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Cumilla councillor, aide shot dead

5 others bullet-hit in attack on councillor's office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Masked gunmen shot dead a ward councillor of Cumilla City Corporation and his associate in his office in Pathuriapara area yesterday.



Soheli



Haripada

the Durga Puja celebrations in the city.

Iqbal Hossain, who is accused of placing the Holy Quran in the city's Nanua Dighir Par puja mandap in the early hours of October 13,

used to reside in one of Soheli's houses at Pathuriapara as a tenant.

Of the deceased, Syed Ahmed Soheli, 48, councillor of ward-17, was also the panel mayor of the city corporation and president of the ward unit Awami League.

The other one, Haripada Das, 45, a member of the ward unit AL, was one of the close aides to the councillor.

The injured are Awal Hossain Rizu, 23, Rasel, 29, Majedul Haque Badal, 39, Jewel, 40, and Soheli Chowdhury, 43.

All of them are associates of the councillor, said locals.

Contacted, Farooque Ahmed, superintendent of Cumilla police, said additional forces were deployed in the city to avert any further untoward incidents.

He could not say the reason behind the killing immediately.

Soheli's name came up in the discussion after communal violence took place during

Around 4:00pm yesterday, Soheli and others were sitting at the councillor's office. Some eight to 10 masked men came on motorcycles, stormed into the office and opened fire, police and witnesses said.

Soheli, a resident of the city's Sujannagar area, sustained bullets wounds in the head, chest, abdomen and other parts of his body. A total of nine bullets hit him, said Dr Md Mohiuddin, director of Cumilla Medial College Hospital.

All the injured were rushed to the hospital, where Soheli and Haripada died around 8:30pm.

The rest were undergoing treatment there as of filing of this report at 1:10am today.

Immediately after the incident, several hundred people took to the streets in

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A dinghy on the jheel, a small lake, of Motijheel in the capital. Encroachers have left little of the waterbody which gave the business district its name Motijheel which in literal translation means pearl lake. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Work extra to clear Covid-time backlogs: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday instructed government officials to swing back to their pre-pandemic rhythm of work to offset the losses caused by the global public health crisis for the past 20 months.

"We will have to work extra to cover the backlog, if there is any, and retrieve

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Rise meteoric, fall too

Muscle power, slush funds, realpolitik took him to heights of Gazipur AL politics

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND

He became the vice chairman of an upazila parishad, general secretary of Gazipur city Awami League, and mayor of Gazipur -- all before he was 40.

Zahangir Alam's henchmen, a supply of cash from questionable sources, and connections with powerful politicians enabled him to reach the top of AL in Gazipur really quickly, party insiders say.

But his fall was even quicker. Speaking at a programme in late September, Zahangir, 42, made controversial comments on Bangabandhu and the number of Liberation War martyrs.

The AL central committee on October 3 issued a show-cause notice to Zahangir. The AL expelled him from the party.

Zahangir might soon get sued under the Digital Security Act and lose his mayorship.



"In his relatively short political life, he became so powerful that he felt nothing could touch him, as he had blessings from a section of top Awami League leaders," said a member of Gazipur city AL.

Gazipur city AL President Azmat Ullah Khan said the AL will benefit from his removal.

"There were allegations that he used to patronise activists of other political parties. It was harmful for the party. The action against him saved the party from further losses," he told The Daily Star.

Actions were not taken earlier because the allegations were not investigated, Azmat said.

ALLEGATIONS APLENTY

Many residents of Gazipur city allege that they lost valuable land as the city corporation led by Zahangir "encroached" on their private property

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Decision on legal action in a day or two

Says LGRD minister on Gazipur mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The decision on whether legal steps would be taken against expelled Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) Mayor Zahangir Alam will be announced in a day or two, said Tazul Islam, the minister for local government and rural development (LGRD).

The issue is now being reviewed, he told reporters yesterday after the cabinet meeting at the secretariat.

"Legal action will be taken after scrutinising the city corporation law and we

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

JUDGE QUMRUNNAHER Her criminal judicial powers too go

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday seized the criminal judicial powers of Mosammat Qumrunnaher, former judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka.

The action was taken in connection with a case, in which she had granted bail to a rape accused despite this court's stay order on the bail.

A five-member bench of the SC's Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, delivered the order at a closed-door courtroom after hearing a petition filed by the state in 2019.

The state's petition had challenged a High Court order, which granted bail to Aslam Shikder, a former official of private TV channel ATN Bangla, in a rape case filed against him.

Qumrunnaher has been released of her judicial duties by the chief justice on November 14 this year, three days after she -- in an open court -- verbally recommended that police not register any rape case if the complainant goes to them 72 hours or longer after the incident.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Khulna city BNP President Nazrul Islam Manju is being hit by a police at a rally in front of the party's office on KD Ghosh Road in Khulna yesterday. The programme foiled by police was organised to demand that Khaleda Zia be allowed to go abroad for treatment.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DEMO OVER KHALEDA'S TREATMENT

50 hurt in clashes in 2 dists

BNP to submit memorandums to DCs today

STAR REPORT

At least 50 people were injured in clashes between BNP leaders and activists and law enforcers in Natore and Khulna yesterday during demonstrations demanding the government allow party Chairperson Khaleda Zia to go abroad for advanced treatment.

The BNP staged protests in all divisional and district headquarters as part of its countrywide demonstration programme.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at a rally in the capital announced that the party will submit memorandums to all deputy commissioner (DC) offices across the country today to press home the same demand.

At least 20 people, including cops and journalists, were injured as police and BNP men clashed in Natore



yesterday.

Another 30 were hurt in the clash in front of the BNP office in Khulna city. The clash ensued around 12:15pm when BNP leaders and activists tried to march on KD Ghosh Road, witnesses said.

BNP leaders alleged that police did not allow them to hold a rally in front of the party office and chased them away.

Moniruzzam Moni, general secretary of Khulna city BNP, said police attacked

them all of a sudden. "Police carried out attacks on us in two phases. A number of leaders and activists, including city BNP President Nazrul Islam Manju, were injured in the incident. Police also arrested several leaders and activists," he added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

মুন গ্রুপের নিষ্কণ্টক জমিসহ ২১ তলা ভবন (প্রতি ফ্লোর ২২৫০০ বর্গফুট ২০% কমন স্পেসসহ ৪৭২,৫০০ বর্গফুট ১২ বছর ব্যাংক ঋণ সুবিধাসহ করোনার কারণে প্রতি বর্গফুট ২০,০০০ হাজার টাকার স্থলে এখন ১০,০০০ টাকা দরে ৫০০ কোটি টাকায়

বিক্রয় হইবে

(অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের ঋণ পরিশোধের লক্ষ্যে)

১২টি লিফট ও এক্সেলিটর সিঁড়িসহ অত্যাধুনিক সকল সুযোগ সুবিধা সমৃদ্ধ উক্ত বাণিজ্যিক ভবনটি হাসপাতাল, মেডিকেল কলেজ, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ব্যাংক-বীমা, আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান, ফাইভ স্টার হোটেল, মার্কেট অথবা গার্মেন্টস করার জন্য এখনই উপযোগী

(মিরপুর মেইন রোডের সাথে, কল্যাণপুর বাসস্ট্যান্ড সংলগ্ন) ৬/ক, দক্ষিণ কল্যাণপুর মিরপুর রোড, ঢাকা

যোগাযোগ : ১/৫ মিজান টাওয়ার (৩য় তলা) মিরপুর রোড, কল্যাণপুর, ঢাকা। ফোন : ৮০৯১৭৮৬, ৮০৯১১৪২ মোবাইল : ০১৭১৫ ৯০৪৪৮৮