

The enterprising daytime burglar!

25yr-old 'involved in 100+ thefts' held

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In 2013, at the age of 18, Md Sumon had plans to start a small business. But fascination with Indian TV crime anthology series "Crime Patrol" took him down an entirely different path.

By the time he has turned 25, Sumon been involved in over 100 burglaries, leads a gang of 19 youths, and has served jail time on multiple occasions, police claimed to have found after his arrest on February 18.

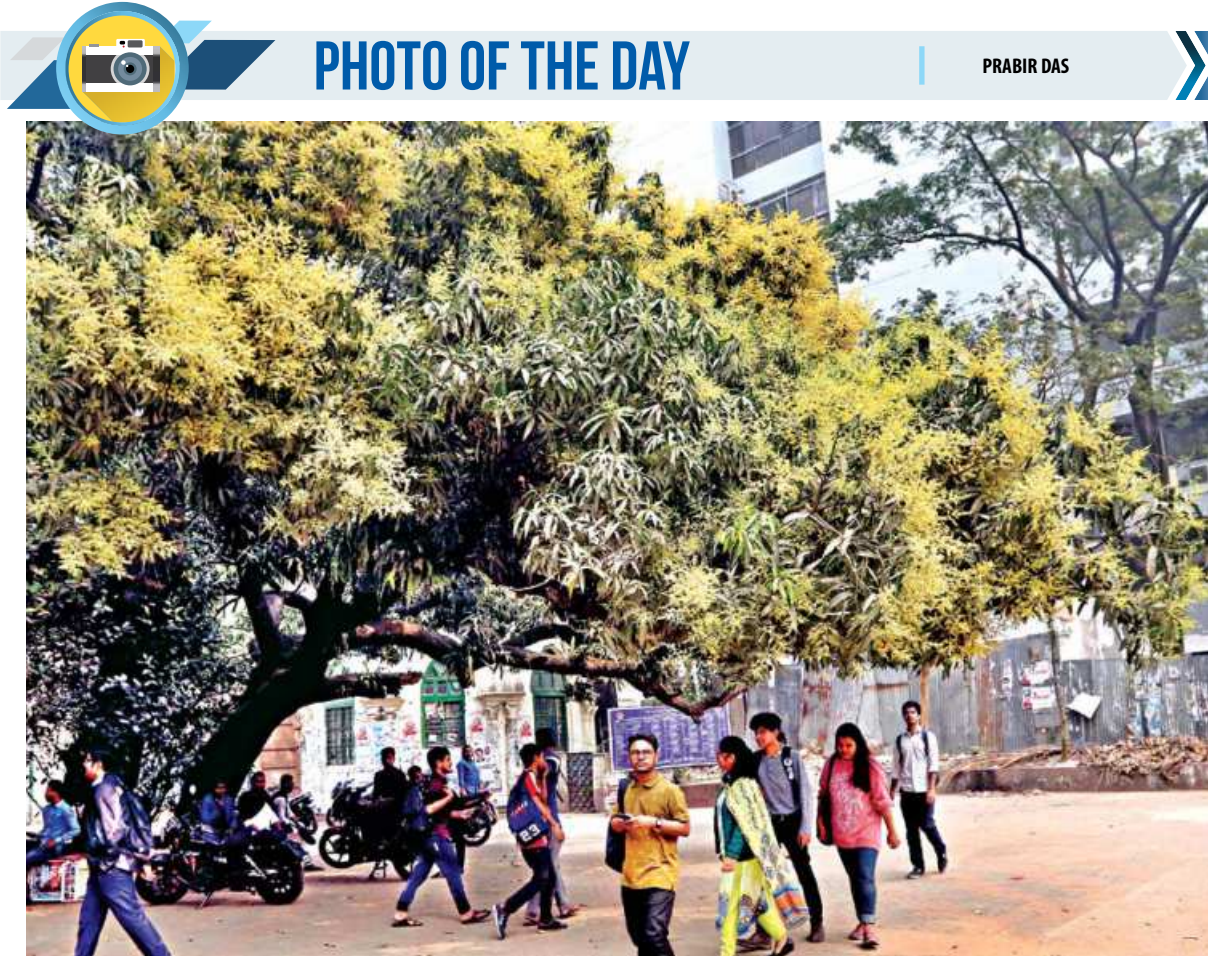
Sumon was accused in 13 cases filed with different police stations in the capital, and was sent to jail for several times, but returned to his old ways each time after getting bail. Kazi Sahan Hoque, officer-in-charge of Cantonment Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday. He last got out on bail in December last year, said the OC.

Sumon was arrested following a case filed with Cantonment Police Station, after he had stolen Tk 5.65 lakh and 10 tola gold from a house in Manikdi on February 17, between 8:30am and 10:30am, said Sudip Chakrabarty, deputy commissioner of Gulshan Division police.

Police made the arrest after spotting him in a close-circuit television camera, said Sudip.

Law enforcers later searched his house, and recovered a 7.6-bore pistol, a magazine, one round bullet, 300 grammes of cannabis, Tk 3.80 lakh, three knives, two screwdrivers, 22 keys, three wallets, gold ornaments, wrenches, flashlights and hammers.

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As the weather gets warmer, the king of fruits starts signalling its arrival. Mango buds are blooming on the trees, adding colour to the city. This photo was taken at Madhur Canteen on Dhaka University campus recently.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

PRABIR DAS

Steps to be taken to send household workers: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday said the government has reached a consensus with Malaysia over reopening its labour market for Bangladeshi workers soon.

"We have agreed to a point that we have to open the market very soon," he told reporters at his ministry office.

He made the comments after a meeting with visiting Malaysian Human Resources Minister M Kulasegaran.

Imran Ahmad said besides sending workers for various job categories, the government will take additional measures for sending household workers to the Southeast Asian country.

Talking to the media, Kulasegaran said his country is in need of foreign workers. "We want workers from Bangladesh," said Kulasegaran.

Malaysia suspended hiring of Bangladeshi migrant workers in September 2018 over allegations of malpractices in labour recruitment and high recruitment cost.

Earlier in the day, Kulasegaran met Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Momen expressed optimism that Malaysia would reopen its labour market soon as discussions are going on between the two countries, reports UNB.

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Keeping indigenous culture alive through literature

Writers seek increased efforts from Bangla Academy



Visitors gather at Thokbirim's stall at Suhrawardy Udyan, learning more about indigenous literature and culture.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

MATHEWS CHIRAN

They say, this land has been my home for thousands of years
The hills, the forests, the rivers and the streams

My existence has been interweaved with all of them for long, and I call this land my "mother".

As she is benevolent, she embraced me as her child to live on the land for thousands of years.

This is how the first verse of a poem, titled "Ami Udbastu Hote Chaina" (I don't want to be a refugee), on Garo people living in Modhupur district begins. Throughout this piece, poet Theophil Nokrek penned down Garo people's love for their motherland and the sorrowful events that they have had to endure.

The book is available at Thokbirim (stall-68) at the little mag corner in Suhrawardy Udyan.

"This book has 46 poems and most of them are written on Garo people. Besides, several issues like extremism are also in the poems," said Theophil Nokrek, also a researcher on indigenous people.

"There are nearly two lakh Garo people

in Bangladesh and only 15 indigenous writers were published this year. This can't be enough. Bangla Academy has the responsibility to patronise indigenous writers and publishers so that respect for all languages is restored," he added.

Like him, there are a handful of indigenous writers who are trying to keep their culture alive through literature and stepping forward to spread it among the Bangali people who rarely get to experience indigenous traditions.

Another writer, Shohel Chandra Hajang wrote a book on indigenous rights titled "Adibasider Odhikar O Attoporichoy", which was also published by Thokbirim.

"Indigenous rights are a part of human rights. To establish the rights of our community, we have to keep writing," said Hajang, who is also an indigenous rights activist.

Regarding the indigenous writers, he said, "There are new authors who are trying to write more on our culture. However, they do not have a specific platform for promoting their work."

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TAQI MURDER CASE 26 noted citizens seek PM's intervention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-six eminent personalities yesterday sought Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention to immediately hold trial of the murder of Tanwir Muhammad Taqi.

Charges of the murder case have not been pressed, although it will be seven years of the murder on March 6.

"We seek proper direction and intervention of the PM to initiate the trial process immediately after submission of the charge sheet," they said in a statement issued yesterday.

Language veteran Ahmad Rafiq, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, cultural personalities Sanjida Khatun and Kamal Lohani, and litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque are among the signatories.

Seventeen-year-old Taqi went missing after he had left home for a library in Narayanganj on March 6, 2013. His body was found floating in the river Shitalakkhya on March 8.

The day Taqi went missing, his father Rafiur Rabbi filed a general diary with Narayanganj Kotwali Police Station. He filed a murder case with the same police station on the day the body was found.

The murder had triggered huge public outcry. His A-level results were out the next day and he emerged as the highest scorer in the world in physics obtaining 297 out of 300 marks.

In chemistry, he got 294 out of 300, the highest score to be obtained in the subject by anyone in the country. He was a student of ABC International School.

KILLINGS ON BANGLADESH-INDIA BORDER Govt's role to blame, says Anu Muhammad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Noted economist Prof Anu Muhammad yesterday said killings on Bangladesh-India border have not stopped because of the Bangladesh government's role.

"Indian border forces are killing people after entering Bangladesh... Not only Bangladeshi people, Indian people are also involved with it. The border killings do not stop because of the role of the Bangladesh government," he said while speaking at a discussion organised by magazine Sarbajan Katha.

Titled "Friendship of Barbed Wire Fence: Bangladesh-India Relationship", it was held at the RC Majumder auditorium of Dhaka university.

"People are being killed along the border, but the Bangladesh government is saying they have been murdered for smuggling. Who gave them the right to shoot people even if they were involved in smuggling?" he added.

Anu Muhammad said "Nepal is economically weaker than Bangladesh. Yet they are protesting India's intervention.

There is no such protest in Bangladesh. That is why the government should be ashamed. The government has no role to play except for supporting what India says."

Dhaka University's International Relations teachers Abdul Mannan and Tanzimuddin Khan jointly presented a slideshow on border killings at the programme.

Prof Tanzimuddin Khan said almost 95 percent of Bangladesh-India border is fenced, and now India has introduced smart fencing -- something it has only with Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.

He further said the government claims that Bangladesh and India enjoy friendly relations, but the situation at the borders tell a different story.

Indian border forces killed at least 15 Bangladeshis along the border in January, according to the rights organisations and media reports.

DU accounting department teacher Moshahida Sultana Ritu, and writer-researcher Altaf Parvez also addressed the programme.

Mosquito population to multiply in 15 days

Says latest DGHS report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mosquito population density in Dhaka city will multiply within 15 days, as a change of seasons is creating suitable environment for their breeding, researchers said yesterday.

In its latest survey, a team of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) also found presence of Aedes mosquitoes in 12 percent wards of Dhaka South City Corporation and in 10 percent wards of Dhaka North City Corporation.

Prof AK Azad, director general of DGHS, published the survey at his office.

They found the density of Culex mosquito larvae to be 200 in every 500ml water in different parts of the city, he said.

Culex mosquito accounts for 95 percent

of the population while five percent are Aedes mosquitoes, according to researchers.

"As temperature has started rising from mid-February, this is high time for mosquito breeding. Existing larva will grow to maturity in the next 15 days. The situation would turn dire, unless larvicide is not sprayed," said Kabirul Bashar, lead researcher of the team and a professor of Jahangirnagar University.

Prof AK Azad said, "The situation has slightly improved. There was no post-monsoon survey in 2018. Mosquito presence is lower than in 2017 -- in terms of mosquito presence, risky zones, etc."

Stressing the need to destroy mosquito breeding grounds, he said, "If there is no accumulated water, there will be no larvae. Only spraying larvicide will bring no effect unless citizens are not aware."

RAPE OF DU STUDENT DB asked to submit probe report by Mar 16

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Detective Branch (DB) of police to submit the probe report of a case filed over the rape of a Dhaka University student by March 16.

Metropolitan Magistrate Begum Yasmin Ara passed the order as Abu Siddique, DB inspector and investigation officer of the case, failed to submit a probe report by yesterday.

On January 5 this year, a student of Dhaka University was sexually assaulted near Kurmitola bus stop.

The incident took place as she was walking to a friend's house in nearby Sheora area after getting off a university bus.

After regaining consciousness, the victim managed to make it to her friend's house in Sheora. She was later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

On the following day, the victim's father filed a case with Cantonment Police Station, accusing unknown people in this regard.

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Angelina Jolie lauds Bangladesh's generosity to Rohingya refugees

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

American actress, filmmaker, and humanitarian Angelina Jolie has lauded Bangladesh for the generosity and leadership it has demonstrated in sheltering the Rohingyas.

She appreciated the government for ensuring safety and security of the refugees, who came to Bangladesh after fleeing atrocities in their home country of Myanmar.

Jolie, also special envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said this in a letter she wrote to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The UNHCR will continue its efforts to engage with Myanmar in creating suitable conditions for the sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas, she said in the letter.

The UN special envoy expressed hope that Bangladesh's initiatives will help secure more funding for the 2020 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, to be launched in March this year.

Jolie also promised to continue her advocacy for the humanitarian response for Rohingyas and expressed gratefulness to the Bangladeshi people for their support.

She visited the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar last February in her capacity as UNHCR Special Envoy.



CID presses charges against Khalid Bhuiyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday pressed charges against expelled Jubo League Dhaka South Organising Secretary Khalid Mahmud Bhuiyan and five others in connection with a money laundering case.

The other accused are his two brothers Masud Mahmud Bhuiyan and Hassan Mahmud Bhuiyan, his accomplices Harunur Rashid, Shahdad Hossain Uzzal and Mohammad Ullah Khan.

Of them, Khalid and Mohammad Ullah are now in jail while the rest are on the run.

CID Inspector Mohammad Ibrahim, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against them to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The IO appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against the four as they were shown fugitives in the charge sheet.

In the charge sheet, the IO said Khalid had travelled to different countries several times without endorsing foreign currencies

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Ongoing development work has left the road in front of Motijheel's Metlife Alico building in shambles. Though this may be necessary, the work has been going on for too long a time -- around 2-3 months. Inset, locals have become so accustomed to it that they've started parking their vehicles inside the sewage pipes left lying in the area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN