

Tale of a tokai-turned terrorist at DU

By Abul Kalam Azad

He started negotiating with economics of existence at the tender age of seven. When for a favourably disposed child of his age the toughest challenge of life is getting up early to go to school, he began his quest for a life secured enough to ensure two meals a day and a place to sleep.

Ten years ago, he landed on the Dhaka University campus in search of a job. Now, Mizan is in the bad books of police, at least 20 cases, including murder and kidnapping, lodged against him. Life is secured - he has the backing of an influential leader of the ruling Awami League - not quite the one he may have had contemplated.

Born in a poor family of Chandpur, Mizan's first job on the campus was at the British Council. Several months later came the big break. He got the job of a waiter at the canteen of Salimullah Muslim Hall of the

university. The owner of the canteen, being a resident of Chandpur, was kind enough to help him grab the job as an attendant of the dining hall. It was the beginning of an end to innocence for Mizan.

The year 1996 was the turning point. Early that year, a terrorist group of the then opposition-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League led by Shamim Ahmed stormed into the hall of residence and took over control and the unholy nexus began.

Teenaged Mizan was at the beck and call of Shamim and his men, doing their regular chores like washing clothes, buying cigarettes, so on and so forth. Meanwhile, Pichchi Shamim, as he is popularly known, grew in power, capturing Zahurul Haq, Sir AF Rahman, Mohsin and Surya Sen halls one after another. Mizan proved his worth to the BCL ac-

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tivists more than an ordinary handyman.

One day, he was assigned to hide locally manufactured rifle during a police raid. From that day onward, there was no looking back. Mizan started taking part different heinous terrorist activities - gunfights, toll collection and what not.

In no time, he became one of the confidantes of Shamim and put in charge of the Zahurul Haq Hall in 1997. Since then he has occupied Room 208. While bona fide students grumble, the hall administration remains oblivious.

He is now a front-line terrorists under the BCL fold, masterminding a wide range of anti-social activities, dealing in phensydil being one of them.

There are several cases of murder and kidnapping filed against him with Lalbagh and Ramna police stations, including the killing of Ashike Goala, a tempo driver who was murdered six months back.

The Detective Branch made an abortive attempt Thursday night to nab him from Zahurul Haq Hall. He fled after an exchange of fire with the DB men. He fired at least four round of bullets at the DB men. Police is yet to trace him.

Meanwhile, DU authorities have formed a three-member probe body to investigate into the incident of Zahurul Haq Hall and asked it to submit the report within 10 days.

Mizan is not the only tokai-turned-terrorist on the campus. There are more. Yateem Rashid is one of them. Rashid, who stayed at a hall of residence before being ousted by Mizan.

Tonai Molla, another non-student terrorist of BCL, was stabbed to death by his rivals in early 1998. He used to be the canteen boy of Shahidullah Hall.

It is an open secret now that terrorists use employees at canteen and dining rooms to hide their firearms during police raids.