

Dhaka court sends four war crimes suspects to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent four war crimes accused, including Jatiya Party lawmaker MA Hannan and his son Rafique Sajjad, to jail after police produced them before it.

Metropolitan Magistrate Hasibul Haque passed the order after Gulshan police produced Hannan and Rafique, and Mymensingh police produced Khandakar Golam Sabbir Ahmed and Mizanur Rahman Mintu before it.

The court also directed the authorities concerned to send the case documents to the International Crimes Tribunal-1, which ordered the arrests of the accused, by Sunday, court sources said.

Mohammad Ali Sheikh, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Mymensingh Kotwali Police Station, told The Daily Star that they produced the accused before the Dhaka court, as the tribunal was closed yesterday, after consulting with tribunal authorities.

According to relevant rule, an arrestee must be produced at a court within 24 hours of arrest.

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The continued demonstration of candidates gets an impetus yesterday as noted citizens join them at the capital's Shahbagh, supporting their demand for rerun of the medical college admission test. The protesters also demanded a fair investigation into the death of a University Grants Commission official who had been arrested on the charge of leaking the test questions.

PHOTO: STAR

DEMAND FOR MEDICAL, DENTAL COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST RETAKE

Eminent citizens stand by students

Call for fair probe into UGC official's death in Rab custody

DU CORRESPONDENT

A cross-section of society joined a rally of demonstrators in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday demanding fresh tests for admission to medical and dental colleges citing the question paper leak, and a fair probe into the death of a UGC official in Rab custody on Thursday.

Terming the death a "planned murder", the protesters threatened to march to the Prime Minister's Office tomorrow if the demands were not met by today.

On behalf of the admission seekers,

one Khalid Saifullah announced holding a rally at Central Shaheed Minar today where solidarity signatures would be collected and evidence of the leak and satirical posters would be exhibited.

Omar Siraj, an assistant director of University Grants Commission (UGC), was arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-4 on September 18, the day the test was held, for his alleged involvement in the leak.

Among the noted citizens, academicians, intellectuals, politicians and human rights and cultural activists in the rally was Prof Anu Muhammad, an

economist and member secretary of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports.

He said the "murder" was carried out to save the "main culprits" of the leak. "The health ministry has to take responsibility for the leak and heinous beating of demonstrators by police on Wednesday," he added.

The leak and beating are two criminal offences, said columnist Syed Abul Moksud, adding that the death proved the leak allegation true.

Rajib Meer, who teaches journalism

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Nat'l mental health instt a gigantic mess

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Undergoing treatment at a psychiatric hospital, Riad astonished his family when the 14-year-old said he would take medicine only if he was allowed to smoke marijuana or drink alcohol afterwards. He was finally given sedatives and put to sleep.

But the family was wondering how come he knew about alcohol or weed -- the boy was being treated for mood disorder, not for drug abuse. "He studied in a madrasa," said his mother Jahan. "He was raised under strict supervision. I am more than sure he did never have a chance to get introduced to these stuff."

Riad is admitted to the male ward-1 of the National Institute of Mental Health and Research (NIMHR).

An attendant of another patient, Saiful, who witnessed Riad make that announcement before falling asleep, said the boy might have learnt the words after his admission into the ward named "Unit for Drug Addicts".

Several other children and youths are also getting treatment at the ward for various mental conditions, and Riad is just one of them.

Tanvir Ahmad Pranto, 18, has stopped taking bath in fear, apparently in reaction to the chaotic environment in the ward where substance abusers are also being treated.

Seeking anonymity, a nurse of the ward said, "Drug abusers must be treated in secluded areas where nobody except for people treating them is allowed to enter."

In room no. 404, Shakil gets scared often. "I think he used to smoke pot, and he gets afraid so easily," said the 20-year-old's father Nazrul.

Next to his room, three criminals were being treated under police custody.

Apart from three prison guards, six policemen were guarding the room.

One of the guards said, "Generally criminals who killed their parents or siblings for

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Hindu leaders demand Oct 22 as Durga Puja holiday

BSS, Dhaka

The Mahanagar Sarbojoni Puja Committee yesterday urged the government to shift this year's public holiday on Durga Puja from October 23 to October 22, the day Bijoya Dashami will be celebrated, announcing the end of the Bangalee Hindus' largest festival.

The demand was placed following the annual general meeting of the committee at Dakeshwari National Temple in the capital, said a press release.

President of the committee JL Bhowmik chaired the meeting, while State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Narayan Chandra Chanda was chief guest.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

One Ancestor's Story

When I was about ten, my paternal grandmother asked me to read a book. It was a thin, well-worn book with a white cover. The book was called *Amar Goto Jibon* (My Past Life) and it was written by her father (and my great-grandfather) Khan Bahadur Moulvi Sharafat Ali Choudhury. At first I ignored it, but one day, having nothing better to do, I opened it and found myself entranced. Its story has stayed with me through the years. The book, however, disappeared and in recent years I have searched for it in vain.

I was delighted to learn that *Amar Goto Jibon* was recently re-printed by Pandulipi Prokashon of Sylhet. My cousin Dr. Zakir sent me a copy and soon I was immersed again in the story of my ancestor.

The story is set in 1887. Young, up-and-coming police officer Sharafat, having travelled all over the subcontinent on training and duty, is posted as a Police Detective in Naogaon. One day he receives an urgent, secret message from the Police Inspector General of Assam state. Sharafat travels to Assam to discreetly meet the senior officer. He is told about a major unsolved arson case. The largest jail in Assam, Teipur Central Jail, had burned down several months ago. The jail held the most dangerous criminals of the area. Although arson was suspected, the investigation had not made much progress. Would he, Sharafat, take charge of the unsolved mystery?

Sharafat rises to the challenge. Of course he would. But he would need to work in disguise. And so he is granted a six-month leave from his Naogaon police



K.B. Moulvi Sharafat Ali Choudhury.

PHOTO COURTESY: IBAD CHOUDHURY

job, where everyone is told that he is going home for an urgent matter.

In the following months Sharafat dons a variety of disguises to pursue the investigation. He is a Hindi-speaking Hindustani *sanyasi* for a few weeks. Then he becomes the servant in a Brahmin household. Following this he is a shepherd looking after a herd of cows and buffaloes of a rich Gujarati man in Teipur. All this time he is conducting an external investigation. Was the fire set by someone from outside the prison? He eventually concludes that the fire was not set externally and that it was an inside job. Sharafat now meets his

superiors and proposes a daring plan. Since the arsonist was inside the prison, he would disguise himself as a prisoner and go in. His seniors, knowing full well how ruthless the jail's inmates can be, are aghast at the idea. But Sharafat convinces them and, after working out a protocol for the transfer of information, enters the jail as Abdul Majid, a hardened career criminal. As always, he develops a plan to identify the culprit. It involves winning the confidence and respect of the prisoners. After some serious risk-taking and daring he obtains a confession. The case is solved and the arsonist and his accomplices tried, found guilty and punished. A corrupt jailer is also punished. The story relayed in the book is one of the many cases of Sharafat's career. What an adventure his life must have been!

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir.

Climate change may hit global stock markets

Warns Bank of England governor

UNB, Dhaka

Climate change might make the world's stock markets and banks unstable and lead to a financial crash, said Mark Carney, the head of the G20 countries' Financial Stability Board.

He particularly warned about the effects on the market in case of panic selling and a plunge in value of shares in fossil fuel companies and industries that produce a lot of carbon dioxide.

He said an orderly switch from fossil fuels to renewables was needed to avoid turmoil on world stock markets, according to a Climate News Network report received from London yesterday.

These companies, some of the world's largest, control one-third of stock market assets, said Carney, also governor of the Bank of England.

If investors realise these stocks are overvalued and try to sell them all at once, it will cause chaos, he said.

The Group of Twenty or Group 20 is an international forum for the governments

and central bank governors from 20 major economies of the world.

The stark warning is a "remarkable intervention" from one of the world's most conservative and influential bankers, who says he will be advising the world's richest nations at the G20 summit in November to put policies in place to prevent climate change causing future severe turmoil in the markets.

UNPAID LOANS

He warned that banks might become unstable because the billions of dollars in loans they have made to fossil fuel companies might not be repaid.

Carney suggests that there will be a switch of investments from carbon-intensive industries to renewables.

However, his warning contradicts to the policies of George Osborne, UK's chancellor of the exchequer, who has this year been demolishing the UK's on-shore wind and solar subsidy programme, while providing tax breaks to North Sea oil companies to find more reserves and giving the go-ahead

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60 gold bars seized in Satkhira

Two held with 55kg of silver in Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

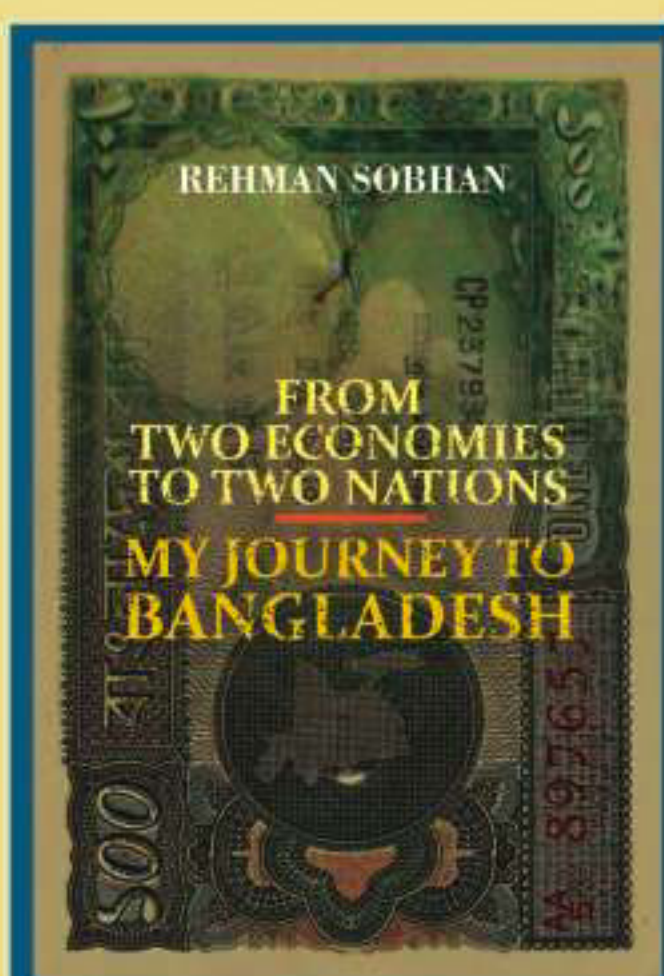
Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members recovered 60 gold bars, weighing around seven kilogrammes, in Satkhira's Kalaroa upazila yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a BGB team raided the house of one Jahirul Islam in Kakkanga border area around 12:00 noon, said Bhuttolal Gayen, chairman of Keragachhi union.

The team, headed by Maj Nazir Ahmed Bakshi, commanding officer of BGB 38 Battalion, found a bag containing the bars at the house, said Bhuttolal, quoting Nayek Subedar Kamal Hossain.

The value of the bars was estimated at over Tk 2 crore.

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FROM TWO ECONOMIES TO TWO NATIONS
MY JOURNEY TO BANGLADESH

by
REHMAN SOBHAN

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