

Its father's

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War Affairs Secretary MA Hannan for declaration of South Chittagong district unit of Muktijoddha Command Council. Even after repeated requests, he did nothing about this."

"When I went to his home to get my money back, Hannan grabbed me by the neck and pushed me out of his home. That's why I am committing suicide," it added.

Shahbagh police say they have sought Ayub's handwritings from his family since all other documents found, apart from the suicide note, were computer print-outs. Arifur said he would oblige once the funeral rites were over.

Shahbagh police say if there is a match, they would interrogate Hannan, who denies the allegations.

Police are also looking for a general diary (GD) that Ayub, as per the note, filed against Hannan. The note, however, did not mention the GD's content and the date and with which police station it was filed.

"We are contacting several police stations in Dhaka and Chittagong," said a police official preferring anonymity. The ministry is already probing the allegations.

Shipping agent's

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office in Chittagong city, said the case's investigation officer, Md Kamruzzaman.

The shipping agent's manager, AK Azad, one of four people now under arrest, was contacted through emails and over the phone several times by another arrestee, Atiqur Rahman, who wanted the consignment to be re-exported to the port of origin or forwarded to any Indian port, said police.

Atiqur had been asked to do so by his uncle and another arrestee, Mostafa Kamal, whose cousin, Bakul Mia, a Bangladesh-born British citizen, first brought up the request for the consignment to be sent to a third country.

The fourth arrestee is Golam Mostafa Sohel, finance manager of a sister concern of Khan Jahan Ali Ltd, the shipment's consignee.

Rabada rips sorry Tigers

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Thus the smile returned on the faces of the fans. But alas, their joy was short-lived as Bangladesh lost wickets at regular intervals after captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza decided to put runs on the board first. Ultimately, the home team were dismissed for just 160 runs with 21 balls to spare.

Rabada showed shrewdness to initiate the carnage by removing left-handed opener Taimim Iqbal. The youngster tested the southpaw with a pair of short balls before delivering a full, straight delivery which was directed at middle and off. The experienced Tamim played down the wrong line and was bowled for a 13-ball duck.

In the next ball, Litton Das gifted Rabada a second wicket by flicking a delivery angled into the pads to

Cyprus leaders want EU-based peace settlement

AFP, Nicosia

Rival Cypriot leaders said after negotiations yesterday that any UN-brokered peace settlement for their divided island would be based on European Union principles.

President Nicos Anastasiades, the Greek Cypriot leader, and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart Mustafa Akinci met for the sixth time in the UN-controlled buffer zone in Nicosia in the presence of UN envoy Espen Barth Eide.

"The leaders recognise the importance of having the principles and values upon which the European Union is founded upheld and embedded in the comprehensive settlement," UN envoy Espen Barth Eide said in a statement on behalf of President Nicos Anastasiades, the Greek Cypriot leader, and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart Mustafa Akinci.

"The leaders welcome the European Union's commitment to help the achievement of a comprehensive settlement and to prepare for the application of the EU acquis throughout the island," he added.

A divided Cyprus joined the EU in 2004 following a failed peace plan which effectively saw European law only applied in the government-controlled south of the island and not the Turkish-held north.

This was after 75 percent of Greek Cypriots voted against a UN settlement blueprint in a referendum, while Turkish Cypriots voted in favour.

The European Commission president, Jean-Claude Juncker, is expected next week in Cyprus for talks with both leaders, whose meeting in the UN-

controlled buffer zone in Nicosia yesterday was their sixth since Akinci's election in April.

Eide, a Norwegian diplomat, said Juncker's mission would "provide a good opportunity to further underline the European Union readiness to assist the United Nations-led process".

Anastasiades and Akinci have also been discussing the economic dimensions of a reunified Cyprus.

"In today's global economic climate it is essential that a functional, federal Cyprus is financially viable and committed to capitalising on the economic opportunities that will open up as a result of reaching a final settlement," said Eide.

Many believe the good chemistry between the two leaders, who are scheduled to resume talks on July 27, can create a climate of trust in order for an elusive peace accord to be reached.

Algeria says 38 arrested over deadly ethnic violence

AFP, Ghardaia

Algerian authorities have arrested 38 people in connection with deadly ethnic unrest between Berbers and Arabs in the south of the country, police and the gendarmerie said yesterday.

Police also said a hunting rifle, dozens of knives and Molotov cocktails were seized during a probe into unrest in the southern province of Ghardaia that left 22 people dead on Tuesday.

Imran Tahir trapped him in front and the batsman's review was unsuccessful. Nasir Hossain's 31-run innings helped Bangladesh bring some semblance of respectability to the total.

There had been much talk about the battle of spin, but South African skipper Hashim Amla had already warned everyone in the pre-match press conference the other day that his pace attack also had the ability to cause damage in any condition and his young pace-battery proved his words right in the first of the three-match series.

South Africa's pace attack was inexperienced but Rabada ensured that the absence of Morne Morkel would not be pronounced on his way to breaking West Indian Fidel Edwards's 6-22 record against Zimbabwe in 2003 at Harare for the best ODI haul by a debutant.

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He repeatedly pleaded with the traffickers to send him back home, but to no avail.

"They [traffickers] told me that I wouldn't be able to return home until I reach Malaysia. They never allowed me to talk to my parents over the phone," Mehedi said.

He is now happy that he can return home and unite with his family soon.

Back home with dreams shattered

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talk or move in the boat."

A resident of Monirampur upazila in Jessor, Shahid said he saw his fellow travellers dying from lack of water, starvation and torture by the human traffickers on the sea.

"I saw deaths before my very own eyes," he said. "I was so weak, shocked and scared that I couldn't even cry loudly."

He could not contact his parents before being rescued by the Malaysian authorities on May 11.

Shahid along with seven others from Jessor took the perilous sea

journey from Cox's Bazar in March after a local broker lured them with the prospect of decent jobs in Malaysia. The broker asked for Tk 2.5 lakh from each for sending them to the Southeast Asian country.

Desperate to change his life and that of his poor family, Mehedi Hasan, another fortune seeker, took the treacherous journey in March. But he never imagined that his journey to a better future would turn out to be a nightmare.

Hailing from Jhenidah, Mehedi, a school dropout, was also persuaded by

a local broker.

"When the traffickers stopped giving food and started torturing us, I thought I would die soon," he said in a choked voice.

He repeatedly pleaded with the traffickers to send him back home, but to no avail.

"They [traffickers] told me that I wouldn't be able to return home until I reach Malaysia. They never allowed me to talk to my parents over the phone," Mehedi said.

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Malaysian experts warn of fraud

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to Malaysia under private management has always been marred by corruption and serious labour exploitation, which resulted in repeated bans -- in 1997, 2001 and 2009 -- since manpower export to the country officially began in 1992.

During 2006-08, official migration cost was fixed at Tk 84,000 but researchers found that one had to pay more than Tk 2 lakh to go to Malaysia. The extra money, realised from the migrants illegally, would be distributed among brokers, agents and a section of corrupt officials in Malaysia.

Many bogus companies in Malaysia had hired workers and abandoned them or confined them to rooms or had often forced them to work with very low wages.

In 2013, Malaysia started recruiting Bangladeshi workers under Government-to-Government (G2G) arrangements but only for the plantation sector.

While more than 4 lakh Bangladeshi workers went to Malaysia between 2006 and 2008, only some 10,000 workers were hired under the G2G system since 2013.

"It's a huge question why Malaysia allowed hiring of Bangladeshi workers under the G2G system only in the plantations. Also, why did Malaysia offer jobs only to 10,000 Bangladeshi

in more than two years if it required 5 lakh a year?" said Harun Al Rashid, regional coordinator of CARAM Asia, a Malaysia-based regional network of civil society organisations in Asia.

He believes that certain powerful agents were working behind the failure of the G2G arrangement and reintroduction of the B2B.

Hiring migrant workers under the B2B would only benefit the employers, labour agents and suppliers, said Dato' M Ramachelvam, chairperson of Migrants, Refugees & Immigration Affairs Committee at Bar Council of Malaysia.

Besides, no assessment had been made to determine how many migrant workers Malaysia needed at the moment and so the announcement of hiring 15 lakh Bangladeshis was just ridiculous, he said.

If Malaysia really needs foreign workers, it should first legalise the illegal migrants instead of deporting them since they are already skilled and can be more productive than the fresh ones, Ramachelvam observed.

Actually, some people wanted to make a huge amount of money through this whole process of recruiting fresh workers and deporting the illegal ones, and this was what this initiative was all about, he com-

mented.

Nilim Baruah, Regional Migration Specialist of International Labour Organisation, told The Daily Star from Bangkok that the ILO was assessing the G2G arrangement in the region and found that it's really cost-effective for the workers.

"So, the G2G in Malaysia cannot be termed a failure and this option should be kept open even if migrant workers are hired through private sector," he said.

205 newborn

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who was born after 2011, got registered yesterday. "Earlier, I along with my husband and two other children got registered during the census in 2011," she added.

Several other parents said they had got their children's names registered yesterday.

Officials of the joint survey team including Jahangir Alam of Bangladesh and Haris Chandra Barman of India who were working at the Indian enclave Banshupachai at Kulaghat said they were registering the children born after 2011.

Residents of the enclaves who died and the women who got married in mainland were being excluded, they added.

Leader of French Islamist group jailed for nine years

AFP, Paris

A French court yesterday jailed the leader of a local Islamist group for nine years for "criminal association with a terrorist group."

Mohamed Achamlane, 37, the leader of Forsane Alizza, also called the "knights of pride", was one of 15 members of the group on trial for plotting terrorist attacks.

The accused were arrested in 2012 during a crackdown on radical Islamists shortly after gunman Mohamed Merah shot dead seven people, including three Jewish children.

Achamlane insisted throughout the trial that the group, formed in 2010, had no "terrorist inspiration" and only wanted to defend Muslims against mounting Islamophobia in France.

Asked during the trial about internet chats where he said he wanted to "slash France" he said many people used his computer.

As for files explaining how to build explosives, "all sorts of people sent me all sorts of files", he told the court during his June trial.

Achamlane also said that he was only calling for the "legitimate defence" of his community, adding "I am not racist, I am not an anti-Semitic."

But prosecutors put forward evidence including a list of "targets" that highlighted Jewish shops in the Paris region.

Achamlane also tried to explain why he had released videos of himself giving inflammatory speeches with Kalashnikov rifles in the background, and using phrases such as "By all-powerful Allah, we will put scars on France."

"We wanted to make a provocative video with a wall of Kalashnikovs and my bearded head to redress the balance," he said, specifying that he felt Muslims were "excluded" from French society.

"There is no radical or moderate Islam," he added. "There is only authentic Islam."

The group -- which gained attention for its protests against a decision to ban veils in public -- was disbanded in 2012 by the government, which described it as a "private militia".

After it was disbanded, the group put a message on its website demanding that French forces leave all Muslim-majority countries.

Actor Omar Sharif

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Lawrence of Arabia.

He won a further Golden Globe three years later for Doctor Zhivago.

Earlier this year, his agent confirmed he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

His agent Steve Kenis said: "He suffered a heart attack this afternoon in a hospital in Cairo."

Born Michel Shalhoub in Alexandria in April 1932, Sharif started out in his family's lumber business before going to London to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (Rada).

He made his screen debut in the 1954 Egyptian film Devil of the Sahara and rapidly became a star in his own country.

But his big break came when David Lean cast him in Lawrence of Arabia, introducing the actor with a now-legendary shot of him riding a camel out of a shimmering heat haze towards the camera.

Peter O'Toole, who played TE Lawrence in the 1962 multiple Oscar-winner, considered Sharif's name ridiculous and insisted on calling him "Fred". The pair soon became fast friends.

In later life Sharif claimed to be baffled by the film's success, saying it had merely been shots of people on camels walking from one side of the screen to the other.

David Lean went on to cast Sharif in the title role of his next epic Doctor Zhivago, in which he played a physician caught up in the Russian Revolution.

The actor went through a daily routine of hair-straightening and skin-waxing in order to disguise his Egyptian looks and would later admit the film had left him close to a nervous breakdown.

Other notable roles came opposite Barbra Streisand in her first film Funny Girl and as Julie Andrews' lover in spy thriller The Tamarind Seed.

He also got to play a series of real-life figures, among them Genghis Khan and the Argentine revolutionary Che Guevara.

Fake currency haul again

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Jamila Akhter Maniza on charges of circulating fake notes.

Based on her information, the crime busters later nabbed Hamidur Rahman, 37, believed to be the ringleader of a money counterfeiting gang, at a nearby bank, and seized fake notes worth Tk 25 lakh there, said the Rab official.

Members of the elite force said equipment, including laptop, laminating machine and security thread, used for printing those notes were also seized.

But two other members of the gang, Alamin alias Kala Babu and Asma Akbar Tuktuki, fled, sensing the presence of the Rab team.

Rab said the arrestees rented the flat after introducing themselves as husband and wife.

At least 15 money counterfeiting gangs were busted along with fake notes worth over 2.5 crore in the last few weeks.

Many of the arrestees confessed that they had been involved in the crime for years.

Bangladesh Bank recently handed over 200 fake currency detecting devices to the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Those devices are being used in several key spots where transactions are taking place.

Law enforcers who interrogated those arrested for counterfeiting notes said fake notes are prepared and exchanged in three phases.

One group prepares or collects special papers while another does the printing. The third one circulates them later, they added.

Detective Branch (DB) of police Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam recently said the production cost of fake notes worth Tk 1 lakh ranges between Tk 3,000 and Tk 3,500.

Six Bangladeshis

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between 3:00am and 4:00am local time, he said, quoting Mizanur Rahman, second secretary (labour) of Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh.