

## Subhan appeals at SC against death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan yesterday challenged his death penalty awarded by a war crimes tribunal for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

In his appeal filed with the Supreme Court, Subhan pleaded not guilty and sought his acquittal of all the six charges, in which he was found guilty.

On February 18, Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Subhan, who led the anti-liberation elements in Pabna in 1971, was sentenced to death on three charges, imprisonment until death on two charges and five years' imprisonment on another by the International Crimes Tribunal-2.

Citing the appeal, Shishir Manir, a lawyer for the Jamaat leader, told The Daily Star that the ICT-2 had wrongly examined contradictory statements of the prosecution witnesses.

The judgment on Subhan is liable to be scrapped, he said.

Shishir said Subhan in his 89-page appeal mentioned 92 grounds to establish his innocence.

A total of 1,182 pages of documents were annexed with the appeal, he said, adding that the SC would later fix a date for hearing the appeal.

## Sanga walks

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Sachin Tendulkar -- and the greatest number of dismissals by a wicketkeeper.

Although his hopes of playing in a third successive World Cup final and finally winning one have been dashed, Sangakkara thinks the future for Sri Lankan cricket is bright.

"We have a lot of people in the dressing room who would have learned a lot from this World Cup," he added.

Sangakkara's fellow former captain Mahela Jayawardene, also 37, is also calling time on his one-day career after the tournament, bringing an end to a career in which he has scored 12,650 runs in 448 matches.

"He's going to be sorely missed," Sangakkara said. "I'm sure he's going to be thoroughly disappointed today, but also, sometimes there is a bit of relief, as well, when your career ends."

"The high-pressure situations, the warmups, the ice baths, the recovery sessions, all of that, all repeated over 16, 17 years can get a bit much."

Sangakkara was clearly speaking also for himself and, looking down at the tape bound around his battered fingers, said he had no regrets about deciding to walk away.

## Widow confirms

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a fellow's account on how war crimes accused Sirajul Haque alias Siraj Master and some 50 to 60 Razakars Siraj was leading caught seven to eight persons on October 14 during the 1971 Liberation War, shot and bayoneted them in Bagerhat's Chulkathi Bazar and threw the bodies into a nearby canal.

Tribunal-2 Razia Begum, the 11th prosecution witness, said she was preparing lunch while Abdul Kader Jomaddar for Zohr prayers in their Subidkhali residence in Patuakhali when she heard the sound of boots treading.

"Through a hole I saw the Pakistani army and Razakars torturing my husband," she said, adding that she heard one Razakar order Forkan, whom she knew studied in a local school, to tie Jomaddar.

She hid with her three children in a bush beside the house and came out two hours later, only to find that her house had been looted. "Neighbours told me that Razakars had taken my husband away on a gunboat," said Razia.

Locals identified Jomaddar's body and buried him at his Amragachhiya village home, she added in her deposition, after which the defence counsel cross-examined her. Proceedings were adjourned until March 23.

Forkan, 63, denies the five charges against him.

TRIBUNAL-1

Monirul Islam, 63, testifying before International Crimes Tribunal-1 as the 30th prosecution witness, said he and another freedom fighter hid in a nearby bush watching the accused kick relatives of the detainees begging for their lives.

From the locals, they came to know the identities of seven victims -- Santosh Kumar Devnath, Rakkhal Devnath, Jogodish Paul, Khorshed Mallik, Durgacharan Das, Bijoy Das and freedom fighter Sunil.

State appointed defence counsel Mohammad Abul Hasan cross-examined Monirul and proceedings were adjourned until March 22.

Siraj and two others, Abdul Latif Talukder and Khan Akram Hossain, are facing seven charges of alleged involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide committed in Bagerhat in 1971.

## KIDNAPPED TANGAIL BOY

# Remains found after 18 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Detective Branch of police yesterday dug out the remains of a school-boy from a yard of a house at Madhupur upazila, nearly 18 months after he had been kidnapped and killed allegedly by his stepfather.

The victim, Masud Rana Shoyon, 8, of Ruhuli village in Bhuapur upazila, was a class III student at Matikata Government Primary School.

Golam Mahfizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Tangail DB police, told The Daily Star that the stepfather, Jahangir Hossain, confessed to have abducted and killed the boy for properties.

Later, a DB team, led by Sub-Inspector Rashedul Hasan, recovered the remains near the house in Tengri Gorosthanpara area, he added.

Shoyon's mother had married Jahangir after the death of Shoyon's father Raisul Islam Sagar.

On September 30, 2013, Jahangir abducted Shoyon near the boy's grandfather's house at Bhuapur, said police.

Later, the kidnapper called the victim's family over the phone and demanded Tk 5 lakh as ransom.

The family gave him Tk 2 lakh after negotiations.

Failing to get back Shoyon even after paying the ransom, the boy's grandmother Mazeda Begum on October 9 that year filed a case with Bhuapur Police Station in connection with the incident.

Two months later, police arrested Jahangir along with Tk 1,48,000 of the ransom and a mobile phone he used allegedly for the abduction and killing.

However, he went into hiding after being released on bail.

The DB finally arrested him on Wednesday and he was accused in another case.

Detectives said during his preliminary interrogation, Jahangir admitted to have strangled Shoyon just three days after the abduction for grabbing the properties the victim received from his father.

The man hid the body under the ground the same day, they added.

## 80 Shibir activists

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In the two colleges, no organisational activities are allowed by the authorities except for those by Shibir, students said.

Nasir, an infamous Shibir cadre of the port city, started using the campus for criminal activities in the early 1990s when he built a den at two rooms of a hostel at Chittagong College.

From there, he used to control and give orders for carrying out operations at Mohsin College and Chittagong University, sources said.

Nasir, who is in jail since 1998 facing trial in several murder and arms cases, is believed to have a firm hold on the underground crime world in the port city still today.

From the jail, he maintains regular contacts with his accomplices by phone or other means with help from some corrupt prison officials and police, added the sources.

**THE RAID** Informed about a possible "sabotage" by Shibir men, police raided the two colleges.

It came as part of the police investigation to track down those carrying out attacks across the country, said Jalil, the CMP commissioner.

At least 86 people have died, mostly in petrol bomb attacks, since the BNP-led 20-party alliance called the ongoing nonstop blockade on January 5.

The raid started around 2:00am at Suhrawardy Hall and Sher-e-Bangla Hall of Chittagong College, from where police picked up 72 alleged Shibir activists.

Later, they recovered an AK-22, a three-nought-three rifle, a double-shot and three single-shot rifles and three foreign pistols as well as five rocket flares, 64 bullets and 25 cartridges kept in the hole.

The arms and ammunition were wrapped in a banner that had the name of Jamaat leader and war crimes convict Delawar Hossain Sayedee written on it, said Tanvir Arafat, assistant deputy commissioner of the CMP, who led the drive.

Police then started searching differ-

ent dorms of Mohsin College, including Portuguese Bhaban, Muslim Hall and Old Canteen, and its adjacent hilly areas in the morning. From there, they arrested eight alleged Shibir activists and Jamaat leader Wadud.

They also recovered five machetes, gunpowder, two sacks of bottles (often used to make petrol bombs) and bomb-making materials from the Old Canteen, now being used as a student hall.

A section of teachers and officials might have been helping the Shibir activists, said the CMP commissioner, adding that police would detain those whose names would come up in the investigation.

Nazmul Shakib, a Muslim Hall resident who was detained from the nearby jungle, said he was hiding after being informed of the raid. He protested his innocence, saying he knew nothing about the arms and ammunition.

In another development, police yesterday arrested four BNP and Jamaat-Shibir men at Sitakunda and three other people from different areas of the port city for their alleged involvement in making and supplying crude bombs.

Law enforcers recovered 700 grams of explosives from one detainee.

**MORE CRUDE BOMBS** In the capital, police and Rab arrested two people and recovered 72 crude bombs and "a large amount" of bomb-making materials from the house of Jubo Dal leader Haji Newaz Ali at Lalbagh early yesterday.

The arrestees are Anis, 30, and Badsha, 40.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Lalbagh Police Station, claimed the house was being used for making crude bombs. Once made, the bombs were supplied to different parts of the city for carrying out subversive activities.

Newaz is accused in several violence-related cases and is on the run, he added.

Another Rab team seized 18 homemade bombs from near Doyel Chattar of Dhaka University yesterday, said sources in the elite force.

## BNP-Jamaat men

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Mujibur Rahman, which was observed on Tuesday, with Sheikh Hasina, also president of the AL, in the chair.

Addressing the discussion, the PM accused BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia of resorting to militancy in the country. Terming Khaleda the "queen of militants and destruction", Hasina said, "There will be no place for militants in Bangladesh. Bangladesh will be established as a peaceful nation in South Asia."

The prime minister urged the countrymen to catch those who have been engaged in militant activities as well as those who will hurl bombs, kill people and set fire on buses and vehicles, and hand them over to law enforcement agencies.

Saying the people of Bangladesh are peace loving, the PM said there will be no mercy for those who are trying to harm them. "There will be no mercy for those who burnt people dead," she said.

Referring to around "120 people" who have been killed and more than a thousand who have been injured in the ongoing BNP-Jamaat's blockade, Hasina alleged Khaleda and Jamaat are killing people like the militants are killing people in other places in the world.

Terming BNP and Jamaat "parties of militants", she said this country has no place for militant parties. She also stressed the need to build mass opinion and awareness against them.

Referring to the recent arrest warrant against the BNP chief, the PM said Khaleda did not abide by anything including the court order. "She should have surrendered to the court abiding by the law. She [Khaleda] can steal the

orphan's money but does not dare to face the court."

The prime minister said Khaleda have been resorting to violence and militant activities just to get rid of the cases filed against her and her son Tarique Rahman and to save the war criminals currently facing trials.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam, senior leaders and ministers Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Hasanul Haque Inu, among others, also spoke at the programme.

## Teesta saw

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"I think the Indian government will respect it," the minister told his audience.

Paschim Banga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who earlier opposed the water-sharing deal, also visited Bangladesh recently.

During her stay in Dhaka, Mamata said she had no objection to the treaty and would rather cooperate in this regard, Anisul said.

"I hope the Indian central government and that of Paschim Banga will live up to their promises," he added.

Water Resources Planning Organization under the Water Resources Ministry, 2030 Water Resources Group and the International Finance Corporation jointly organised the Multi-Stakeholder Engagement on Water Resources Management in Bangladesh.

State Minister for Water Resources M Nazrul Islam also spoke at the meeting.

## Malaysian opposition faces collapse over Islamic law push

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A Malaysian Muslim party yesterday launched a push for harsh Islamic criminal punishments in a state it governs, threatening to tear apart an opposition political alliance which had soared to the brink of power.

The Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party's (PAS) action in the northeastern state of Kelantan drew a strong rebuke from one of its partners in Malaysia's three-party opposition alliance, which said it had been "stabbed in the back" by PAS and would review its participation in the coalition.

The opposition partnership has attracted a swelling tide of votes in recent elections, winning 52 percent of ballots cast in 2013 polls, though it failed to take parliament from Malaysia's authoritarian regime.

But a stepped-up PAS campaign for the Islamic penalties -- known as hudud -- in Kelantan has torn open festering divisions in the coalition just as it struggles to hold together following the jailing last month of its overall leader, Anwar Ibrahim.

Over its partner's objections, PAS moved in the Kelantan state assembly on Wednesday to update and strengthen a 1993 law setting out hudud, which levies penalties include amputation of limbs for theft and flogging for offences such as consuming alcohol.

The law has never been enforced as it conflicts with the federal constitution, but PAS's leadership plans to submit a bill soon in the national parliament seeking a federal law change to allow it.

In response, the Democratic Action Party (DAP) said it would meet next week to reassess its participation in the opposition Pakatan Rakyat (People's Pact) coalition.

## Jasim, 7 others

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The students had vowed to kill "atheist bloggers" after reading Jasimuddin's books and listening to his sermons, the IO said in the charge sheet.

They targeted Rajib "for his blog posts under the pseudo name of Thabababa" and got divided into two -- "intel group" to collect his details and track him down and the "execution group" to carry out the murder.

Arrested on August 11, 2013, Jasimuddin confessed before a magistrate that students, inspired by his sermons, might have killed Rajib.

Rajib, an activist of the Shabbagh movement demanding death penalty for war criminals, was hacked to death in the city's Pallabi area on February 15, 2013.

After the murder, radical Islamists had spread the propaganda that the Shabbagh movement organisers, including Rajib, were "atheists". Hefajat-e-Islam, a Chittagong-based Islamist group, began to press for hanging of the "atheist bloggers".

## Welcome, Solar

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everything goes as planned".

Swiss pilots Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg, who are trying to make history by flying a solar-powered plane, started the first round-the-world flight on March 9 from Abu Dhabi (UAE). They are expected to return to Switzerland at the end of July or early August.

The aircraft is expected to fly from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh this (Thursday) morning if the weather is perfect.

According to a press release of the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, this solar-powered aircraft is designed to remain airborne day and night without using a drop of fuel.

The plane's exceptional aerodynamic performance and energy efficiency (three times greater than commercial aircraft) make this possible. A team of technicians and scientists from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) worked together on this ground-breaking project, the statement reads.

This first round-the-world solar flight involves landings in Oman, India, Myanmar and China before crossing the Pacific Ocean. It will then stop-over in the United States and finally cross the Atlantic Ocean, heading for Southern Europe or North Africa and to its point of departure.

"Solar Impulse is a campaign for the more sustainable use of resources and it aims at demonstrating that with clear vision it is possible to go beyond what is currently thought to be possible," the statement says.

## MALAYSIA SECOND HOME

# ACC to probe capital flight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is going to seek assistance from its Malaysian counterpart on an investigation into money invested illegally by the Bangladeshis in "Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) Program".

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is likely to be signed by the ACC and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Association by June in this connection. Once the MoU is signed, both the sides will be able to seek assistance from each other regarding financial crimes, ACC Commissioner Md Shahabuddin told The Daily Star last night.

"The Commission has been investigating the matter [illegal investment in MM2H programme] and now we are going to sign an MoU as we think help [from Malaysian anti-corruption body] is necessary," he added.

Shahabuddin said the terms of references for the MoU had already been prepared and sent to the Cabinet Division for approval. "We hope the MoU will be signed by June," he added.

Earlier in the day, Shahabuddin told a views-exchange meeting that

those who had invested in the Second Home programme were "high-profile" people.

"We have already sent a letter to the immigration department and received some information," he added.

The ACC organised the views-exchange meeting at its headquarters, chaired by its Chairman Md Badiuzzaman with the owners and chief executive officers of the country's electronic media ahead of the Anti-Corruption Week.

With 2,923 of its nationals taking part in the MM2H programme, Bangladesh stands third after China and Japan in terms of the number of individual participants.

Revealing the figure at a Meet the Press programme in September last year, Malaysian High Commissioner in Dhaka Norlin Othman said mostly businesspersons had invested in the programme to set up their businesses in Malaysia.

According to the rules of the Malaysian government, an individual needs to deposit liquid assets worth at least RM 500,000 [about Tk 1.22 crore] and show offshore income of RM 10,000 [about Tk 2.45 lakh] per month to settle in the country under the MM2H programme.

## 17 killed in Tunisia

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There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack but Tunisia -- the birthplace of the Arab Spring revolutionary movement -- has struggled to tackle a rise in attacks from Islamist extremists.

Interior ministry spokesman Mohamed Ali Aroui told reporters that "two or more terrorists armed with Kalashnikovs" had targeted the Bardo National Museum next to the Tunisian parliament.

Aroui said about 100 tourists had been inside the museum at the time of the attack.

He said "anti-terrorist units" had entered the museum but refused to confirm reports of a hostage taking.

In Brussels, Valls said he condemned "this terrorist attack in the strongest terms", adding that there had been a "hostage taking".

French President Francois Hollande also expressed his country's "solidarity" with Tunisia, a former French colony.

President Beji Caid Essebsi was to make a public statement to the nation, spokesman Moez Sinaoui told AFP.

The Bardo National Museum, a famed repository of ancient artefacts, is next door to Tunisia's parliament, where work was suspended during the attack.

An Islamist lawmaker, Monia Ibrahim, told AFP that gunfire from the initial assault prompted parliamentary committees to suspend their meetings as lawmakers were ordered to assemble in the main chamber.

"There was enormous panic,"

## HRW calls

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today seeking the PM's intervention in tracing her husband.

Brad Adams, Asia director at HRW, said the Bangladesh government has a history of failing to investigate the "enforced disappearance" of opposition members.

"Despite complaints to the police by Ahmed's family members and the filing of a case with a court by his wife demanding that the government produce him in court, Ahmed has not surfaced," read the report.

On March 16, the inspector general of police, responding to a Dhaka High Court order, reported that various security services under his control had not detained or arrested Ahmed, added the global rights watchdog. The court has adjourned the hearing until April 8.

Adams called for a credible and independent investigation into Ahmed's disappearance. "This should happen urgently, since by April 8 it could be too late."

According to the report, the HRW and other groups have documented "enforced disappearances" in Bangladesh, largely by members of the security forces since at least 2007.

In 2012, BNP leader Ilias Ali also went missing and the authorities have failed to determine his fate. In May 2014, the Bangladesh authorities ordered investigations of members of the Rab for their role in the abduction and apparent contract killing of seven people in Narayanganj, but only because of intense media scrutiny, said the rights body.

"Rab officials had earlier denied their role, but were exposed after the corpses, drowned in a lake, accidentally floated up."

another lawmaker, Sayida Ounissi, wrote on Twitter, saying the attack took place during hearings on Tunisia's anti-terrorism law.

Tunisia has seen an upsurge in Islamist extremism since the 2011 revolution that ousted longtime strongman Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Dozens of police and military personnel have been killed or wounded in attacks blamed on Islamist militants.

An army offensive against the jihadists, who are linked to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, has been underway since 2012 but the ground and air campaign has failed to eliminate them.

The country is also fighting against the radicalisation of Muslim youth with authorities saying as many as 3,000 Tunisians have gone to Iraq, Syria and neighbouring Libya to fight in jihadist ranks, including with the Islamic State group.

Some 500 are now believed to have returned to Tunisia.

Essebsi said the government's "top priority" is "providing security and the battle against terrorism" after it took office last month following Tunisia's first free elections.

Tunisia kicked off the Arab Spring with its overthrow of Ben Ali and, despite the continued unrest, has taken pride in forming a stable and democratic government.

The country is hoping to rebuild its once-burgeoning tourism industry, which is struggling to recover from the effects of the 2011 revolution.

Tourist arrivals dropped by three percent last year.

Ahmed's "disappearance" comes in the midst of an ongoing violent stand-off between the government and opposition parties, which began in early January this year, the report mentioned.

Since then, over 150 people have died and several hundred have been injured, largely when defying opposition enforced blockades known as hartals, it added.

"Many enforced disappearances have been well documented as carried out by the authorities, yet there is little and in many cases no evidence that the government has investigated these cases," said Adams. "No members of the security forces have been held to account for their role despite public pledges by the government."

The current prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, came into power in 2009 promising an end to security forces' excesses, but there has been no difference in the culture of impunity that plagued Bangladesh before her tenure in office, the report said.

ONE DETAINED

Police detained a man in front of BNP chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday afternoon when he was protesting the missing incident of BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed.

Suman, 35, went there around 11:30am and held up a collage of newspaper clippings on the incident.

Law enforcers detained him around 1:00pm, said Sayrul Kabir Khan, a staff of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's press wing.

Before being picked up by cops, Suman told reporters that he was not involved in politics. "Nobody is raising their voice against such state-sponsored abduction of people. That's why I am here to register my protest."