

62 charged

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case, said supporters of Babar engaged in a gunfight with supporters of Limon in CRB area on June 25, 2013 over submission of a railway tender.

Two people, including a minor boy, were killed in the incident. They are Amran Hossain, 8, a slum dweller, and Jubo League activist Sajju Palit, 25, of Nandankanan.

Jubo League and BCL men, led by Babar and Limon, went there to submit the tender involving Tk 1.5 crore for renovation works of a railway office and level-crossings in Feni and Comilla.

The gunfight left Amran dead on the spot. Sajju died of his wounds at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Sub-inspector Mohibur Rahman of Kotwali Police Station on the same day filed a murder case against 87 people with the police station.

Cops on that day picked up Limon along with his 22 supporters from the city's Polo Ground area. Babar along with his four supporters was arrested at a house in the capital's Gulshan on June 26 that year.

Following the incident, the Jubo League and BCL central committees expelled Babar and Limon from the organisations. The two were later freed from jail on bail.

The investigation officer said of the 87 accused, 26 were not included in the charge sheet. Besides, 37 people were named as witnesses.

Indian police

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They detained two artists for a few hours, while Hindu activists brought the installation down.

Activists say the raid is a sign of growing religious intolerance in India.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje tweeted on Sunday that she was "saddened" by the incident, and the police commissioner of Jaipur also apologised.

She said the chief of the local police station was "removed and I have spoken to the artist personally".

Artist Siddhartha Kararwal had called his life-size cow effigy Bovine Divine, and had created it to highlight the plight of Indian cows that scavenge and choke on plastic bags.

But some people complained the cow looked as if it had been hanged, and that the model insulted the animal, which Hindus revere as a symbol of life and sustenance.

Some Hindu activists brought the installation down, but garlanded and blessed the cow before it was seized by police.

The police briefly detained two other artists, Chintan Upadhyay and Anish Ahluwalia, who protested against the move, leading to social media outrage.

The director of the art summit Pratap Sharma told The Indian Express newspaper that they don't plan to reinstall the work.

"We don't want to hurt anyone's sensibilities again, so we are not going to install the work again," he said.

Turkey saddened

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Quader Chowdhury, former MP from Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and former minister, by the Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal have been carried out," the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

It expressed concern that although the two apologised to the president by using their legal rights, their wishes were rejected and that the practice of capital punishment was still being enforced.

"As a country that abolished the death sentence, Turkey maintains its belief that the injuries of the past cannot be healed through such methods," said the release.

It called on Bangladesh to find another form of punishment to replace it with capital punishment which would "better serve the purposes of social reconciliation".

Jessore Shibir

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Al-Mamun, 22, to Jessore Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared Habibullah dead.

Kamrul was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said hospital sources.

Police also seized a homemade bomb and some jihadi leaflets from the spot, said OC Akkas.

According to locals, some BCL activists swooped on a Shibir-controlled students' mess around noon, took the three to Asad Hall and started beating them up. When the three were injured badly, the attackers handed them over to police with a bomb.

Injured Al Mamun said some BCL men attacked them in the mess.

Shahabuddin, publication secretary of district Jamaat-e-Islami, accused Chhatra League members of killing and injuring the Shibir activists.

Anwar Hossain Bipul, general secretary of Jessore BCL, said none from his organisation was involved in the attack. A few "general students" beat up the Shibir men when they were in a secret meeting, he added.

Opposition deprived of all rights

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night alleged that opposition political parties are being deprived of all constitutional and political rights.

"There is no sign of democracy in the country, as the opposition party is being deprived of all the political rights recognised by the constitution," she said in a statement.

The former prime minister made the statement hours after Nazrul Islam, president of Khulna city unit

BNP, was sent to jail on surrender in a "false" case.

"People's fundamental and human rights have already been crushed. The freedom of the press has been curbed," she said.

In the statement signed by BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon, the BNP chief claimed around 3,000 of her party men were detained across the country in the last few weeks in "false cases".

"The government has created a suffocating situation in the country," she said.

"It has become a practice to send BNP leaders and activists to jail when they appear before courts showing respect to the rule of law," she said.

"It seems that the government does not tolerate any opposing views and it is now heading for a one-party rule by shrinking all fields for democracy," she said.

The people rejected the rulers of Pakistan and established Bangladesh. Now the spirit of that dictatorship has possessed the ruling party, Khaleda said.

Govt unsure

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any record of them. Possibly, they have migrated without any passports or by other means," he said at his office in the DIP headquarters in Agargaon.

Some 1.64 lakh expatriates in Saudi Arabia, 65,000 in the United Arab Emirates and some 3,500 in Malaysia were without MRPs, Zeaul claimed.

According to ICAO's rules, none would be allowed to travel with handwritten passports after today.

Without MRPs, the foreign currency earners would face trouble in renewing their work permits and getting work visas. They might even lose their jobs and face deportation.

However, Zeaul claimed that the people with old passports would not face too many problems.

"They [expatriates] will not face any problem in staying or working abroad," the DIP head claimed, adding that they would be able to come home using their old passports. "They can collect

travel permits too from the mission before visiting home, if they face any problems."

Zeaul, however, admitted that the expatriates must have MRPs when they depart Bangladesh.

More than half of the expatriates who did not get MRPs are working in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Malaysia where the government signed contracts with IRIS Corporation for the enrolment of the Bangladeshis and distribution of MRPs last year.

Sources in the foreign missions, the DIP and the home ministry say that IRIS, the DIP and the home ministry were to blame for the possible consequences the expatriates might face. They said they together had delayed the issuance of MRPs and pushed the Bangladeshis into uncertainty.

They said IRIS had totally failed to do its jobs in the three major labour receiving countries. After its failure to complete the enrolment of the expatriates,

the company is now not paying the money it owed the government and declining to distribute thousands of MRPs.

Mission officials had repeatedly asked the home ministry and the DIP to mobilise IRIS to complete its enrolment job and distribute the MRPs.

Thousands of migrants paid fees and service charge to the company for getting their MRPs in Saudi Arabia and Malaysia several months ago but IRIS did not bother to handover their passports.

In Malaysia, its contract with the Bangladesh government had ended while two other contracts in Saudi Arabia and the UAE would end in December and January.

But the government is reluctant to take any action against the Malaysian company as a section of officials of the ministry and the DIP were backing IRIS.

The government does not seem to have a plan for giving MRPs to the expatriates either.

Brussels extends lockdown

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searches and other items seized by police are being examined, the statement said.

Prime Minister Charles Michel said Brussels, a diplomatic and business hub home to the European Union and Nato, faced a "serious and imminent" threat of attacks similar to those claimed by Islamic State jihadists which left 130 people dead across Paris.

Amid intense efforts to forge a coordinated international response, British Prime Minister David Cameron offered French President Francois Hollande full support in the fight against IS.

Belgian police on Sunday carried out 19 raids in Brussels and three in the industrial town of Charleroi, detaining 16 people but failing to find Salah Abdeslam, prosecutors said.

"Salah Abdeslam was not caught during the raids," federal prosecutor spokesman Eric Van Der Sypt told reporters just after midnight, meaning Europe's most wanted man remains at large.

Abdeslam's elder brother Ibrahim blew himself up outside a Paris bar in the November 13 attacks and the 26-

year-old is suspected of playing a key role in the massacre.

Another brother, Mohamed, on Sunday urged Salah to give himself up as only that way would his own family, and those of the victims, find an answer to the suffering he had help inflict.

Interior Minister Jan Jambon told Belgian radio: "The operation is not finished. We will continue until we clean up this mess."

Asked about Salah Abdeslam, Jambon said he could not give operational details but pledged there would be no let up in the manhunt.

"The actions will continue in the coming hours. Everybody knows there is a certain danger with him, so yes, he is an important target."

Armed police and troops patrolled the near-deserted streets of the tense capital all weekend after the government raised the terror alert to the highest level of four in the city.

They were out in force again yesterday but people were trying to go about their daily lives as normally as possible in the circumstances.

Traffic was relatively light in the

centre of the city and many people opted to cycle to work.

In the normally bustling historic Grande Place, a few bars and restaurants were open for business but it was hard going to get customers.

Buses were running, if crowded and subject to delay as some drivers stayed at home due to the school closures, the Brussels transport authority said.

The European Union and Nato both said they would bolster security and urged non-essential staff to work from home yesterday.

The rest of the country, including Brussels airport, remains on security alert level three, meaning an attack is considered possible and the threat credible.

French police meanwhile released a photo of the third of three men who blew themselves up outside France's national stadium.

The man in the picture passed through Greece with one of the other suicide bombers, carrying a Syrian passport in the name of Mohammad al-Mahmod, a source close to the investigation said.

Int'l pressure on

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and executing the verdicts, the country is gradually getting rid of that curse," she said.

Hasina noted that the curse will never go away entirely if the trial of the war criminals is not completed.

Pointing to the recent execution of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mojaheed, she said families of those killed by the war criminals will

have peace now.

Recalling the atrocities of 1971, she said that apart from killing innocents, the evil forces had handed mothers and sisters over to Pakistan's occupation army. "And even infants were persecuted."

The PM further said, "With this trial, those who are still living with grief over the loss of near and dear ones during the Liberation War will

find solace knowing that justice is being done."

Lambasting late president Ziaur Rahman, his widow BNP Chief Khaleda Zia and Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad, Hasina said they had patronised, empowered and rehabilitated the anti-liberation elements as well as self-declared killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Ecneec to okay project today

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A sum of Tk 3,647 crore would be required for land acquisition and rehabilitation for the tunnel. This sum would be provided from the government's own fund.

During the prime minister's visit to China in June last year, an agreement was signed between the two countries' communications ministries regarding this project.

China would provide Tk 4,799 crore equivalent of \$705 million for the project with a low interest rate of 2 percent.

However, as per the condition of the Chinese loan, a company selected by the

Chinese government will construct the tunnel.

The Chinese government has nominated China Communication Construction Company for the construction.

An official of the planning ministry said the proposal would be sent to the cabinet committee on purchase within a couple of weeks of its approval by the ECNEC.

Once the purchase committee gives its nod, a commercial contract will be signed with the Chinese company after which the construction will start.

A Bridges Division official said they had set

a target to complete the construction by December 2020 and the government was trying to get the tunnel inaugurated by the Chinese prime minister.

The cost of building the Karnaphuli tunnel per kilometre would be \$103.67 million, according to the proposal sent in by China Communication in February, which was pored over by three independent consultants, said the Bridges Division.

Canada's Ottawa Tunnel cost \$143.50 million per kilometre, Japan's Tokyo Bay Aqua-Line \$361 million and China's Yantai-Dalian Tunnel \$146 million.

ARSON CASE

Arrest orders for 23 leaders of 20-party alliance

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants for 23 leaders and activists of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, including Barkatullah Bulu, Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas and Maruf Kamal Khan, in an arson case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after accepting charges against 33 accused, including the 23.

The court directed the officer-in-charge of Bimanbandar Police Station to submit the report on execution of arrest warrants by February 10 next year.

Criminals set fire to a vehicle in the Airport area on February 4 this year. The same day, police filed the arson case with the police station against the 33.

BNP leader Amanullah Aman and nine other accused are now on bail in the case, while the rest are on the run.

On July 12, police pressed charges against the 33 accused after their involvement in the incident was found. The investigation officer of the case showed 23 of them to be fugitive and appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants for them, according to the charge sheet.

Municipal polls

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nominations are likely to be December 3 and 13, said EC sources.

Meanwhile, the commission yesterday passed busy time preparing for the announcement of the schedule.

A joint secretary of the EC spent major part of the day at the law ministry to complete scrutiny of the draft of the electoral rules and codes of conduct.

The draft was made in light of the newly passed Local Government (Municipality) Amendment Act-2013 that allows mayoral hopefuls to contest polls on political parties' ticket.

The councillor candidates will contest the elections in a non-partisan manner while eligible mayoral hopefuls can join the race as independent candidates as well.

Finalising the electoral rules, the commission will publish them in official gazette today, said EC officials.

Elections to the rest of 317 municipalities in the country will be held in phases later.

Last time the municipal elections were held in 2011.

JAMAAT HARTAL

Little impact on public life

STAR REPORT

The country yesterday witnessed another lax hartal enforced by Jamaat, protesting against the hanging of its leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed for war crimes.

Like other recent hartals, Jamaat-e-Islami called the shutdown through emailing the media and made an announcement on its website within half an hour of hanging of its secretary general Mojaheed.

But the party's total activity centreing on the hartal remained limited to the email and website apart from bringing out a procession in Sylhet.

On November 19, Jamaat observed a lax strike as the Supreme Court dismissed Mojaheed's review petition on the verdict that upheld his death sentence.

Besides, BNP standing committee member Salauddin Quader Chowdhury was also hanged along with Mojaheed, but his party did not declare any protest programme.

In Sylhet, police opened fire to disperse a procession brought out by some 25-30 Islami Chhatra Shibir activists at Kumarpura in the city around 10:15 am, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

No-one was injured in the incident, said Rahmat Ullah, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

Police fired on the procession, suspecting that the activists might carry out subversive activities, he added.

Except the incident of Sylhet, the hartal appeared to have little impact on the daily life of city dwellers and the rest of the country. However, the number of vehicles plying the roads in the capital was less than usual days in the morning.

Visiting different areas in the capital, including Mirpur, Motijheel, Jatrabari and Gulshan, our correspondents found a large number of vehicles plying the streets.

A few number of long-distance buses left the capital in the morning but it became normal in the afternoon, said Romesh Chandra Ghosh, senior vice-president of Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners' Association.

Besides, the train communication was normal during the hartal.

Due to the strike, the primary and mass education ministry postponed yesterday's primary and ebtedai terminal examinations and rescheduled those for November 30.

Meanwhile, protesting the Jamaat's hartal, Gonogajoron Mancha, a platform demanding capital punishment for war criminals, held a rally in the capital's Shahbagh, while Bangladesh Chhatra League, pro-AL student body, at TSC on Dhaka University campus.

Stranded migrants

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Europe, mainly Germany and Sweden.

Last week, however, Slovenia, a member of Europe's Schengen zone of passport-free travel, declared it would only grant passage to those fleeing conflict in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, and that all others deemed "economic migrants" would be sent back.

That prompted others on the route - Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia -- to do the same, leaving growing numbers stranded in tents and around camp fires on Balkan borders with winter approaching.

Rights groups have questioned the policy, warning asylum should be granted on merit, not on the basis of nationality.

"To classify a whole nation as economic migrants is not a principle recognized in international law," said Rados Djurovic, director of the Belgrade-based Asylum Protection Center. "We risk violating human

rights and asylum law," he told Serbian state television.

The new measure coincides with rising concern, particularly on the political right in Europe, over the security risk of the chaotic and often unchecked flow of humanity into Europe in the aftermath of the November 13 attacks in Paris by Islamist militants in which 130 people died.

It has emerged that two suicide bombers involved in the attacks took the same trail, arriving by boat in Greece and then traveling north across the Balkans. Most of the attackers, however, were citizens of France or Belgium.

On the Macedonian-Greek border, crowds of Moroccans, Iranians and others blocked the railway line running between the two countries, halting at least one train that tried to cross, a Reuters photographer said.

ACC drops

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development projects of Teknaf municipal area, ACC sources said.

Two others were the then ward councillor Ismail and municipal engineer Latifur Rahman.

Back in 2004, the anti-graft body began investigating the matter but made little progress.

Recently, the ACC revived the probe. ACC sources said they were confident that this time they would be able to make headway in the probe.

However, the document of the tender, which Bodi signed is missing, and that is why the ACC decided to close the matter, said an ACC official wishing not to be named.

According to a notification put up on the ACC's website on November 9, the three were cleared of the corruption charge.

Incumbent lawmaker of Cox's Bazar-4 constituency, Bodi, however, is

facing trial in another graft case filed in August last year over amassing of illegal wealth.

According to the case statement, he informed the ACC in March last year that he, his wife and children owned movable and immovable properties worth Tk 5.20 crore while his income tax return showed their possession of properties worth Tk 16.06 crore till June 30 last year.

In his wealth statement, Bodi cited import business as his income source, but failed to produce any financial statement of the business.

The lawmaker and his family had only Tk 49 lakh in 2008 as per his wealth statement submitted to the Election Commission that year.

Besides the allegations, Bodi made headlines several times for assaulting schoolteachers, government and bank officials, a freedom fighter, a lawyer and many others.

অফিস ভাড়া পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কাওরান বাজারস্থ হোটেল সোনারগাঁও এর সম্মুখে বিটিএমসি ভবনের ৮ম তলার কমবেশী ৭১১৭ বর্গফুট (৩য় বার) জায়গা অফিস হিসেবে ভাড়া দেয়া হবে। ভবনে অত্যাধুনিক লিফটের সুব্যবস্থা রয়েছে। অগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে আগামী ৭.১২.২০১৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে প্রতি বর্গফুট মাসিক ভাড়ার হার / দর উল্লেখ পূর্বক (কথায় ও অংকে) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (অতিঃদায়িত্ব), বিটিএমসি, বিটিএমসি ভবন (৩য় তলা), ৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা এর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত বাস্তবে সীল মোহরকৃত খামে ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর সহ দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হ'ল। একই দিন বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। দরপত্রের সাথে জামানত হিসেবে বিটিএমসি'র অনুকূলে ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকার ডিডি / পে-অর্ডার জমা দিতে হবে। যা সুদ বিহীন অবস্থায় পরবর্তীতে ফেরত দেয়া হবে। ভাড়ার শর্তাবলী প্রচলিত নিয়ম ও দ্বি-পাক্ষিক আলোচনার মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত হবে। প্রয়োজনে ভাড়ার স্থান পরিদর্শন করা যাবে। জামানত ছাড়া দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। ১ম অবস্থায় ভাড়ার মেয়াদ ২ (দুই) বছর হবে।

কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র / অফার গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (অতিঃদায়িত্ব) বিটিএমসি ঢাকা।