

# CUSTODIAL DEATH

## Two ex-Pallabi policemen sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent two former assistant sub-inspectors of Pallabi Police Station to Dhaka Central Jail after rejecting their bail pleas for killing a youth in police custody last year.

The two police officials are Md Kamruzzaman Minto and Rashedul Hassan. They were first closed for the incident and later attached to Rajarbagh Police Lines.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after the two had surrendered before it, seeking bail in the case.

The court also fixed January 14 next year for hearing on charge framing against the five accused, including the two, in the case.

The three others are SI Jahidur Rahman Khan and police informers Sumon and Russell. Of them, Jahid and Sumon are now in jail.

According to the prosecution, it was alleged that Ishtiaq Ahmed Jonny, his brother Imtiaz Hassan Rocky and three others were detained by a police team, led by SI Jahid, on February 9 last year when they were celebrating a pre-wedding programme of Jonny's friend Billal Hossain at Irani camp in Pallabi.

Police informers Sumon and his friends Russell and Nasim called police in after Jonny slapped Sumon for stalking women who were dancing at the programme.

Later, Jonny, 28, was allegedly tortured to death. He was a resident of Talab camp in Mirpur-11.

Following the incident, victim's brother Rocky on August 7 that year filed a case against nine people, including SI Jahid, with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka for their alleged involvement in the killing.

Later, a metropolitan magistrate conducted a judicial inquiry and found Jahid and four others' involvement in the killing.

On April 5 this year, the trial court took cognizance of the charges against the five and issued arrest warrants for Minto, Rashed and Russell.

Jahid is also an accused of custodial death of garment-waste trader Mahabubur Rahman Sujon at Mirpur Police Station.

# Anonymous

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Twitter and other social media accounts of extremist activists and have them shut down. But since it is relatively easy to then set up another account straight after, the work is fairly continuous but experts have said that it can be successful in keeping propaganda and other information from being spread.

That means that Anonymous is calling on those affiliated with the group to seek out such accounts and help shut them down. The group says that such activity has already led to thousands of accounts being shut down.

The group's guide includes advice for how to do that as well as other activity, and broader information for keeping oneself safe online.

Some groups affiliated with and supportive of IS have reportedly claimed that they will attack those involved with Anonymous, and so security among both sides is expected to be high.

The guide is written in both French and English.

It points out that people can get involved in the group's operation in a number of different ways. Reporting extremist Twitter accounts, for instance, will allow people to take part without breaking any law and within the normal rules of social media accounts. But it also offers more extreme advice, like how to find and hack accounts.

The group has posted the full guide online on Pastebin, a popular site that Anonymous and other online activists and hackers tend to use for posting statements. The site allows users to host text files without being traceable.

# 67 people

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of the same area, said they have already completed all formalities, including meeting with relatives and friends in Bangladesh, in the last few days.

Sources in the district administration said a total of 197 people of 40 families at five former enclaves in Hatibandha and Patgram had opted to become Indian nationals and travel passes were given to them by the Indian authorities.

Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner M Habibur Rahman told The Daily Star that transport facilities and special security would be provided to the travel pass holders when they start for India.



The three people arrested over the murder of blogger Niladri Chottapadhyay Niloy. Dhaka Metropolitan Police revealed the news of the arrests yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Three held

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Monirul said they were yet to confirm whether the arrestees directly took part in the killing.

"They have not yet admitted their direct involvement with the murder. They will be interrogated in remand, if granted," he said. Later in the day, a Dhaka court placed each of them on a five-day remand.

The DB official said the arrestees might have links with the murder even if they were not present at the murder scene that day.

On August 7, unidentified attackers tricked into Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy' Goran house at capital's Khilgaon posing as potential tenants and then hacked him to death inside his bedroom.

That evening, a group identifying itself as Ansar Al Islam claimed the responsibility for the murder in an email sent out to almost all media outlets.

However, no Facebook post with such claims was reported then.

Replying to a query yesterday, Monirul claimed the duo indeed uploaded a Facebook post claiming

the credit for the murder.

The sender of the email had identified himself as Mufti Abdullah Ashraf and claimed to be the spokesperson for "Ansar Al Islam (al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent, Bangladesh Chapter)".

Monirul said they were investigating to find out whether any of the arrestees had any link with Ashraf, or himself was the sender of the email.

Detectives said Gaffar, during the primary interrogations, did not admit that he knew Sabbir or Tarekul.

They claimed Gaffar had been involved in "Jihadist activities" during his study at Al Jameyatul Islamiah Patia Madrasa in Chittagong. He used to run different fake Facebook IDs, including "Islamier Sainik Sotter Loraku" from which the threat was issued to Niloy.

Sabbir used to work as administrator of different Facebook IDs and pages that ran Jamaat propagandas against the government in the past while Tarekul was accused in around 20 cases filed for subversive activities and arson attacks on vehicles.

# Sudden shutdown

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Computer Samity, said the internet had become the "lifeline of modern life, businesses and offices".

"Blocking social networking sites and applications is a complete failure of the government mechanism."

Tarana Halim, state minister for telecommunication, and Shahjahan Mahmood, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, said the shutdown was a result of a misunderstanding.

"We restored the internet as soon as we realised the mistake," Mahmood said.

The shutdown was just an hour after the Supreme Court delivered verdicts upholding the death penalties of war criminals Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

Earlier, the BTRC asked all mobile carriers, internet gateways and service providers to block Facebook, WhatsApp and Viber immediately.

Speaking on the issue, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the government had blocked Facebook, Viber and WhatsApp for the sake of security, following the deliveries of the verdicts.

"The country's security is more important than free chat," said BTRC Chairman Mahmood, adding that they would decide soon on restoring the services.

Mahmood said this was not the first time the government had blocked Facebook, Whatsapp and Viber. It had happened in the past, and might happen again in future.

A senior official of the BTRC, requesting anonymity, said Facebook, WhatsApp and Viber could remain blocked for three days and on the fourth day, they would remove the block on trial basis.

On January 18 this year, the regulator had blocked Viber, WhatsApp, Tango, Mypeople and Line for four days.

The government also blocked Facebook during the BDR mutiny in 2009 and video-sharing website YouTube for 260 days between September 2012 and June 2013.

On November 11, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament that WhatsApp and Viber could be temporarily blocked when needed in order to capture militants and prevent their criminal activities.

Some people were carrying out criminal activities with the help of these apps, she said.

**BUSINESS IMPACT**

Digital platforms of businesses, e-commerce and online banking were affected during the internet blackout. The effect was massive for businesses, which bank heavily on Facebook.

Suman Ahmed Sabir, chief strategy officer of international internet gateway Fibre@Home, said businesses like outsourcing, freelancing, call centres, e-commerce and web-based solutions bore the brunt.

"From the duration of the shutdown, the loss might not seem huge, but its long-term effect will be massive," said Sabir.

Kowser Ahmed, owner of two outsourcing companies, said, "I could not deliver any product to my clients on time."

MA Hakim, president of Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh, said they knew that a lot of orders for garments, which account for about 80 percent of the country's exports, are placed using various internet platforms. These meetings were affected, he said.

More than 1,000 Facebook pages on garment export businesses were unreachable, he said.

**SECURITY ISSUES**

Maj Gen (ret'd) Md Abdur Rashid, a security analyst, said the authorities could block social media to ensure safety of the innocent. But many countries do not need to block the social media as they have the capacity to monitor them.

A top official of the Detective Branch, preferring anonymity, told The Daily Star that the services were blocked so that nobody could mobilise their force using the internet.

Jabbar said, "But we need to find solutions. Blocking is not a solution."

# Bangladesh

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South Asian country with a better ranking than Bangladesh was Sri Lanka, which secured 79 points.

Of the South East Asian countries, Indonesia topped the list with 87 points. But other countries of the region fared poorly. Malaysia, for example, earned 64 points, Thailand 74 and Vietnam 72.

The survey was carried out in 2014 in 141 countries and interviewed 142,000 people. The interviewees were asked three questions -- confidence on police; walking at night; and incidences of theft or robbery.

Gallup prepared its Law and Order, 2015 report on the basis of the response.

## FIGHTING TERROR FINANCING

# Putin sets up commission

REUTERS, Moscow

President Vladimir Putin yesterday set up a commission to combat terrorism financing, the Kremlin said, in another sign of the Russian leader's heightened focus on what he says is a fight against Islamic State militants.

After attacks in Paris killed 129 people on Friday, security dominated the G20 summit at the weekend, where the group's leaders, in a rare departure from their usual focus on the global economy, agreed to step up border controls and aviation security and crack down on terrorist financing.

In a decree, effective immediately, Putin ordered the prosecutor general's office, the central bank and regional authorities to submit any information they may have on suspicious activities to the commission.

# World's biggest

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with a two-tonne block of cement to stop it being carried away, and driven the entire length of the hangar.

In its new position nearer the doors of the hangar, the £80million aircraft will be fitted with its engine, fins and 'mission module' ahead of its first proper flight in early 2016.

It will be able to stay in the air for two weeks at a time, cruising at more than 90mph, and travel at heights of up to 20,000ft with a 10-tonne cargo.

Some have hailed the Airlander as the future of air travel because, unlike conventional aeroplanes, it emits little pollution and is not noisy enough to disturb people on the ground.

It can take off and land vertically like a helicopter, which means it does not need a long runway to operate.

British firm Hybrid Air Vehicles was originally one of the contractors developing the vessel for the US Army under a \$500million programme which was scrapped in 2012.

The company then bought the rights to develop the Airlander for commercial use - including as a passenger aircraft which will carry 48 people at a time.

The vessel will also offer business services such as coastguard duties, military and civil surveillance, filming and academic research. Engineers are hoping eventually to launch a sleeper service which could travel overnight between major cities for business customers.

With a length of 302ft, a width of 143ft and a height of 85ft, it is officially the world's largest aircraft - the biggest passenger plane, the Airbus A380, is only 240ft long.

# Shringla made

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Indian Foreign Service, assumed his position as ambassador to Thailand and permanent representative to UNESCAP on January 19, 2014.

A member of the Indian Foreign Service of 1981 batch, he was in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi between 2011 and 2013 and is considered a key official who made significant contribution to the strengthening of India-Bangladesh bilateral ties, particularly with regard to trade and the implementation of the land boundary agreement.

In the course of his diplomatic career spanning 30 years, Shringla has held a variety of positions in New Delhi and in Indian missions in Paris, Hanoi and Tel Aviv. He has also served as minister/counsellor in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York and as consul general in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Durban, South Africa.

Prior to taking up his post in Thailand, he served in the external affairs ministry as joint secretary (director general) responsible for Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and the Maldives.

# Italian doctor

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tried to slit his throat with a knife at his house.

Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella was shot dead in the capital's Gulshan on September 28. Five days later, Japanese national Kunio Hoshi was gunned down in Rangpur.

Following the killings, several countries issued "travel alert" for their citizens living in and visiting Bangladesh.

Yesterday, three assailants on a motorbike approached Piero. The biker in the middle opened fire at the pastor. Within moments, the three fled towards Dinajpur Govt College, according to witnesses.

Piero fell on the road from his bicycle. About 10 minutes later, locals sent him to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Ruhul Amin, superintendent of police in Dinajpur, said cops recovered an empty shell of a bullet and Piero's glasses from the spot. Ten people were detained for questioning, he added.

Livio Prete, an Italian living in Dinajpur, said he and Piero came to Bangladesh three decades ago.

"Panic gripped me following the attack on Piero. I don't know what has gone wrong here," he told The Daily Star.

Sebastian Tudu, a bishop at a Dinajpur church, said Piero works at

his church as a pastor. He had no enmity with anyone. "I've no idea about why he was shot. We are really shocked at this incident."

Piero also serves St Vincent Missionary Hospital in Dinajpur and a local catholic mission called Parish Suihari, added Tudu.

Zillur Rahman, head of the surgery department at the Dinajpur hospital, said a bullet hit Piero's head. His eyelids were also badly bruised after he fell on the road.

SP Ruhul said law enforcers stepped up security in the town following the incident. Members of Border Guard Bangladesh were deployed in the town in the afternoon, he added.

Preparation for filing a case with Kotowali Police Station was underway at 9:00pm yesterday.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said the attackers of Piero might have a different intention.

The law enforcement agencies were looking into the incident, he told newsmen at his office, reports UNB.

Responding to a query from a journalist, the minister said, "We provided him [Piero] with security, but it was withdrawn upon his request." Bangladesh Christian Association in a statement condemned the attack on Piero.

*Our correspondent from Dinajpur contrib-*

# All his delaying tactics

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During his trial, Salauddin mocked the tribunal on many occasions. At one stage of the trial process, he even said he was not a Bangalee and he was a Bangladeshi not by birth but by choice. His bizarre behaviour did not go unnoticed by the International Crimes Tribunal-1, which conducted the trial.

About his behaviour, the tribunal in its verdict said, "The accused [Salauddin] is an elected people's representative but his art of deliberation, actions and conduct as shown in the courtroom were not in conformity with rightness, decency and convention of good behaviour."

It all started when the 66-year-old BNP leader was first produced before the tribunal on December 30, 2010. On the day, he began addressing the judges without seeking permission from the court, and interrupted the tribunal several times.

Before the hearing on his charge framing, the war crimes convict sought permission to appoint foreign lawyers and 11 months' time to prepare his case but the tribunal turned down his pleas in December 2011.

During the trial, Salauddin filed a series of petitions to delay the proceedings, Tureen told The Daily Star yesterday.

Many of those petitions were unnecessary, she said.

The tribunal saw another face of Salauddin on May 14, 2012, when he apparently threatened the former chairman of the tribunal, Justice Nizamul Huq, saying, "Mr Nizamul Huq! Please don't show me your red eyes."

It happened when Salauddin wanted to cross-examine the first prosecution witness, Prof Anisuzzaman, even though he had his counsels. This prompted the tribunal to caution him that the trial would be conducted in his absence if he did not stop behaving that way.

"He also threatened the prosecution," Tureen said.

On January 1, 2013, Salauddin threatened the state counsels, saying if he got out of jail, they would know the consequences of their actions. "Let me get out of jail. You will see," he said.

During the case proceedings, Salauddin cancelled vakalatnama (power of attorney) of his counsels twice and reappointed the same counsel thrice. The tribunal later kept a state defence team constantly till the

end of the trial.

But everything was overshadowed when the draft of the verdict was leaked out on October 1, 2013, the day International Crimes Tribunal-1 delivered its verdict in his war crimes case.

Later, police found his wife, one of his sons, and a lawyer were involved in the leak. A case was filed against them in this connection. The case is pending now.

"It was serious a bid to create controversy over the tribunal and trial process," said Tureen.

A controversy surfaced few days before the Supreme Court verdict that upheld Salauddin's death penalty when the Janakantha, a Bangla daily, published an article allegedly on lobbying by Salauddin Quader's family.

Later, the Supreme Court found the newspaper editor and the writer of the article guilty of contempt of court and punished them.

After filing a petition seeking review of the SC verdict, his lawyer prayed for recording testimony of eight people including five Pakistani citizens, a move the SC lawyers found to be unprecedented at this stage. The SC rejected the plea.

In their last ditch effort, Salauddin's wife Farhat Quader Chowdhury filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the constitutional provision that allows the trial of an individual for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The court refused to hear the writ petition saying the issues mentioned in the prayer were already settled by the HC.

Apart from these tactics, Salauddin's supporters have actively campaigned in social media. Under a facebook page "Justice for Chowdhury", they are disseminating information and documents including affidavit of some people which have already been proved false by the court.

Through this social media campaign, they are trying to malign the trial process, said Tureen.

"Although he [Salauddin] could delay the trial procedure through such activities, he could not halt justice," she said.

# Netherlands

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Bangladesh are currently receiving mobile-banking services, she added.

She highly appreciated Bangladesh's stunning progress in socioeconomic field as well as digitisation programme, saying Bangladesh government has done many good jobs in these areas.

Maxima also shared the experience of her visit to a number of places in Bangladesh and said she talked to the general people during her inspection to different projects.

Noting that different development institutions like the World Bank and the UNDP have been extending their assistance to Bangladesh's development strides, the Dutch Queen stressed building a strong infrastructure in the country.

Pointing out that both the Netherlands and Bangladesh are delta countries, Maxima said they can share their experiences for further development in the agriculture sector.

Hasina said Bangladesh and the Netherlands have unique geographical similarities in terms of the presence of a large Deltaic coastline.

She noted with satisfaction that the two countries are working together for the ongoing joint activities under Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 in the areas like river dredging, land reclamation, construction of infrastructure, creation of green belt in coastal regions and other climate adaptation measures.