



HADI MURDER

Charge sheet within 10 days

Says home adviser; cops admit suspects fled to India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators expect to submit the charge sheet in the murder case of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi, a frontline fighter of the July uprising, within the next 10 days, likely by January 7, Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after a law and order core committee meeting at the Secretariat, the adviser said the probe is now in its final stage.

He noted that progress has been made based on information obtained from arrestees, witness statements, and a comprehensive assessment of recovered evidence.

"The interim government is determined to ensure justice," the adviser said, adding that police, BGB, Rab, and other intelligence agencies

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Leaders and activists of Inqilab Moncho blocked the Shahbagh intersection for the third consecutive day yesterday, demanding justice for slain leader Sharif Osman Bin Hadi.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Inqilab Moncho vows to continue movement

Its blockade halts traffic in cities

STAR REPORT

Leaders and activists of Inqilab Moncho blocked the Shahbagh intersection in Dhaka yesterday afternoon as part of their "all-out blockade" programme in divisional cities, including Chattogram, Cumilla, Barishal, Rajshahi, Khulna, and Sylhet, demanding justice for slain leader Sharif Osman Bin Hadi.

The blockade at Shahbagh began at 2:00pm. However, by around 11:00am, a number of protesters already took positions on adjacent roads, chanting slogans seeking justice for Hadi.

The protesters occupied the Shahbagh intersection from Friday and continued their sit-in overnight amid the cold weather.

They left the area early yesterday after Abdullah Al Jaber, member secretary of the platform, announced an expanded blockade programme in divisional cities.

Demonstrators returned ahead of the scheduled time to take part in yesterday's programme. They said they would continue their protest until justice is ensured.

"Statements from the administration are nothing but eyewash. They are trying to buy time. The

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Six on remand over Keraniganj madrasa blast

Police claim suspects are supporters of banned JMJB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested six people and filed a case over the recovery of chemicals, explosives, and bomb-making materials from Ummal Qura International Madrasa in Keraniganj following an explosion there on Friday morning.

The prime accused, Sheikh Al Amin, 32, a director of the madrasa who was previously arrested on terror charges, is still at large.

Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam of South Keraniganj Police Station filed the case under the Anti-Terrorism Act against seven named individuals. Six to seven unidentified persons were also accused.

Besides Al Amin, the others named in the case are Shahin, alias Abu Bakar, alias Musa, alias Diba Sultan, 32; Aminur, alias Darji Amin, 50; Shafiar Rahman Fakir, 36; Asiya Begum, 28; Yasmin Akter, 21; and Asmani Khatun, alias Asma, 32.

All six were arrested from different parts of the capital and other areas between Friday and yesterday.

The explosion occurred at the madrasa in the Hasnabad Housing area around 10:25am on Friday, causing severe damage to the madrasa building and nearby establishments.

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SECONDARY-LEVEL STUDENTS

A new year without full set of books for many

STATUS OF TEXTBOOK PRINTING (as of Dec 26)		
Grade	Books Required	Completion (in %)
Class 6	4.43cr	80%
Class 7	4.16cr	56%
Class 8	4.02cr	40%
Class 9 & 10	5.55cr	82%

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

With the new academic year just two days away, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has yet to distribute more than 40 percent of the 21.43 crore textbooks for secondary-level students, leaving many to begin classes without a full set of books.

As of December 27, the NCTB, responsible for overseeing the printing and distribution of textbooks, has delivered around 59 percent of the books to schools across the country. It has so far managed to print nearly two-thirds of the secondary-level textbooks, with tender cancellations and weak

monitoring delaying the process.

Eighth-grade students are likely to be the worst affected, with only 21.5 percent of their textbooks dispatched. The figure stands at 37 percent for Class 7. Students in both classes are supposed to receive a set of 12 textbooks each, according to NCTB officials.

Some officials said these students may not receive all their books by January unless the printing process is brought under stricter oversight.

Students of Class 6 and 9 are comparatively better off, as the NCTB has so far distributed around 70 percent and 72 percent of their textbooks respectively.

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MYANMAR POLLS

Weak turnout seen in phased election

Junta touts stability

REUTERS

Under the shadow of civil war and questions over the election's credibility, the initial round of Myanmar's phased general election closed yesterday, with signs of low voter turnout for the first polls since a military coup in 2021.

The junta, having crushed pro-democracy protests after the coup and sparked a nationwide rebellion, said the three-phase vote would bring political stability to the impoverished Southeast Asian nation, despite international condemnation of the exercise.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

Dense fog hampers river, road transport

Mercury to dip further, says met office

STAR REPORT

River and road communications in different parts of the country were severely disrupted due to dense fog amid the ongoing cold spell yesterday. Nikli upazila in Kishoreganj recorded 9.8 degrees Celsius yesterday, the lowest temperature of the season so far, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

"The temperature will drop further in the next few days," said Aktaruzzaman Faruk, an official of the Met Office. A BMD bulletin issued at 9:00am yesterday said moderate to thick fog may occur at places across the country from Monday midnight till morning and may continue until noon.

"Air navigation, inland river transport and road communication may be temporarily disrupted due to thick fog," it added.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) directed the suspension of waterway transport operations yesterday evening.

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পূর্বাচল

প্রবাসী পল্লী

প্রবাসী ও স্বদেশীদের স্বপ্নের আবাস...

প্রবাসী (NRB) ও স্বদেশীদের বিনিয়োগে বাংলাদেশের বৃহৎ আবাসন প্রকল্প

■ রাজউক পূর্বাচল ৩০০ ফিট রাস্তার শেষ প্রান্তে ■ জাইকা অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চলের বিপরীতে

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প্রবাসী ও স্বদেশীদের জন্য

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কম্পিউটার অফিস ১-আবদুল টিকাদার, (ডেজেন-১২), ২৮ ও ৩০ কলোন আডাল্ট এডমিটি, বারনি, ঢাকা-১২১৩।
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Dhaka rejects Delhi's remarks on minorities

STAR REPORT

Dhaka has rejected the recent remarks made by the spokesperson of India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) regarding the situation of minority communities in Bangladesh.

At the same time, the Bangladesh government urged various quarters in India to refrain from spreading misleading narratives on minority issues.

On Friday, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "The unremitting hostility against minorities in Bangladesh, including Hindus, Christians and Buddhists at the hands of extremists, is a matter of grave concern."

"Over 2,900 incidents of violence against minorities, including cases of killings, arsons, and land grabs, have been documented by independent sources during the tenure of the interim government. These incidents

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

Brigitte Bardot dies at 91

AFP, Paris

French movie star and animal rights

activist Brigitte Bardot has died at age 91, her foundation said yesterday.

She died in her Saint-Tropez home, La Madrague, on the French Riviera.

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