

Journo Anis Alamgir taken to DB custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Anis Alamgir was taken into custody by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch yesterday evening.



DB Chief Shafiqul Islam confirmed the development to The Daily Star, saying they would question him over some matters.

Further details would be provided later, he added.

Anis was picked up from a gym in Dhanmondi in the evening and taken to the DB office on Minto Road around 7:30pm, according to sources.

Anis has worked at several media outlets, including print and electronic media. In recent times, he has drawn attention for his active presence on television talk shows.



Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, noted economist and intellectual Prof Rehman Sobhan and political scientist Navine Murshid speaking at the “The Global History of Liberation War”, organised by The Daily Star yesterday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Jamaat’s spin on intellectual killings in ‘71

The party blames India for the massacre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar has claimed that it was India who carried out the conspiracy to kill the country’s intellectuals during the Liberation War.

He said the murders of intellectuals were “part of a well-planned plot by the Indian army and Indian intelligence agencies.”

Porwar made the remarks at a discussion organised by the party’s Dhaka north unit at the Krishibid Institution auditorium, marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday.

He also claimed that Indian forces had already taken control of Dhaka by December 14, while Pakistan soldiers, Razakars, and Al-Badr members were busy saving their own lives rather than searching for people to kill.

“Those from outside the political arena who manipulate and create new political narratives for Bangladesh – the Delhi loyalists of this country – have conventionally and contemptibly tried to place all the responsibility for the killings of intellectuals on Jamaat-e-Islami.”

Referring to an interview of Pakistan General Rao Farman Ali, Porwar said the general had stated that the Pakistan army wanted to surrender on December 14.

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Clamp down now, ensure security

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said it would heighten security and provide police protocol to party leaders, July uprising frontliners, and potential candidates.

“Under the protocol, clear guidelines will be given on how security will be ensured at houses and offices of political leaders and potential candidates in the upcoming election and during their movement and public rallies and in cyberspace,” the Chief Adviser’s Press Wing said in a statement.

Initiatives have also been taken to provide enhanced security to frontline leaders of the July uprising and other key political figures, it added.

Separately, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Additional Commissioner (Crime and Operations) SN Nazrul Islam yesterday said the police were working on security arrangements for high-profile individuals like Hadi who face specific threats.

Briefing journalists at the DMP Media Centre, he said the police would provide personal security to those assessed to face high threat levels. However, he stressed that arranging individual security for everyone would not be possible.

Since Friday’s assassination attempt on Hadi, a frontliner in the July uprising that toppled Sheikh Hasina, leaders of the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and National Citizen Party have been voicing concerns over safety and security at different public programmes.

Talking to reporters at Martyred Intellectuals’ Memorial in Mirpur yesterday morning, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said incidents like the shooting of Hadi could repeat, as “enemies of Bangladesh” are resorting to targeted killings to destabilise the country, reports UNB.

“When Bangladesh is moving towards a new chapter, and when the

people of Bangladesh are dreaming of building a democratic country through a fair election, at that very time its enemies have once again indulged in a killing spree,” he added.

Jamaat’s Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar echoed his view while speaking at a programme marking the Martyred Intellectuals’ Day, organised by Dhaka north city unit of the party at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

“For some time now, a section of journalists and so-called civil society members, acting as Delhi’s loyalists, have been writing and speaking on talk shows in a way that suggests there will be no election unless the Awami League participates. Under the pretext of ensuring an inclusive election, they are trying to bring the Awami League into the polls,” he said.

NCP Convener Nahid Islam said fear is palpable among the public as the election draws near.

Talking to reporters at the Rayerbazar Martyred Intellectuals’ Graveyard in the capital, he said vested quarters are out to derail the polls.

About the attack on Hadi, he said attempts are underway to erase the legacy of the July uprising and “target its heroes”.

He also called for a national unity, saying, “We must not give the fascist Awami League the chance to break our unity.”

EC-LAW ENFORCERS MEET

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret’d) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah said the message from the EC is very clear: there are no concerns about the election, and it will be held on time.

“The commission is aware of the obstacles being created to disrupt the electoral process, and so is the government.”

Sanaullah said the meeting discussed in detail the “covert attack”

on Hadi.

He added that attempts had been made to set fire to two field offices of the EC, and the commission is not dismissing the possibility of further covert attacks.

“A unified message has come from all the forces. Whoever tries to sabotage, obstruct, or damage this election will fail. Wherever firmness is required, all forces will demonstrate that firmness.”

He noted that the EC is satisfied with the actions taken so far by law enforcement agencies, though there are areas where more work can be done.

He said discussions also covered whether the covert attacks were part of a larger plan or isolated incidents, whether law enforcement could have acted at the planning stage, and whether there were failures in apprehending those who carried out the attacks.

The election commissioner stressed that law enforcement agencies are active on the ground, investigating the nature of the incidents, and that effective measures will be taken to prevent such attacks in the future.

“Particular attention was given to the country’s border regions, including the southeast and areas with Rohingya settlements, where certain recent trends have been observed. It was suggested that law enforcers see whether they are linked to larger events.”

Home Secretary Nasimul Gani; Lt Gen SM Kamrul Hasan, principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division; Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam; BGB Director General Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui; Ansar and VDP Director General Maj Gen Abdul Moteleb Sajjad Mahmud; and DMP Commissioner Sheikh Md Sajjat Ali attended the meeting.

PRIME SUSPECT’S WIFE, BROTHER-IN-LAW HELD

Meanwhile, Rab detained three people during separate raids conducted in different parts of Dhaka and Narayanganj over the last 24 hours.

The detainees are Faisal’s wife Samia, his friend Monika, and his brother-in-law Shipu, Wing Commander MZM Enthehab Chowdhury of the Rab Media Wing told The Daily Star last night.

A large number of cheque books bearing Faisal’s signature, along with several electronic devices, were recovered from the arrestees, he added.

The Rab official said Faisal had been in contact with all three before and after the shooting, adding that Faisal stayed with his wife in Narayanganj on the night before the incident and left for Dhaka at dawn, where he went to his friend Monika’s residence.

Rab also arrested Abdul Hannan, 40, the registered owner of the motorcycle used by the assailants. The motorcycle has been seized for fingerprint analysis.

Later in the day, a Dhaka court placed Hannan on a three-day remand.

At the court, Hannan said he bought the motorcycle from Mirpur, but it remained unused at home, adding that he later sold it but could not complete the ownership transfer because he was ill.

The DB picked up two more people from Savar and took them into custody.

A DB officer said the two had links

Reform commission chiefs frustrated

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In at least ten ordinances with which he was directly involved, resistance initially came from the bureaucracy, said Ittekkharuzzaman, also the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

“Only after pressure, persuasion and firm decisions did these reforms move forward. Most draft laws were not shared publicly. Only under pressure were they uploaded to websites for a short period. Civil society never knew which recommendations were finally accepted or rejected.”

He further criticised a later amendment to the National Human Rights Commission law that reintroduced bureaucratic dominance in the selection committee.

Badiul Alam Majumder, head of the Election Reform Commission, expressed dissatisfaction with the implementation of his commission’s proposals.

“Many reform proposals were made to clean up the political arena, but most were not implemented.”

He said that his commission clearly proposed internal democracy within political parties.

“Party leaders should be elected from the grassroots level to the national level. Wealthy individuals should be kept away from party leadership. Political parties should come under the Right to Information Act.”

None of these proposals was adopted.

Although laws require political parties to form nomination panels based on grassroots opinions and to avoid maintaining affiliated organisations, these requirements are not being implemented, he said.

“Unfortunately, these legal provisions exist only on paper.”

The commission’s proposals for unconditional verification of candidate affidavits, measures against loan defaulters, habitual defaulters, unchecked election expenditure and enhanced accountability mechanisms have also been ignored, Badiul added.

Reforms take time and cannot be achieved overnight, said Shipping Adviser M Sakhawat Hussain.

He went on to express disappointment with the Election Commission.

“I am disappointed that many reform proposals have not been implemented. For example, the ‘no vote’ option was rejected. I think the Election Commission has an allergy to this suggestion.”

While no government can fulfil all expectations, some key reforms could have been implemented through routine office orders of the Election Commission.

“The commission can ensure candidates submit expense accounts through routine orders. We have done this before, but many of our proposed restrictions were dropped,” said Sakhawat, also adviser for the Labour and Employment and Jute and Textile ministries.

‘Anti-Bangladesh activities from India must stop’

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sentences already handed down by Bangladesh’s judicial authorities.

Additionally, Bangladesh sought India’s cooperation in preventing suspects involved in the recent attempted assassination of independent Dhaka-8 aspirant Sharif Osman Hadi from fleeing to India. It urged New Delhi to ensure their immediate arrest and extradition should they enter Indian territory.

Emphasising regional responsibility, the ministry said that as a neighbouring country, India is

expected to stand with the people of Bangladesh in upholding justice and protecting democratic processes.

Responding to the concerns, High Commissioner Verma said India looks forward to peaceful and inclusive elections in Bangladesh and reaffirmed New Delhi’s readiness to extend all necessary cooperation in this regard.

In a separate statement, India’s external affairs ministry categorically rejected the assertions made by the interim government in its press note. “We have consistently reiterated

have not been implemented,” he said.

Successful reforms depend not only on good proposals but also on proper implementation under an accountable government, said Rehman Sobhan, chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Historical experience shows many reforms fail due to weak implementation rather than poor laws or bad intentions.

Sobhan praised the CPD’s new reform tracking platform, calling it a sophisticated tool to monitor proposals from inception through implementation.

“The platform alone is not enough. Civil society must actively monitor and hold both the government and parliament accountable for reform progress.”

He urged building a broad coalition within civil society, working closely with the media and other stakeholders to ensure reforms are implemented effectively.

“This is a deeply political act and demonstrates that civil society can move beyond dialogue to take real responsibility for governance and democracy,” he said.

The current debate stems from Bangladesh’s experience of democratic decline, said CPD Distinguished Fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya.

An alliance of politicians, bureaucrats and large businesses had weakened competitive politics, creating a non-competitive economy, crony capitalism and an oligarchic system where policy-making independence was lost.

“Reform is not just about plans or enthusiasm. Citizens must remain consciously involved if reforms are to be implemented,” said Debapriya, also the convener of Citizens Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.

EC adds ICT charge-based

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the Political Parties and Candidates’ Code of Conduct 2025 for parliamentary elections, election campaigning may be conducted from three weeks before polling until 48 hours before the start of voting, the letter said.

On Thursday, the EC issued another circular following the announcement of the election schedule and the referendum. It included a gazette notification of the twin votes, the appointment of returning officers and assistant returning officers, and other election-related matters.

The circular cited candidate qualifications and disqualifications as laid out in Article 66 of the Constitution and Article 12 of the Representation of the People Order, 1972.

However, it did not mention Section 20(C) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973. This provision was added through an ordinance issued in October.

“We expect that the interim government of Bangladesh will take all necessary measures for ensuring internal law and order, including for the purpose of holding peaceful elections.”