

All 12 of Bangladesh origin British family who joined IS dead

MAIL ONLINE

A Bangladesh origin British family of 12 who made headlines around the world when they fled to Syria to join ISIS have all died.

Three of the grown-up sons from the Mannan family were killed fighting for Islamic State, while seven more relatives, including three children between the ages of one and 11, were all wiped out in an airstrike.

The elderly parents, Muhammed Mannan and his wife Minera, both died in the terror group's former capital from natural causes.

Speaking from the family's hometown in Luton, Mannan's son Shalim, from a previous marriage, told Mail Online, "They are all dead. It's over, finished. We had been trying to find out for some time what had happened to them and it was only confirmed to us recently from Syria."

The family is believed to have crossed into Syria soon after arriving in neighbouring Turkey in May 2015, where they stopped off following a family trip to Bangladesh. When they failed to return to Britain, they were reported missing by worried relatives.

Two months after arriving in Syria, the family released a statement declaring their support for Islamic State.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

Two brothers

FROM PAGE 1

line of fire, he added.

They were rushed to a local hospital with bullet injuries where doctors declared them dead, he further added.

Police claimed to have recovered two firearms, seven cartridges, 12 bullet-shells and four sharp weapons from the spot.

Meanwhile in Cumilla's Sadar upazila, a suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with members of BGB early yesterday.

The dead is Proshanto Kumar Das, 28, son Badol Kumar Das, a resident of Puraton Chowdhury Para area of Cumilla town and a well-known videographer, our local correspondent reported.

Lt Col Abu Mohammad Mohiuddin, commanding officer (CO) of Rangpur BGB Battalion-10, told at a press briefing that Proshanto was detained from Mogoltuli area yesterday afternoon.

During primary interrogation, he admitted that a consignment of drugs would enter the town at night, the BGB official claimed.

Based on the information, a team of BGB men, along with Proshanto, conducted a raid in Bibirbazar area around 1:00am. Sensing their presence, criminals opened fire on the BGB team prompting a retaliation

that triggered the "gunfight", the BGB CO claimed.

At one point of the "gunfight", Proshanto was caught in the line of fire and sustained bullet wounds. He was rushed to Cumilla Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, he added.

BGB also claimed to have recovered 4,325 pieces of yaba pills and 30 bottles of Phensedyl from the scene.

On the contrary, friends and neighbours of Proshanto used to take drugs but he was not a drug peddler.

Abu Salam Mia, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station, said, "We are checking information about Prashanto. No case was found against him yet."

Pappu Das, elder Prashanto's brother, said, "On Thursday afternoon, my brother was called out by Nazmul, owner of a local clothing store.

"In the evening we heard that BGB had caught him in Laxmipur area. Contacted with Bibirbazar BGB camp, a constable asked us to visit Kotbari BGB Battalion-10 headquarters," he added.

"We went there but no one from the BGB admitted that my brother was detained. Later, police confirmed us that Prashanto was killed in a 'gunfight' at 3:00 am," Pappu said.

Immense power

FROM PAGE 1

she was admitted to the hospital for "skin problems" and that her father did not bring any charge against the employer.

When the charity pointed out that the police report did not contain Khadiza's medical records, the commission approached the DMCH and found that the girl, only 12 then, was admitted there with multiple injuries and an abscess in her right leg. She had dermatitis and suffered severe under-nutrition. She also had a healed cut mark on her tongue. Her treatment at the DMCH lasted more than two weeks, records show.

Such conflicting information in the police report and the DMCH report led the NHRC to conclude that police had violated Khadiza's human rights by covering up her torture, according to NHRC's own letter to the charity.

Even so, it did not seek an explanation from the police for their failure or recommend compensation for the victim.

Instead, it wrote to the home ministry for investigating the police conduct and take action. Despite writing many such letters to the ministry in the last five years, the commission received no response.

The law allows the government no more than six months to inform the commission of its actions.

So the NHRC, which is a quasi-judicial body, could summon the ministry officials for not complying with its instructions or could go to the High Court seeking its order, but it did neither.

FRUSTRATING: HC

The charity brought the entire saga to the attention of the High Court in March last year. During a hearing, the court observed that the commission had been negligent in "performing its duties as per the legal mandate for which the commission was constituted".

The court also termed "frustrating" the commission's failure to ensure justice for Khadiza and the ministry's failure to respond to the NHRC's letters.

Abdul Halim, the lawyer for the charity, said section 18(3)(b) of the NHRC Act empowers the commission to issue show-cause notices. It can also summon the parties involved for a hearing.

When the ministry did not comply with the commission's instructions, the HC said, it was "incumbent immediately upon the commission" to approach the HC to give an order, as mandated by section 19(1)(b) of the NHRC law.

"When there is no one to support a victim like Khadiza, it is the commission that should support her," it said, adding such a negligence by the NHRC would not even have surfaced if it were not for the charity.

Halim said the commission should have asked for the medical record in its first instruction to the police. Besides, after receiving the flawed report, it could serve a show-cause notice to the home ministry right away.

What the NHRC did shows it does not know how to review investigation reports, he added.

But Khadiza's is not the only such case.

From 2012-2016, the NHRC sent 154 letters to the home ministry asking it about the law enforcers' alleged involvement in enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. But it did not receive any reply from the ministry. Still, the commission did not summon any ministry officials for their failure to comply.

NHRC officials often claim their hands are tied by the law when human rights are violated by law enforcers.

Limon Hossain Limon, who was shot in the left leg by Rab men in 2011, recently told The Daily Star that the commission had not given him any legal support in pursuing the case he filed against the Rab. It also did not realise any compensation for him.

PROGRESSIVE LEGAL INTERPRETATION

In a report last year, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) said a progressive and courageous interpretation of the law does not actually keep the commission from investigating or resolving such cases.

If the NHRC really wants to shield any victim, it can use its power to review reports on rights violation even by "disciplined" forces, make recommendations and put pressure on the government to take action.

The way India's Human Rights Commission overcomes similar challenges can be an example, ASK pointed out.

In its monthly publication from March, the Indian commission said it recommended a monetary relief of Rs 1.57 crore in 57 cases in February. Among the cases, eight were death in police custody, six deaths in police encounter and one in defence custody.

Incumbent NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Haque said dealing with individual cases was not their job. "The responsibility is to point out the gaps in the system."

Asked about realising compensations for victims, he said, "What would happen if the commission seeks compensation? Who would implement it?"

The NHRC's strategy is to mount pressure on the government first and then move to a court, Reazul said, adding that the commission had appointed a lawyer to describe its position to the court as to why it could not make prompt moves in Khadiza's case.

Former NHRC chairman Mizanur Rahman admitted that if the NHRC acted in line with the law, it could have put some pressure on the government.

But it often fails to act for a lack of manpower, budgetary allocation and logistics, said the ex-chairman, who was in office when Khadiza's case unfolded.

According to Abdul Halim, however, even if the rights body resolves one human rights violation case, it should do it in full compliance with the law. Only then the commission can have an impact as the protector of rights.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping hold a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Osaka yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

NHRC sitting on draft rules

FROM PAGE 1

investigating complaints. But neither has been formulated yet, obstructing the commission's smooth handling of complaints.

When asked about the delay, former chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman claimed that the law ministry did not take any action upon receiving the draft rules.

But documents show that both the drafts were vetted by the law ministry in 2016. In separate letters, the ministry wrote that "if the drafts serve the purpose of the commission" it could finalise them.

Seeking anonymity, an NHRC official told The Daily Star that the commission must have felt the necessity to tweak the drafts. Because of its lack of dedicated staff with legal expertise, the rights watchdog has failed to get the tweaking done in time.

"Nobody is an expert here," he said.

HC ON FRAMING RULES

In the absence of the rules made in line with the 2009 act, the commission faced difficulty dealing with complaints.

Over the years, the High Court has received several petitions that challenged the commission's decisions and accused it of "going beyond its legal jurisdiction".

The court then asked the commission to explain why it shall not be directed to frame rules "for

disposal of complaints in accordance with law".

Regarding a complaint of medical negligence in 2014, the court stayed implementation of its recommendations, in which the commission concluded that the two doctors accused inflicted "irreparable loss" to the victim who had undergone surgeries by them.

But the accused challenged this observation in court.

WHAT HAPPENS IN ABSENCE OF RULES?

"The commission has to follow the due legal process" in handling a complaint --recording, mediating or investigating, and making recommendations to the authorities concerned, said Abdul Halim, a Supreme Court lawyer.

And the legal procedure has to be well defined.

Without rules, it is difficult for the commission to function because the 2009 act is not a "complete code of law" on human rights, he said. "It is a special piece of legislation, and the law is no way connected to the CrPc."

For example, the act does not have definitions of "enquiry" or "investigation". Nor can it borrow the definitions from the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) or elsewhere.

As the commission is a statutory body and does not depend on any

other institution, it should have legal tools -- an act and rules -- to make itself complete, Halim said.

The act empowers the commission to seek reports from government agencies accused of violating human rights, but there is no mention of how long the authorities in question would get to submit such reports to the commission.

The law also does not specify other issues such as the process of summoning someone or the kinds of recommendation it should be able to make, Halim said.

Different sets of rules give the specific details of these procedures.

At a meeting in September 2014, the commission discussed the delay in finalising the rules on mediation and conciliation, and was about to launch an inquiry to find out who was responsible for the procrastination, according to the meeting minute.

At another meeting in May 2015, the commission had an elaborate discussion on the second draft of the rules on mediation and approved it.

Talking to The Daily Star, NHRC Chairman Reazul Hoque said they finalised the drafts and sent them to the law ministry on June 19. "The next step is simple. Since the vetting was done before, all we need to have is the president's approval."

He said, "It was our job to make the rules. The delay was from our side."

Police plan

FROM PAGE 1

The Daily Star yesterday.

Officers would meet the militants in jail and counsel them in starting a normal life with CTC support.

CTC chief Monirul said it is not uncommon for family members of militants to get involved in militancy partly due to poverty.

"We have often seen militant outfits taking financial responsibility of the families of their jailed members."

If the families get financial support, they may not depend on the militants or become vengeful.

DC Saiful said they have a list of ex-militants, who have been freed from jail.

"We then made a shorter list of 25 and finally selected five of them. We also picked the families of three others after talking to them. It appears that they would stay away from the path of militancy if they get the support."

Four of the five ex-militants were students while other one was a teacher when they were arrested.

After serving time, they have been working as labourers or low-skill workers in different districts.

They have been struggling to integrate into the society because some people do not accept them, CTC chief Monirul said.

"We believe the society will accept the ex-militants once people know about our support. Until they start enjoying a regular life, we will keep them in touch," he said.

The officers also pay attention to individual needs.

Some of the ex-militants told officers that they did not need financial support at all. Rather, they need support in re-integrating into the society.

"In those cases, we hold talks with local police and political leaders and urge them to help the individuals get accepted by people," Monirul added.

Mahmudullah

FROM PAGE 1

errands. "Alhamdulillah, I am fine now" was the reply of Mahmudullah when asked how he was feeling and about his injured right calf. However, that did not mean he is perfectly fit to play a match. According to physio Thihan Chandramohan, Mahmudullah suffered a Grade 1 tear on his right calf, which should recover after a week's rest.

The chief selector Minhajul Abedin informed from London that, 'Mahmudullah's condition is getting better but nothing can be said for sure now. We need to wait as only after the 30th can we know for sure if he can play or not.'

However, there remains a confusion as to when Mahmudullah suffered this injury. According to official reports, Mahmudullah suffered a Grade 1 tear on his right calf muscle during the Tigers' game against Afghanistan. He had struggled during his 27-ball 38-run knock and was seen hobbling while running between wickets and could not return to the field afterwards.

It however still remains unclear if he had suffered this injury whilst the Afghanistan game or was he already injured before walking in to bat in the match. He was seen receiving treatment on his right leg during a drinks break just moments after he had walked onto the pitch. At that time the physio was also seen putting medical wrap around his calf. He had hobbled for the whole time in the game. And it was not made clear as to exactly when he suffered the injury. Did Mahmudullah come to bat that day with a pre-existing injury for it was a must win game for the Tigers against Afghanistan? Will he have to also play against India being half fit?

Cops identify 13 attackers

9 OF THE 12 ACCUSED IN BARGUNA MURDER CASE



Rifat Farazee



Rishan



Musa



Sifat



Nayon



Hasan



Rifat



Ridoy



Rayhan

FROM PAGE 1

Siddika Minni were leaving the college premises.

Talking to reporters at a programme in Old Dhaka yesterday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal reiterated that none of those involved in the brutal murder would be spared, irrespective of their political identities.

"We have identified 13 people who were involved in the killing. The rest of the accused will be arrested soon."

Referring to the murder of Feni madrasa student Nursat Jahan Rafi, Kamal said, "You saw that we did not let those involved in the killing escape though they belonged to the Awami League."

Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general (media) at the Police Headquarters, told The Daily Star, "Authorities of all airports, and land and river ports have been asked to take necessary measures so that Rifat's killers cannot leave the country."

Police Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Investigation Department, and Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit of Dhaka

Metropolitan Police are working jointly to arrest the rest of the accused in Rifat murder case, Sohail said.

"We hope all the accused will be brought to book immediately," the AIG said, urging people to inform the police if they have any information about the killers.

At a press briefing around 12:30pm yesterday, the Barguna SP said they identified all the attackers by examining CCTV footage of the incident.

"We are trying our best to arrest all the culprits with the help of all law enforcement agencies," he told reporters at his office.

Speaking at a programme in the capital, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government would do whatever necessary to ensure fair trial in Rifat murder case.

"There are reasons to be worried because no one came forward to save him [Rifat] from the attackers though many captured video footage of the attack..." he mentioned.

A video clip of the barbaric attack on Rifat, probably captured on a mobile phone, went viral on social media,

touching off a firestorm of public outrage with many condemning the bystanders for not coming forward to save Rifat. Ayesha alone desperately tried to save her husband from the attackers in vain.

The clip showed that the duo were hacking Rifat indiscriminately as Ayesha was trying to hold back one of the attackers.

Fatally injured Rifat was taken to Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead at 3:30pm.

The doctors found at least eight stab marks in different parts of his body.

SECURITY FOR AYESHA

Four policemen were deployed at the house of Ayesha's father after her family sought security from police.

Her father Mozammel Hossain Kishor said they were getting threats from some unidentified people, and they informed police about it.

Ayesha said, "I'm living in fear... I could be their [the attackers] target as I am the main witness to the incident."

She demanded capital punishment for the killers.