

ISIS tricked them into Syria

Claims son of the Bangladesh origin UK family

ITV NEWS ONLINE

A grandfather - who joined Islamic State in Syria with 11 other family members of his family - is being held against his will after being "tricked" into going, his son has told ITV News.

Muhammed Abdul Mannan, 75, his wife and 10 other members of their family, from Luton, have not been seen since leaving for a trip to Bangladesh in May.

A picture apparently showing Mannan in Syria emerged on social media last week, and a statement released by ISIS claimed the family were "safer than ever" now they had joined the terror group.

But speaking exclusively to ITV News, Shalim Hussain said his father was forced into a van and taken to Syria against his will.

Hussain said his father had been crying down the phone from Syria.

"My Dad is confused, sad, crying every day - [he's] not in peace," he told UK Editor Rohit Kachroo.

He claimed the family were in Istanbul when a group of men came to their hotel room to check their passports before taking them downstairs

one by one.

When just the grandfather and his wife were left, they were told to leave their children and grandchildren behind and to return to Britain, Hussain said.

But when they refused to leave, Hussain claimed the men bundled the pair into two waiting cars.

Speaking about the image released of his father in Syria holding up a finger - a symbol associated with IS fighters - Shalim said it was not a show of support for the terror group, claiming it was just "pure propaganda" from IS.

A group photo of the family including those missing.

He insisted that there was no sign that any of his siblings had become radicalised or planned to flee to Syria.

Asked whether there were any clues as to the family's intentions, he said: "Not really, nothing unusual. If I did I would have stopped it. Police couldn't find anything radical. No proof, nothing suspicious."

"If it was something not normal or suspicious then it would have gone through my head but there was nothing. No signs. If there was a sign I would have picked up on it."



Poor drainage system leaves this stretch of Kazi Alauddin Road in Old Dhaka waterlogged even though it didn't rain in the area yesterday. Pedestrians are left with no choice but to wade through stinky ankle-deep water. This photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DU dorm in battle with bedbugs!

SMA RONIE

Ask any residential student of Dhaka University about their most common companion and see what answer you get. "Bedbugs," he will most likely say, without much deliberation.

Generations of DU residential students have known this suffering but nothing has really changed in decades.

But the authorities of one dorm have decided against giving in to the

started to kill the bedbugs, keeping in mind students' health issues, he added.

Very few students could be found who are not familiar with these bugs living under the bed mattresses and chairs.

There is hardly any room in the 17 dormitories of the country's largest public university that is not infested with these blood suckers. Students are often found to be embarrassed when they find bugs crawling on their clothes in public, students com-

Bangladeshi conquers Nun peak of Himalaya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KOLKATA



Rafat Hasan

A Bangladeshi youth has scaled the Nun peak of the Nun Kun mountain massif of the Himalayas in the India-administered Jammu and Kashmir.

Rafat Hasan, a member of Bangladesh's Adventure Club of Keokradong, along with six other Indian climbers reached the 7,135-metre pick on Tuesday.

Famous Indian mountaineer Basanta Singh Roy led a 14-member joint team of the Bangladeshi club and Mountaineering Association of Krishnanagar of West Bengal to the peak.

Four other members of the joint team are Bishwanath Saha, Ashim Mondol, Koushik Biswas and Rohit Majumder.

Kun, the other peak of the massif, is 7,077 metres high.

The joint team set off on their journey to the Himalayas on June 20. But only seven of them could make it to the peak.

Bangladeshis Mamun Imran and Salma Khatoon were also in the team.

All the climbers are in good health and will soon be returning to Kolkata via New Delhi.

Ashok Roy, secretary of the Indian mountaineering association, said conquering the Nun massif was a very challenging job. "I congratulate the climbers from both the countries. They will be greeted soon in Kolkata."

Nun is the highest peak in the part of the Himalayan range lying on the Indian side of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Kun is located north of Nun and is separated from it by a snowy plateau of about 4 km (2.5 mi) in length. Pinnacle Peak, 6,930 m (22,736 ft), is the third highest summit of the group.

Who is the beast?

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clip, Moin was seen aiming his gun at a herd of deer while one of his companions was throwing what seemed like green twigs at them to draw them closer.

"Ripon, film it properly," Moin apparently asked the man who was holding the camera.

Moin moved around for a while with his gun aimed at the deer herd and then pulled the trigger.

The bullet hit a deer on the chest.

Dazed and stunned, she stood still for a moment and then tried to run. But she stumbled, fell on the ground and started throwing her legs frantically into the air.

"Give me the knife," Moin told an assistant impatiently as he rushed to the wounded deer.

A man, apparently a farm worker, held the deer's head still and Moin stooped towards the poor animal with the knife.

"Film it!" he again instructed the cameraperson before slashing the deer's throat.

As the deer's body was lying motionless, Moin's friends could be heard cheering from behind.

"Excellent shooter! ... Well done, man!" they shouted as Moin was standing with a broad smile as if he had just

killed a ferocious beast out in a perilous forest.

He didn't just stop there.

Moin then started posing with the carcass for the camera, flashing thumbs-ups and his gun. He also invited someone named Matin to pose with him.

"Legal shooting ... Thanks to Mosharraf Bhai!" he was heard saying.

The incident took place sometime in the last week of June, according to a friend of Moin, who didn't wish to be named.

Moin apologised to him for not inviting him to that "party" and promised to take him along "the next time", the friend said.

Soon after Moin posted the video clip on his Facebook page, criticisms flooded in from all corners.

"Killing an animal in a confined place in such a way is not hunting at all. It's out-and-out brutality," a Kalponik Megh commented while sharing the clip on his timeline.

Another Facebook user Arun called Moin and his friends "a bunch of perverts".

"A sick display of disgusting mentality," said a Tasin Ashraf, damning the act.

To save himself from further insults, Moin apparently removed his post from

Facebook but the clip was still available on others' timelines and on YouTube.

AGAINST THE LAW

According to Bangladesh Spotted Deer Rearing Policy 2009, an adult deer can be killed for meat. But the DoF officials have to be notified about it in advance.

But in this case, nobody contacted the local authorities before killing the deer, said Golam Mowla, Chittagong divisional forest officer of the DoF.

"First he [Moin] did a bad thing and then he uploaded it on the social media. It is almost a criminal offence," he told The Daily Star.

"We've raided the Hillsdale Farm and seized all 16 deer found there."

Six deer farms were registered under his office in Chittagong but the Hillsdale, located at Korerhat, was not one of them, Mowla said.

"We contacted Moin Uddin in Australia. He claimed that he had license for the farm. However, the farm manager could not show us any," the DoF official said.

This correspondent tried to contact Moin Uddin on his Facebook account several times and sent him a number of messages over the past few days. But he never responded.

Money invested in Malaysia

FROM PAGE 1

being carried out on the basis of Bangladesh Bank reports sent to the commission last year.

The ACC has taken an initiative to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Malaysia to bring back illegal money invested by Bangladeshis in the Southeast Asian country and to collect information about corruption suspects.

Once the deal is done, the commission would try to collect information about the people behind the BASIC bank scam, an ACC official told The Daily Star.

Names of the accused would be included in the First Information Report (FIR) if there is documentary evidence to support the allegations, the official added.

The ACC team went to the BASIC

bank headquarters in the capital's Motijheel thrice last week to collect information. It hopes to complete the investigation and file an FIR within two months.

Several central bank reports indicated that the irregularities in approving loans took place at the bank after Abdul Hye Bacchu had taken over as its chairman in 2009.

Bacchu along with bank's former managing director Kazi Faqurul Islam got loan proposals approved by the bank's board without any discussions on those at board meetings, said the reports.

BASIC bank's financial statement for 2014 said there were weaknesses in the documents of loans disbursed from 2010 to 2014. Besides, there was no internal control over granting loans.

The bank board was reconstituted in July last year. Following an external audit

on defaulted loans of over Tk 5 crore, the board recently prepared a report identifying the irregularities and the persons responsible for the scam.

The board had taken departmental action against 39 employees of the bank. Of them, 14 were dismissed and 18 suspended.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has directed the BASIC Bank board to send its report to the ACC for filing cases against the persons behind the scam. The minister had a special meeting with the board on July 7.

After the meeting, Muhith told reporters that the new board already prepared a report identifying where and how corruption took place.

"We have evidence of many of his [Bacchu] non-banking activities. There will not be any problem in taking action against him," he added.

A banner at Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University declares a campaign against bedbugs. The bugs have been robbing the students of a good night's sleep and the dorm authorities finally took an initiative to do something about it.

bedbugs. Accordingly, the provost of Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall yesterday launched a drive to "free the dorm" of bedbugs.

Prof Zia Rahman, the hall provost, told The Daily Star that the move came after some Facebook posts on the students' sufferings caught the authorities' attention.

"Our cleaning staff have already cleaned up all the garbage and old papers outside the rooms in the dormitory."

Use of pesticide has also been

planned.

The unique effort of Prof Rahman has drawn wide appreciation from the students.

If he succeeds in getting rid of the bedbugs, authorities of other dormitories might also find encouragement in this and may launch similar drives, university sources said.

A number of the students hoped that may be one day they would be able to have sound sleep at night and not just toss and turn if this initiative achieves its desired goal.

Photo: COLLECTED

A banner at Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University declares a campaign against bedbugs. The bugs have been robbing the students of a good night's sleep and the dorm authorities finally took an initiative to do something about it.

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Sharing his experience at the seized vessel, its Chief Engineer Tajul Islam, one of the six returnees, told The Daily Star that the vessel's generator was kept switched off all day to minimise the owner's expenditure.

"The crew had been provided with sub-standard food. Almost all the crew were suffering from health problems, and treatment facilities were very limited," said Tajul who returned home from Guinea on June 28.

He said the crew members were free to get down from the ship and move inside the port on permission.

tion from the ship's captain.

Another returnee, ship's Second Engineer Mashrurul Hasan, said, "We were given only a few litres of water which was inadequate to meet all our daily needs."

The owner also didn't pay the crew their salaries for several months, leaving their families in financial crisis, alleged Mashrurul.

"The company owes me salaries for six month. It has been giving excuses to delay the payment," he said.

About the allegation, Matiul said they owe salaries to the crew for a maximum of two months.

'Mini ice age' coming?

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

There will be a "mini ice age" in 2030, solar scientists have said.

We are now able to predict solar cycles with far greater accuracy than ever before thanks to a new model which shows irregularities in the sun's 11-year heartbeat.

The model shows that solar activity will fall by 60 percent between 2030 and 2040 causing a "mini ice age".

The conditions predicted have not been experienced since the last "mini ice age" which lasted from 1645 to 1715, called the Maunder Minimum.

The findings are being presented by Professor Valentina Zharkova at the National Astronomy Meeting in Llandudno.

Renowned Industrialist and philanthropist Mr. Sadruddin H. Jeewa (86) Chairman, Standard Finis Oil Company breathed his last on Wednesday, July 08, 2015 (Inna lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihe Rajeun). He left behind numerous well-wishers.

His Namaj-e- Janaja will be held at Ismaili Jamatkhana & Centre, Block-C, Umme Kulsum Road, Bashundhara R/A (Near Bashundhara Convention Centre), Dhaka today, July 12, 2015 (Sunday) at 2:30 pm. (Mobile : 01970-571118)

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