

**'PLEASE, TAKE US BACK'**  
Stranded Indians plead  
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# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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**BANGLADESH UPDATE** 2,595 New cases in 24hrs | 2,79,144 Total cases | 3,694 Deaths | 1,60,591 Recoveries | **GLOBAL UPDATE** 775,226 Deaths | 21,941,841 Total cases

## WITNESSES TO SINHA KILLING Cops out to use them as pawns

*Villagers allege intimidation*

ZYMA ISLAM with MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Nestled between hills on one side and the sea on the other, Marishbunia village in Teknaf's Baharchhara union is pure beauty. Babbling brooks, mossy arched bridges and hibiscus shrubs in full bloom -- this was the last location where Maj (ret'd) Sinha Rashed Md Khan was filming before he was killed in police firing on July 31.

But for such an idyllic location, the atmosphere in Marishbunia is unnerving. All the witnesses named in the case, filed against the slain ex-army major by police, are from this village, and the inhabitants have been between a rock and a hard place since early this month.

While the investigation officer in the Sinha murder case against nine policemen arrested three inhabitants of the village, listed as witnesses in the police case against Sinha, police have tried to use the villagers as pawns and rattle them into silence.

The locals allege that the village is under intensive surveillance. Several villagers, all interviewed separately, claimed that vehicles of different law enforcement agencies have been making daily rounds of the village.

Yesterday, these two correspondents encountered a black-tinted windowed Hi-Ace microbus -- the vehicle of choice for many a law enforcement agency -- zipping through the village streets around 11:30am. Villagers walking down the streets stopped to stare as the van crossed them.

Over the last two days, whenever the correspondents visited the village, they entered crowded tea shops to ask questions but people quickly slunk away.

This fear goes back to the day when the witnesses were picked up by plainclothes men, and the Teknaf police retaliated by harassing their families.

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Two-year-old Humayra has fever, cough, and a blood disease. Her mother stood behind at least 50 people in a queue, inset, to get her tested for Covid-19 at the capital's Muga Medical College and Hospital yesterday. She had to wait two hours in the heat to give samples. The number of people getting tested at the hospital has been visibly increasing since the Eid. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## BFIU orders freeze of NRB Global Bank ex-MD's accounts

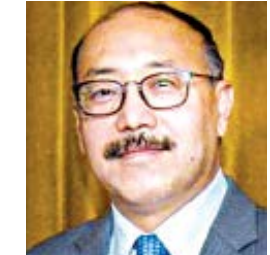
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has recently directed the commercial banks to freeze the accounts of 83 people, including former NRB Global Bank managing director Proshanta Kumar Halder, his mother, and brother.

The BFIU issued the directive after its investigation found that Tk 3,000 crore was transferred into their accounts which was suspicious.

While holding the post of the managing director of Reliance Finance, a non-banking financial institution, Proshanta Kumar Halder, also known as PK Halder, had made his relatives directors of three other leasing companies -- Peoples Leasing and Financial Services, International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL) and FAS Finance and Investment Limited -- for swindling money, said sources at the Anti-Corruption Commission.

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## Indian foreign secy likely to arrive today

UNB, Dhaka

Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla is likely to arrive in Dhaka today on a brief visit aiming to boost ties between the two neighbouring countries, an informed source said.

It could not be known what is the purpose of the visit. However, a diplomatic source indicates that the Indian foreign secretary is likely to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, among others, and discuss ways to strengthen the bond between the two countries.

Shringla will also convey

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## CHAKARIA 'CROSSFIRE' VICTIMS Expatriate killed 'for money'

*Alleges family; mistaken identity feared to have led to killing of another one*

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

The eldest son of a Bangladeshi expatriate in Oman, Md Jafar used to run a human haulier to support his family in Chattogram's Patiya.

While his fight against poverty continued, he got a chance to make it to the Arab country and change his fate, which he did. Toiling more than nine years abroad, he finally managed to make his family solvent.

But little did Jafar know what laid ahead.

In the early hours of July 31, just a day before Eid-ul-Azha, the 37-year-old was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Cox's Bazar's Chakaria area. Locals insist he was innocent but according to the police version, he was a yaba peddler.

Two other persons -- Md Hasan, 37, of Chattogram's Patiya municipality area



Md Jafar

and Jahir Ahmed, 45, of Shantinagar area of Chakaria -- were also killed in the same "crossfire", which has raised some doubts and questions on police's role in the incident.

After the "shootout", family members alleged policemen picked up Jafar, who came to Bangladesh on March 12 to visit his family, from his home in Patiya.

Later, the law enforcers "murdered him in cold blood, failing to extort Tk 50 lakh" from them.

On Sunday, they filed a case with the judicial magistrate's court in Patiya accusing Chakaria police station's Officer-in-Charge Habibur Rahman and Inspector Aminul Islam, also in-charge of Harbang police outpost in Cox's Bazar, of the murder. Nine people, including a local union parishad member, were named as witnesses in the case.

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## SHAHED'S LOAN SCAM ACC grills him over loan from Farmers Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday interrogated Regent Hospital Chairman Mohammad Shahed in connection with a case filed against him for misappropriating about Tk 2.71 crore from now-defunct Farmers Bank.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Mohammad Sabujahan Meraz interrogated Shahed for about five hours at the commission's Segunbagicha headquarters.

Earlier, the ACC filed a petition with Dhaka's Senior Special Judge's Court to allow the commission to interrogate Shahed. The court, presided by Judge KM Emrul Kayesh, allowed the ACC to interrogate him on a seven-day remand.

On July 27, Meraz filed a case against Shahed for misappropriating about Tk 2.71 crore loan from Farmers' Bank.

Shahed, who is now in jail, came to the limelight after he was found involved in issuing fake Covid-19 certificates following a raid by Rab on Regent Hospital. He went into hiding and was later arrested by Rab from Sathkhira.

"We've gleaned information regarding misappropriation. For the sake of proper

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## I will sue everyone, I swear

*Vows Shipra in video message as her 'seized' personal and 'doctored' photos make rounds in social media*

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Stamford University student Shipra Debnath, also a crew member of slain Maj (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan, has promised to file cases under the Digital Security Act against police officials and others who made her life miserable by circulating her private photos on social media.

In a video statement yesterday, she sought justice for the killing of Sinha and the attempts made to assassinate her and her colleague Shahadul Islam Sefat's characters.

After Sinha's murder on the night of July 31, she alleged, police went to their resort and seized both their laptops, three hard drives, mobile phones, monitor, desktop, camera, and lenses.

"But those were not in the seizure list. Now I don't know how to get those back," she said.

"I have been noticing for the last several days that some of my personal photos were posted on social media by tailoring and editing those in Photoshop to create a different meaning.

"Stealing photos from our social media profiles and [seized] devices, some officers with perverted minds shared those on Facebook and other social media platforms. Fake Facebook and Instagram IDs were created in my name," Shipra said.

"The people who have made my personal life miserable by sharing photos and making videos, I will take proper action against each of them under the Digital Security Act. I swear..." said the 25-year-old student.

Shipra was accused in a narcotics case following the killing of Sinha. She along with two other students of her university and Sinha went to Cox's



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People throng Patenga beach in Chattogram yesterday after the authorities opened the tourist spot after keeping it closed for months due to the pandemic. Many stuck in homes for weeks and months decided to go to the beach in the afternoon and some stayed there well after sunset.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Khaleda may not be back in active politics anytime soon

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

BNP leaders and activists are keen to see party Chairperson Khaleda Zia actively involved in politics again, but their desire is not likely to be met anytime soon.

The former prime minister, now out of jail for six months under a government order, remains inactive in politics mainly because of her illness.

Besides, the BNP also fears repercussions from the government for any such move by her.

Khaleda was freed from jail on March 25 after the government had suspended her jail sentence in a corruption case for six months as per section 401 of Criminal Code of Procedure.

But the order did not make it clear whether she can do politics actively. Party leaders fear the government may send her back behind bars if she becomes active in politics.

The BNP chief did not

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## CASES AGAINST KHALEDA SC keeps 4 of them stayed

*Another court sets Oct 6 for her to show up*

STAR REPORT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court's orders that stayed the trial proceedings against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in four separate vandalism and arson cases filed in 2015.

The apex court, however, asked the HC to hear and dispose of the rules issued in connection with the cases. It asked Attorney General Mahbubey Alam to take necessary steps for the HC hearing on the rules.

Another Dhaka court yesterday set October 6 for the appearance of Khaleda before it in 11 cases lodged against her following a time plea from the defence.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, came up with the orders after virtually hearing four separate petitions filed by the state seeking stay on the HC's orders.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Deputy Attorney General Bishwajit Debnath appeared for the state while Barrister AM Mahub Uddin Khokon and Barrister Bodruddoza Badal represented Khaleda Zia during the virtual proceedings.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Badal said that the HC stay orders on the trial proceedings of Khaleda Zia will remain in force following the apex court's order.

The HC will hold a hearing on the rules for their



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