



## Arav jailed for 10 years in arms case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Rabiul Islam alias Arav Khan to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment in an arms case filed against him more than eight years ago.



Judge Murshid Ahmed of Dhaka's Special Tribunal-14 handed him the sentence, in absentia.

The judge also fined him Tk 10,000, in default of which he will have to serve three more months in jail.

In the verdict, the judge said the prosecution was able to prove the charges brought against Arav Khan beyond doubt and he was given the punishment for committing offences.

The punishment of the fugitive convict, who now lives in Dubai, will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender, the judgment said.

Expressing his satisfaction with the verdict, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu said the government had taken initiatives

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Two cycle-van drivers, on their way from Sadarghat to Mohammadpur with goods, take a break near the Abahani Club in Dhanmondi, for some water and rest as the ongoing heatwave has become almost impossible to bear.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## CITY POLLS Barishal AL split between uncle and nephew

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

AL nominated mayoral candidate Abul Khair Abdullah has formed two electioneering committees to help him garner votes in the upcoming Barishal city polls.

However, incumbent mayor and Barishal city AL General Secretary Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah, who had also been vying for the party ticket, and his followers were not included in either committee.

Sadiq's father Abul Hasnat Abdullah, on the other hand, was made the chief of one of the committees – a 31-member advisory committee.

Khair is the younger brother of Abul Hasnat, a veteran politician, president of Barishal district AL, lawmaker for Barishal-1 and also a member AL central committee.

Party insiders said that those who belong to the anti-Sadiq faction and were deprived of posts in the past few years have been included in the committees.

On May 8, Khair announced the formation of the advisory committee at a press conference held in his campaign office.

The other one – a 16-member "election conducting committee" – was formed on April 28.

Alfzalur Karim, former general secretary of Barishal city AL and an active leader of the anti-Sadiq block, has been made Khair's chief electioneering agent.

AKM Jahangir, incumbent president of Barishal city

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## GAZIPUR CITY POLLS

Azamat Ullah Khan is running for mayor in Gazipur city on Awami League ticket. His key opponent Zaida Khatun, an independent candidate, is the mother of suspended Gazipur mayor Zahangir Alam. The Daily Star's Partha Pratim Bhattacharjee and Aashiq Abdullah Apu talked to them about their aspirations and plans.

## Corruption-free, smart Gazipur top priority

**TDS:** The BNP has boycotted the election, and you are the ruling party candidate. How confident are you about winning?

**Azamat:** The 14-party alliance, all the social and cultural organisations, and the peace-loving people of Gazipur, who want to see a city corporation free of corruption got united and spontaneously supported "Boat". Insha Allah, "Boat" will win.

**TDS:** Since the BNP is not participating, do you think the election will be participatory?

**Azamat:** I disagree with the statement that the BNP is not participating. Many local BNP leaders are running for councillor posts and a member of a BNP family is running for mayor. The Jatiya Party, Gono Front, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, and Zaker party are participating. On the whole, the election will be participatory, free and credible.

**TDS:** Zahangir Alam's mother Zaida Khatun is running for mayor. Do you consider her as a strong

## It's responsibility of EC, govt to hold fair polls

**TDS:** You had not been involved in active politics. Do you think the electoral battle is going to be tough for you?

**Zaida Khatun:** I never held any post in a political party. For doing politics, it doesn't matter whether you have a party post or not. But if politics means serving the people, I have always done this. My elder brother was involved in the Awami League's politics. I have always asked my son Zahangir Alam to get involved in the Awami League's politics and serve the people.

My victory in the election will depend on what voters really want. At the same time, we as candidates want to see a free and fair election. It is the responsibility of the Election Commission and the government to ensure a credible election.

**TDS:** Do you think the battle of ballots against Azamat Ullah Khan will be an unequal contest as the entire Awami League is backing him?

**Zaida Khatun:** Azamat Ullah will not get support from all Awami League activists here. I think people's love will be reflected in the polls results. The question is not about who is getting support from the ruling party. The main question is neutrality.

## No one can break Indo-Bangla ties Says Indian home minister

THE HINDU ONLINE

India's Home Minister Amit Shah yesterday said India and Bangladesh share deep ties, with a history of intertwined culture and language, and as such, no one can undermine the good bilateral relations between the two nations.



Amit Shah

Shah was on a visit to the India-Bangladesh border at Petrapole in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of several projects of the Land Ports Authority of India and the Border Security Force (BSF).

"India shares deep ties with Bangladesh. Our culture, religion, customs and lifestyle have been intertwined for thousands of years. No one can ever break our ties with Bangladesh. India has played a key role in Bangladesh's history. The BSF has played a major role in the Liberation War of 1971," he said at the programme.

## Suitor stabs woman dead in her home Her mother, sister seriously injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A woman was stabbed to death in Gazipur city for refusing to marry her younger sister's house tutor.

Rabeya Akter, 21, daughter of Abdur Rouf of the city's South Salna area, was declared dead at Gazipur Shaheed Taj Uddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital around 8:30pm on Monday after she was taken there, said Abu Sayeed, sub-inspector of Gazipur Metropolitan Sadar Police Station.

Rabeya's mother Bilkis Begum, 45, and younger sister Khadija, 14, were also injured in the knife attack by Khadija's house tutor Saidul Islam.

Saidul, 25, is from Maheshtara village in Muktagachha upazila of Mymensingh. He lives in the same area of Gazipur city with his parents.

Quoting Rabeya's family members, the SI said that Saidul used to teach Khadija the Quran.

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AZAMAT ULLAH KHAN



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ZAIDA KHATUN

opponent? Is there any chance what happened in the 2013 election will repeat?

**Azamat:** I myself do not want to brand a candidate strong or weak. It is for the voters to consider who is strong and who is not. I respect all the mayor candidates. The situations of 2013 and 2023 are not the same.

**TDS:** What will be your first priority if you win and what is your plan for the city?

**Azamat:** A corruption-free city corporation where everyone's safety is ensured is my first priority. Civic services will be at the doorsteps of the city dwellers. Since Gazipur is an industrial hub, we will install CCTV cameras on every road for the workers' safety. We will ensure day care centres for the children of women workers. I want to make Gazipur a green city and want to reclaim its canals. I want to take steps to make Gazipur a smart city by 2041 as promised by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

It would be bad if a candidate after receiving all kinds of cooperation commits an offence. It would be unfortunate.

**TDS:** How optimistic are you about your victory?  
**Zaida Khatun:** I hope the results would be positive for me if the election is held in a free and fair manner and the people can cast their votes.

**TDS:** What could be the main challenge for you in the upcoming polls?

**Zaida Khatun:** The person who is talking about honesty publicly shouldn't get involved in dishonest activities behind the scenes. Every candidate should accept the people's verdict and it will be better for democracy.

**TDS:** What would be your priority if you are voted to Gazipur mayor?

**Zaida Khatun:** I want to complete the unfinished work of my son. My son constructed around 800km of roads in the city. No one else could carry out such development work in the last 18 years. Gazipur city will be a more livable city if the dilapidated roads can be repaired. I along with my son want to present a livable Gazipur city to the future generation.



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Our aspirational goal is to provide economic support towards building a prosperous and Smart Bangladesh. On this auspicious occasion of our 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, we extend our heartiest greetings and congratulations to all our valued customers, entrepreneurs, shareholders, patrons and well-wishers. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to serving you for many more years to come.



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