

## Charges against journo Probir accepted

Bail granted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took cognizance of the charges against journalist Probir Sikdar in a case filed under ICT Act and fixed June 29 for hearing on charge framing against him.

Judge KM Shamsul Alam of the Cyber Tribunal passed the decision in presence of the veteran journalist, who is currently out of jail on bail.

The same court also granted Probir bail after he surrendered before it seeking bail.

Probir, 55, editor of the Daily Bangla 71 and a news portal, was arrested on August 16 last year after Faridpur Awami League leader Swapan Kumar Paul filed the case under the ICT Act over a Facebook post he made.

In the Facebook post dated August 10 Probir said his life was under threat and that now Local Government and Rural Development Minister Khandkar Mosharraf Hossain, businessman Moosa Bin Shamsir and condemned fugitive war criminal Abul Kalam Azad would be responsible if he was killed.

Police produced the journalist before the court on August 17 and took him on remand for three days for libel against the minister, police sources said.

However, he was freed on bail two days later.

Later, a Faridpur court on April 19 this year accepted a charge sheet against journalist Probir Sikdar under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act, 2006.

## Two brothers shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Unknown miscreants gunned down two brothers in Laxmipur Sadar upazila in the district yesterday.

The victims are Ibrahim Hossain Ratan, 38, and his brother Ismail Hossain Chowdhury, 35, sons of Sharif Uddin of Bashikpur village in the upazila.

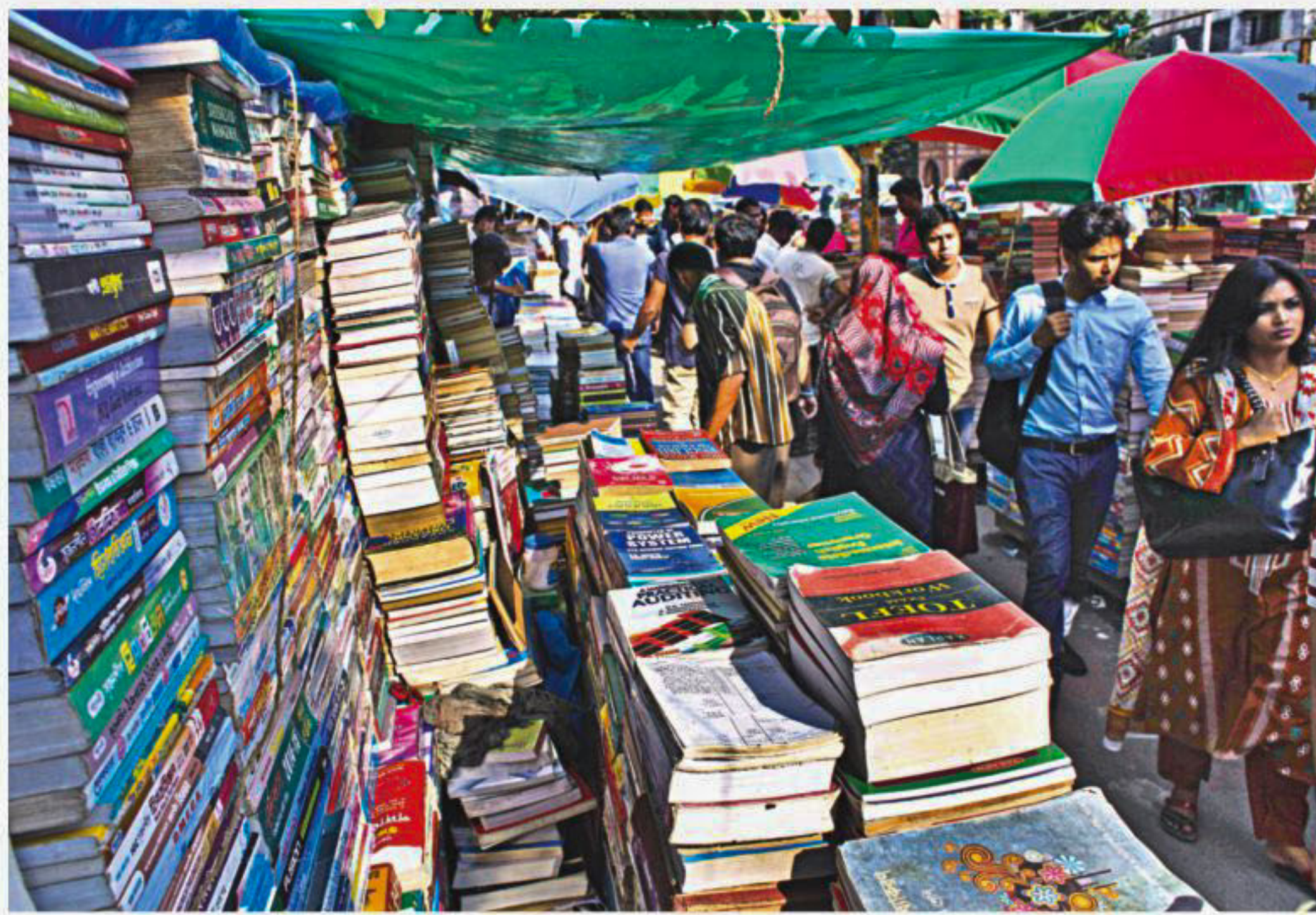
At least four masked men in an auto-rickshaw pulled over near a tea stall around 11:00am and shot the siblings at close range, the victims' cousin Harunur Rashid told The Daily Star.

Ratan was a criminal and chief of a local gang named "Ratan Bahini", said Azizur Rahman Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Chandraganj Police Station.

Both the brothers were involved in criminal activities and operated the criminal gang, he added.

"We are investigating to find out who are behind the killing," the OC said.

The bodies were sent to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.



Piles of books on display at Nilkhet book market in the city.

PHOTO: STAR

Looking for one single place where you can find all kinds of books in Dhaka?

# TRY NILKHET

WASIM BIN HABIB AND TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

From textbooks and notes for all classes to guidebooks for all competitive exams, from old and latest edition of fictions and nonfictions of world famous writers to used rare books, from magazines of varied types to journals from home and abroad, you will get virtually everything here. It's not for nothing that Nilkhet has come to be an integral part of the city's education.

Even in the era of Google and free download, this market continues to attract students and bookworms of all ages. You can get books at half or even less the actual price, mainly because many of them are pirated. Many others are second-hand ones, but in fairly good condition.

The book market, which has around 400 bookshops, is abuzz all the time with people stumbling across a book they are looking for. For the university students, it is literally the best place to get books, as many of their texts and reference books authored by international writers are available at an affordable price.

"Apart from my texts, I got many important and interesting books in Nilkhet that I never really expected to find there," said Reza, a university student.



There is a huge demand for daily newspapers, magazines and novels too.

Take Shimul, a student of NIIT at Dhanmondi. He had long been looking for a copy of Vogue magazine that he needed to prepare for his exam. And from among dozens of old

editions, he found the one he was looking for at the Golden Book Centre.

Nurul Amin, a journalism student of Manarat International University, bought two old fashion magazines for his friend, who studies at BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology, from the same store.

He bought a copy of Uomo and Classy for Tk 100 each, less than a third the actual price.

Ohidul Islam, owner of the stall, said he had books published even 50 years ago.

The sources of books in Nilkhet are as varied as its customers.

"We collect books from different sources," said Jalil, a bookseller.

Another source is the readers themselves. Many return books after reading them and get half the purchase price back.

But many readers are least bothered about where the books or notes came from as long as they are available.

A lot goes on around us. In this new news project, we started running feature contents based on personal experience. We also invite our readers to send similar write-ups for publishing, subject to editing and verification. Please send your pieces and also comments and feedback to reporting@thedailystar.net.



De Hert Danny of Jan De Nul and Capt M Saidur Rahman, right, acting chairman of Payra Port Authority, shake hands after signing an MoU for capital dredging. Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, centre, looks on. PHOTO: PAYRA PORT AUTHORITY

## Traffic goes haywire

FROM PAGE 1

The traffic department, however, blamed digging up of roads in different areas for the gridlock but denied that it was due to the city corporation event.

People suffered in Gulshan, Banani and Mohakhali areas as several streets were closed due to a ceremony for installing CCTV cameras on Gulshan Avenue by Dhaka North City Corporation in the afternoon, alleged a number of city dwellers.

Disrupting vehicular movement, the education ministry brought out a procession to observe Education Week around 9:00am from near the High Court to the International Mother Language Institute, said witnesses.

Gridlocks were reported from other areas including Paltan, Shahbagh,

Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Malibagh, Mirpur, Bijoy Sarani, Farmgate, Kakrail, Mouchak and Elephant Road.

The DMP have long been working to smoothen vehicular movement on the streets but have had little success so far.

Helpers and conductors of buses that ply between Gulshan and Malibagh via Mohakhali and Farmgate said there was a traffic jam that cost about 40 minutes in the morning in front of Brac University in Mohakhali.

They, however, could not say why. Mithun Sarkar, a doctor from Kushtia, travelled from Mohakhali to Farmgate in the early afternoon.

He said it took him about half an hour extra to reach his destination as the bus was stuck below the Mohakhali

flyover for 20 minutes.

"I travelled on this route earlier. But today it was unusual," Mithun told this correspondent at Farmgate.

Wishing not to be named, a BRTC ticket-seller at Farmgate said he watched gridlocks on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue since morning until 3:00pm. His buses were delayed by even an entire hour.

Vehicles that usually use the College Gate route to Mohammadpur took a detour to reach Farmgate, due to hardly-moving traffic at the Suhrawardi Hospital-College Gate intersection in the afternoon.

There was a huge tailback from Bangabhaban to Jatiya Press Club area via Zero Point and Paltan around 11:30am, said Mosharraf Hossain, a

## Roanu

FROM PAGE 16

Tourists could go to the beach but the beach is full of rubble, torn and twisted metals, and tree branches, she said, adding that the beach should be cleaned immediately.

Motaleb Sharif, secretary of Kuakata Hotel-Motel Owner's Association, said before the cyclone, some 300 to 400 tourists both from home and abroad visited the beach daily even in this off-season. But after the cyclone, none visited the beach.

Tidal surges badly damaged the beach and the authorities concerned should take immediate steps to clean it to attract tourists again, he said.

Some tourists might visit the beach during the upcoming weekend, he hoped.

Ajit Kumar Rudra, divisional forest officer, said they were preparing a list to know about the number of damaged trees and establishments.

Abdul Bareq Mollah, mayor of Kuakata municipality, said they would take steps to clean the beach as soon as possible. They also called upon the government to take up a mega project to protect the beach from tidal surges during storms and other natural calamities, he added.

trader of Mirpur.

Dhaka dweller Mamun Hossain said he was stuck in a gridlock for about an hour at Shahbagh while going to Agargaon from Paltan in a CNG-run three-wheeler in the afternoon.

"Frustrated over the situation, I got off the vehicle and went back to Paltan," he said.

Contacted, Joint Commissioner (traffic) Mosleh Uddin of DMP denied that the gridlock was due to the DNCC event at Gulshan.

Digging of roads in different areas might be a reason for the traffic jams, he said.

The police official further claimed the rush of vehicular movement increased suddenly yesterday after Shab-e-Barat holiday.

## Fizz the man of mystery

FROM PAGE 1

charts for the last five years. Shakib, and to a lesser extent Tamim Iqbal, has been upholding Bangladesh's name not only in international cricket but also in various T20 leagues around the world.

The most lucrative and popular league of all, the Indian Premier League, has been where Shakib has been plying his trade as a regular member of the Kolkata Knight Riders. So, Mustafizur playing in the IPL is nothing new for Bangladeshis.

But while with Shakib, the question before each Kolkata game often was whether he would be picked in a team where only four foreign players were allowed, with the Fizz there was the odd certainty even before this IPL season started that Sunrisers Hyderabad would pick him in every game from the start to the end, barring unforeseen circumstances. Such was the impression he made in his debut year. His success -- he is now in fourth place in the wicket-takers' charts in the IPL with the best economy rate among bowlers who have bowled more than 10 overs -- was also foreseen with a degree of certainty simultaneously exhilarating and jarring for Bangladeshi cricket fans.

Enough of the what, now for the how. There is a reason why most of the cricketing world has been predicting greatness for Mustafizur. It is the nature of his bowling. Well-known sports writer Barney Ronay, for whom Mustafizur is 'undoubtedly my favourite international cricketer right now', offered his analysis of the Fizz factor in an article for UK newspaper The Guardian's blog in March.

"Mustafizur isn't quick. He doesn't swing the ball much or have a snorting bouncer. He is, on the face of it, a deeply everyday statistically freaky medium-pace tyro. He does, though, have his own superpower in the shape of a subtle and apparently devastating mystery variation.

"Blessed with a freakishly supple wrist that can snap through 90 degrees at the point of release, Mustafizur has found he can make the white ball jump and stop alarmingly without any change of action once the shine has scuffed and there's a bit of grip about. It is a homemade skill, a cutter he learned in the nets while also weaning himself out of hopping off the wrong foot. It works too. His highlights reel is already stuffed with batsmen spooning drive-length balls to cover before trudging off swinging their bat helplessly through the line of some imaginary half-volley.

Forget the customary Bangladeshi self-congratulation when a foreigner of note notices anything positive about the country. Instead imagine the effect a bowler, then less than a year old in cricket, would have had to have to make an English writer wax lyrical. He had, after all, not even gone to England to show his wares, nor had he played much Test cricket, a format that the British greatly value when forming judgment on cricketers.

As welcome as Ronay's praise was, he was a little inaccurate when he said 'Mustafizur isn't quick'. This was before the IPL, in fact before the World Twenty20, where he registered edition-best figures of five for 22 against New Zealand. But the man whose slower balls are yet to be fully figured out despite surely exhaustive video scrutiny has recently shown the ability to crank the pace up beyond the 140 kmph mark, which is by any standards 'quick'. This extreme change in pace -- his slower balls range around 120-125kmph -- makes him doubly dangerous.

But Ronay should be given early-bird plaudits; he noticed the Fizz before he made a splash on the global stage. Now that he has become the most talked

about cricketer in the hallowed IPL, it is open season and dare it be said, no rookie cricketer in recent memory has attracted so much attention just for his exploits on the field. Various Indian news outlets, as well as some Australian ones, have been singing his praises. If nothing else, this has temporarily put a stop to the 'Indian conspiracy' theories that abound in the more vicious and troll-filled sections of Bangladesh's social media.

He has become a commodity in high demand in the international cricket market. Sussex County Cricket Club followed Sunrisers in signing him up for the English counterpart of the IPL: the Natwest T20 Blast. They are now at pains to convince the world and their supporters that Mustafizur will indeed make the trip to England to turn up in their colours.

But there is more to Mustafizur than meets the eye. He seems to be a fiercely individualistic young man and one who is self-contained -- his Hyderabad captain, Australian firebrand David Warner, has had to learn bits of Bangla from Google Translate to communicate with his trump card, and not the other way around. He also sets his own fields and, necessitated by the scant communication with his captain and team management, forms his own tactics and strategies -- a rarity among young bowlers these days.

Mustafizur is also, like most Bangladeshi boys, prone to bouts of homesickness when away for prolonged periods, so his Sussex stint is by no means a foregone conclusion, but Sussex were having none of it, with coach Mark Davis insisting that they are excited about having "probably the best bowler in the world at the moment" in their side this summer.

When news of his homesickness and possible fatigue at the end of a long IPL season were doing the rounds, Sussex captain Luke Wright responded by saying he can have some days off after the IPL, but that they do want him to turn up.

So who else is left? The Australian Big Bash League? Speculative articles already abound about which Big Bash side will vie for Mustafizur's services. According to an NDTV article, his Hyderabad coach Tom Moody is also a director of Melbourne Renegades, so the Fizz could be heading that way. The article also says that his Hyderabad teammate Moises Henriques called him a 'little genius', and as Henriques is the skipper of Sydney Sixers Mustafizur could be Sydney-bound.

While no one is sure what he will do, he has certainly set international tongues wagging in a manner which is completely unfamiliar for any Bangladeshi cricketer before him, or for that matter most international cricketers today.

Last, but certainly not least -- there can be few better indicators that you have made it big than when a news agency does an in-depth feature story on you. That is what Agence France-Presse (AFP) did when they wrote an article titled "Baby-faced Bangladeshi assassin takes tournament by storm" about his IPL exploits. It was an in-depth article that revealed, among other things, that his father went to the post-office in Tetulia to stop female fan mail from coming in because it was time that Mustafizur focus just on cricket.

There is a long way to go for Mustafizur to achieve anything close to lasting cricketing greatness, and he will doubtless have to prove his worth in the longer version by making waves in Test cricket.

But like his father, his fans will hope that he keeps at it, and with his awesome talent, keen cricketing intellect and willingness to improve, that hope is not a foolish one.

## Disappearance

FROM PAGE 16

in Dhaka on April 21, added Khalilur, also Faridpur upazila chairman.

They are Dulal Hossain, Suruj Hossain, and Liton Hossain of Savar village. Dulal was picked up from the capital's Hazaribagh while the two others from Kamrangirchar.

Besides, one Ramjan Ali of Savar village was picked up from Rangunia in Chittagong on May 22, said the AL leader.

People of Faridpur are worried about the fate of the nine. Their family members don't know whether they are alive or not, he stated.

Of the nine, Suruj Hossain, Dulal Pramanik and Ramjan Ali are accused in Liton murder case, said Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Faridpur Police Station.

Secretary general of Faridpur upazila Jubo Dal, 42-year-old Liton was hacked to death by criminals at Savar village on February 3. A murder case was filed with the police station the following day, accusing 14 people, according to the OC.

Six of the accused are now behind bars. The case has been recently shifted to Criminal Investigation Department, said Habibur.

Police suspected that Liton was killed in a feud over establishing supremacy at Savar village.

About the forced disappearance of nine people, the OC said they have reports about five people going missing.

"Abdul Karim filed the case accusing 14 people of picking up his three sons. Faridpur upazila BNP President Johurul Islam Bokul is the key accused in the case," the OC added.

Rony's wife lodged a general diary with the police station on May 22 about the enforced disappearance of her husband.

Meanwhile, some family members of the enforced disappearance victims at a press conference at Pabna Press Club yesterday demanded the government trace the victims immediately.

Pakhi Khatun, wife of Saddam Hossain, said: "If my husband is a criminal, he must be tried with proper legal procedures. Since being picked up from our house, my husband and his two brothers have been missing for the last two weeks. We don't know what happened to them."

People of Faridpur are afraid of being forced to disappear, said Akramul Alam, a relative of the victims.

Johurul Islam Bokul might be behind the incidents of enforced disappearances out of revenge for the murder of Liton, he suspected.

This correspondent could not reach the BNP leader over the phone for his comment as it was found switched off.