

Joy wants arrest of Dr Kamal, Star editor for 'treason'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy yesterday said eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam and Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna should be arrested and tried for "treason".

Manna is now on a 10-day remand on sedition charges over "involvement in provoking the armed forces to topple the government".

Joy, son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, wanted arrest of the three

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MG!

"Time is coming for you [Khaleda Zia] when you'll have to spend the rest of your life in jail."

AWAMI LEAGUE JOINT GENERAL SECRETARY
MAHABUB-UL-ALAM HANIF,
AT KHULNA DISTRICT AL COUNCIL YESTERDAY

Gold smuggling has gone up remarkably of late. Big haul of the most-sought-after metal makes headline all too frequently. But most of the smuggled gold enters and exits the country quite safely. The Daily Star in its 3-part extensive reports tries to shed some light on the trans-border crime in which Bangladesh has become a transit destination for international smuggling syndicates.

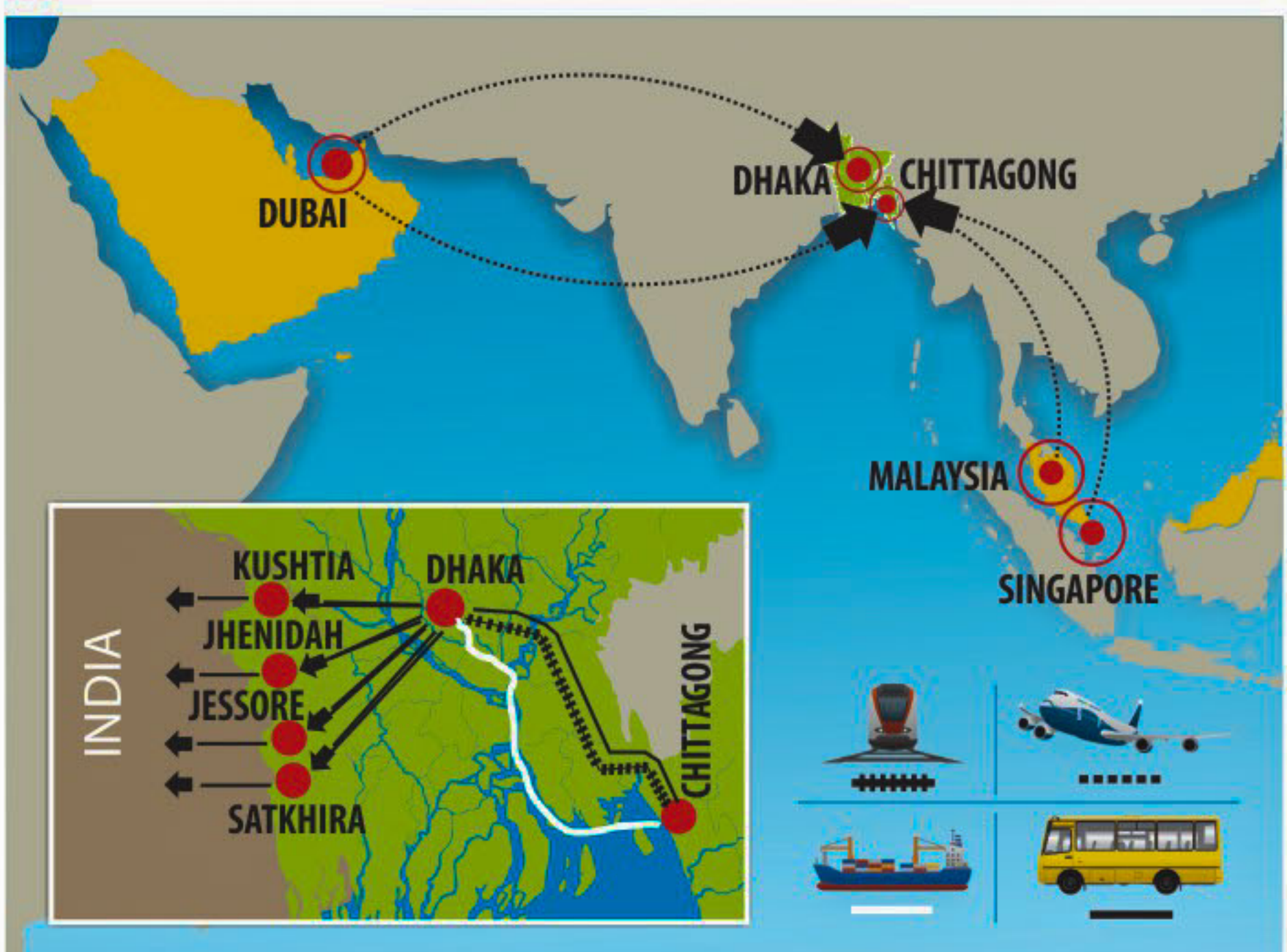
Into the cobweb of gold rackets

SHARIFUL ISLAM and WASIM BIN HABIB **PART-1**

To get the smuggled gold through the airport security and to its destination, the smuggling syndicates collude with unscrupulous staff of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) and intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

The extent of complicity of the government agencies is mind-boggling; so much so that the smuggling syndicates provide carriers with special identity cards which, upon being produced, help them avoid to trace back to the gang leaders.

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UN chief worried at heightened tensions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon remains "very concerned" over heightened tensions and continued violence in Bangladesh, and has renewed his appeal to all political leaders for finding a peaceful solution to the ongoing crisis.

On the arrest warrants against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, UN chief's spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said, "We are obviously aware of the arrest warrant that was issued against the leader of the BNP. The secretary general remains very concerned."

Dujarric made the statement in reply to a question at a daily press briefing at the UN headquarters in New York early yesterday.

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Blogger Avijit Roy hacked to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants killed writer and blogger Avijit Roy and badly wounded his wife Rafida Ahmed Banna on Dhaka University campus last night after the couple came out of the Ekushey Boi Mela.

The incident happened around 8:45pm on the footpath along Suhrawardy Udyan near TSC.

Two attackers hit Avijit, 42, with machetes from behind, making gaping holes in his head. They also hacked his wife when she tried to save him. Banna, 40, suffered injuries in the head and lost a finger, said Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station.

The couple were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Avijit died around 10:20pm. Banna, herself a writer and blogger, is being treated there in a critical condition.

The OC said they recovered two bloody machetes and a bag from the spot, and were working to identify the killers.

Witnesses said law enforcers and people were around when the attack took place, but no one came forward to resist or catch the attackers even as Banna screamed for help.

Avijit, son of Ajay Roy who taught physics at Dhaka University, used to work in the US as a software engineer. He had been threatened many times by Islamist fundamentalists, said family members and fellow bloggers.

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Annisul Huq, Khokan AL's DCC mayor candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday endorsed Sayeed Khokan, son of late DCC mayor Mohammad Hanif, and Annisul Huq, former FBCCI president, as mayoral candidates for the long-pending polls to Dhaka city corporations.

Party insiders said the Awami League chief called them in for a meeting at Gono Bhavan last night where she asked them to start campaigning.

Sources said Hasina asked Annisul to run for mayor in Dhaka North City Corporation and Khokan in Dhaka South City Corporation.

Earlier, Hasina had dropped hints about endorsing the two but yesterday she told them

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Things may not seem that bad in the capital, but elsewhere the almost two-month-long blockade coupled with frequent hartal has hit every aspect of people's lives very hard. With inter-district communications snapped, businesses have come to a near-halt, education is in tatters, farmers are counting heavy losses and people venture out of their homes in constant panic. In this series, we look at how the blockade and shutdowns are affecting public life outside Dhaka.

Transport workers' families in hardship

SOHEL PARVEZ

Shahanara Begum, 35, felt relieved that she could buy a cauliflower on credit from a street vegetable vendor. Her five children will get some vegetable curry in their next few meals instead of potato and pulse over the past four days.

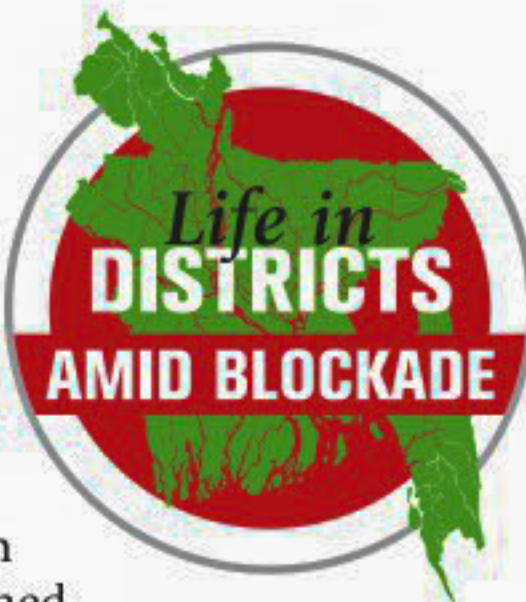
"The grocery owner from whom we buy necessities declined to sell me anything on credit until I pay previous dues. So I returned empty-handed, having nothing to cook on Saturday," she said while smashing spices to prepare a vegetable curry for lunch on Sunday.

Shahanara's husband is a truck driver who lives with his family in a small rented house in downtown Jessore.

Things in his family had not been as bad before the ongoing political crisis began. But once it started, things went only from bad to worse, leaving the children half-fed more often than not, even starved at times unless some neighbour extended a generous hand offering them leftovers.

The ongoing blockade and persistent hartal, enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance since January 6, has dwindled incomes of tens of thousands of

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Opener Anamul Haque makes a long way back to the dressing room after a failed attempt with the bat in the World Cup match against Sri Lanka at the MCG yesterday.

Lions floor miserable Tigers

BISHWAJIT ROY from Melbourne

The Tigers turned up at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) for the first time to make a statement against the Lankan Lions yesterday. The mood in the Bangladesh camp ahead of the World Cup fixture was that it could be a stage where the Tigers would look to prey on the Lions.

But after a nearly eight-hour bout it was the Tigers who were immediately taken to the treatment table with serious injuries after being subjected to severe assault from two Lions -- Tillakaratne Dilshan (161) and Kumar Sangakkara (105). The left-right combination produced an imperious 210 runs for the unbroken second wicket in an imposing Sri Lanka total of 332 for 1.

On a day when World Cup debutants Afghanistan created small piece of history by defeating fellow Associate members Scotland by one wicket in a thriller, nothing went right for the Tigers. A 92-run defeat after a win and a draw suggested that Bangladesh have hardly made an impression as an up and coming side despite scoring 240 before being all out with three overs to spare.

The crux of Bangladesh's problem was not that they failed to contain the Lankans from scoring a massive total, which was a case in the other two games played here before. And even the margin of defeat can be called decent if compared to that of England's against Australia and South Africa's against India.

It was the athleticism, or the lack of it, that has once again nakedly exposed a Bangladesh side who not only dropped three catches, but showed their ineptness in ground fielding. A statistic on display during the game showed that Bangladesh are the second worst fielding side

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27 March, 2015
Friday, 10:00 am

Undergraduate Admission Test
28 March, 2015
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at NSU Campus

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