

Online materials, sermons drew him into militancy

Police say as suspected attacker of Zafar Iqbal remanded

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Foyzur Rahman, who attacked Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal on March 3, stepped into militancy listening to Jashimuddin Rahmani's sermons and reading contents of "Dawahilallah", said investigators yesterday.

"Dawahilallah" is a blog run by followers of Ansar Al Islam, formerly Ansarullah Bangla Team, and Rahmani, now in jail, is the chief of the militant outfit.

Foyzur was placed on a 10-day remand yesterday. He could not be produced before a court earlier as he was recovering from the mob beating that day.

Police yesterday arrested his brother at Gazipur.

Police officials said Foyzur's uncles Abdul Jaher and Abdul Sadi and elder brother Abul Hassan, all living in Kuwait, were followers of salafism and they had motivated him since 2016.

The suspect completed Dakhil from a madrasa in Sunamganj in 2014. He then got admitted to Sylhet Alia Madrasa but left the institution within three months because it did not follow the salafism doctrine, said investigators, quoting Foyzur's family members.

His father Atiqur Rahman told police that the two often exchanged heated words over Atiqur not following the Salafist ways. He had several feuds with his neighbours in Koliarkafan village over Salafism.

Foyzur worked for "Moin Computers" and "Quran Sunnah Research Centre" of Sylhet and a number of his colleagues were followers of salafism, claimed investigators, adding that he wanted to marry off one of his sisters to his co-worker called Chamon, a salafist.

Chamon is on the run.

Police Headquarters and counterterrorism officials said most of

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FROM LEFT ... UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh Mia Seppo, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and Women and Children Affairs Secretary Nasima Begum sitting on stage during a programme at the BICC yesterday. Behind them stand the five women who received the Joyeeta Sammanana award for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields.

ORPHANAGE CASE Order on Khaleda's bail petition Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed Sunday for passing necessary orders regarding the bail petition of BNP



Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case over which she was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim set the date after Khaleda's lawyer Zainul Abedin prayed to it to pass an order on the petition.

Meanwhile, Mokarram Hossain, SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

5 YEARS INTO TAQI MURDER

No justice yet, thanks to culture of impunity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Taqi's killers could not be brought to justice even after five years because of the culture of impunity prevailing in the country, noted personalities said yesterday.

At a roundtable at the Jatiya Press Club, they also demanded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention in punishing the culprits as early as possible.

Santrash Nirmul Taqi Mancha, a platform working to curb crimes in Narayanganj, organised the programme marking the fifth anniversary of the sensational murder.

Dhaka University's Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury termed the murder a "political killing". He said it helped reveal how "the state could be involved in an incident like this".

Tanwir Muhammad Taqi was a symbol of the youth and denying him justice meant the youngsters in the country were being denied a proper environment to grow up, he said.

"The nation's future will be dark if the youngsters live

in danger," he added.

Renowned economist Prof Anu Mohammad alleged that fundamentalist groups tried to gag Taqi's father Rafiur Rabbi.

Rabbi, who had been to countless demonstrations and public events to talk about his grievances, yesterday said the investigation revealed the involvement of some members of the Osman family in the murder.

But the charge sheet in the case was not submitted, and "assurance came from government high-ups that the perpetrators would be protected", he said.

A-level student, Taqi, 17, went missing after he left home for a library in Narayanganj city in the afternoon of March 6 in 2013. His body was found floating in the Shitalakkhya river on March 8 morning.

Rabbi has been alleging that the murderers could not be brought to book due to "interventions" from some influential quarters.

The then investigating agency, Rapid Action Battalion, SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

ASI busted with 50k yaba pills in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Detectives arrested an assistant sub-inspector of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station in possession of 50,000 yaba tablets yesterday, police said.

Raiding ASI Suhrawardy Rubel's rented apartment in Rupali area in the wee hours, officers found 45,000 tablets in a shopping bag.

Rubel was not at home at the time and was arrested at the police station, where 5,000 tablets were found in a bag, Qamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Narayanganj Model Police Station, said.

A police team, including Detective Branch officials, searched for hours Rubel's apartment and the police

station where he has been working for the last five months.

Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Detective Branch of police in Narayanganj, said the team acted on a tip-off.

Police officers said Rubel was suspended from Bandar Police Station in March 2017 for misconduct but was posted with Sadar Model Police Station months later.

The owner of the building where he lived is an expatriate.

Ziaul, caretaker of the building, said the ASI frequently brought people in hand-cuffs to his apartment.

He added that Rubel brought two persons in handcuffs on Wednesday night, but they left soon afterwards.

CONSTABLE RECRUITMENT Four held with Tk 4 lakh bribe money in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal police arrested three persons suspected of taking money from candidates of the constable recruiting exams with promises of the job.

The arrestees, were in possession of Tk 4 lakh and two cheques of Tk 7 lakh.

Of the arrestees, Abu Hanif Bepary and Saidur Rahaman are ward boys of Barisal Divisional Police Hospital and Sekandar Howlader is a broker, who brought the jobseekers and the suspects in touch.

"They received huge sums of money and bank cheques from Sahariar Joy and Rejaul Sarder of Gournadi," Molla Azadur Rahaman, ASP in Barisal, said.

He added that police were looking for three or more syndicates involved in incidents of bribery centring the constable recruitment.

Barisal SP Saiful Islam said the arrestees were in the racket for a long time.

Another jobseeker Shekhar Chandra Shil was arrested on Tuesday.

Officials said Shekhar took a smart phone inside the exam hall at Barisal Model School. He took those of the questions and sent them to one Mainul Islam Shaon for solutions.

Police arrested Shaon after Shekhar was caught by the invigilator.



Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury speaking at a discussion arranged by Santrash Nirmul Taqi Mancha at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday with Rafiur Rabbi, cultural activist and father of slain Tanwir Muhammad Taqi, by his side.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Hours of solidarity

FROM PAGE 1

mass movement at East Pakistan and stated that it would soon become an independent country.

He demanded that Yahya Khan declare the two wings of Pakistan free of each other.

Leftist forces of Bangla in exile formed the Bangladesh Jatiyo Mukti Songram Somonnoy Committee (Bangladesh National Freedom Struggle Organising Committee) in, West Bengal, India.

People from all walks of life throughout East Pakistan gathered in impulsive expressions. The feeling that Pakistan's eastern province was truly on its way to independence was becoming increasingly palpable.

The AL amended some of its earlier directives while at the same time issuing new ones. Essential public services were maintained. Banks operated to deal with transactions. However, government offices together with other establishments continued to observe the general strike called by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman earlier.

In West Pakistan, there was yet no move on the part of the regime to

initiate negotiations with the AL following Bangabandhu's speech on March 7.

Meanwhile, West Pakistan leaders in the west, like Air Marshal Asghar Ali Khan, constantly expressed that Yahya must hand over power to Sheikh Mujib to maintain peace in the country.

A series of meetings, however, went on at army headquarters in Rawalpindi, the apparent purpose of which was to find ways and means of tackling the popular movement in East Pakistan.

On the other hand, the army went on increasing the number of soldiers in East Pakistan through transporting them along the long circuitous route between Karachi and Dhaka via Ceylon [today's Sri Lanka], while pretending to mull over a peaceful negotiation.

With each passing day, Bangalee militancy went up by degrees. Nothing happened in East Pakistan unless it had the sanction of Bangabandhu.

While the non-violent non-cooperation movement was gaining momentum every day, the West Pakistan army kept getting heavier.

There would be only one outcome.

Suu Kyi stripped of rights honour

US Holocaust Museum rescinds prestigious Elie Wiesel Award granted to her in 2012

AFP, Washington

The US Holocaust Memorial Museum said Wednesday it was stripping Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi of a prestigious human rights award, accusing her of doing little to halt the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims.

Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her long campaign against the country's military dictatorship, was awarded the Holocaust Museum's Elie Wiesel award six years ago "for her courageous leadership and great personal sacrifice in resisting tyranny and advancing the freedom and dignity of the Burmese people."

But the Museum said it was rescinding the award due to her inaction over what it called "mounting evidence of genocide" committed by the Myanmar military against civilians from the Rohingya minority in Rakhine state.



"As the military's attacks against the Rohingya unfolded in 2016 and 2017, we had hoped that you -- as someone we and many others have celebrated for your commitment to human dignity and universal human rights -- would have done something to condemn and stop the military's brutal campaign and to express solidarity with the targeted Rohingya population," the museum said in a letter to Suu Kyi.

Instead, it said, her political party, the National League for Democracy, has refused to cooperate with UN investigators and added to the anti-Rohingya rhetoric.

The party has also obstructed journalists trying to report on the mass murder and expulsion to Bangladesh of the Rohingya.

"The military's orchestration of the crimes against Rohingya and the severity of the atrocities in recent months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UN refugee agency chief in Bangladesh has called for addressing the conflicts that trigger refugee crisis and create heavy burdens on the host countries.

"We need to address the issues that trigger displacement. Political commitment [of the UN members] has to be there," said Andrew Mbogori, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Bangladesh.

He said the agency faced some situations when it felt helpless in addressing refugee crisis.

"We can only go to the member states to say we have done this and this

much needs to be done," Andrew said at a discussion at the BISS auditorium in the capital.

The foreign ministry and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) jointly organised the programme on Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees.

The discussants observed that the world is going through a critical period of time when many conflicts in various parts, including Syria, Yemen, Myanmar and Libya, have created huge refugee crisis. But many countries denied hosting refugees.

They also said rising number of people were moving from one country to

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 9
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-30 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION