

When was he arrested?

FROM PAGE 1
 detectives from Dhaka.
 Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), at a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre yesterday said Maksudur, an imam of a mosque in Phulpur, went in front of a mosque near Jatrabari bus stand on Friday night to attend a meeting of ABT.



of Dhaka Metropolitan Police took Maksudur to Dhaka.
 The paper reported that a laptop was also seized from his possession.

On information, a team of detectives picked him up from there around 9:20pm, said the CTTC chief. The police also recovered a laptop and some books on jihad from his possession, he added.

However, Bangla daily Prothom Alo on March 18 reported that Maksudur was picked up by police on the night of March 16 from Phulpur in Mymensingh.

The paper quoted Ali Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Phulpur Police Station, "A team of detectives from Dhaka detained Maksudur Rahman and took him to Dhaka. The team did not tell us whether he had any links with militancy."

Bangla daily Ittefaq in its report published on March 17 also quoted the OC that a team of Detective Branch

When The Daily Star contacted OC Ali last night, he said he had heard that the imam was picked up from Phulpur by detective branch of police from Dhaka but he did not know when it happened.

The Daily Star could not reach CTTC chief Monirul last night for comments regarding Maksudur's detention last month.

Abdul Hadi Akand, elder brother of the arrestee, said he had been looking for Maksudur since he was picked up. But police did not give him any details, reports our local correspondent.

AKM Hashem Sarkar, general secretary of the Phulpur mosque committee, said he was picked up from the mosque after Asr prayers on March 16. Maksudur has been the imam of the mosque for three and a half months and his family lives in Ashram Para in Dhara

Bazar area in Haluaghat upazila, he said.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Maksudur on a six-day remand. His lawyer reportedly claimed before the court that Maksudur had been picked up in Phulpur on March 16.

There have been many instances in which family members of arrestees and law enforcers contradicted as to when a person had been arrested. Sometimes the claimed dates were weeks apart.

At yesterday's briefing, CTTC chief Monirul claimed that Maksudur during primary interrogation admitted that he had been an ABT Sharia Board member since 2015.

He was involved in "approving punishment" of targeted victims, said Monirul, adding, the killings or attacks committed by the outfit were approved by the five-member Sharia Board.

The board mainly issues orders to eliminate bloggers or freethinkers for their alleged anti-Islamic write-ups or activities, he said.

Even though Maksudur was not involved in any operational activities, he received training on the use of machetes, firearms and "secure" mobile apps when he was staying in a hideout in Uttara's Dewanbari area in 2015, said Monirul.

Teesta has no water to share

FROM PAGE 1
 Teesta water because the water supply in the river has gone down and I myself saw this a few days ago.

"Teesta is the lifeline for the northern part of West Bengal. There will be problem of water for drinking and irrigation purposes if Teesta water is shared. At times, it becomes difficult to run a power plant with Teesta water," Mamata said.

She added, "I understand Bangladesh's water needs. Whenever Hasina comes to India, she talks about Teesta Treaty. I have given a proposal to Bangladesh and federal Indian government today both at the lunch and again tonight that Bangladesh may consider using the waters of rivers like Torsa, Dharala, Jaladhaka, Dhansiri and Mansiri.

"If necessary, the two sides can conduct a joint survey on the availability of water in the five rivers I mentioned," Mamata added.

She also said as the Calcutta Port was facing a lot of problems due to the Farakka barrage, West Bengal could not afford problems in Teesta water availability.

Mamata said the five rivers may be small but have enough water round the year and "I told Hasina to consider using the waters of these rivers to meet her country's requirements."

On Friday, Hasina had said that it would be good if she could have a separate meeting with Mamata on the Teesta issue.

The Teesta deal was set to be signed during the then Indian PM Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka in September 2011 but had to be scrapped at the last minute due to Mamata's objections.

Teesta water is crucial for Bangladesh especially in the lean period from December to March when water flow temporarily comes down to less than 1,000 cusecs from 5,000 cusecs.

Hasina came face to face with Mamata at a luncheon hosted by Modi for her and at a dinner by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee yesterday.

The Bangladesh PM, currently on a four-day state visit to India, is staying at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official home of the Indian president.

Utility lines cut off

FROM PAGE 16
 general of police and commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police were asked to assist the DG in complying with the order.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Md Salim came up with the order following a petition filed by Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA) in 2009.

Last year, the tannery factories at Hazaribagh produced about 21,600 cubic metres of environmentally hazardous liquid containing chemicals such as chromium, sulphur, ammonium, salt and other chemicals every day.

Even though the HC directed to shut the tannery industries operating in Hazaribagh immediately, neither the government nor the tanners have finished their work at the estate in Savar.

In a recent visit to the tannery estate, it was seen that the authorities have been running the effluent treatment plant (ETP) on a trial basis, treating the liquid waste from the 47 units now operating in Savar. Another 107 units are supposed to be relocated to Savar from Hazaribagh.

Waste, generated in the test run that began after the Eid-ul-Azha in October

last, is discharged into the river.

The DoE tested the water of the Dhaleswari river and found the waste was not treated properly.

Following a meeting with Bangladesh Tanners Association and Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters Association, industries secretary on March 1 announced that all the factories would have to be moved to Savar tannery estate by March 31 this year, as the tanners missed several deadlines.

The court first directed the tannery owners to relocate by February 2010 and later extended the deadline several times.

Snippets

FROM PAGE 1
MEETING THE SAVIOR

Hasina became emotional when she met Maj (ret'd) Ashok Tara of 14 Guards who rescued Bangabandhu's family from their house on Dhanmondi Road-32 on December 17, 1971. Tara met Hasina at the Sam Mankeshaw Convention Centre.

TWO FILMS

Bangladesh and India will jointly produce a documentary on the Liberation War of Bangladesh to mark the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence to be celebrated in 2021.

A film based on the life and work of Bangabandhu will also be produced jointly. The film will be released on the centenary of the birth of

Bangabandhu.

BUS, TRAIN SERVICES

Through a video conference from New Delhi, Modi and Hasina flagged off a bus on the Khulna-Kolkata route. The bus will run between Kolkata and Dhaka via Khulna.

They also launched a freight train service via the once defunct rail line between Radhikapur in India and Parbatipur in Bangladesh. This will allow the resumption of cargo consignments of diesel from Numaligarh Refinery in Assam.

GENOCIDE

India extended support to Bangladesh's effort to obtain international recognition of the Genocide of 1971. The assurance came when

Hasina sought India's support in this regard in New Delhi.

Bangladesh for the first time observed March 25 as Genocide Day, commemorating those killed by the Pakistani occupation forces on that night in 1971.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACT

The two prime ministers welcomed the growing people-to-people contact and agreed to further it. They decided to mark 2018 as the Year of India in Bangladesh and 2019 the Year of Bangladesh in India.

They also decided to celebrate the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence in 2021 and 75th anniversary of India's independence from British rule in 2022.

Region to benefit from our ties

FROM PAGE 1
 reports UNB.

The PM said the people of South Asia would be benefited from the friendly relations of the two countries.

"We always think about the people of our region and our main aim is to develop the living conditions of the people of this region, and I believe that sub-regional cooperation is very important for development," Hasina told journalists.

The premier said the two countries pledged to pursue "zero tolerance" policy against terrorism and extremism and reiterated their strong commitment to make borders peaceful and free from criminal activities.

BSS adds: The PM described her meeting with Modi as "productive".

"We discussed all aspects of our ever-growing relationship to enhance our understanding about mutual concerns and priorities."

Terming India the most important neighbour and one of the key development partners of Bangladesh, the PM recalled its invaluable contribution to Bangladesh's Liberation War. She said she was happy to honour the 1971 martyrs from the Indian Armed Forces.

"This afternoon, we're happy to honour the martyrs of the Indian Armed Forces who lost their lives during our Liberation War in 1971. We've sought support from India in our efforts for having recognition of 'Genocide of 1971' by the international community. India agreed to support us."

Noting that India attained commendable economic development and was fast emerging as a powerhouse in the areas of education, science, tech-

nology and innovation, she said Bangladesh's economy was growing at an impressive rate of over 7 percent.

Bangladesh also achieved significant advancements in most of the MDGs, particularly health, education and poverty reduction, she added.

"Prime Minister Modi and I agree that greater connectivity is vital for the development of the two countries and the region. We've also flagged off new passenger bus services on Khulna-Kolkata route, trial run of Khulna-Kolkata 2nd Maitree Express and reopening of Birol-Radhikapur rail route for freight," the PM told reporters.

About the bilateral cooperation in power and energy sectors, Hasina said she along with the Indian premier inaugurated the supply of additional 60MW power to Bangladesh from Tripura. "We have discussed cross-border electricity import from Nepal and Bhutan [through Indian territory]."

She said her Indian counterpart was receptive to the issue of Bangladesh's growing trade deficit with his country and assured her of his government's concrete steps to address the issue.

"We have also discussed the review of anti-dumping duties imposed on jute export from Bangladesh," the PM added.

To bring balance in trade between the two countries, she said her government decided to set up special economic zones (SEZ) for India at identified locations in Bangladesh.

Hasina said they signed a number of bilateral documents, covering cooperation in diverse areas, including economy, defence, peaceful use of nuclear energy, outer space, information tech-

nology and mass media.

She said "people-to-people contact" was the strength of the bilateral links. "So, we've upgraded our Agartala Visa Office to Assistant High Commission and have also opened Assistant High Commission in Guwahati recently. India has opened more Indian Visa Application Centres in Bangladesh. This again reflects our growing mutual confidence and shared commitment to expanding our relationship."

The PM greeted the people of the two countries in Bangla on the occasion of Bangla Noboborsho 1424 (the Bangla New Year, April 14).

Teen girl

FROM PAGE 16
 Principal Maulana Osman Gani of her parents' forcing her to get married at this early age.

The madrasa authority then communicated the matter with Abu Jafor Ripon, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Trishal.

The UNO went to the madrasa, called in Sonia's parents and relatives and told them about the curse of child marriage.

Finally, Sonia's parents pledged that they will not marry their daughter off until she becomes mature and reaches the legally permissible age for marriage, which is 18 for girls in Bangladesh.

The UNO also assured them of all financial support for the girl's education and presented her with two sets of clothes.

Sonia is a brilliant student, captain of her class, a scout member of the madrasa and a good presenter, said the madrasa principal.

Mystery

FROM PAGE 16
 fours, ate like animals by picking food with her mouth, instead of using her hands. Also, she whooped and screeched like monkeys to communicate.

Her behaviour prompted people to call her "girl Mowgli" — after the wolf-raised boy protagonist of Rudyard Kipling's iconic children's tale The Jungle Book.

"It's not possible that a girl spends years in the forest and no staff or hundreds of cameras installed for security and animal census notice her. She might have been dropped here sometime before being spotted by the patrol team," divisional forest officer Gyan Prakash Singh said on Friday.

The rescuers brought her to Bahraich district hospital on January 25, where she is being treated in an isolation ward.

Paediatrician KK Verma has his doubts that she is a feral child raised by monkeys.

"The girl might have been left in the jungle by her parents because of mental illness. But it was probably not long before police team rescued her. The theory that she was brought up monkeys seems absurd," he said.

Doctors believe she needs psychiatric evaluation and treatment.

Sarbajeet Yadav, the head constable who was in the rescue team, said: "She was found near Khapda forest outpost. There were no monkeys around. She refused to come with us initially, but cold and hunger probably drew her to us."

The girl is now named Van Durga, and she has become a celebrity of sorts as droves of people are visiting the hospital to see her.

The girl remains reclusive, hiding under her bed to avoid the curious visitors.

She reluctantly follows instructions of hospital matron M Bhalla and sanitation worker Renu Devi, who have been with her since her first day in hospital.

She mostly eats fruits and chapattis served to patients. She likes biscuits offered by attendants of other patients in the isolation ward.

"Her wounds have healed. No medication is being given now. In these two months, she has also learned to mumble a bit when hungry. Often, she throws a glass to the floor to indicate that she needs water," Renu said.

The girl is learning to be human. Initially she could not differentiate between food and excreta, but now signals with her hands when she is hungry.

Govt

FROM PAGE 2
 Moudud Ahmed has said the country's people have the right to know the terms and conditions of the deals and MoUs signed with India.

"We demand the government make public all the deals," he said.

He warned that the people would not accept any anti-state deal or MoU and the BNP would also oppose it.

National People's Party, a component of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, organised the discussion on the polls-time government and militancy at the Jatiya Press Club.

"We've heard that India would provide Bangladesh with \$500m mainly for purchasing war materials from India under the defence MoU. As the money would be given as supplier's credit, we'll have to procure everything without floating any tender. Therefore, we must have to accept whatever price India quotes for its materials," he observed.

He suggested the government should forge a national unity with all political parties and people from all walks of life to fight militancy by identifying it as a national problem.

Moudud called upon the government to take steps for holding the next general election in a fair and credible manner through an understanding with political parties.

Men-women alliance

FROM PAGE 16
 "We are very fortunate with all the support we get from our best partners - men, who have always been there with us, supporting us, believing in us, respecting us," she said elaborating men-women partnership in the UAE.

In the UAE, women also have "great partnership with them [men] in all what we do especially in building our country towards having a comprehensive, sustainable and balanced development," Al Qubaisi said.

"We always think about the bigger picture and also we think about the future," she said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star during the recently-concluded Inter-Parliamentary Union conference in Dhaka.

"Today you will find that women empowerment in the UAE is number one in the Arab world," she claimed.

One of the important keys to women empowerment is education, she said. "In the higher education, our percentage is over 80, one of the highest in the world."

The speaker portrayed herself as an example of women empowerment in her country.

"I am the first female speaker in the Arab world. For the UAE, it's no coincidence that women have reached leading positions," she said, adding that it was possible because of education and work opportunities were opened to them a long time ago.

She was the first woman to be elected as an MP of the UAE in 2006. She was elected the first deputy speaker in 2011. In 2015, she made history by becoming the speaker.

Al-Qubaisi obtained her bachelor's degree in architecture from the UAE University and both master's and PhD degrees from the University of Sheffield in the UK.

She is also the first female top official in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an economic and political union founded in 1981. Its member states are the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

Al-Qubaisi is not the only woman holding an important position in the UAE government. Currently, the UAE has eight female ministers.

Women also occupy about 75 percent of positions in education and health sectors, and their representation in parliament stands at 22 percent.

The UAE wants to be in the top 25 in terms of gender equality by 2021 through women's empowerment initiatives, said a report of Gulf News on March 7.

According to the report, women in the UAE make up 66 percent of public sector workers, and 30 percent of them are in leadership roles, while women aged 15 years and above constitute 46.6 percent of the labour force.

Al Qubaisi said the UAE has women judges, and even jet fighter pilots, police, army personnel.

"We've a huge number of businesses led by women. They contribute highly to the economy."

She said the UAE has embraced democracy and the engagement of the people. People of more than 200 nationalities live there in peace and harmony, she noted.

"We have also embraced many values... One of them is tolerance. And also happiness."

Speaking about the UAE government's strategies to make people happy, Al-Qubaisi said her government has launched some new ministries — the ministry of future, the ministry of tolerance and the ministry of happiness.

"We believe that to be able to see the

future you need to plan for it from now and be better prepared." She said they were trying to build a knowledge-based economy and that would be possible through education and skill.

It is important to promote peace and security as the world is now facing threats of terrorism and extremism, the speaker said. "It is important to fight it [terrorism] through ideologies."

She said they have been "promoting tolerance" and "it is part of our basic principles".

The tolerance ministry is working in this regard. "Apart from this, we have happiness ministry. People think that happiness is only related to feeling."

Happiness actually is people's satisfaction of the services they can get she observed. "Once they are satisfied they will feel happy."

Explaining further, Al-Qubaisi said the UAE was working to ensure the quality of services provided by the government and private sectors. Besides, a positive and encouraging work environment and a healthy life make people feel happy, she said.

"It is great to be living in a country where the leadership, the government and the parliament have one goal. They set their vision together on having their people the happiest. That's what the UAE is working on."

In the overall social progress index of 2016, the UAE was 39th among 133 countries.

The UNDP Human Development Index 2016 also recognised the UAE as a country of achieving very high human development. In the index, UAE ranked 42 in the world.

"We work together united for shaping the future and this is what the UAE stands for...," she said.

True alliance

FROM PAGE 16
 22 wrote to unit leaders concerned under its jurisdiction that they have to form their fully-fledge committees taking the "opinion from local lawmakers".

Now, AL city unit leaders of 11 thanas would have to consult with lawmakers of other parties since their units are in four constituencies with Jatiya Party, Workers Party and Bangladesh Nationalist Front MPs.

MPs are: JP's Syed Abu Hossain Babla of Dhaka-4 and Kazi Firoz Rashid of Dhaka-6, Workers Party's Rashed Khan Menon of Dhaka-8 and BNF Chief Abul Kalam Azad of Dhaka-17.

Of them, Azad's constituency is under Dhaka North AL unit while the rest three are in Dhaka South AL unit.

The AL Dhaka city North and South units sent the letters to its 26 thana, 103 ward and 17 union units and asked them to consult the MPs and form the committees by April 30.

The letters, signed by AL Dhaka South City unit General Secretary Shahey Alam Murad, also asked the leaders concerned not to include any people accused of killing, terrorism, extortion and drug peddling.

AL Dhaka City South unit President Abul Hasnat, however, said the decision to form the committees consulting with MP's of other parties was not logical.

"I don't know about the letter. My general secretary Shahey Alam Murad sent the letters. I don't know why he issued such directives," he added.

Murad could not be contacted for comments.

JP MP Abu Hossain Babla told The Daily Star that he was not aware of the directive issued to AL units. "If local unit leaders want my recommendations for forming their committees, of course will give my suggestions," he said.

OFFICE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR
Establishment of Fish Landing Centres in Haor Area
Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation
23-24, Kawran Bazar, C/A, Dhaka-1215

Corrigendum for IFT (works)

Ref. No: 33.03.0000.112.01.023.17-62
 Date: 30.03.2017

All Concerned are requested to follow the corrigendum of the Invitation for Tender (Work).

Sl. No.	Printed in IFT	Should be Read As
27.1 (a)	Must have a minimum period of general experience of 5 years in a single Work order of Boundary and Civil Construction work minimum work value Tk. 50 (Fifty) Lac. in Government/Semi-Government/ Autonomous/ Private Organization during last 5 (Five) years.	27.1 (a) Must have a minimum period of general experience of 5 years in a single Work order of Boundary and Civil Construction work minimum work value Tk. 60 (Sixty) Lac. in Government/Semi-Government/ Autonomous Organization during last 5 (Five) years.
27.2 (d)	Must have a minimum period of general experience of 10 years in Construction of Building works of minimum Tk. 450 (Four Hundred Fifty) Lac in a single work order in Government/ Semi government/ Autonomous/ private Organization during last 5 years.	27.1 (b) Must have a minimum period of general experience of 10 years in Construction of Building works of minimum Tk. 450 (Four Hundred Fifty) Lac in a single work order in Government/ Semi government/ Autonomous Organization during last 5 years.

All others terms and conditions of Invitation for Tender (IFT) should be remain valid and unchanged for the tenderers.


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