

## LIBYA KILLINGS

## Two human traffickers on seven-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has placed two members of a human trafficking gang on a seven-day remand each in a case filed over the trafficking of 26 Bangladeshis who were killed in Libya on May 28.

The accused are: Monir Hossain (35) and Selim Sikder (36), both from Palong area in Shariatpur district. A team of Detective Branch (DB) of Police of Gulshan division arrested two listed human traffickers Monir Hossain and Selim Sikder from the capital's Jatrabari area on August 6.

Metropolitan Magistrate Satyabrata Sikder passed the order after Detective Branch (DB) of Police Inspector Mohammad Mohsin -- also the investigation officer (IO) of the case -- produced them before his court on Thursday with a seven-day remand prayer.

On June 6, Josna Begum of Patuakhali filed the case with Motijheel Police Station against 27 people including the two arrested and 10 to 12 unnamed people for their alleged involvement in trafficking her son Jasim Mridha to Libya in 2019.

No lawyers appeared before the court to defend the accused human traffickers.

According to prosecution, Josna alleged that the accused, in association with the other accused, took Tk 4.20 lakh promising to send her son Jasim Mridha to Libya as a construction worker.

Upon their demand, she gave them the money and they sent her son to Libya. But she alleged the accused used to torture her son for more money and showed her the video.

On top of this, she did not get any information about her son since May 28, the case statement said.

Monir, who was a construction worker in Libya, tempted people from Shariatpur, Madaripur, Feni and Tangail, police sources said.

They used to charge Tk 4-5 lakh from each person. They also operated torture cells in Libya, said DB Deputy Commissioner of Gulshan Division Moshir Rahman.



This couple was spotted returning to Dhaka from Tangail yesterday on a motorcycle, with their infant secured to the father's body with a scarf, in an attempt to stay safer on the roads. The photo was taken at Chandra area in Gazipur.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Lack of

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or punishment, besides departmental actions, to ensure justice and sufficient compensation.

It also demanded to ensure safety of victims and their family members and asked for creating a favourable environment so that they can seek and receive legal remedy.

On August 9, 2019, the UN Committee Against Torture came up with 77 recommendations on 20 issues, said the statement.

HRFB is a platform of 20 of the country's leading human rights and development organisations including Ain O Shalish Kendra, Transparency International Bangladesh, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Acid Survivors Foundation, Association for Land Reform and Development, Bangladesh Adibashi Forum, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Nijera Kori, and Nagorik Uddyog.

The demands come in the wake of protests surrounding Maj (retired) Sinha's murder in Teknaf and the subsequent arrest of two Stamford University students by police.

## Protesters question

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against him by the police.

"That is why I participated at the rally demanding his release. But the police have branded us as miscreants," he said.

Witnesses said, even the OC himself charged batons on the protesters.

Sifat's grandfather Ayub Ali Hawladar, who is a local BNP leader, also took part in the programme. Police have threatened him as well.

"What police did today was not right at all," Ayub Ali, also a former chairman of Banna Union, said.

This correspondent attempted to reach Barguna Superintendent of Police Maruf Hossain multiple times but he did not receive phone calls.

Major (Retd) Sinha, who used to make travel videos, went to Cox's Bazar for filming with Stamford students Shipra, Sifat and Tahsin Rifat Nur. Sinha was shot dead by police at a checkpoint on July 31.

Police charged both Sifat and Shipra with possession of drugs while Sifat was also charged for murder. Rifat was

handed over to his parents.

## PROTEST IN DHAKA

Calls for the students' release is getting louder as different organisations and individuals including noted filmmakers and students and teachers of Stamford University are raising their voices demanding the release of the two young film students.

At a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, organised by Chhatra Adhikar Parishad's private university committee, the student leaders heavily criticised the police.

"One is down, sir...another captured -- what kind of language is this from our policemen? Is this why we pay taxes for their salaries?" asked Tarek Rahman, a joint convener of the platform.

He said there should be equity and justice prevailing in a country like Bangladesh which was liberated through a bloody war.

They said the prime witness of Sinha's murder case, Sifat, to whom the state should provide security, is locked

up in jail after police accused him of murder and drug possession.

Muhammad Rashed Khan, another leader of the student platform, said the extra-judicial killings by police are all state-sponsored.

"Such OC like Pradeep is not only at Teknaf... everywhere, from Teknaf to Tetulia, there are officers like OC Pradeep who have been involved with extrajudicial killings. The state has made them so," Rashed said.

Criticising police's role, he said those who kill people indiscriminately law cannot be supported.

Meanwhile terming the cases "fictional", students of Stamford University held a rally in front of their Siddheshwari Campus yesterday. They demanded unconditional release of their fellow students.

Besides, directors Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, Dipankar Dipon, Wahid Ibn Reza, and actor Jaya Ahsan also demanded release of the young filmmakers using social media platforms.

## Govt to form 'Delta Fund' for long-term integrated master plan

UNB, Dhaka

The government is going to form a special fund, "Bangladesh Delta Fund", for implementing its long-term integrated master plan, "Delta Plan 2100", to harness the huge potentials of Bangladesh through water resource management, ensuring food and water security and tackling disasters.

According to an official document obtained by the news agency, it would require implementation of a good number of new projects apart from development and maintenance of the existing infrastructures for accomplishing the Delta Plan 2100.

"To make that happen, a special fund, 'Bangladesh Delta Fund', will be constituted," the document says.

To implement the Delta Plan, a 2.5 percent of the Gross National Income (GNI) will be required till 2030. Currently, the expenditure in this

sector is only 0.80-1.0 percent, shows the document.

Under the plan, 80 projects have been proposed for implementation within 2030. Of the projects, 65 are related to physical infrastructures while 15 to institutional capability, skill development and research, involving Tk 2,978 billion (around USD 37 billion).

The implementation of these projects, the document mentions, will start in different years.

The National Economic Council approved the "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100" in September 2018, to be implemented over the next 100 years, aiming to raise the GDP growth to 9 percent by 2030.

According to the document, various types of natural calamities like flood, hightide, drought, cyclone and riverbank erosion are the close companions of Bangladesh due to its

geographical position.

In the Delta Plan, there are three higher level of national goals and six specific goals.

The higher-level goals are: eliminating extreme poverty by 2030, elevation to upper-medium income country by 2030 and becoming a developed one by 2041.

The specific goals are: ensuring protection from the devastation of floods and climate change, water safety and attaining more skills in water use, building an integrated and sustainable riverine area and estuary management, preservation of wetlands and ecology and ensuring their proper utilisation, building effective organisation and justified good governance for ensuring intra- and inter-countries water resources, and ensuring optimum level of integrated use of land and water resources.



City corporation workers remove sludge from drains on the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, with no safety gear. The lack of protective covering exposes them to harmful pathogens and toxic fumes, which may lead to severe health complications. This photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## A time to

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"There are families that still didn't get government support and neither could we reach them due to lack of finances," he said, describing their challenges.

Pramee Khisa, belonging to the Chakma community, is a second-year student at Dhaka University. She started working under the platform "Sabuj Kham" -- initiated on April 23 by Chakma, Marma and Tripura youths.

According to her, the platform's team visited several villages of three different districts -- Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari. So far, they have distributed food to 640 families, and provided sanitary napkins and soap to 150 women.

Their funding was crowdsourced: many youths who could not join the fieldwork donated.

"When we went to a village of Rangamati, we saw lots of rotten papayas in a field. They couldn't sell those as the nearby bazaar was closed and movement was restricted," she said while describing the villagers' situation.

Aktar Uddin, country coordinator of United Nations Volunteers, Bangladesh, said, "Volunteering is ingrained in indigenous communities, especially in youths. During this pandemic, when people are suffering, this spirit prompted hundreds of indigenous youths to support their communities using innovative ways, despite the health

risks."

"In most cases, these youngsters serve as first responders during a crisis. The current pandemic again proved how important youth volunteering is. Their contribution needs to be recognised to motivate them," he said.

Today is International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. According to UN, researchers have linked pandemics to environmental damage, and the knowledge these communities possess is invaluable to prevent such future events. With this year's theme "Covid-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience", the day aims to enlighten all about how essential such communities are for protecting the environment.

## TO-LET

ACCORD CERTIFIED Garments Factory will be rented on monthly basis, Plot No.: 80, Tenguri, Zirany Bazar (Adjacent to BKSP) Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka., space 35,000 (Thirty Five Thousand) Sft. MOBILE: 01711-521082, 01731402705

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## 14 Tabligh

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Indian police arrested them at the end of March for violation of the Foreigners Act, visa rules and Covid-19 lockdown rules, according to our New Delhi correspondent.

They were sent to central jail in Uttar Pradesh of India after their arrest, said the immigration police, adding that a court of the state later sentenced them to 40 days' jail term.

The decision to return them was taken following discussion between high officials of the two countries after their jail term ended.

## SC chamber

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and disposing of cases for five days every week since July 19.

On August 6, the chief justice decided to run both regular and virtual proceedings of the High Court from this week for the interest of lawyers and litigants.

He took the decision at a full court meeting with the judges from both the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the SC.

The lawyers, who are interested, will move cases before the HC benches physically, while others will move cases before virtual HC benches.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project  
Workshop Bhaban (Level-3), Agargaon  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.0000.954.07.029.2019.512  
Date: 06/08/2020

**e-Tender Notice (3rd Call) (1st Corrigendum)**  
**Tender Notice No. 13/2019-2020**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal System (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works. Details are given below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID & name of the project	Description of works	Tender last selling (time & date)		Tender closing & opening (time & date)	
			Previous	Corrected	Previous	Corrected
1.	479007 EMCRP	Construction of 11 Nos. New School-cum-Disaster Shelter Building (Steel Frame) under Ukha & Teknaf Upazila, District: Cox's Bazar, Package No. EMCRP/W-11	11.00am 10-Aug-20	11.00am 17-Aug-20	03.00pm 10-Aug-20	03.00pm 17-Aug-20

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for the e-GP downloading e-Tender documents from National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 17 August, 2020 up to 11.00am.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD-1234