

Bangladeshi expat shot dead in South Africa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Criminals in South Africa's Limpopo town shot dead a Bangladeshi expatriate on Friday.

The victim is Aminul Islam Siddique, 45, of Gorail village in Bhatgram union of Mirzapur upazila, said his family.

According to family sources, Aminul migrated to South Africa about 15 years ago in search of better livelihood.

He used to run a departmental store called, "Akash Supershop", in Limpopo town, bordering Zimbabwe. On Friday night, some local criminals entered his shop and shot him in the head six times from a close range and fled. He died on the spot, said his family members.

Aminul leaves behind a son and two daughters.

Milton Siddique, his cousin, said Aminul's body will be brought to Bangladesh within a week after necessary formalities are completed.

Contacted, Rashidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station, told The Daily Star that police received no such information till now.



Aminul Islam

Hasina's stay in India is her call

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committed during the mass uprising.

Bangladesh government wrote to India seeking the extradition of Hasina, once in December last year and then after the verdict last month.

India said it would consider the request.

On the relationship between Bangladesh and India that remains strained since the ouster of Awami League government, Jaishankar emphasized on India's stance on the need for a credible democratic process in Bangladesh.

Referring to past political issues in Bangladesh, Jaishankar said, "What we heard was that people in Bangladesh, particularly those who are now in power, had an issue with how the elections were conducted earlier. Now, if the issue was the election, the first order of business would be to do a fair election."

"As far as we are concerned, we wish Bangladesh well. We think as a democratic country, any democratic country likes to see the will of the people ascertain through a democratic process," he said.

He expressed optimism for the future of the bilateral ties, stressing India's democratic preference for its neighbour.

"And I am quite confident that whatever comes out of the democratic process would have a balanced and mature view about the relationship and hopefully things would improve."

India is a well-wisher for Bangladesh, Jaishankar said.

Those who pressed for election now want to delay it

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in a different tune. This is not a good sign. They've realised that the people are prepared to show them the red card in the upcoming polls," Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman said yesterday.

He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a joint rally organised by Jamaat and seven like-minded parties in Sylhet city's Alia Madrasa field in the Chowhatta area in the afternoon.

Shafiqur said, "People had shed blood hoping that politicians might learn a lesson for their misdeeds and start afresh. However, a certain group is still following the old ways."

"They were not willing to accept reforms, were not interested in implementing the July charter, but later, forced the government to hold the referendum on the same day as elections."

The Jamaat leader said, "Some face backlash for extortion, while others enforce it with more power."

Islami Shashantantra Andolok Ameer Charmonai Pir Syed Fazlul Karim said, "A party's stance against reforms is visible. They went crazy for the elections... Now they are trying to delay the elections."

Khelafer Majlis Ameer Mamunul Haque said, "The Islamist leaders of the country shed blood, were executed, but did not bow to misdeeds. A group of Bangladeshi, backed by Western powers, is trying to impose new fascism on us after we overthrew a fascist party. We will not accept any neo-fascists in the country."

Among others, Nizam-e-Islam Ameer Sarwar Kamal Azizi, Khelafat Andolok Ameer Habibullah Mijabi, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (Jagpa) Vice-President Rashed Pradhan, and Bangladesh Development Party President Anwarul Islam Chan also spoke at the rally.



Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman addresses a joint rally organised by Jamaat and seven like-minded parties in Sylhet city's Alia Madrasa ground in the Chowhatta area yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Seat-sharing snub riles BNP allies

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the second round too, BNP has fielded candidates for seats that should have been set aside for the allies," he said, adding that a place of distrust, doubt and uncertainty had now emerged.

In Jhalakathi-1, BNP leader Rafiqul Islam Jamal was nominated, though Bangladesh Labour Party Chairman Mostafizur Rahman Iran has been campaigning there.

In response, Iran announced that the Labour Party would cut its ties with BNP, saying, "BNP is going back on its words and dreaming of returning to power alone by excluding its partners."

Fariduzzaman Farhad, coordinator of the Jatiyatabdhi Samamona Jote, had been campaigning for the Narail-2 seat, where BNP has fielded its own candidate.

"This is the character of BNP. When they're in trouble, they need everyone. And when they think they'll come to power, they forget their allies," said Farhad, who contested with BNP's Afendi in the 2018 polls.

BNP insiders said Pirojpur-1 might be kept for the 12 party alliance, where Jatiya Party (Kazi Zafar) Chairman Mustafa Jamal Haider is an aspirant.

BNP Standing Committee member Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain said, "Discussions are underway with partners regarding the seats that have been left vacant. Whether these seats will be given to the allies will be decided and announced later. I still don't know who is expressing anger over the seat-sharing issue."

Earlier on November 3, BNP released a preliminary list of candidates for 237 constituencies. A day later, the ticket for Madaripur-1 was suspended. Then on December 4, it announced candidates for 36 constituencies.

In total, the party has now

announced candidates for 272 constituencies. The remaining 28 constituencies will be announced in due course," said party secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

15 SEATS OPEN

BNP has yet to finalise its picks in 28 constituencies, and senior leaders say at least 15 of them are being kept aside for alliance partners.

Nilphamari-1 is among the vacant ones, where BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's nephew Shahrin Islam Tuhin and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Secretary General Monzurul Islam Afendi are both seeking nominations.

Party sources said the final decision will be made after discussions with allies.

In Bogura-2, Nagarik Oikya Chairman Mahmudur Rahman Manna will run as an alliance candidate. Similarly, BNP withheld nominating its own candidate in Patuakhali-3, where Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur intends to contest.

BNP also kept Jhenaidah-2 and -4 vacant.

In Jhenaidah-2, both Gono Odhikar Parishad General Secretary Rashed Khan and the district BNP president are lobbying for the nomination. Party sources said the BNP nominee may eventually be moved to Jhenaidah-4.

Dhaka-13 has been kept for Nationalist Democratic Movement Chairman Bobby Hajaj, while Dhaka-17 remains open for Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andaleeb Rahman Partho.

No candidates were announced for Bagerhat-1, 2 and 3, and Gazipur-1, due to pending constituency boundary-related legal issues at the appellate division.

Other constituencies being considered for allies

include Narayanganj-4, Sylhet-5, Lakshmpur-1 and -4, Chattogram-14, Brahmanbaria-2 and Mymensingh-10.

Two strong contenders for Brahmanbaria-2 are BNP leader Rumeen Farhana and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam leader Junayed Al Habib.

In Brahmanbaria-6, Ganoshamhi Andolan nominated its Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki, while the Liberal Democratic Party named its Secretary General Redwan Ahmed for Cumilla-7.

13 SEATS UNDECIDED

BNP withheld nominations in at least six seats due to fears that selecting one candidate could spark clashes among rival factions.

The strongest rivalries were reported in Lalmonirhat-2, Jhenaidah-1, Jhenaidah-4, Narsingdi-3 and Chattogram-11.

The party also held back nominations in Nilphamari-2, Pabna-1 and Mymensingh-10 due to a shortage of strong contenders.

BNP FIELDS CANDIDATES IN NCP ASPIRANTS' SEATS

Many insiders said that though there is discussion of forming an alliance with the National Citizen Party, BNP has already fielded candidates in seats where NCP has also announced aspirants.

BNP named MA Kaiyum for Dhaka-11, while NCP Convenor Nahid Islam is campaigning for the same seat.

It also announced Emdadul Haque Bharsha for Rangpur-4, while NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossain may run there.

The party announced the aspirants for Dhaka-9, Dhaka-18, Dhaka-14 and Cumilla-4, from where NCP leaders Tasnim Jara, Nasiruddin Patwari and Ariful Islam Adeeb are expected to run respectively.

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