



## Case buried, hope too

After 5 years, a father gives up fight to get justice for son killed in 'shootout'

RAFIUL ISLAM

All Abu Zafor Sikder wanted was justice for his son killed in a 2014 "shootout". The 60-year-old owner of a small pharmacy in the capital's Dania fought a strenuous legal battle for nearly five long years.

Zafor was resolute about doing what he had to do, ignoring threats and offers of money and settlement.

The father of three finally gave up in May this year after his another son was implicated in a drug case. He agreed on an out-of-court settlement, according to the family members.



Tarek

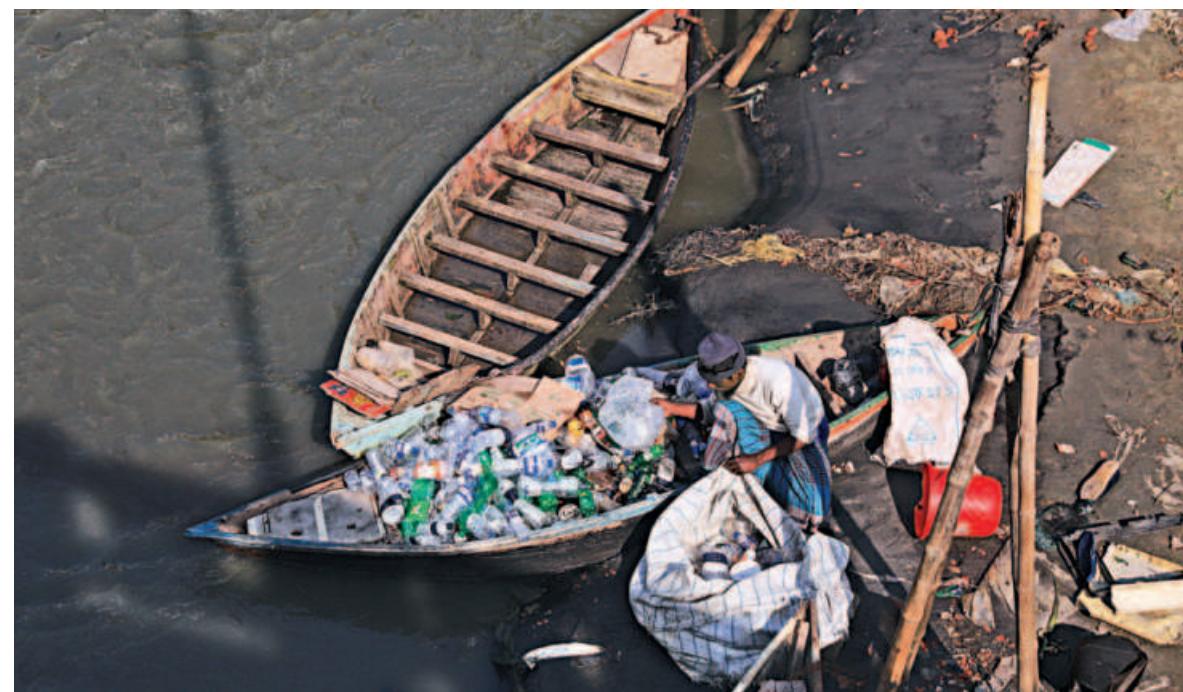
"I tried my best to get justice for the killing of my son but nothing happened. Now I don't want to talk about it anymore," Zafor told this correspondent recently.

"All I can say is both my sons are innocent," he added.

Zafor admitted that there was a settlement but declined to comment further on it.

His eldest son, Mesbah Uddin Tarek, a 24-year-old garment worker, was killed in Mugda in a "shootout" on September 14, 2014, hours after detectives had picked him up from his Dania residence. He had been

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People collecting discarded plastic water bottles from the Buriganga river at the capital's Farashganj Launch Terminal yesterday. These bottles are later taken to scrap shops in Sadarghat, where they are broken and processed into little plastic chips, which are used for making other plastic products.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Govt blocks mobile signals in border areas

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The government has directed mobile phone carriers to block their signals up to a kilometre from the borders.

"This is not our ministry's decision. It came from other ministries, and we just forwarded it," Post and Telecommunication Minister Mustafa Jabbar told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

He, however, said the decision was made following a consensus of three to four ministries, and the foreign ministry was leading the efforts.

"Security of the state is

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BBPL resumes at Mirpur today

SPORTS REPORTER

After a day's break, the second Dhaka leg of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League will resume at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today. With the tournament having already reached its business end, the race to qualify for the top four will now only

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## AL's MAYORAL PICKS FOR DHAKA Taposh for South, Atiqul for North

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Taposh Atiqul

Ending all speculations, the Awami League yesterday picked party leader Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh for contesting the January 30 mayoral polls in Dhaka South City Corporation.

The ruling party chose incumbent Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor M Atiqul Islam as its candidate for the DNCC mayoral election.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader announced this at a press conference at the party president's Dhanmondi office.

He also gave the names of the party-backed councillor candidates for the polls in the two city corporations.

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## THE YEAR IN REVIEW: BNP

## Bid to reorganise party falls flat

MOHAMMAD AI-MASUM MOLLA

The year has been full of frustration for the BNP as it neither could reorganise itself after being defeated in last year's general election nor wage protests to free its Chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail.

Insiders said all efforts to rejuvenate the BNP had fallen flat, mainly due to rifts within the party. But the BNP had largely blamed government obstruction for this.

In the last one year or so, the BNP's activities to release Khaleda had been limited to a few processions, and some press conferences and seminars.

The party leaders maintain that the government's "influence on judiciary"

caused their defeat in the legal battle to release Khaleda who has been behind bars since February 2018.

As part of the initiative to reorganise the party, acting chairman Tarique Rahman asked party leaders at the beginning of the year to form committees in every tier of leadership through holding councils.

But only nine of the 82 committees have been formed so far.

Insiders say the reorganising process stumbled as top leaders ignored grassroots opinion and formed committees with their chosen people.

"Everyone wants to hold on to their influence and that's why they are not going

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## BANGLADESHIS IN MALAYSIA

## Time running out for 10,000 illegals

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

Return of over 10,000 undocumented Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia is still uncertain due to a shortage of flights and high ticket prices as the amnesty for the repatriation of illegal foreigners ends tomorrow.

The Malaysian government offered the amnesty under its "back for good (B4G)" programme on August 1, according to the Malaysian Immigration Department.

If the migrant workers fail to avail the opportunity, they will have to face imprisonment and fine, according to the programme.

Amid this backdrop, Bangladesh government and the undocumented workers are hoping that the Malaysian authorities will extend the deadline.

Some 138,901 illegal immigrants were repatriated under the B4G programme from August 1 to December 14, Malaysian newspaper New Straits Times reported, citing

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