

Court accepts charges against ABT chief, 9 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted charges against banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) chief Mufti Jasimuddin Rahmani and nine others in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court took cognisance of the charges and fixed November 27 for hearing charge framing against the accused.

Earlier on July 26 this year, the home ministry sent an approval letter to the court regarding this.

The nine others are: Kazi Mohammad Rezwan, 30, Naimul Hasan, 28, Ali Azad, 28, Jahidul Islam, 27, Junnun Shikder, 27, Amirul Islam, 25, Abu Hanif, 23, Saiful Islam, 21, and Al Asadullah alias Abdullah alias Md Piyas, 19.

Rahmani, Abu Hanif and Piyas are in jail while Azad is on bail and the rest are absconding.

The case was filed with Mohammadpur Police

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The slow death of Kornopara canal beside the Savar Bank Town with factory waste polluting it and depositing sediment while discarded solid waste, a pile of bamboo (bottom left) and an under-construction warehouse (top) tactfully encroach upon it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Could not bring border killing to zero

Outgoing BGB chief expresses dissatisfaction at press briefing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outgoing Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed yesterday expressed his dissatisfaction that in his four-year tenure he could not bring down border killings to zero.

"I will have my dissatisfaction over [border] killings. Although both [India and Bangladesh] governments have their commitments and we said repeatedly that it has been reduced. But it could not be stopped," he told a press briefing at BGB headquarters in the capital.

He said to reduce border killings smuggling of Indian cattle has to be stopped.

He was addressing media over his achievements and failures as the BGB chief. He has been promoted and will resume his job in Bangladesh Army, he said.

Maj Gen Aziz said his another dissatisfaction was that he could not see justice in the sensational Felani murder during his tenure.

He said he discussed with SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Immediately demolish BGMEA building

SC orders the apex body of apparel industries, tells Rajuk to do it otherwise in 90 days, realise costs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) in a full verdict released yesterday ordered BGMEA to immediately demolish at its own cost its 15-storey "BGMEA Complex" constructed illegally on the Begunbari canal and Hatirjheel lake in the heart of the capital.

Otherwise, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) will do it within 90 days of receiving the order and realise the cost from Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), it said.



"BGMEA Complex" on Begunbari canal.

Amicus curiae advocate Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that BGMEA can move a petition in 30 days seeking a review of the judgement.

In their reaction, BGMEA President Siddiqur Rahman said, "We are very much respectful to the verdict of the court. Of course, we will file a review petition...as we have this opportunity." A four-member Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed a short verdict on June 2 dismissing a BGMEA appeal and upholding an April 2011 High Court order.

The others are Justice Syed Mahmud

Hossain, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice Mirza Hussain Haider.

The HC verdict ordered the government to demolish the building within three months, saying it was built on land acquired through forgery and filled with earth illegally.

Later, the Appellate Division stayed the HC judgement following a BGMEA petition.

The SC said although both site and environment clearance certificates were required for the commercial building, the "petitioner failed/did not care to obtain" the latter.

No commercial establishment can be set up without the environment clearance from the Department of Environment as stated in Section 12 of the Environment Conservation Act 1995 and Rule 7(4) of the Environment Conservation Rules 1997, it said.

Since the water bodies "never belonged to the petitioner, at any point of time", the construction violates "Section 5 of the 'Joladhar Ain, 2000' as well as Sections '6 Uma' and 12 of the Environment Conservation Act 1995", it observed.

It said the two natural water bodies, mentioned in Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan, Vol-II (urban area plan of 1995-2005), drain one-third of Dhaka city's storm and waste water and retain some rainwater for recreational opportunities.

Any commercial building changing the water bodies' nature and character in violation of "Joladhar Ain, 2000" is unlawful and violates Environment Conservation Act 1995, it said. Also, the Export Promotion Bureau has no right to allot the property, it added.

The construction violates "section 3 of the Building Construction Act 1952" other rules under it, reads the verdict.

Moreover, the HC order was "well reasoned and based on proper appreciation of facts and circumstances as well as the law", it said.

GULSHAN ATTACK MASTERMIND Tamim's identity confirmed thru' DNA match with family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gulshan café attack mastermind Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury's identity has been confirmed through a DNA match with family members.

A DNA sample from Tamim's body matched that of his father Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury and a sibling staying in Canada, said Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday.

The DMP's counter terrorism unit had sent the samples to their Canadian counterpart and the results were sent to Dhaka recently.

Identified first through a photograph taken earlier, Tamim was shot dead with his two accomplices in a police raid in Narayanganj on August 27.

Investigators say he accompanied the five Gulshan attackers from their Bashundhara residence and left bidding them farewell just before the 12-hour siege began around 8:40pm on July 1.

Twenty hostages, including 17 foreigners, and two police officials were killed before an army-backed commando team killed the five.

Tamim took the Sholakia attackers near the largest Eid congregation on July 7 in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, gave them a briefing and left the district, said police. He coordinated many countrywide secret attacks.

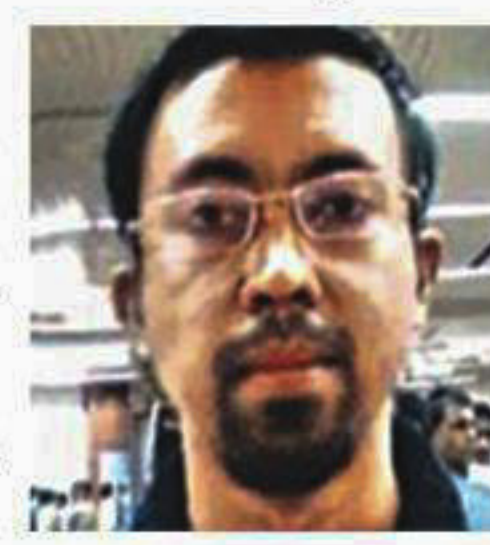
Born on July 25, 1986 in Windsor in Canada, Tamim resided for a long time in Calgary and used to mix with people who had joined IS and gone to Syria.

The threat he posed prompted religious leaders in Windsor to ask him around 2013 to not mix with youths at the mosques.

Amarnath Amarasingam, a fellow at the George Washington University's programme on extremism, first came to know about him in 2015 while investigating jihadis in Windsor.

He interviewed friends of a jihadi named Ahmad Waseem, also known as Abu Turab, who returned to Canada after being injured in fighting in Syria. Tamim's name then appeared.

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PM to visit Morocco, Hungary, India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend two international summits on climate and water in Morocco and Hungary this month, and pay a bilateral visit to India next month.

She will attend the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22), which began on November 7 in Bab Ighli, Marrakech, Morocco and will continue till November 18.

Prime Minister's Office and foreign ministry sources said Hasina will pay a four-day visit to Morocco from November 14.

She will join the environment summit and attend the high-level segment of COP 22 on November 15 and 16.

PMO sources said Hasina also approved her visit to Hungary on November 28-30 to attend the Budapest Water Summit 2016, organised by the Hungarian government in cooperation with the World Water Council.

Hasina is expected to pay her pending bilateral visit to India in the first week of December. Bangladeshi foreign secretary yesterday left for New Delhi to finalise the dates and discuss the agenda and other issues of the visit.

Poorly maintained website tarnishes JU's image

Allege students, teachers; many sections lie bare

MD ASADUZZAMAN, JU

When the government aspires to digitalising all the sectors including education, many of the country's educational institutions are still lagging behind the race. Jahangirnagar University (JU), one of the largest public universities with lush green surroundings, stands as an example.

The authorities seem oblivious of updating the university's website meant to constantly feed prospective students, both domestic and international, with detailed information about research, academic programmes, syllabi, and teachers. Now, hardly will one find any information visiting the site since it is not updated even though every year around Tk 50,000 is spent as maintenance cost, according to sources at JU Internet Management Centre (IMC).

The sources said the website falls short of offering adequate information owing mainly to the teachers' reluctance to updating their profiles, adding that those entrusted with

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DHAKA AIRPORT KNIFE ATTACK Attacker's blood samples collected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday collected samples, including of blood, from the man who knifed dead a security staff at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Sunday, to determine whether he took any drug before carrying out the attack.

"We collected and send the samples to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for tests," Ezaz Shafi, investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star.

Law enforcers were yet to identify him and know his motive behind the attack that left an Ansar member dead and three others injured. They also could not determine whether he had any militant link.

Once the attacker told them that he knifed the staff, as they barred him from entering the terminal building, said Ezaz, also inspector (investigation) of Airport Police Station, adding that he kept mum when asked why he wanted to enter the airport. After being wounded during a tussle with security personnel, the man, aged around 30, is undergoing treatment at DMCH.

Meanwhile, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon at a press briefing at the airport yesterday claimed to have reviewed the airport's present security arrangements. "I do not think the security has any lapse," he said. He was briefing after holding meeting with the representatives of all agencies deployed there to ensure security. The minister added that there might be efforts to carry out such attacks, but they were capable enough of thwarting them.

"We should find out whether there is any militant connection with it," Menon said, adding that they would form a probe body. Dhaka Metropolitan Ansar Director Hira Parvej said his force needed 100 new recruits and additional logistics, as they are increasing efforts to tackle any possible bigger incident.

The civil aviation ministry and Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority each will provide Tk 1 lakh to the family of slain Ansar member Shohagh Ali.

SEDITION CASE

Khaleda asked to attend court Dec 1

COURT CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday asked BNP chief Khaleda Zia to appear before it on December 1 in a sedition case.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after hearing separate pleas filed by the defence and arguments by prosecution.

The defence filed two petitions -- one for seeking adjournment of hearing and the other for Khaleda's non-appearance -- citing reasons that she was ill.

On January 26, Momtaz Uddin Ahmad Mehedi, a Supreme Court lawyer and member of the ruling Awami League's central committee, filed the case.

In the case, he alleged that Khaleda told a December 21 programme last year, "There are controversies over exactly how many were martyred in the Liberation War. There are also many books and documents on the controversies."

Bengal Classical Music Festival 2016

Dedicated to Syed Shamsul Haq

24-28 November 2016
Army Stadium . Dhaka

<p>Day 1 : Thursday, 24 November</p> <p>Dance by Sharmila Banerjee & troupe Duet - Flute by Pravin Godkhindi & Violin by Ratish Tagde Khayal by V. Girija Devi Sarod by Ust Aashish Khan Jasrangi vocal duet by V. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande & Pt Sanjeev Abhyankar Violin by Dr. L. Subramaniam</p>	<p>Day 3 : Saturday, 26 November</p> <p>Sarod by students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay Carnatic Flute by Shashank Subramanyam Khayal by Dr. Prabha Atre Tabla by Pt Anindo Chatterjee Dhrupad by Pt Uday Bhawalkar Sitar by Pt Sanjoy Bandopadhyay Khayal by Ust Rashid Khan</p>	<p>Day 5 : Monday, 28 November</p> <p>Vocal presentation by students of the Music Dept, University of Dhaka Sitar by students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay Santoor by Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma Khayal by Kumar Mardur Sitar by Pt Kushal Das Khayal by Arati Ankalikar Flute by Pt Hari Prasad Chaurasia</p>
<p>Day 2 : Friday, 25 November</p> <p>Odissi by V. Madhavi Mudgal and troupe Tabla by students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay Khayal by Priyanka Gope Santoor by Rahul Sharma Vocal presentation by Mohammed Shoeb and others Sitar by Purbayan Chatterjee Khayal by Pt Ulhas Kashalkar Duet - Flute by Pt Ronu Majumdar & Mandolin by U Rajesh</p>	<p>Day 4 : Sunday, 27 November</p> <p>Kathak by Munmun Ahmed & troupe Tabla by Nilesh Ranadive Khayal by Jayateerth Mevundi Duet - Tabla by Pt Yogesh Samsi & Pt Subhankar Banerjee Duet - Carnatic vocal by Ranjani & Gayatri Sarod by Pt Tejendra Narayan Majumdar Khayal by Pt Ajoy Chakrabarty</p>	<p>Programme starts at 7 PM everyday</p> <p>There will be no registration at the venue Gates will close at 12 AM (midnight) Multiple re-entry will not be allowed No cameras, bags, food or drink, and tobacco products will be allowed inside There will be no parking available at the venue</p>

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