

Not politics but crime his forte

FROM PAGE 20
After Bappy was murdered in 2003, Amanur took the helm of the Khans. The next year, he became religious affairs secretary of the district AL and Shahjahan became president. Over a decade after that, Amanur and his three younger brothers stood accused in various cases over grievous allegations such as murder, attempted murder, land grabbing and extortion. In fact, there have been allegations of criminal activities against Amanur from the start of his political career. But he has managed to escape charges brought against him in 44 cases. The charges include killings of a Chhatra Dal leader and a municipality councillor in 2004. Several of the cases have been withdrawn by the AL government after those were labelled as "politically motivated" while police have not found any merit in some other cases, said local police and sources close to the lawmaker.

However, he landed in jail in a case for the 2013 killing of freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed. After 22 months on the run, the 49-year-old surrendered before a Tangail court on September 18. He was denied bail and sent to jail. Amanur, now lawmaker from Tangail-3 (Ghatail) constituency, and his three younger brothers are among the 14 charge-sheeted accused in the case. Earlier in 2001, his elder brother Bappy announced candidacy in the 8th parliamentary election but stepped aside for veteran AL leader Abdul Mannan at the request of party chief Sheikh Hasina, said party insiders. After BNP came to power in 2001, Bappy, Amanur and another brother Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti were arrested in the controversial anti-crime drive "Operation Clean Heart". In 2004, Amanur and his younger brothers -- Shahidur, Jahidur Rahman Khan Kakon and Saniyat Khan Bappa --

went into hiding after they were made accused in two cases for killing Tangail Chhatra Dal vice-president Abdur Rouf and municipality councillor Rumi Chowdhury. Local police sources said investigators had submitted charge-sheets against the four in the cases. The two cases were termed "politically motivated" and withdrawn by the AL government in 2013. Both Rouf and Rumi were accused in a case over the killing of Bappy. Bappy's father Atoar Rahman Khan filed the case with Tangail Police Station accusing 20 people, also including Kader Siddique's two younger brothers Murad Siddique and Azad Siddique, and Jamilur Rahman Miron, now mayor of Tangail municipality and organising secretary of Tangail AL. With 17 people charge-sheeted, Bappy murder case is still under trial at the First Additional District and Session Judge's Court in Tangail.

RETURN
After several-year hiatus, the Khan brothers came back to politics following the AL's landslide victory in the 9th parliamentary election in 2008. The family became more influential after Shahidur was elected mayor of Tangail municipality in 2011. Following incumbent lawmaker Motiur Rahman's death in 2012, a by-election was announced in Tangail-3 constituency and Amanur sought the AL ticket. But the party gave nomination to its Ghatail upazila unit general secretary Shahidul Islam Lebu. Amanur was expelled from the party after he decided to contest the by-election as an independent candidate. He, however, won the polls by a wide margin and subsequently returned to the party. The Khans now got full control over the Tangail AL politics, added party insiders. The same year, his two brothers Jahidur and Saniyat respectively became

president of the district chambers of commerce and vice-president of the BCL central unit. Amanur again became lawmaker from the constituency following the January 5, 2014 polls, this time uncontested and as an AL candidate. **FARUK MURDER**
Faruk, former publicity secretary of the district AL, was found shot dead near his College Para house in Tangail town on the night of January 18, 2013. A charge-sheet in the case submitted by Tangail Detective Branch (DB) in February this year says that Amanur and his family opposed Faruk's vying for the post of Tangail AL general secretary in 2012. Amanur's brother Shahidur was a contestant for the position. After failing to persuade Faruk to quit the race, Amanur and his brothers assigned their accomplices to kill him, it says. The district AL through a press conference at Tangail Press Club on September 27, 2014, rejected the murder allegation against Amanur and his brothers. In a press release, the party also alleged that law enforcers extracted confessional statements of two suspects -- Anisur Rahman Raja and Mohammad Ali -- arrested in the case after torturing them on remand. Ghatail Upazila Parishad Chairman Nazrul Islam Khan Samu claimed that Amanur, despite remaining absent in the constituency for the last two years, is popular among voters. "He [Amanur] never did anything against the people of his constituency," said Samu, a close aide to the lawmaker and convener of Ghatail upazila AL. The lawmaker's father, Atoar Rahman Khan, said his sons are diehard AL men who faced many cases in their political careers just because of political rivalry. He claimed the Faruk murder case is a ploy to destroy his sons' political careers and make Tangail AL weak.

Illegal bird trader held

600 birds freed
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Wildlife Crime Control Unit of the Forest Department seized more than 600 birds of different species from Zirabo area of Savar on the outskirts of the capital early yesterday. Illegal bird traders had brought those birds in the capital to sell them as pets. Later, the WCCU released all the birds on Dhaka University campus. Acting on a tip-off, a WCCU team arrested one Lal Mia when he got down from a Dhaka-bound bus along with bird cages at Zirabo bus stand early in the morning, sources in the WCCU said. "Lal Mia is a notorious bird trader. We arrested him earlier from Tongi with 700 birds," said Ashim Kumar Mallick, wildlife inspector of WCCU. The WCCU members apprehended Lal Mia while some of his associates fled away. Later, a mobile court led by magistrate Sarwar Alam sentenced him to one year's imprisonment for violating the Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012. Lal Mia was trading birds, including Alexandrian Parakeet, Rose Ringed Parakeet, Hill Myna, Munia and sparrows from Bogra, sources said. The forest department released those birds at Curzon Hall later. Lal Miah and his associates used to supply birds to the bird sellers and pet shops in Dhaka. Last year, a mobile court jailed Lal Miah for one year after he was arrested from Tongi with 700 birds.

Three killed as truck hits roadside shops
OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Chapainawabganj*
Three people were killed and three others injured as a truck ploughed through some shops at Khoribona in the district's Nachole upazila yesterday. The dead are tea stall owner Wahab Ali, 45, and grocery shop owner Mohammad Gazlu, 45, of Khoribona village, and Tabarok Ali, 50, of Jorpukur village. Fasiuruddin, officer-in-charge of Nachole Police Station, said the accident occurred on Rohonpur-Natore road when driver of the Nachole-bound truck lost control over the steering and hit three roadside shops around 11:30am, killing Wahab and Gazlu on the spot and injuring four others, including Tabarok, who was sitting at a tea stall. The injured were rushed to Nachole Upazila Health Complex. As the condition of Tabarok deteriorated, doctors referred him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he died around 1:30pm. Police seized the truck and arrested its driver.

MP Amanur 'ill'

FROM PAGE 20
Monirul Islam Khan, additional public prosecutor of Tangail. Yesterday was set for holding the hearing but it was deferred as the main accused Amanur, AL MP of Tangail-3 (Ghatail), could not appear before the court because of his illness and seven of the accused were on the run, he added. The court also ordered to appoint lawyers for the seven fugitive accused for providing them with legal support, said court sources. The bail prayers of Nasir Uddin Nuru and Masudur Rahman, two accused in the case, were rejected. The duo had surrendered before the court on September 24, added the sources. Freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed, also the then former publicity secretary of Tangail district unit of AL, was shot dead near his College Para residence in Tangail town on January 18, 2013. Three days after the killing, Faruk's wife Nahar Ahmed filed a case with Tangail Model Police Station against unidentified criminals. Police initially investigated the case, which was later shifted to Tangail DB police. Law enforcers arrested Anisur Rahman Raja and Mohammad Ali in August 2014. During interrogation on remand, they disclosed the names of MP Amanur and his three brothers. On February 3 this year, the investigation officer of the case, Mahfezur Rehman Ghulam of Tangail Detective Branch of police, pressed charges against 14 people, including MP Amanur and his three brothers. On April 6, the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in Tangail issued arrest warrants for the 10 fugitives. Judge Aminul Islam passed the order after accepting the charge sheet. On May 16, a senior judicial magistrate of the district ordered attach-

ment of assets of MP Amanur, his three brothers and other fugitive accused. Police on May 20 confiscated moveable assets of the 10 fugitive accused, including Amanur and his three brothers. On June 16, the senior judicial magistrate's court ordered to publish notices in newspapers directing Amanur and other fugitives to appear at the court. Amanur surrendered to the court on September 18 after remaining fugitive for 22 months. Six accused of the case are now in jail, one on bail and seven others including the three brothers of Amanur -- Jahidur Rahman Kakon, Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti and Saniyat Khan Bappa -- are on the run. **NURU SHOWN ARRESTED IN DOUBLE MURDER CASE**
Nasir Uddin Nuru, an accused in Faruk Ahmed murder case, was also shown arrested in a double murder case filed with Tangail Model Police Station on 2013. Anjan Kanti Das, senior judicial magistrate in Tangail, passed the order yesterday after police on Sunday prayed to the court for showing him arrested in the case. According to police, criminals called Jubo League workers Mamun and Shamim of Pichuria village in Tangail Sadar upazila by mobile phone on July 16, 2012. The two had remained missing since then. Mamun's father Hatem Ali filed a case with Tangail Model Police Station on September 21, 2013, alleging that Mamun and Shamim were murdered. Investigation officer (IO) of the double murder case, Ashok Kumar Singha, also officer-in-charge of Tangail detective branch (DB) of police, told The Daily Star that they during investigation found information and involvement of Nuru and a few others with the killing. "So, we also prayed for 10 days remand for Nuru for quizzing him in the case," he added. Earlier, Nuru, a close aide of Amanur, surrendered to the First Additional District and Session Judge's Court in Tangail on September 24 in Faruk murder case, and the court sent him to jail rejecting his bail prayer.

Agri successes
FROM PAGE 1
President Abdul Hamid addressed the opening session of the KIB's Fifth National Convention and International Agriculture Conference 2016. In two plenary sessions in the afternoon, panellists appreciated that Bangladesh is now able to feed over 160 million people, while it had to struggle to feed 750 million people after its emergence as an independent country in 1971. They, however, cautioned that the country's population is unlikely to stabilise before reaching 220 million, and that feeding the huge population with limited land and water resources would be a tough job. The experts called for protecting farmlands from being lost to housing, urbanisation and industrialisation. On top of this challenge, there is an 'aging factor' of farmers. Presenting a keynote paper titled "agriculture in changing scenario", Jacqueline Hughes, deputy director general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), said farmers across Asia are aging, which means the average age of farmers are on the rise. "In Bangladesh the average age of farmers are now over 50, and in the Philippines it is over 60," said Jacqueline. She strongly advocated "encouraging young people in farming and making farm produces profitable to address this 'farmers' aging' problem." The IRRI DDG suggested that a decision may have to be made at one point of time to "get rid of all those bunds [that make the farmlands fragmented] and put the farm system under big machineries." Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain proposed making a law, prohibiting conversion of farmlands for non-farm activities. He also suggested halting the use of topsoil at brick kilns. Dr Rafiqul Islam, an institutional and water governance expert at Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 Project, said, "We can't afford to lose any more agricultural land. Successes in agriculture could be short-lived. More than 56 percent people would live in urban areas in Bangladesh by 2050 and there are challenges of climate change." Echoing the emphasis laid in a presentation on "Blue Economy" by the foreign ministry's Marine Affairs Secretary Rear Admiral (rt'd) Khurshid Alam, Dr Rafiqul stressed the need for a planned mining of the vast untapped marine resources. Khurshid said the country's sea resources are untapped and foreign fishermen "are taking away our marine resources. We have to develop our expertise and explore deep-sea fishing." In his speech, President Hamid said that in order to ensure food security, it is necessary to give importance to developing new varieties of food grains compatible with the changing climate. Matt J Curtis of USAID, Bangladesh referred to the decrease in rice acreage in recent years in some parts of Bangladesh and said "diversity is

Arrest warrant issued against Tarique, journo

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants for BNP Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman and a former journalist of ETV, a private television channel, in a sedition case. The case was filed with Tejgaon police against Tarique, former ETN journalist Mahathir Farooki Khan and Kanak Sarwar and former chairman of the channel Abdus Salam over the broadcast of a "false, fabricated, and provocative" speech by the BNP leader on January 5, 2015. Tarique and Farooki have been absconding while Salam is in jail and Sarwar on bail. Metropolitan Magistrate Sarafuzzaman Ansan directed the officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station to submit a report by November 1 on the execution of warrants for Tarique and Farooki's arrest. On September 6, the Detective Branch of police pressed charges against the four accused in the sedition case filed in January last year. Inspector Emdadul Haque of the DB, investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka. He showed the duo -- Tarique and Farooki -- as fugitives and appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants. According to the case statement, Tarique, in his nearly 50-minute-long speech, said the chief justice could not ensure justice to anyone after he offered prayers at the grave of a political leader and delivered political speeches. The case statement also says that Tarique and Salam threatened the country's sovereignty -- one by giving a "false, fabricated and instigating" speech and the other by broadcasting it. Tarique, elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, is accused of 19 other cases. He was for the first time sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and fined Tk 20 crore by the High Court in July in a money laundering case. Four arrest warrants were earlier issued for Tarique in four cases including that linked with the August 21 grenade attack. Abdus Salam, former chairman of ETN, is also accused in four other cases including a corruption case.

Amid risk
FROM PAGE 2
Abdus Salam, district primary education officer, said under such circumstance, it is the responsibility of the school managing committee to take necessary steps to relocate the risky school elsewhere. "As the school building becomes risky, the school managing committee should take the initiative to shift the school to a safer place, considering that the students do not face any problem," he said. Asked about repairing the building, Salam said they have no funds for mending it. "We have already sent a list of the affected schools of the district to the primary education ministry. We still did not get any funds from the ministry. So, we cannot start the repair work at the affected schools," the education officer added.

Rampal plant
FROM PAGE 2
would be used in the plant and the coal would be imported from Indonesia or Australia. Electrostatic precipitator, low NOx burner, flue gas desulphurisation and a 275-metre high chimney would be used in the power plant as part of mitigation measures to prevent air pollution, Manju added. There would be a settling pond, waste water treatment plant, desalination plant and API oil water separator to control water pollution. Water recycling and reuse measures would also be in place. Appropriate measures will be taken for full utilisation of fly and bottom ash of the power plant. Coal dust suppres-

Bangladesh-based

FROM PAGE 1
as a Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activity, transforming the way people use and pay for energy. ME SOLshare creates solar networks, shares electricity and facilitates a low-carbon future in Bangladesh, and around the globe." In Bangladesh, based on the already over 4 million solar home systems installed in the field, ME SOLshare expects to operate more than 10,000 nanogrids by the end of 2030, which will supply more than 1 million end-users in Bangladesh. The Momentum for Change initiative is spearheaded by the UN Climate Change secretariat to shine a light on some of the most innovative, scalable and replicable examples of what people are doing to address climate change. "It is impressive to see so many original and creative ways to tackle climate change," said UNFCCC Spokesperson Nick Nuttall. "ME SOLshare is proof that climate action is building in countries, communities, companies and cities everywhere. Not only do this year's winning activities address climate change, but they also help drive forward progress on many other Sustainable Development Goals, such as innovation, gender equality and economic opportunity." The SOLshare project was awarded under the Momentum for Change ICT Solutions focus area for its work to harness the power of ICT in the fight against climate change whilst benefiting local communities, and serving as a role model for other countries. Together with the other winning projects, it will be showcased at a series of special events during the UN Climate Change Conference in Marrakech, Morocco (November 7-18, 2016). The 2016 Lighthouse Activities were selected by an international advisory panel as part of the secretariat's Momentum for Change initiative, which operates in partnership with the World Economic Forum Global Project on Climate Change and the Global e-Sustainability Initiative.

sion system, closed conveyor belt and covered cargo or ship would be used to control pollution from coal, he said. A monitoring team comprising of representatives from all departments concerned has been formed to keep watch on pollution control activities round the clock, the minister said, adding that the project activities were continuously been monitored after the Department of Environment approved the project's EIA report. Manju insisted that there would be no possibility of harm to the Sundarbans if the mitigation measures mentioned in the EIA report are implemented properly. returning to Bangladesh in 1981 as the president of AL. "Awami League leaders and workers always stood beside me in my difficult time. Top leaders make mistakes, but grassroots workers don't," she told the meeting. She called upon the Bangladeshi expatriates to remain vigilant against violent extremism that claimed lives of many Bangladeshis in the USA. "The killing of Bangladeshi expatriates here is not acceptable... terrorism is now everywhere, so remain careful," she said.

Agri successes

required for proper nutrition." In the USAID's "Feed the Future" command areas in south-western Bangladesh, there have been positive changes in terms of poverty and stunting reduction due to different interventions that helped people diversify crops and empower women, he added. Former food minister Muhammad Abdur Razaque, who chaired one of the two plenary sessions, was critical of the falling overseas development assistance (ODA) in farm sector. "There was a time when we used to get 20 percent of the ODA in agriculture. It has come down to four percent now." Even some of the leading agricultural research institutes are going through fund crunch these days, he said. Akhter Ahmed, senior research fellow of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), said Bangladesh developed the world's first biofortified zinc-rich rice varieties with the potentials of addressing child mortality and stunting. Farm sector in Bangladesh is propelling the growth of non-farm sectors as well. For instance, it is helping grow the farm and irrigation machinery repair and service sector, added Akhter. In another keynote presentation, Mike Robson, representative of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in Bangladesh, put emphasis on safe food and referred to manpower shortage at Bangladesh Safe Food Authority (BSFA). State Minister for Finance MA Mannan, former vice chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Dr MA Sattar Mandal, immediate past pro-VC of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Dr Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan, and Dutch Embassy official Arman Akbary Khan, among others, took part in panel discussions. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sayedul Hoque and Krishibid Institution Secretary General Mobarak Ali also spoke in the opening session chaired by Krishibid Institution President AFM Bahauddin Nasim.

A life for a vase

FROM PAGE 1
his son Nur Alam, 30, was on the run, said Syed Lutfar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Dakshin Khan Police Station. Malek, a private firm employee, put the vase in front of the door of his ground-floor flat on Wednesday night, said his nephew SM Nazrul Islam. But the owner and his son threw it away yesterday morning. When Malek sought to know why, the owner said: "Tenants are not allowed to put anything outside their door." As Malek demanded an explanation for a second time, the owner and his son attacked him, Nazrul added. Several neighbours supported Nazrul's version, according to police. Malek worked for a shipping company and had a daughter who passed her HSC exam this year. Police said they were trying to arrest Nur Alam, the owner's son, and the process of filing a case was underway.