus Sattar, Mohammad Fakruzzaman and Khandakar Golam Rabbani are on the run.

TAHER AND NANI CASE

Meanwhile, the tribunal completed recording the cross-examination of Shahjahan Kabir, the investigation officer and also the last prosecution witness in the case against Obaidul Haque Taher and Ataur Rahman Nani, and fixed December 2 for recording testimony of defence witnesses.

Why Bacchu

FROM PAGE 16
interest of justice.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Bhishmadev Chakrabarti came up with the rule on Monday after hearing a writ petition filed as public interest litigation by retired banker Harun-ur-Rashid from Begumganj of Noakhali.

The anti-graft watchdog in September filed 56 cases against some BASIC Bank officials and borrowers, leaving Bacchu and the ex-members of its board of directors unscathed.

The cases came after the ACC's enquiry into the Tk 4,500 crore BASIC Bank scam couldn't find Bacchu's involvement in it. Bacchu allegedly masterminded the biggest banking fraud in Bangladesh.

The outcome of the ACC probe surprised many as the central bank found Bacchu's complicity in the loan scam that took place between 2009 and 2012.

The central bank first inspected the state-run's Gulshan, Shantinagar and Dilkusha branches in 2012 and found evidence of serious anomalies in approving loans. It again conducted a special inspection at those branches the following year before giving details of the scam to the ACC.

In July last year, the BB sent to the ACC a report on the scam with details

of how a section of borrowers embezzled money from the bank on forged documents.

According to the report, the BASIC Bank board and its credit committee at the headquarters ignored the negative observations of bank branches on a number of loan proposals and approved those without following due procedure.

The BB report also mentioned how Bacchu arbitrarily approved loans against fake papers and inflated mortgages.

Bacchu resigned as chairman of the bank. The government later dissolved its seven-member board.

However, the petitioner only mentioned about five board meetings, all chaired by Bacchu, which gave approval of loans amounting Tk 154 crore.

Apart from Bacchu, the members of the board who were present in those meetings are responsible for the swindling money from the bank. But they were not held liable, petitioner's counsel Muntasir Uddin Ahmed told The Daily Star.

He said the writ petition was filed seeking the HC's directive on the ACC to implicate Bacchu and the board members in the scam case.

The petition didn't name the board members. There was also no mention about when the meetings took place.

The 40-second

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all it requires is a few seconds of your time and a bit of imagination.

Bird recently asked some students to lie in a brain scanner and view a series of short clips from YouTube (involving, for example, neighbours playing practical jokes on each other). Straight after some of the clips, they were given 40 seconds to replay the scene in their minds and describe it to themselves. For the others, they just moved onto a new video.

It turned out that simply describing the event to themselves massively improved their chances of remembering it accurately a week or so later: on average, they were able to remember twice as many details.

Bird also found that his brain scans appeared to reflect the strength of the memory: when the activity during their descriptions closely mirrored the activation as they watched the video itself, the students seemed to have built particularly strong foundations for later recall.

That may, perhaps, be a sign of just how much effort and detail they were imagining as they described the scene. It could also be that it allowed the students to peg the events to other memories; one student compared a character in the clips to James Bond, for instance -- instantly making him more memorable.

In other words, if you want to make sure something sticks in your mind, just take a minute or so to describe it to yourself, consciously and deliberately picking the most vivid details.

Bird can see how it might be particularly important in the courtroom. "The findings have implications for any situation where accurate recall of an event is critical, such as witnessing an accident or crime," he says.

"Memory for the event will be significantly improved if the witness rehearses the sequence of events as soon as possible afterwards." But it could be equally helpful for anyone hoping to cling to something worth remembering.