



'MURDER PLOT' AGAINST JOY Journalist Shafik Rehman arrested



Journalist Shafik Rehman flashes V-signs as law enforcers take him out of a Dhaka court yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed senior journalist Shafik Rehman on a five-day remand in a case for alleged attempts to abduct and murder prime minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, hours after detectives arrested him from his house in the capital.

Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Mazharul Islam passed the order after Assistant Police Superintendent of Detective Branch of police Hasan Arafat produced the pro-BNP intellectual before the court, seeking seven days' remand for interrogating him.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Fed could but failed to stop cyber heist

Question marks also on SWIFT system

INAM AHMED and REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The way the Federal Reserve Bank of New York acted in handling the fund transfer requests made by the hackers from Bangladesh Bank's accounts has raised questions about the Fed doing proper due diligence before executing the fund transfers and whether its fund transfer request authentication process falls short of standards.

It now seems, had the Fed been cautious about financial transactions, the funds could easily be stopped being transferred to banks in the Philippines and Sri Lanka, and from there to the pockets of the hackers.

About a month after the heist in which hackers used malwares to make illegal requests to the Fed and transferred \$101 million from Bangladesh Bank's account, questions are also being raised about how secured is SWIFT, the messaging system through which fund transfer requests are made. Some believe there is enough evi-

KEY FACTS

- FEB 4**
\$81m from BB account with the New York Fed was transferred to 4 Rizal Bank accounts
- FEB 8**
BB requested Rizal Bank to stop payment and refund the funds. However, this was a nonworking holiday in the Philippines.
- FEB 9**
RCBC received BB's Swift message. But withdrawals from the accounts \$58.15m had already been processed.

dence to suggest that the SWIFT system was also compromised. The crucial five days The hackers hacked into the system on

February 4 and placed payment orders which were finally paid on February 9 into the accounts of the hackers' beneficiaries. A quick view on what happened during those five days clearly shows the Fed had not acted responsibly to stop the fraudulent transfer of the money.

The hackers first made the payment request in the guise of Bangladesh Bank on February 4. The Fed thought it was rather unusual for a central bank to order payment to several private accounts. So it sent a query to Bangladesh Bank at 17.55 New York time on that very day.

But strangely, even before making the query, it had cleared and executed five of the fake orders. This clearly shows although the Fed had raised red flags against suspicious orders, it failed to act accordingly and executed the payment instructions.

After making the payments, it made queries about 12 other payment orders. The hackers had disabled the printer

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

CASES AGAINST Star EDITOR Editors Guild of India concerned

STAR REPORT

The Editors Guild of India has expressed its deep concern at the barrage of criminal defamation and sedition cases filed against Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star and a columnist of several Indian newspapers.

"The flurry of cases against Anam by supporters of the ruling Awami League is clearly meant to intimidate and harass him and constitute an attack on the freedom of the press in Bangladesh," it says in a statement, signed by its General Secretary Prakash Dubey, yesterday.

A total of 83 lawsuits for defamation were filed against Anam in 56 districts. And of those, 17 involve petitions seeking to sue him for sedition. One of the cases has been dismissed by a Sylhet court.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Grabbers feast on schools

Initiative to recover Dhaka's 23 primary institutions sees almost no progress in over 1yr

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Gendaria Mahila Samity Govt Primary School has over 1,650 students but its compound is so small that just a 10th of the children face difficulty in playing in the ground during recess.

Children cannot walk three abreast in the narrow passage through the gate to the main building. "We cannot even do students' assemblies properly due to space shortage," said Riaz Parvez, head teacher of the school.

It was not supposed to be like this since the 66-year-old school owns 37.36 decimal of land.

However, only around 12.5 decimal is in its possession. The rest of the land has been under the illegal occupation for a long time.

Occupying three decimal of the school's land in the front, Gendaria Mahila Samity constructed six shops and rented them out. Two organisations -- Shimanta Khelaghar Ashor and Shimanta Library -- are running their activities on the school land building their own walls, according to a report of a sub-committee of parliamentary standing committee on primary and mass education ministry.

For a long time efforts were being made by the authorities to evict the illegal occupants but to no avail. Members of the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



A sign of Bangshal Girls' High School, top, on the building of FKM Government Primary School. A crowded classroom in Gandaria Mahila Samity Govt Primary School, bottom left, and two organisations' buildings, right, on the school land. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



BSMMU Doors shut on 160 doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) has not been allowing 160 doctors, recruited in 2005, to attend their offices since Wednesday.

This, the BSMMU authorities say, has been done following an Appellate Division order that in February declared the doctors' recruitment illegal.

The aggrieved doctors, however, say preventing them from attending office is a violation of an April 12 High Court ruling that ordered status quo on their service.

"We were not allowed to sign the attendance book on April 13," said ABM Safiullah, assistant professor of Gastroenterology.

"The chairman of my department said there are instructions from the [higher] authorities to prevent us from working.

"This is a clear violation of the [high] court order and tantamount to contempt of court," he told The Daily Star.

The BSMMU recruited 200 medical officers on March 1,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

TOP QUOTE

"A sword rusts if it's left unused. The same happened with the ACC."

ACC CHAIRMAN
IQBAL MAHMUD
ON THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION'S EFFECTIVENESS IN THE PAST

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