

NASIRNAGAR ATTACK Jahangir on fresh remand

A CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Jahangir Alam, one of the "main instigators" of the hate attack on the Hindus in Brahmanbaria, was placed on a three-day fresh remand yesterday.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Sultan Sohag Uddin passed the order after police produced him before the court and sought a five-day remand for him, said Iqbal Hossain, additional superintendent of police in the district.

Earlier, police had him on seven-day remand in two phases following his arrest from Kalaisree Para on November 28.

Jahangir, owner of Alamin Cyber Point and Studio, shared an anti-Islamic post that had appeared on the Facebook wall of Hindu youth Rasraj Das, made copies of it and distributed those to foment trouble, Brahmanbaria Superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman said earlier.

A resident of Shangkhadah village of Nasirnagar upazila, Jahangir had been on the run since the Hindus came under attack over a month ago.

The attackers vandalised and looted around 100 houses and 15 temples in five Hindu villages in Nasirnagar.

21,000 entered

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Myanmar has denied allegations of abuse but has banned foreign journalists and independent investigators from accessing the area.

Myanmar's Nobel peace laureate and de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi has faced a growing international backlash for what a UN official has said amounts to a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya, a Muslim group loathed by many of Myanmar's Buddhist majority.

Last week she vowed to work for "peace and national reconciliation", saying her country faced many challenges, but did not mention the violence in Rakhine state.

But Kofi Annan, a former UN chief appointed by Suu Kyi as head of a commission on Rakhine, hoped Myanmar would allow journalists to visit the state to "help eliminate some of the rumours we are hearing".

"The issue of genocide and ethnic cleansing -- this is a very serious charge. It is a charge that requires legal review and a judicial determination," Annan told reporters in Yangon.

"It is not a charge that should be thrown around loosely."

More than 230,000 Rohingya are already living in Bangladesh, most of them illegally, although around 32,000 are formally registered as refugees.

Violence in Rakhine has surged in the last month after security forces poured into the area following a series of attacks on police posts blamed on local militants.

MORE ROHINGYAS IN UKHIA, TEKNAF

The Daily Star correspondent in Cox's Bazar reports: A total of 2,300 Rohingya families have taken shelter at the Rohingya slum in Kutupalong of Ukhia upazila since November 10, said Abu Bakar Siddique, president of the slum managing committee.

In Teknaf, 1,200 Rohingya families have taken shelter at Leda Rohingya slum in the last 26 days, said Amir Hossain, general secretary of the slum managing committee.

He said the committee collected new families' information and gave the intelligence agencies the information.

3 'criminals'

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Mothmura village on information that some extortionists were going there to carry out vandalism around 3:30am.

Earlier, the gang demanded Tk 2 lakh as extortion money from the brick kiln owner. The gang threatened to kill Khabir and destroy his brick kiln as Khabir refused to give the money.

Police asked the criminals to surrender during the drive. Instead of doing so, the gang members opened fire. Police then returned fire, triggering a half an hour "gunfight", the SP said.

Law enforcers found the three bodies on the spot after the "gunfight". Other criminals fled the spot.

Police claimed to have recovered two firearms, two crude bombs and two sharp weapons from the spot.

Akram Hossain, officer-in-charge of Gangni Police Station, claimed that six policemen were injured in the incident. They took first aid at the local upazila health complex.

He said the trio stood accused in several robbery cases filed with the police station.



The visiting Bangladesh youth delegation poses with Indian President Pranab Mukherjee after meeting with him at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday.

PHOTO: INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION

President to hold talks

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in the dialogue process.

This time, the marathon talks will begin with the BNP and then President Hamid will sit with the main opposition in parliament -- Jatiya Party, sources said.

The dialogues with three major political parties -- Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party -- will be separate. But other registered political parties might be invited to discussions in groups, according to sources.

There are currently 40 political parties registered with the EC in Bangladesh upon scrapping of the registration of the Jamaat-e-Islami, a key ally of the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

At a press conference last month, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia placed a 13-point proposal for the formation of a "strong and non-partisan" election commission on the basis of a consensus among all political parties. She also urged the president to take the initiative of holding talks with the political parties on formation of a new EC upon expiry of the present EC in February next year.

Political activities may gain momentum, centring on the formation of the

EC that would oversee the 2019 general election.

Regarding Khaleda's proposal, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday said, "She [Khaleda] has made her proposal; now she can tell the president about it, and he'll make the decision... we've nothing to say."

Hasina also said that according to the rules, the president would consider the proposal.

A two-member BNP delegation submitted Khaleda's proposal yesterday to President Abdul Hamid through his Assistant Military Secretary Brig Gen Md Mainur Rahman.

Mainur assured them that the president would hold meetings with political parties on his return on December 11, BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed told reporters after coming out of Bangabhaban.

"We hope the honourable president will consider BNP's proposal during the talks," said Maj Gen (ret'd) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury, the other member of the delegation.

How Zillur Formed EC

Zillur Rahman discussed with political parties the constitution of a new election commission at the end of 2011.

His dialogues with the 23 registered political parties stressed the need for strengthening the EC for holding free and fair polls.

Of them, 12 parties, including the BNP, urged him to take measures for the restoration of caretaker system while six other parties including the Awami League and Jatiya Party opposed the CG system.

Upon talks with the political parties, the then president formed a four-member search committee led by Supreme Court Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain in January, 2012 to recommend people for appointments of CEC and election commissioners. The search committee proposed 10 names.

The then ruling Awami League and five other parties gave names for the appointments but the then opposition BNP, AL's key ally Jatiya Party and 16 other parties did not recommend any name to the search committee.

Caribbean flair gives Dhaka final berth

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today to challenge Dhaka in the final.

In the Qualifier 1 yesterday evening, Khulna surrendered objectively to be 86 all out in just 16.2 overs in reply to Dhaka's total of 140 for eight in the first innings. They started well enough, reaching 34 without loss in five overs, but a clever delivery by Dhaka skipper Shakib Al Hasan when he saw Andre Fletcher advancing down the pitch had the West Indian smartly stumped down the leg side by Kumar Sangakkara. Fletcher wit a 22-ball 28 was the highest scorer for Khulna, with only Ariful Haque joining him with a double-digit score of 14.

Russell then had Mahmudullah Riyad caught and followed it up by trapping Hasanuzzaman leg-before -- questionably upheld by the umpire -- in the same over, the seventh of the innings, to have Khulna struggling at 40 for three.

Another bit of bad luck followed for Khulna as Benny Howell was adjudged leg-before off Sunzamul Islam when the ball had clearly taken the inside edge of the bat. Abdul Mazid was then caught and bowled by Mosaddek Hossain and Nicholas Pooran caught by Bravo off Abu Jayed to leave the Titans at 68 for six in the 13th over, with the only real hope being a

semblance of respectability.

Even that hope was crushed when Khulna lost their last four wickets for just 18 runs as Russell dismissed Ariful to finish with three for 16 in four overs and Bravo dispatched Shuvagata Hom, Mosharraf Hossain and Junaid Khan to end with three for 10.

Earlier, after being asked to bat, Andre Russell hit a whirlwind 46 to rescue Dhaka from the depths of being 65 for five in 10.4 overs to a competitive 140 for eight.

Few could have predicted Dhaka's dire straits at the halfway stage of their innings after the way they began, with opener Mehedi Maruf hitting the fourth ball of the match for a six over square leg before his partner Evin Lewis rounded off the over from Mahmudullah with boundary to point.

Off the first ball of the next over however, things took a drastic turn as Maruf edged a wide Junaid Khan delivery to Nicholas Pooran behind the stumps. Junaid was again in business when he had Kumar Sangakkara caught at long in the fourth over for nine, before making it two in the over by getting Lewis caught behind two balls later for 11.

Skipper Shakib and Nasir Hossain then added 28 runs for the fourth wicket before Nasir played a nothingshot to hole

out to long off the bowling of Andre Fletcher in the ninth over for 13. Fletcher's next over saw the departure of Shakib for 18 when he hit one straight back at the bowler to leave his team teetering at 65 for five.

Russell then joined Mosaddek Hossain, and immediately stamped his authority on the match with two fours on either side of the ground with a six over long on in between in the 13th over bowled by Fletcher.

In the next over however, Mosaddek sacrificed his wicket for eight after a mix-up saw both Russell and the young batsman going towards the same end. The run-out brought Dwayne Bravo to the crease and he merely allowed his fellow West Indian to go after the bowling. Russell punished Benny Howell for a four and a six in the 15th over before repeating the dose against Junaid in the 18th. Bravo joined in the fray with a six off Howell in the next over, but that over also saw the departure of Russell, caught at deep midwicket. His 25-ball innings featured four boundaries and three sixes and carried the team to 138 for six with one over to go.

That over however produced just two runs as Junaid capped off an excellent outing by bowling Alauddin Babu to finish with figures of four for 24.

Projects involving \$19b

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megawatt power plant project, which began in July 2016. The project is expected to be complete by December 2025.

The planning minister said the setting up of two nuclear power plants was planned in the Pakistan era. One of the two was supposed to be in then West Pakistan and the other in the then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

Kamal said a nuclear power plant was built in West Pakistan but no such plant was set up here. He said Pakistan now has four nuclear power plants and there were 67 such plants in countries in the world.

In future, 168 more nuclear power plants will be set up across the world, he said.

The plant would use a new generation reactor, which would have a lifespan of 60 years with the option to extend it another 20 years, according to

a planning ministry official.

The reactor contains improved safety features, and its passive safety system is capable of working for 72 hours in case of any critical or emergency situation, the official added.

A planning ministry report said Russia would take back the nuclear waste or spent fuel of the plant. In the agreement it has been mentioned specifically and the signing of a cooperation agreement was under process.

The EcneC yesterday approved the building of a separate railway bridge alongside Bangabandhu Bridge at a cost of Tk 9,734 crore (\$1.22 billion).

With the finance of Tk 7,724 crore (\$966 million) from JICA, the project is expected to finish in December 2023.

A planning ministry report said the existing multipurpose bridge has limitation regarding load and speed of trains.

The EcneC yesterday approved another mega project for expanding and strengthening electricity distribution system worth Tk 20,501 crore (\$2.56 billion). Of the amount China will finance Tk 13,844 crore or 68 percent.

Under the project, underground cable network of 132KV and 33KV power lines would be set up in Dhaka and Narayanganj cities. The existing overhead transmission lines at Hatirjheel area would be taken underground.

The planning minister said the project would cut system loss and people would get better services.

The project is expected to finish in 2021.

The ECNEC yesterday also approved nine other projects involving Tk 9,385 crore.

The ADB will provide Tk 3,406 crore in three of the projects.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG, (jury chair), Bishwo Shahitto Kendro Chairman Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, renowned Tagore exponent Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, Standard Chartered Bank CEO Abrar Anwar, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka, President Syed Nasim Manzur, American International School, Dhaka, teacher Sabahat Jahan, PepsiCo Bangladesh Country Manager Manish Muley and Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain's grandfather Latifur Rahman.

setting up a fund of USD 200,000. This will support a USD 10,000 prize to be awarded annually for the next 20 years.

The purpose of the award is to recognise acts of exceptional courage by individuals setting examples of empathy for fellow human beings, to encourage the spirit of bravery among Bangladeshi youth, the very spirit that Faraaz inspires.

The jury that selected the winner of the Faraaz Hossain Courage Award 2016 is comprised of eminent personalities; BRAC Founder and Chairperson

Mocked, then showered

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of him staring at a jewelry shop display went viral.

An Instagram user had mocked the cleaner, who is from Bangladesh but works in Riyadh, by posting the photo with a caption that read "he looks as though he is seeing trash".

The comment prompted an outpouring of support for the cleaner on social media, and Abdullah al Qahtani, the owner of the Twitter account Ensaniyat (humanitarianism), started a campaign to find the man in the photo.

"I received tons of phone calls and messages in response to my tweet. Some were really helpful, while others were claiming that they were the cleaner," al Qahtani said.

"But three hours [after] my tweet, which was shared over 6,000 times, we found him," the 38-year-old businessman told CNN over the phone.

Twitter users were able to identify the location of the cleaner, Nazir al-Islam Abdul Karim, from the reflection of the shop glass visible in the photo.

When al Qahtani posted a new photo of Abdul Karim, people began asking for a way to get in touch with him.

"Some wanted to donate gold sets, others cash, iPhones and Samsung Galaxy phones," al Qahtani said. "Even a rice company wanted to donate rice bags to Abdul Karim."

Turki al-Dajam, an executive at a Saudi sports channel, posted videos on Snapchat showing Abdul Karim choosing a gold set. He also posted photos of the cleaner with his new gifts.

Abdul Karim, who is 65, told CNN that he was delighted with the gifts. Describing the moment the photo was taken, he said: "I saw a flash. I didn't know what this was. Then I heard that my photo was in the media."

"I was just doing my job as a cleaner in the municipality and found myself in front of the gold shop. I am very happy about the gifts and very thankful."

Al Qahtani -- who set up the Ensaniyat Twitter account to connect social media users with people in need across Riyadh -- said it was very endearing to see the amount of solidarity from people in Saudi Arabia, but also across the Gulf region.

"I really wish we can always stay united like this to help people in need," he told CNN.

Campaigns focus

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BNP nominee Shakhawat Hossain Khan is calling voter's attention to the sensational seven-murder incident in 2014.

Ivy yesterday said, "I tried my best to ensure the city's development. Many development projects are underway. Please vote for me again so that I can complete my incomplete tasks."

On the other hand, Shakhawat said the BNP was going to contest the December 22 city polls to "restore people's voting rights".

"After the controversial and one-sided January 5 elections, people are now wondering whether they would be able to cast their votes safely. A wind of change has been blowing in Narayanganj against killing, abduction and in favour of restoration of democracy. So, we will win if the city elections are held freely," he told journalists.

Ashim Kumar Ukil, AL cultural affairs secretary and coordinator of Ivy's electoral campaign, said they were attaching highest importance to the election.

"The Awami League thinks it is not a local government election, rather a national election as people from across the country is looking to it. The national issues would naturally dominate electioneering," he told The Daily Star.

The AL during the polls campaign will highlight "BNP-Jamaat's vio-

lence and destruction" before and after the January 5 elections, he said.

The BNP, however, said people's voting rights have been snatched away through the January 5 elections. The party hoped that the government's good sense would prevail in holding the city polls in a free and fair manner.

BNP standing committee member Goyeswar Chandra Roy said their main target is to restore people's voting rights.

"The main challenge now is holding a free, fair and credible election. If the polls are held fairly and the results go against us, we will accept it. We just want a free and fair election. People want to express their resentment against the government through this election," said Goyeswar, also the party's chief coordinator for the Narayanganj City Corporation polls.

People did not forget about the law and order in Narayanganj in last five years, especially the sensational seven-murder incident, he added.

20-PARTY TEAMS SANS JAMAAT

The BNP-led 20-party alliance yesterday formed three teams to conduct mayoral campaign for Shakhawat.

However, no Jamaat representative was included in any of the teams.

Talking to reporters at the BNP's Nayapaltna central office, Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said there is none from Jamaat in the teams as the party did not provide any name.

PM's special assistant

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A former senior vice-president and organising secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Shakil had a great liking for both poetry and prose writings. He was published twice as a poet in book forms -- "Kherokhatar Pata Theke" and "Mon Kharaper Gari" -- to his credit.

An impromptu translation of Shakil's last written poem goes like this - "The cry of the dead makes no din, nor should it; No words; graves make no statements. The star-crossed man drops dead abruptly With so much echoes trapped inside On the night of your feverish coupling."

Hearing about his demise, Awami League leaders, ministers, relatives and well-wishers gathered outside the Japanese restaurant at Gulshan.

AL leaders Syed Ashrafur Islam, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Nasrul Hamid Bipu, MP's press secretary Ihsanul Karim, prime minister's military secretary Maj Gen Miah Md Joynul Abedin, among others, were there.

Briefing reporters outside the restaurant -- Samdado -- State Minister for Energy Nasrul Hamid Bipu said the body would be kept at Birdem mortuary overnight while his namaz-e-ajanaza would be held on the DU campus at 11:00am today after an autopsy.

Later, his body would be taken to his hometown Mymensingh and he would be buried at his home in Baghmara area in the evening, he added.

Police, meanwhile, picked up five workers of the restaurant around 4:10pm for interrogation, police sources said.

Gulshan police said a team of the Criminal Investigation Department's crime scene unit "collected evidence" from the restaurant.

The eatery was shut in the evening to make sure that no evidence was damaged, said Sub-inspector Khalidur Rahman of Gulshan Police Station.

Shakil was given the task of a special assistant of the premier with the status of an additional secretary in 2014.

He was appointed as a deputy press

secretary to PM Hasina after the Awami League assumed office in 2009. Four years later he was made the premier's special assistant (media).

Shakil previously was entrusted with the charge of running the Centre for Research and Information (CRI), the research and information cell of Bangladesh Awami League, after the 8th national polls in 2001.

He studied at Mymensingh Zilla School and Anandamohan Government College in Mymensingh and obtained honours and master's degrees from the sociology department of Dhaka University.

PM Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of Shakil. She prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed profound sympathy to the bereaved family.

In a message, PM said that with his demise the nation lost a true admirer of Bangabandhu and efficient organiser. She recalled Shakil's contribution to the country's democratic movements and cultural arena as a student leader, poet and writer.

"As a student leader in particular he made immense contribution to the country's democratic movements," the premier said.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Mia, Opposition Leader of the House Raushan Ershad, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, Land Minister Shamsur Rahman Sherif, Chief Whip ASM Feroz, State Minister for Land Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, Information Secretary Martuza Ahmed, Land Secretary Mesbah-ul Alam, JSD General Secretary Shirin Akhtar, Jatiya Party General Secretary Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Jahangirnagar University Vice-Chancellor Prof Farjana Islam also offered their condolences.