

BOGRA SHIA MOSQUE ATTACK

# Charge sheet filed against 9 JMB men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bogra police have placed a charge sheet in the case filed for the last year's gun attack at a Shia mosque in Shibganj upazila against nine JMB men to a district court.

The reason behind the attack, which Islamic State claimed to have links to, was Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh's disapproval of religious practices and norms of the Shia sect and its ideology, said Investigation Officer Md Kamruzzaman Mia.

Kawsar, military commander of four districts of the northern region, along with five other JMB men -- Anwar, Sultan allies Rana, Tarek, Yeasin and Hamidul -- held three meetings at a place in Mohasthanagar and at the houses of Yeasin and Hamidul to plan the attack.

Among them, Kawsar, Anwar, Sultan and Tarek have already been killed in encounters with law enforce-

ers, said the inspector of Shibganj Police Station.

The charge-sheeted accused are Yeasin Ali, 40, of Shotabar village of sadar upazila in Joypurhat; Amdadul Haque, 28, Abdul Based, 27, and Abdul Hamid, 22, of Atmul village under Shibganj upazila; Khademul Islam, 24, Azad Pramanik, 24, of Gordaha village under Gabtoli; Abdul Momin Mondal, 25, of Kamarpara village, and Rajibul Islam, 26, of Brikustia village under Shajahanpur upazila; and Azadul Kabiraz allies Biplob, 32, of Tindaha Pachchimpara of sadar upazila in Gaibandha district.

Of them, Amdadul, Based, Momin, and Yeasin have been arrested and are now in jail while the rest are absconding.

Yeasin has given a confessional statement regarding the mosque attack before a magistrate.

The IO told this correspondent that he placed the charge sheet before a



Horses race in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila on Monday. Like previous years, the three-day annual event was held in Hajrai ground of Airgaon union where some 80 horses competed. Thousands of people thronged the ground to enjoy the race. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Bullet-hit body of youth found

Victim's wife points finger at law enforcers; police claim he was killed by rivals

A CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A youth was found dead on the banks of the Titas river in Brahmanbaria town yesterday morning. His body bore several bullet marks, said police.

According to the law enforcers, the youth, Al Amin, 28, was a drug dealer. He was killed in a "gunfight between two rival groups of drug peddlers" on Monday night.

His wife, Tanzina Akter, however, rejected the claim and accused the police of killing Al Amin, son of late Zillur Rahman.

She alleged that some eight to 10 men had come to their home in the town's Kandipara area the same

## CEC Huda's name came from Tariqat

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appointed MK Nurul Huda as CEC and four others as commissioners.

The five will take oath of office on February 15 at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge.

Following their appointment, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiq Alam told reporters on Monday night that Huda's name was not on the AL or BNP's list, but declined to say which party proposed his name.

He, however, said Mahbub Talukder's name was suggested by the BNP as commissioner and that of Begum Kabita Khanam by the AL.

Talking to this newspaper last night, Maizvandyari, who ran in the 2014 polls with AL's election symbol and won, said they proposed five names to the Search Panel for consideration, including the three appointed by the president.

"The five we recommended are

either freedom fighters or they believe in the spirit of the Liberation War," he said by phone.

Asked if they spoke with their nominees before proposing their names, he said, "Of course we spoke with them. We know him [Nurul Huda] as a good soul and that's why we proposed his name. We hope that they would carry out their duties properly."

Contacted last night, a Search Panel member confirmed that the names of Huda, Rafiqul and Shahadat were indeed proposed by Tariqat.

However, several other small parties also proposed their names, the panel member added, asking not to be named.

But it is not clear if all the three names were on any other party's list.

Tariqat has two MPs in the current parliament -- Maizvandyari himself from Chittagong-2 and party Secretary General MA Awal from Laxshimpur-1.

Awal too ran in the election with AL's polls symbol -- "boat".

Its leaders often join meetings of the AL-led 14-party alliance.

Maizvandyari formed Tariqat Federation in 2003 as a political party that "believes in spirituality and the spirit of the Liberation War".

He was first elected lawmaker in 1991 from the AL. He again became an MP in the controversial February 15, 1996, election from the BNP.

**WON'T YIELD TO PRESSURE: HUDA** Talking to the Daily Star last night, the new CEC said their main challenge would be holding a free, fair and inclusive election.

And to do so, he said, he would not yield to any pressure and that he expected the same from his colleagues.

"I will work in line with the constitution and impartially to deliver the best. The Election Commission will not bow down to any person or any

political party, whatever the situation," he said.

Asked if he would sit with political parties, he said, "I will definitely talk with political parties and other stakeholders if needed."

He also dismissed reports linking him with Janatar Mancha (people's platform), saying he was posted as deputy commissioner of Comilla at the time. "How can I join the Janatar Mancha in Dhaka?"

In March 1996, a group of government officials set up the Mancha in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital and called on other public servants to join them to dislodge the then BNP government.

The BNP lost the subsequent election that year. But after it returned to power in 2001, the CID filed a sedition case against seven top bureaucrats in 2002. The AL government in 2009 decided to drop the case.

## TRUMP PARLIAMENT TIRADE UK Speaker slammed

AFP, London

The Speaker of Britain's House of Commons yesterday came under fire from government MPs for saying he was "strongly opposed" to Donald Trump addressing parliament during the US president's state visit later this year.

John Bercow's shock tirade on Monday was applauded by many in the opposition ranks but had members of the ruling Conservative Party accusing him of hypocrisy and disregarding his duty of neutrality.

The speaker said such Trump giving a speech was "not an automatic right" and that "opposition to racism and sexism" needed to be considered.

He said he was already against Trump addressing lawmakers in

## Long wait for end of trials

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provides free legal aid to the poor and marginalised people.

In December last year, the office of the inspector general of prisons responding to the letters submitted a report to the organisation.

According to the report, there are 462 prisoners, who have spent more than five years in jail with their cases still pending with different courts, Ripon Paul Sku, an official of SCLAO, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said their office already placed the cases of 18 people who have been in jail for more than 17 years and the HC issued different directives in those cases.

Now they made a list of 53 persons who have been in jail for more than 10 years, he said. Of the 53, panel lawyers of SCLAO drew attention of the HC to 20 cases yesterday.

**YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDING**

Anis ul Mawa, a lawyer for SCLAO, drew attention of the HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishna Debnath to 10 persons who are in jails in Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

The court asked the jail authorities to produce five of them before it on February 26 and five others on February 28.

It also asked the lower courts, with which the cases are pending, to send the case documents by February 26.

The bench issued a suo moto rule upon the government to explain within two weeks why the prisoners should not be granted bail in the cases filed against them.

Of the accused, Nazrul Islam has been in jail for 12 years, Siraj for 11 years and Alam Mia for 10 years in Mymensingh.

Motiur and Foyen have spent 10 years each in jail in Rajshahi, Kaila

NAME	AGE	JAIL	YEARS IN JAIL	COURT APPEARANCE (TIMES)
Nazrul Islam	31	Mymensingh	12	63
Siraj	53	Mymensingh	11	77
Alam Mia	35	Mymensingh	10	78
Motiur	25	Rajshahi	10	112
Foyen	35	Rajshahi	10	115
Kaila Kalam	42	Pabna	12	--
Abdul Khalek	22	Natore	11	134
Apurba Das	29	Jessore	11	126
Taiyab Sheikh	57	Khulna	12	More than one
Sumon	--	Khulna	12	More than one
Faruk Hossain	25	Sylhet	Around 12	131
Selim Mia	--	Sylhet	Around 12	116
Raju Jaganath	--	Sylhet	Around 14	112
Habibur Rahman	--	Satkhira	10	--
Moniruzzaman	--	Satkhira	11	--
Nasir Uddin	--	Satkhira	11	--
Gias Uddin	--	Satkhira	11	--
Basir Uddin	53	Sunamganj	13	81
Rafiqul Islam	32	Pirojpur	18	42
Haider Ali	62	Jhenidah	18	99

SOURCE: SCLAO

Kalam 12 years in Pabna, Abdul Khalek 11 years in Natore, Apurba Das 11 years in Jessore, and Taiyab Sheikh 13 years and Md Sumon alias Nuruzzaman 12 years in Khulna.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nuruzzaman and Justice SH Md Nurul Huda Jaigirdar gave almost a similar order after Sayeda Sabina Ahmed Molly, another lawyer for SCLAO, drew its attention to about 10 other accused.

The bench asked the authorities concerned to produce the 10 accused on February 23 and send the case documents by that date. It asked the authorities to explain within one week

why they would not be granted bail.

The accused are Faruk Hossain, who has been in jail for around 12 years, Selim Mia around 12 years and Raju Jaganath around 14 years in Sylhet.

Md Habibur Rahman has served 11 years, Moniruzzaman alias Munna 11 years, Nasir Uddin 11 years, and Gias Uddin 11 years in Satkhira.

Basir Uddin has spent 13 years in jail in Sunamganj, Rafiqul Islam 18 years in Pirojpur, and Haider Ali 18 years in Jhenidah.

SCLAO will draw attention to the rest of the 53 accused gradually, said Ripon Paul Sku.

## Punishment for low-quality construction

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International, the company, has started knocking down the building under the supervision of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), said Azim Uddin, executive engineer of LGED in Meherpur.

"No fine has been imposed as the construction company promised to rebuild the whole structure," Azim said.

The LGED office sources said it floated a tender for constructing a two-storey building of Nabinpur Government Primary School last year. Tamanna Trading International got the work at a cost of Tk 63.52 lakh.

Construction work began in November that year and work of the ground floor was completed at the end of December.

On January 7 this year, the stairs of the building collapsed, just 15 days after it was built. The incident sparked protest.

Locals, students' guardians and school managing committee blamed the company for using poor quality materials in the construction.

After the incident, many guardians stopped sending their kids to school, said Nurunnahar Shely, headmistress of the school.

Local LGED office then collected samples of materials used in the building construction and sent those to Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology for tests.

Experts at Buet found those were substandard.

"The use of low-quality materials is the reason for the incident," said engineer Azim, adding that, "We asked

the company to knock down the faulty building and rebuild it."

Abdul Khaleque, Meherpur representative of Tamanna Trading International, said they got the instruction and would reconstruct the building.

Sumon Ali, president of the school managing committee, alleged that he had earlier informed the LGED officials that substandard materials were being used, but they did not pay any heed.

"We [managing committee] repeatedly informed LGED Assistant Engineer of Gangni upazila Shamsul Haq about the matter, but he did not take any steps," Sumon alleged.

This correspondent could not reach Shamsul as his phone was switched off.

## 13,000 hanged in Syrian

FROM PAGE 16

Hamid, a former army officer who was jailed in 2012, told Amnesty he was simultaneously horrified and relieved when he saw prisoners being taken to be hanged.

"I felt happy that their suffering would come to an end."

In comments published yesterday, Assad insisted that "defending" his country in a time of war was more important than a potential case against his government at the highest UN court in The Hague.

"We have to defend our country by every mean, and when we have to defend it by every mean, we don't care about this court, or any other international institution," he said.

**ALL YOU SEE IS BLOOD**

Amnesty's report comes just two weeks before a new round of talks is due to take

place in Switzerland aimed at putting an end to nearly six years of civil war.

"The upcoming Syria peace talks in Geneva cannot ignore these findings. Ending these atrocities in Syrian government prisons must be put on the agenda," said Lynn Maalouf, deputy director for research at Amnesty's Beirut office.

Thousands of prisoners are held at the military-run Saydnaya prison, 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of Damascus, one of Syria's largest detention centres.

Amnesty accused Syria's government of carrying out a "policy of extermination" there by repeatedly torturing detainees and withholding food, water and medical care.

"All you see is blood: your own blood, the blood of others," Salam, a lawyer from

Aleppo who was held in Saydnaya from 2012 to 2014, was quoted as saying.

Prisoners were raped or forced to rape each other, and guards would feed detainees by tossing food onto cell floors, which were often covered in dirt and blood, Amnesty said.

A twisted set of "special rules" governed the facility: detainees were not allowed to speak and were forced to assume certain positions when guards entered their cells.

"Every day there would be two or three dead people in our wing... I remember the guard would ask how many we had. He would say, 'Room number one -- how many? Room number two -- how many?' and on and on," said Nader, a former detainee whose name was changed in the Amnesty report.

## Boy meets tragic end on way to SSC exam hall

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Bidyanikeyan School and College, could get onto a moving bus, his mother could not. Sticking his head out a window, he told his mother to take another bus to go to the centre.

Minutes later, Farida managed to get one.

After Sakibul's bus moved a few yards ahead, he again stuck his neck out a window, probably to see where his mother was.

Unfortunately, his head got stuck between the window and a roadside lamppost. This left parts of his head crushed, leaving him critically injured.

Pedestrians rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead around 10:30am.

While crossing the spot in her bus, the mother did see a small crowd but what happened there was beyond her wildest dreams. So, she moved on.

She learnt about it after reaching the school.

"This would have never happened if I had been with him. My son had stuck his head out probably to see me," Farida wailed at her home in Dakkhin Badda area.

"Ma, take a Balaka Paribahan bus to go to the hall" -- were his last words to his mother, who kept repeating them.

Talking to The Daily Star, witness Shagor Ahmed Bhuiyan, owner of a hardware store, said, "Hearing a sound, I turned around and saw a boy's head stuck between a bus and a lamp-

post."

"Brother, please save me" -- the boy said.

"His head got crushed as the bus moved ahead after remaining stuck in the jam. It could have been averted if the driver had driven a little back," he said, adding that many pedestrians had shouted and tried to draw the driver's attention in vain.

The driver fled immediately after the incident. Police seized the bus.

The tragic death of Sakibul, who was third in his class, has shocked everyone who knew him.

The lamppost in question is a bit closer to the street compared to the others.

Sakibul had got GPA-5 in his Junior

School Certificate examination. After being promoted to class-IX, he stopped playing games so that his studies were not hampered, said his father Zahangir Alam, who runs a store near their home.

Often, Sakibul used to tell his elder brother Rakibul Islam, a student at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), that one day he would become a chartered accountant and work at a renowned institution.

As requested, his body was handed over to the family without an autopsy. Later, it was buried at their home town in Fatullah of Narayanganj.

Zahangir filed a case against the driver with Banani Police Station.

## Engr Mosharraf

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Director Rafiqul Anwar, had died earlier.

The court asked police to submit a report on the accused's death and fixed March 12 for hearing on it, said defence lawyer Md Arifuddin Chowdhury.

According to case documents, the High Court on November 20, 2012 ordered to quash the proceedings of the case against Mosharraf after accepting a writ petition filed by him.

However, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha on May 8, 2016 allowed the ACC to resume the case proceedings, said PP

Sanwar.

According to the first information report, Mosharraf, in connivance with two other accused and by misusing power, allocated 1.44-bigha land for a commercial building on a parking space in the port city's Agrabad Commercial Area in 2000.

On May 22, 2007, ACC Assistant Director Jahangir Alam filed the case with Double Mooring police.

Jahangir, who is also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet accusing three -- Mosharraf, former AL lawmaker Rafiqul Anwar and his brother Fakhruul Anwar -- on July 30, 2008.