



AL MP Azim murdered in Kolkata

Home boss says all suspects Bangladeshis

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Jhenaidah-4 lawmaker Anwarul Azim Anar, who went missing in Kolkata last week, has been murdered by what the government says are some Bangladeshi men.

However, as of filing this report at 1:00am today, the body was not found.

In Dhaka, police arrested three suspects, and West Bengal police detained a taxi driver, who is an Indian national, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told reporters yesterday.

Azim travelled to Kolkata on May 12 and stayed the night at a family friend's home in Borah Nagar. The following day, he left the house, saying he was going to see a doctor. He did not return and the friend only received a couple of texts from his mobile phone that said there was no need to call him.

"Azim was murdered at a Kolkata flat. So far, we know that those involved in the killing are all Bangladeshis. It was a premeditated killing ... Indian police are cooperating with us," the home minister said, adding that the motive behind the murder was still unknown.

Azim's hometown Jhenaidah is close to the border and known for its high crime rate, he said.

In 2008, Azim was on an Interpol list of wanted individuals. Between 2000 and 2008, he stood accused in 21 cases, including three for murders. He was acquitted of the charges at different times, says his affidavit filed with the Election Commission.

WHO KILLED HIM AND WHY

Multiple sources in Bangladesh intelligence and law enforcement said Azim and a Bangladeshi-US citizen named Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman,

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- Azim's body is yet to be found
- Key suspect fled to Nepal from India
- Azim, three others entered a flat together
- West Bengal CID found blood stains in the flat
- Three Bangladeshis arrested in Dhaka

SOURCE: INTEL AGENCIES



Smoke rises from chimneys at brick kilns in Savar's Aminbazar area, polluting the air. The brick kilns around the capital contribute to air pollution which has serious health consequences. Dhaka regularly ranks among the cities with the worst air quality in the world. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Voter turnout second lowest in 16 years

Shows EC data on 2nd phase UZ polls

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The overall voter turnout in Tuesday's second phase of the upazila polls was 37.57 percent, the second lowest since 2009, according to Election Commission data.

The turnout in the first phase of the upazila polls on May 8 was low as well -- 36 percent.

During the 2009 upazila polls, 70.57 percent voters had cast their ballots. The figure dropped to 61.23 percent in 2014.

In the first phase of the elections in 78 upazilas in 2019, the turnout was 43.31 percent. In the subsequent four phases, the turnouts were 41.25 percent, 41.41

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'Narrow escape from crossfire'

BGB members show up at scene to rescue trader; primary probe finds three cops guilty

SHARIFUL ISLAM

With his hands tied, trader Abdul Basit was forced to get off a police van at Rarai village in Sylhet's Zakiganj upazila in the dead of night on September 13, 2019.

He was then asked by the then officer in charge of Zakiganj Police Station, Mir Abdun Naser, and sub-inspector Mizanur Rahman Sarkar to run away.

Just then, Basit saw a flash of light and started shouting: "Save me, save me".

Torch bearing BGB members, patrolling the border with India, rushed towards him blowing their whistles. Soon, some locals also gathered hearing the hue and cry.

This was what Basit's wife had mentioned in a complaint she lodged with the then deputy inspector general of Sylhet range a day after the incident.

"The cops had a plan to shoot Basit dead the moment he would run and stage a 'crossfire drama'," the complaint read.

Basit, a resident of Zakiganj's Khashera village, narrated an exact account of the incident to The Daily Star on January 22 this year.

Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) brought the incident to the notice of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) following media reports.

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Govt to buy 261 SUVs for DCs, UNOs

BAHARAM KHAN

Deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers are going to get 261 SUVs worth about Tk 1.46 crore each.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier this month endorsed the public administration ministry's proposal for purchasing the SUVs, said sources at the ministry and the Cabinet Division.

The process for buying these vehicles was initiated before the January 7 national election, but it was later halted

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