

## Mubashar back, mystery remains

Kept in a dark room for 44 days, released blindfolded on Airport Road



**MUBASHAR HASAN**  
"The captors used to argue with each other whether to kill me or free me."

### WENT MISSING, THEN RETURNED



**ANIRUDDHA KUMAR ROY**  
BUSINESSMAN  
Abducted from Gulshan on Aug 27  
Returned home on Nov 16



**UTPAL DAS**  
JOURNALIST  
ONLINE NEWS PORTAL  
Picked up from Dhanmondi on Oct 10  
Found in Narayanganj on Dec 19



**SHAMIM AHMED**  
BANKER  
Missing from Paltan on Aug 23  
Found in Motijheel on Aug 28



**ROKONZAMAN**  
SHARISHABARI  
MUNICIPALITY MAYOR  
Missing from Uttara on Sept 25  
Found in Sreemangal on Sept 27

Besides, Mithun Chowdhury, president of newly formed Janata Party and party leader Ashik Ghosh went missing from Sutrapur area on Oct 27. Police claimed to have arrested them between Nov 13 and 14. Tanvir Yeasin Karim, a book importer, was allegedly picked up from his Gulshan residence on Nov 8. Police claimed to have arrested him on Nov 19.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The captors of North South University teacher Mubashar Hasan were divided over whether to kill him or not, before finally freeing him early yesterday.

The kidnapers also demanded money for his release, said Mubashar, sharing his experience of the 44-day captivity with journalists as he repeatedly fought back tears.

The abductors dropped him off from a microbus near the airport in Dhaka around midnight. From there, he reached his Banasree house on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 12:45am.

His return came three days after journalist Utpal Das was found in Narayanganj, 71 days after his abduction from the capital's

Dhanmondi.

Talking to the media in front of his house yesterday morning, Mubashar said he was kept in a dark room whose only window was sealed off. The food he was served was cold and possibly brought from restaurants.

"The captors used to argue with each other whether to kill me or free me," said the NSU assistant professor, looking visibly shaken.

At some point, Mubashar, also known as Cesar, heard his captors say things that indicated they were scared of something. He also got an impression from their conversation that one of them had gone missing or something.

His father Motaher Hossain and sister Tamanna Tasnim were present during the briefing.

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## BB must act to protect depositors' interests

Says ex-governor Atiur  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although protecting depositors' interests is one of the key responsibilities of Bangladesh Bank, those interests are not being safeguarded, former BB governor Atiur Rahman alleged yesterday.

"Entrepreneurs don't even supply 10 percent of the bank's deposits. Now the question arises what the central bank is doing to protect the interests of the depositors who supply 90 percent of the deposits," he said.

"Every possible step has to be taken to ensure security for public money. It is a matter of morality. Otherwise, the banking service will be harmed. Bangladesh Bank has to take a stronger stance [on the issue]," he said.

Atiur was addressing the 20th biannual conference of Bangladesh Economic Association at the city's Institution of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh.

"Those of us who have discharged the responsibility of a governor [of the BB] know the worth of a piece of paper having our signatures. Everybody considers that as the currency. This is morality. In the same sense, it becomes immorality if a person can't withdraw money using

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## Aid stuck in red tape

Container full of Indian relief materials for cyclone victims waiting for release since June; customs, district admin blame each other



This sealed container full of relief materials for cyclone Mora victims has been left abandoned like this in Chittagong Port, near shed-4, for the last seven months. The relief goods were brought in by Indian Navy ship INS Sumitra. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

MOHAMMAD SUMAN MIAH, Ctg

Just because of red tape, a container full of relief materials donated by the Indian Navy for the victims of cyclone Mora has been lying abandoned at the Chittagong Port for nearly seven months.

While the government authorities concerned point fingers at each other, it is feared that some of the relief goods have already gone bad.

Kamrul Haque, an official of Chittagong Customs House, said they were unable to give the container to

the Deputy Commissioner office of Chittagong as the bill of lading (B/L), package list, and detailed list of the materials were not submitted.

Officials at Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Chittagong District Administration and the clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent, who are responsible for getting the goods released from the port, said they were not given the "required" documents by the donor.

Sources at the customs house said the relief goods include 41 types of medicine, primary aid materials,

saline, inhalers, cannulas, and 70 types of other goods, including packed food, soup, tents, blankets, body lotions, candles, towels and clothes.

The actual weight of the goods could not be known due to lack of documents, they said.

The relief goods were brought by the Indian Navy ship INS Sumitra on June 1 after it fished out 33 Bangladeshi fishermen from the Bay following the deadly cyclone that hit the Chittagong coastal belt on May 31.

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Solid and liquid waste are dumped in the Buriganga in Telghat area of Alam Market in Keraniganj making the area look like a landfill. Launches dump used lubricants in the area as well. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## AL stunned by huge defeat

Activists blame inactiveness of party unit; AL votes decrease while JP, BNP get more compared to 2012 polls

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA from Rangpur

The humiliating defeat of the Awami League mayoral candidate in the Rangpur City Corporation polls has stunned the local leaders and activists of the party.

Locals and AL insiders say inactiveness of the party's Rangpur unit and its candidate Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu's inept handling of voters were the main reasons behind the debacle.

In this election, the central AL leaders were not as active as they had been in the Narayanganj and Comilla city corporation polls, they point out.

The AL high command also did not do enough to reduce the gap between former mayor Jhantu and local AL activists, mention party insiders.

Jhantu, who was elected mayor in the maiden Rangpur City Corporation polls with the AL's support in 2012, saw a fall in the number of votes in the just-concluded polls.

He got 62,400 votes while his rival Jatiya Party candidate Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa bagged 1,60,489 votes. BNP candidate Kawsar Zaman Babla secured 35,136 votes, showed Thursday's unofficial results from all the 193 polling centres.

In the previous election, Jhantu defeated Mostafa by 30,000 votes, bagging 106,255 votes. JP-backed AKM Abdur



Mostafa to work 'keeping good ties with govt'

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and KONGKON KARMAKER from Rangpur

Newly elected Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) Mayor Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa said he will prioritise maintaining a good relationship with the government for the development of Rangpur.

"Development will not take place with my words. I have to maintain a good relation with all the stakeholders for the development of Rangpur. As the Jatiya Party is an alliance of the government, I'll maintain close contact with the prime minister," he said in an interview with The Daily Star at

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