

BANANI RAPE

Accused Shafat's Luxury car seized

CIID says it will sue Raintree for tax evasion, keeping alcohol without licence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) yesterday seized the Mercedes sedan used by Ahmed Shafat, the prime accused in the Banani Rape case.

Investigators suspect Shafat and another accused Shadman Sakif escaped to Sylhet from Dhaka with the car after the case was filed.

Officials found the car, owned by Shafat's father Dildar Ahmed, hidden in a house in Sylhet's Zindabazar area, said CIID Director General Moniul Khan.

He also suspected that taxes on the car were dodged.

The top CIID official told reporters at his office that Raintree Dhaka hotel authorities couldn't give satisfactory answers regarding their taxes and the alcohol found in a room. Cases would be filed in connection with the irregularities, he added.

The narcotics control department confirmed the CIID that liquor bottles

found at Raintree were "pure foreign alcohol", Moinul said.

"We learnt from the rape victims that drugs and alcohol were consumed in the hotel. The hotel doesn't even have licence to serve alcohol," he said, adding that the hotel would be proven guilty in the case.

Invited to Shafat's birthday party on March 28, two university students went to the Raintree hotel around 9:00pm. After the party ended around midnight, Shafat and his friend Halim alias Nayem Ashraf raped them in two rooms, alleged one of the two girls who filed the case with Banani Police Station over a month after the incident.

Shadman Sakif and Shafat's driver Billal Hossain and bodyguard Rahmat Ali, were also accused in the case. All the accused are arrested.

In another development, National Human Rights Commission yesterday asked the deputy commissioner of Gulshan Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, officer-in-charge

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Dismayed at a strike, an elderly patient waits at a doctor's chamber in Dhanmondi around 12:30pm yesterday. Patients suffered throughout the day as physicians across the country kept their private chambers closed protesting the recent assault on doctors and vandalism in the capital's Central Hospital over the death of a Dhaka University student.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DSCC fixes meat prices

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However, the rates would not come into effect between 27th Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr, leaving scope for traders to charge as they like capitalising on the festival when the country sees the highest amount of meat consumption after Eid-ul-Azha.

DSCC Chief Executive Officer Khan Mohammad Bilal said the meat merchants' association promised to follow the price chart in all of Dhaka. Last year, the prices were fixed at Tk 420, Tk 400, Tk 570 and Tk 470 respectively.

Market visits yesterday revealed varying prices. One Selim Ahmed who bought beef at Shankar at Tk 520 said, "It has become dearer day by day."

In Kaptanbazar, both beef and buffalo meat were selling at Tk 500. One butcher

there, requesting anonymity, said buffalo meat got priority as it was less likely to cause allergic reactions. The price was being settled amidst low supply against high demand, he added.

Expressing doubts over whether the rates fixed would be followed, one customer, Shahinur Islam, at Kaptanbazar said, "The decision actually benefits businessmen. From now on, no butcher will sell beef below Tk 475."

Bilal said DSCC has already formed five committees to monitor compliance with the rates. "We will request DNCC [Dhaka North City Corporation] to form similar committees," he said.

Robiul Alam, secretary general of Bangladesh Meat Merchants' Association, said they would ask members to hang the price list in their shops.

Patients suffer across country

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high fever went to Comfort Diagnostic Centre on Green Road.

The Daily Star correspondents met the elderly couple at the hospital. They strongly criticised doctors for the move.

"It seems doctors are following the ways of transport workers to realise their demands... They have no right to hold us hostage. We don't expect it from them," said an utterly frustrated Saidur.

Shamiul Islam, 69, went all the way from Koyra to Khulna city, some 80 kilometres apart, with his wife Monira Begum. She was having severe chest pain. But they had to return home without seeing any doctor.

At another clinic in Khulna's

Tootpara area, Ismail Sheikh was seen waiting with his grandson Saddam, 6, who had been suffering from severe abdominal pain for the last few days.

"We came here from Pirojpur's Mothbaria on Sunday. We had seven diagnostic tests done. The reports were supposed to be delivered on Monday. But I haven't got those yet," the grieving man said.

He then went to talk to the doctor at Good Health Clinic to know what he should do, but failed to enter the clinic.

Ismail has no relatives in Khulna city. They stayed in a hotel on Sunday and Monday. "I requested the clinic authorities to allow us to take some rest on the hospital compound but

they refused us."

"I don't know how we will go home. I am running out of money. Moreover, we are already tired due to the ongoing heat," he said.

Talking to this newspaper, several doctors claimed they stayed away from work to "show respect to our colleagues who were wrongly implicated in the case filed by the DU authorities and to abide by the BMA's decision".

Contacted, BMA Secretary General Prof Ehteshamul Huq Choudhury claimed that they did not hold any patient or hospital hostage. "If someone claims that patients are held hostage, the statement is not correct. Rather I will say that some criminals and mass media have held doctors

hostage."

"It's absolutely up to me whether I will do private practice or not," he said, claiming that some media published reports that the DU student died of wrong treatment.

Ehteshamul said they did not want the case against the doctors be withdrawn. "We want justice. If we are found guilty, we'll be punished. If we are not guilty, then those people, particularly some criminals and mass media, should be punished and this is our demand."

The BMA Secretary General said doctors were being made victims time and again. "There should be an end to it."

Our Khulna correspondent also contributed to the report.

World condemns, IS claims credit

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US President Donald Trump led condolences from political leaders across the globe, as well as stars from the world of music and football such as former Manchester United player David Beckham.

Threatening more attacks, IS said in a statement published on its social media channels: "One of the caliphate's soldiers placed bombs among the crowds."

Manchester police chief constable Ian Hopkins told reporters: "The priority remains to establish whether he was acting alone or as part of a network."

Witnesses described the horror when the suicide bomber blew himself up and anguished parents appealed for information on their loved ones, as Mancunians opened their doors to shelter people lost in the confusion, and taxi drivers offered free rides.

"There were fathers carrying their little girls in tears. People were pushing down the stairs. It was just... chaos," Sebastian Diaz, a 19-year-old from Newcastle, told AFP.

Britain's worst terror bloodshed for more than a decade came just over two weeks before the country votes in a general election, and after a series of deadly jihadist attacks across Europe.

Police staged an armed raid on a Manchester address believed to be linked to Abedi, carrying out a controlled explosion to gain entry after arresting a 23-year-old man earlier yesterday in connection with the attack.

"A single terrorist detonated his improvised explosive device near one of the exits of the venue, deliberately choosing the time and place to cause maximum carnage and to kill and injure indiscriminately," May said after an emergency ministerial meeting.

She said during a visit to Manchester that police would look at the security of such venues, while the

MAJOR TERROR ATTACKS IN BRITAIN			
JULY 7, 2005 LONDON SUICIDE BOMBINGS 3 bombs on the London Underground, 1 bomb on a bus in central London Killed: 52 Wounded: 700	MAY 22, 2013 LONDON VEHICLE AND KNIFE ATTACK British soldier Lee Rigby, 25, run over then hacked to death by two assailants Killed: 1	MARCH 22, 2017 LONDON VEHICLE RAMMING ATTACK Drove into pedestrians on bridge near parliament, then fatally stabbed a policeman Killed: 5 Wounded: 50	MAY 22, 2017 MANCHESTER SUICIDE BOMBINGS Attack at packed concert attended by large numbers of children and teenagers Killed: 22 Wounded: 59 AFP

government would also review police resources, writes AFP.

But while campaigning for the June 8 election was suspended by the main parties after the attack, she insisted: "The terrorists will not prevail."

'BROKEN'
Screaming fans, many of them teenagers, fled the 21,000-capacity Manchester Arena in panic after the explosion at the end of the performance by the 23-year-old Grande, a former child television star who described herself as "broken" by the attack.

Eight-year-old Saffie Rose Rousos and a teenager, Georgina Callander, were among the first of the 22 victims to be confirmed.

Another 59 people were taken to hospital, many with life-threatening conditions.

Police said the blast occurred in the foyer of the arena, a covered area which links the auditorium to Victoria Station, a train and tram hub.

Witnesses reported seeing bodies on the floor after the blast around 10:30pm (21:30 GMT) on Monday, and some fans were trampled as panicked crowds tried to flee the venue.

Families were separated, with dozens of young people taken to nearby hotels overnight, and some parents were still desperately searching for their children yesterday.

"I'm just hearing nothing -- her phone's dead," Charlotte Campbell,

whose 15-year-old daughter Olivia was at the concert, told BBC radio.

The attack was the deadliest in Britain since July 7, 2005 when four suicide bombers inspired by al-Qaeda attacked London's transport system during rush hour, killing 52 people and wounding 700 more.

It revived memories of the November 2015 attack at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris in which armed men wearing explosive belts stormed in and killed 90 people.

That attack was also claimed by IS, as was one in March by a knifeman at the gates of the British parliament -- although police downplayed that claim.

Other recent attacks in Europe have included vehicles driven into crowds in Berlin and Stockholm, coinciding with an offensive on IS holdouts in Syria and Iraq by US, British and other Western forces.

'ACT OF BARBARITY'
World leaders including Angela Merkel, Donald Trump, Emmanuel Macron and Putin have come together to publicly condemn the Manchester attackers, reports metro.co.uk.

Queen Elizabeth II condemned the Manchester attack as an "act of barbarity" and observed a minute's silence at a Buckingham Palace garden reception.

Trump said during a visit to Bethlehem: "So many young, beautiful, innocent people living and enjoy-

ing their lives murdered by evil losers." Merkel said: "This apparent terrorist attack will only strengthen our determination to keep acting together with our British friends against those who plan and carry out such inhuman deeds."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "Pained by the attack in Manchester. We strongly condemn it. Our thoughts are with the families of the deceased & prayers with the injured."

In Japan a government spokesman said: "If this is a terrorist attack, such abhorrent acts of terrorism cannot be justified for any reason, and Japan firmly condemns such an act of terrorism."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted, as reported by The Independent, "Canadians are shocked by the news of the horrific attack in Manchester tonight. Please keep the victims & their families in your thoughts."

The Eiffel Tower's lights were to be turned off at midnight yesterday in homage to the victims, while the Cannes film festival also observed a minute's silence.

Britain's national terror threat level has been "severe", the second-highest of five levels meaning an attack is highly likely, since August 2014, and May said this would remain unchanged, but under review.

In a city famed globally for its musical traditions and football teams, showbusiness stars and teams joined in to express their shock at the carnage.

"We are deeply shocked by last night's terrible events," said Manchester United.

A support centre for people caught up in the attack was set up at the Etihad Stadium, the home of their rivals Manchester City.

Britain's third biggest city was hit in 1996 by a massive car bomb planted at a shopping centre by Irish Republican Army paramilitaries which wounded more than 200 people.

Govt has no faith

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of the Supreme Court for a hearing on the appeal against the High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution.

The 16th amendment had empowered parliament to remove judges for incapacity or misbehaviour.

Following a writ petition filed by nine Supreme Court lawyers, the HC on May 5 last year declared the amendment illegal. The government on January 4 this year filed the appeal with the SC challenging the HC verdict.

The SC will resume the hearing tomorrow morning.

Mahbubey Alam yesterday told the court that there is a history of Article 70.

Article 70 says, "A person elected as a member of parliament at an election at which he was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his seat if he resigns from that party; or votes in parliament against that party; but shall not thereby be disqualified for subsequent election as a member of parliament."

The provision came into being amid "horse-trading" taking place in different countries, said the AG. In terms of politics, "horse-trading" is bringing in members from the opposition party to gain majority in parliament by resorting to unethical means.

In response, the chief justice asked if there is any certainty that "horse-trading" will not take place while making decisions about judges.

He said there should be an exclusive hearing on Article 70. "We cannot say everything here as it will surface in the media."

The attorney general said the 16th amendment was made to remove the scars of martial law.

The system of Supreme Judicial Council, which was empowered to recommend judges' removal, was introduced through a martial law proclamation, the AG said.

The 16th amendment was incorporated to go back to the original constitution. It was in the country's interest, not for a political purpose, he argued.

Justice Sinha said some laws formulated in 1982 [during the martial law rule] are still now in force.

He added the judiciary never supported martial law.

There is a very sad chapter in the country's history, the CJ recalled. Without mentioning any name, he said that a highly educated president had to depart as he showed a little neutrality.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told the court that Bangladesh is the only example where a chief justice [Abu Sadat Md Sayem] had become the chief martial law administrator by breaking his oath and supported martial law.

Unless there are checks and balances like the 16th amendment, it cannot be guaranteed that the same thing will not happen again, he said.

The attorney general told the SC that parliament members are elected representatives of the people. As the appointing authority, the president should do something about the HC judge who observed in the 16th amendment verdict that many lawmakers have criminal records.

If the allegation against the MPs is true, something tangible should be done, he added.

The chief justice then asked the attorney general how he could make such a comment. "What did you say? Can the president remove a judge?"

Justice Sinha said the executive has already brought the lower judiciary under its control and it is now trying to do the same to the Supreme Court.

"Around 80 percent judges of the country are from the lower judiciary. In fact, the Supreme Court has no control over them. The courts have become disabled."

When the attorney general said the sculpture on the Supreme Court premises has become an issue, the chief justice asked him not to raise it.

Justice Sinha said there is a district with no district judge for five months. He questioned how the judiciary is functioning.

He added he always makes comments in the interest of the judiciary.

"The law minister said the salaries of judges have increased and the judiciary is independent. Can the judiciary become independent only through hike of salaries of judges? The salaries of judges increased one year after that of the ministers were hiked," Sinha said.

The chief justice along with other judges of the apex court bench left the courtroom around 1:15pm, when the

S. Korea fires warning shots at object flown from North Korea

AFP, Seoul

South Korea fired warning shots yesterday at a flying object that entered the country's airspace from North Korea across the Demilitarized Zone, Seoul's military said.

The object had not been identified and its radar course was being investigated, the military said in a statement.

One official told AFP it appeared to be a drone.

The official gave no details, but previous drones flown across the border have been similar in size to hobby craft.

Lots to play for in dead rubber

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(Bangladesh time).

The four-wicket defeat in their first match against the Kiwis on May 17 means that Bangladesh are yet to win against their opponents in a match played away from home. While that may be incentive enough to put their best foot forward, there is the added benefit of moving up to sixth position in the ICC ODI rankings if they beat the Black

Caps today, which will in turn greatly enhance their chances of qualifying directly to the 2019 ICC World Cup as one of the top eight teams.

Lending the match even more context is the fact that New Zealand and Bangladesh are in the same Champions Trophy group, and a win for either side will be a great confidence-booster when the teams meet next in the Group A clash on June 9 in Cardiff.

Both sides are coming off strong wins in their previous games -- Bangladesh beating Ireland convincingly by eight wickets on Friday and New Zealand thrashing the home team by 190 runs on Sunday -- and so there might not be many changes. New Zealand have benefited from the return of their Indian Premier League stars and the likes of Matt Henry, Corey Anderson and Colin Munro -- who hit a 15-ball 44 against

Ireland -- certainly gives the Kiwis a more formidable look.

Bangladesh have some bowlers in their ranks who have not been featured so far such as Shafiul Islam, Taskin Ahmed and Subashis Roy, and it remains to be seen whether they experiment by bringing them in or stick with a winning combination in a match that is more important than its academic nature suggests.