

# 50 criminals

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sentenced to death in a case in absentia.

Shahidur, an associate of 'Galkata' Kamal, had led an almost unhindered life for over 20 years before Kolkata police arrested him Tuesday.

Shahidur operated a travel agency, married twice and owns a house in Kolkata. He used to help Bangladeshi criminals who fled to Kolkata.

Shuvro established links with the Indian intelligence agency through his close friend Tanvir Islam Joy who has strong connections with the central government as well as the agency. Shuvro was arrested twice but released both the times for reasons unknown.

Joy deals in fruits and frequents many places, including Bhutan and Bangkok.

During the Awami League rule, Joy swindled many, posing as the son of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina and was arrested on charge of deceit.

Born to a well-off family in Savar, Joy, a US green-card holder, has been living in Kolkata for about a year. He married twice. His second wife is an Englishwoman.

On his return from a recent visit to Kolkata, a political activist told The Daily Star that a Kolkata businessman named Manotosh played the leading role in giving shelters to criminals from Dhaka.

He is popularly known as "Manotosh Da" among Bangladeshi criminals.

In the past, lawmaker Auranga also stayed in Kolkata for a decade undisturbed. He built a strong underworld network there.

# 2 schoolboys hurt in cracker explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two students of Dhaka Pre-cadet & High School were injured in a cracker blast inside school premises at Tejaon during the early hours of yesterday.

The victims were identified as Shahadat Hossain Shahin, 14, and Imran Hossain Rochi, 13, students of class nine and eight respectively.

Police said, the two boys were injured in the process of making crackers on the second floor of the school premises at 2:15am yesterday.

Fellow students rescued them and sent them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Of the two, Rochi was in critical condition.

Later, the Principal of the school filed a case and police arrested both the students yesterday.

# Cops nabbed for 'snatching' gold chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Naryanganj police arrested two constables on Wednesday night for snatching a gold chain and detaining two youths to realise money.

Constables Kuddus and Shahjahan of the district police line were arrested from the traffic police mess at Shayestha Khan Road in the town. The gold chain was also recovered, Narayanganj thana police said yesterday.

The arrested constables were in their custody when the report was filed yesterday evening.

The constables picked up Mohsin and Kazi Tushar from Galachipra area in the town and took them to the traffic police mess. There, they snatched one gold chain from Mohsin and demanded Tk five thousand from them. They freed Tushar to bring the money and held Mohsin, threatening them of filing of a case under the Arms Act for non-payment.

Getting out, Tushar complained to Narayanganj thana. Police went to the mess, arrested the two constables, recovered the gold chain and freed Mohsin.

A case has been filed with Narayanganj thana against the constables under the Speedy Trial Act police said.

# Another death

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ters and a son, helped the army recover a pistol and four rounds of bullet immediately after his arrest.

He also told the army that he had more illegal arms in his possession, they added.

Tasu's death pushes the number of casualty linked with the countrywide clampdown on criminals to 26 since it began on October 17.

Meanwhile, the troops arrested 11 people near the Haji camp for suspected involvement in pilfering luggage at Za International Airport in the early hours of yesterday.

Our correspondent reports that the army arrested six people and seized 19 firearms from different parts of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

On Wednesday, the troops picked up Ahmad Khalil, president of the north Pahartali ward of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and Hasan Jahan Arzoo, general secretary of the Hathazari upazila unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), at an iftar party at Fatehabad on Wednesday.

Later, acting on Arzoo's confession, the troops nabbed Fateyabud union Jubo Dal President Mohammad Idris Wednesday midnight and seized one country-made pistol and one revolver hidden at a brick kiln nearby.

The army also arrested Asif Ahmad Bakul, allegedly an arms smuggler, at Chandgaon and Monir, an accused in multiple criminal cases, at Lakhna Bazar in the city on Wednesday midnight.

In Cox's Bazar, the troops seized 12 firearms and arrested one Nurul Alam.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports that the army arrested a notorious criminal at Kashiapur area of Fatullah and recovered four automatic firearms along with ammunition.

The army also arrested the suspected ringleader of a criminal gang based at the now-closed Adamjee Jute Mills, while trying to bribe officials at an army camp Thursday noon.

The troops also arrested six listed criminals.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reports that the army caught six criminals and seized three guns in a raid at Hasinpur village in Dighinala upazila.

In Khulna, the joint forces arrested 13 people Wednesday night, our correspondent said.

# Inventory report of closed AJM to be finalised by Dec 15

BSS, Dhaka

The inventory report of the closed Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) will be finalised by December 15 and eight thousand non-Bengali people who are residing in the AJM compound will be shifted to elsewhere very soon.

The decisions were taken in a high powered meeting of the Advisory Committee of the closed mills here yesterday with Jute Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikrom in the chair.

State Minister for Industry Prof M Rejaul Karim who is a convener of golden handshake process of the AJM workers and employees, chairman of the Privatisation Board Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Former Minister Zahiruddin Khan, Jute Secretary A F M Sarwar Kamal, secretary of the Disaster Management and Relief Mozaharul Hoq and Acting Chairman of BJMC joined the meeting.

# Buriganga

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ended at 4 pm. It would resume tomorrow (Saturday).

Yesterday also, the demolition team was equipped with a bulldozer from the Rajuk, seven tugboats and barges. It was accompanied by scores of policemen and a magistrate of the Narayanganj district administration. Army personnel kept a close watch on the drive.

# Liaquat, Arman on remand

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his men with valuable news. At the moment, however, we do not want to disclose his name simply because it may alert quite a few other members of the same group. We are now trying to ascertain the nature and importance of the news that the subject passed onto Ziauddin and his friends." Das also added that the contact persons of this entire group have been identified. "Some of them stay in the posh Banani locality in Dhaka," he informed. "We feel that the ring will be busted within the next one week."

In Kolkata, however, the police are maintaining a tight hush-hush over the arrests and the raids that they are conducting. Yesterday they conducted a raid in a hotel situated in the New Market area in Central Kolkata in search of three "suspects". However, the raid was not successful, as the suspects had left the hotel on Wednesday night. A few more raids are expected at three hotels in South Kolkata and in suburban parts of the city.

Meanwhile, Liaquat Hussain and Arman Khan were yesterday (November 20) remanded to judicial custody till December 5. They were produced at around 3.30 p.m. in the afternoon in the chief metropolitan judicial magistrate's court, with Justice S.C. Mishra hearing the case. Both Liaquat and Arman had to plead for themselves, as they did not have any lawyer representation. Liaquat said, "It's a conspiracy against us, as we are politically affiliated with a party in Bangladesh. When we were arrested we were not carrying any arms." The public prosecutor informed the judge that the police

needed some more time to file a chargesheet against the two. The judge after the hearing sent the two men to 14 days of judicial custody. This decision was a bit surprising because criminals charged under the anti-terror act are sent to police custody and not judicial custody.

When the judge asked the public prosecutor whether any other offence had been committed by the two other than illegal possession of arms, the PP replied in the negative. More surprising was the presence of Jayanta Gupta in the court.

I was his residence that Liaquat and Arman had rented at 188 Garia Gardens. The police had been telling the media for the last couple of days that they were desperately looking for Gupta, as it would help them in solving some tricky problems. They had also stated that Gupta had been absconding. However, Gupta candidly stated that he had not run away. "I have come here for humanitarian reasons. A relative of Liaquat is still staying in my residence. She is unwell and I am looking after her." The police or the public prosecutor never informed the court that the two arrested were Bangladeshi nationals. A police officer said, "We have kept the passports of Liaquat and Arman with us, but we have not seized them."

A section of the media reported that Arman Khan was originally a Pakistani national who had come over to Dhaka in 1994. He still had an uncle working for the army in Pakistan. However, Home Secretary Amit Kiran Deb completely quashed the report. "We do not have any proof of the two being involved in acts of terror. The notion of

Arman being a Pakistani is also bogus. I do not know how such rumours are spreading. The case is still in the investigating stage and until we have concrete proof of their being involved with terrorist organizations, we cannot mark them as terrorists." This incidentally is a rare instance when a high official like the home secretary of a state has spoken on the arrests of two foreign nationals. In the court, there were many Bangladeshis who openly stated that they were being harassed since they had allegiance to one particular political party in their country. Most of them had entered West Bengal before the army operations to arrest criminals in Bangladesh begun.

Meanwhile, the deputy high commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata, Tauhid Hussain, is yet to get a feedback from the Indian foreign ministry regarding his request to send back Liaquat and Arman to Bangladesh. The police also failed to give any clear answer as to whether these two will be sent back to Bangladesh or not. In fact top police officers of the state are trying to maintain as much secrecy as possible over the issue. On Wednesday, during the briefing to the media they had not mentioned the arrest of Syed Hussain. Hussain, believed to be a rival of Liaquat, has 20 cases pending against him in Bangladesh. His name is ninth on the list of criminals that the Bangladesh government had sent to its Indian counterpart.

# Legal cover for poachers

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Gulshan, Uttara, Fakirpool and Old Dhaka sell jungle birds.

There are some points like Elephant Road, Moghbazar, Bangla Motor, Tongi, New Market and Thatari Bazaar where water birds are sold mainly for consumption.

The bird population is declining fast for a cluster of reasons - habitat destruction, hunting and illegal trade in wildlife.

Although the Wildlife Act, 1973 bans such activities, none complies with the law, said the experts.

Last Monday, many pet shops were found selling a wide variety of wild birds in the Katabon-Elephant Road area.

At least ten pet shops had spotted dove, rose ringed parakeet, alexandrine parakeet, blossom-headed parakeet, red munia, green munia, black-headed munia, white-throated munia, hilly mayna and some finches.

Although they are not bred in cage, some species like koel, lovebird, pigeon are bred in cage and known as

cage-birds.

The prices of birds vary depending on colour and habit. Ahilly mayna sells at Tk 1,000 to 4,000, a parakeet at Tk 150 to 300 and a pair of munias at Tk 50 to 250.

Besides birds, some wild animals like squirrel, langur, rhesus monkey and mongoose are up for sale.

At Thatari Bazaar, a pair of spotted doves was priced at Tk 150.

Wayside traders at Elephant Road sell wild duck, egret, pond heron, darter and some other waterfowls - mostly in the evening.

In winter, the trading goes high due to the presence of migratory birds. Hunters net the birds in the haors of Sylhet and Sunamganj, said a trader.

A pair of ducks is priced at as much as Tk 1,200 and a pair of egrets or pond herons or darters sells at up to Tk 1,000.

According to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Bangladesh, at least 42 bird species are endangered, some critically, in the country. And for the illegal trade, the

situation is getting more critical for wild birds.

In the last century, at least six species of birds have totally disappeared from the country, including king vulture, Bengal Florican, pink-headed duck and nakta. And the pink-headed duck does not exist in the world now.

Experts say the confinement and consumption of a large number of home and migratory birds every year upset the wildlife cycle.

Shirina Khatun, additional director (wildlife) of the forest department, admitted to the wildlife trading. The department will launch a drive against the traders soon, she assured.

Syed Kazi Jaker Hossain, a wild life expert, said the regulations would greatly damage the wildlife.

With the trade getting a legal cover, the traders will catch birds at will, he cautioned.

"The Wildlife Advisory Board, which has existed for years, did not hold even one meeting in ten years," he said.

# 30 cases shifted

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According to the provisions of the ordinance, cases filed with the tribunals for speedy trial must be disposed of within 135 days from filing of the cases. The cases shall go to the previous courts if not disposed of within the specified date and the judges have to be accountable for their failure.

Six judges were appointed on November 13 through a government notification following the permission of the Chief Justice. A few clauses of the tribunal for speedy trial have also been amended.

The six tribunals, situated in six divisional cities, will try five cases each.

The judges are Shahed Nuruddin for Dhaka, Abdus Samad for Khulna, Shah A Alam Chowdhury for Sylhet, Abdul Quddus Mia for Barisal, A F M Aminul Islam for Rajshahi and Hasan Imam for Chittagong.

According to the home ministry notification, the Sutrapur thana case no-46(9) 2000 and 52(8) 2000, Fulpur thana case no-29(10) 2002 (arms case), Gouripur thana case no-16(11) 2002 (arms case) and 18(18) 2002 will be tried in the tribunal of Dhaka.

The Chittagong speedy tribunal will try the Baizid Bostami thana case no-13(11) 2002, Sarail thana case no-15(10) 2002, Kotwali thana case no-42(11) 2001, Ramgati thana case no-17(10) 2002 and Laxmipur thana case no-15(9) 2002.

The transferred cases to the

Khulna tribunal are Fakirhat thana case no-19(10) 2002, Bagerhat thana case no-28(10) 2002, Kolaroa thana case no-11(10) 2002, Satkhira thana case no-18(11) 2002 and the Ashashuni thana case no-10(10) 2002.

The Rajshahi Tribunal will try Kotwali (Rangpur) thana case no-76(10) 2002, 77(10) 2002 and 87(10) 2002, Pirgachha thana case no-20(10) 2002 and 21(10) 2002.

The cases transferred to the speedy trial tribunal in Sylhet include case number 5(10) 02 of Jamalganj thana under Section 19(a) of Arms Act, case number 17(10) 02 of Jagannathpur thana under Section 22(c) of Narcotics Control Act, case number 16(10) 02 of Chhakat thana under Section 19(a) of Arms Act, case number 08(10) 02 of Tahirpur thana under Section 19(a) of Arms Act and case number 10(05) 02 of Jagannathpur thana under Section 302 of penal code.

The cases transferred to the speedy trial tribunal in Barisal include case number 09(10) 02 of Babuganj thana under Section 19(a) of Arms Act, case number 52(10) 02 of Kotwali thana under Section 19(a) and 19(f) of the Arms Act, case number 36(10) 02 of Kotwali thana under Section 19(a) and 19(f) of the Arms Act, case number 13(10) 02 of Projpur thana under Section 19(a) of Arms Act, case number 05(11) 02 of Barguna thana under Section 19(f) of Arms Act.

# JS debates mosques

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each of the 300 constituencies.

"Before 1987-88 only Tk. 20,000 to 25,000 was allocated against each constituency, and later on the allocation was raised to Tk. 50,000. In 2001 we raised the amount by Tk. 10,000 and this year we enhanced the amount to Tk. 90,000," Shahjahan added.

At the request of the minister BNP lawmaker Amzad Hossain Sarkar later withdrew the resolution.

AL MP Shamsur Rahman Sharif lamented that the government backed out from serving a religious cause just to save a small amount of money. He added that allocation of Tk. 3 lakh to each constituency would have cost the government only Tk. 9 crore a year.

Earlier, BNP MPs Akhtaruzzaman Mia, Abul Kalam Azad, Giasuddin Selim, AL MPs Shahjahan Khan, Shamsur Rahman Sharif, Jatiya Party lawmaker Golam Habib Dulal and Jamaat MP Mia Golam Parwar spoke briefly supporting the resolution.

Sarkar's resolution apart, Jatiya Sangsad yesterday did not accept two other private members' resolutions one on setting up of a branch of Shishu Academy at Laksham in Comilla and

the other one on setting up of hatcheries under public sector in each of the upazillas.

Earlier, once the day's question-answer session was over, the Speaker took up the bills brought by private members.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar sent two private members' bills to the parliamentary standing committee on the private members' bills and resolutions for scrutiny. One of the bills on controlling the dresses of private security forces was piloted by BNP lawmaker Md. Rustam Ali Farazi, while the other one on amendment of industrial relations ordinance was put forward by Jatiya Party MP GM Kader.

Though AL lawmakers brought 34 separate notices disapproving a presidential ordinance on speedy trial tribunal and it was there in the day's agenda, the Chair adjourned the session till 1:15 pm on Sunday dropping that last agenda for the day.

Both the Leader of the House Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, and the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina skipped yesterday's parliamentary proceedings.

# Promotion logjam

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There are 376 vacancies of deputy secretary and about 2,000 senior assistant secretaries have qualified for promotion to the post.

The SSB comprises the cabinet secretary, the controller and auditor general, the principal secretary to the prime minister and secretaries of finance, law, establishment and home ministries.

The board divided on promotion of the officials of 1982 to 1991 batches, the sources said.

Some members favoured promotion of additional officials, arguing that promotion of only 376 out of 2,000 may anger the rest.

By contrast, some argued that the board has no authority to promote any official outside vacancies.

Due to controversy and refusal by the Prime Minister's Office, the SSB finally postponed the meeting indefinitely.

The government set a criterion to pick skilled and competent officials with brilliant academic and service background and fixed for eligibility a minimum of 85 marks out of 100 is divided into 55 for ACR, 25 for educational qualification and 20 for discipline and transparency - a criterion that has ignored seniority.

Some 800 senior assistant secretaries have achieved upwards of 85

marks to qualify for the promotion. Recently, officials were promoted to joint secretary on the basis of marks.

Officials said the top bureaucrats, now members of the SSB, did not hesitate to select for promotion the officials who outnumbered vacancies. The incumbent principal secretary to the prime minister, for instance, was made additional secretary along with many others outnumbering the vacant posts.

Most junior officials blamed the promotional backlog on the so-called CSP (Civil Service of Pakistan) bureaucrats who "mislead every government and conspire to deprive juniors of promotion".

The issue of promotion turned more complex, as the 1991 batch officers led by an assistant private secretary (APS) to the prime minister mounted pressure on top bureaucrats to include them in the promotion list.

The stalemate in promotion has been accentuated by the pressure of the APS of 1991, who want to outpace those who joined office in 1982. It is alleged that the APS of 1991 became more influential after the BNP's assumption of power.

The sources said the senior assistant secretaries who will be left out of contention, are likely to go to court.

# Dhaka in the dark

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detained nine wanted Bangladesh criminals only to release seven of them later on, according to the Indian press. Chief of the special branch of Kolkata police Soumen Mitra confirmed to the journalists there on Monday the arrests of Liaquat Hossain and Arman Khan along with illegal arms.

"We want quick deportation of the arrestees if they are really Bangladeshi nationals so that we can put them in the dock at home," the foreign secretary said.

"I simply don't know," he said when asked why the Indian authorities were keeping Bangladesh in the dark about the arrests, which was the case in the recent arrest of another Bangladeshi named Ataur Rahman at the New Delhi airport on charge of carrying fake travel documents.

Asked to comment on the Indian press reports that linked Liaquat and Arman with Al-Qaida networks, the foreign secretary said: "The sweeping allegations linking Bangladesh with Al-Qaida

and ISI are totally baseless and unacceptable. We expect sensible, objective reporting of the Indian press."

"There is definitely a pattern of similarity between the Indian media reports and the recent comment by a top political leader of that country," he said in response to a question. "We find it disturbing."

Chowdhury said India does not need an extradition treaty with Bangladesh to deport the Bangladeshi criminals. "Extradition treaty can't be signed in a hurry as it is a time-consuming legal process. Deportation is possible on the basis of goodwill, understanding and Cupertino."

To another question, he observed that India's demand to deport ULFA leader Anup Chetia cannot be linked with Bangladesh's demand for deporting Liaquat and Arman.

Anup Chetia was convicted in a specific case, he noted, but the case of Liaquat and Arman is altogether different.

# Armed Forces Day

**FROM PAGE 12**  
He stood in solemn silence to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who had embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation.

After a while, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia placed wreath at the Shikha Anirban.

Later, Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury, Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba and Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Fakhru Azam jointly placed wreaths at the Shikha Anirban on behalf of their respective services.

Chiefs of the three services paid a courtesy call on the President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Iajuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban and stayed with him for some time. They also paid similar courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the Prime Minister's Office at the Armed Forces Division (AFD) at Dhaka Cantonment and stayed with her for some time.

A reception to the gallantry award winners and members of the shaheed families was held at the AFD at the Dhaka cantonment. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia met with the nearest ones of Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Zahangir, Bir Shrestho, Shaheed Sepoy Hamidur Rahman, Bir Shrestho, Shaheed Sepoy Md Mostafa Kamal, Bir Shrestho, Shaheed Md Ruhul Amin, Bir Shrestho, Shaheed Flight Lieutenant M Matur Rahman, Bir Shrestho, Shaheed Lance Naik Noor Mohammad Sheikh, Bir Shrestho, and Shaheed Lance Naik

Munshi Abdur Rauf, Bir Shrestho. She presented some gifts to them.

Khaleda Zia herself received a gift as wife of Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman, Bir Uttam, from Qaidamunnesa, mother of Shaheed Sepoy Hamidur Rahman, Bir Shrestho.

A reception to the gallantry award winners and shaheed families belonging to the Bangladesh Army was held at the Dhaka Cantonment Officers' Club. Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury met with brother of Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Zahangir, Bir Shrestho, mother of Shaheed Sepoy Hamidur Rahman, Bir Shrestho and father of Shaheed Sepoy Md Mostafa Kamal, Bir Shrestho and other shaheed family members and some of the gallantry award winning officers and soldiers.

A similar reception was held at the Naval Headquarters at Banani. Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba met with the daughters of Shaheed Md Ruhul Amin, Bir Shrestho, members of other shaheed families as well as serving and retired naval officers and sailors who had received gallantry awards.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Fakhru Azam also hosted a reception to the Liberation War heroes. Younger brother of Shaheed Flight Lieutenant M Matur Rahman, Bir Shrestho, wife of late Air Vice Marshal Mohammad Khademul Bashar, Bir Uttam and members of other shaheed families belonging to the Bangladesh Air Force were present on the occasion at the Air Headquarters.

# Army-criminal shootout victim succumbs to bullet wound

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labourer Mohammad Hakim, injured in an army-criminals shootout during a drive at Aminbaraz in the city on November 13, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Hakim and two other labourers -- Abu Musa and Alamgir -- were injured in the shootout. They were admitted to the DMCH on the same day. The two others are improving, sources there said.

The joint forces arrested listed criminals Khata Masud and his accomplices Samad and Rana in the drive.