



PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

Amid the scorching heat yesterday, students of Lulaing Mukh Para Govt Primary School stand on a road and chant slogans as they wait to welcome CHT Affairs Minister Bir Bahadur U Shwe Sing. Their teachers made them stand for three hours on the road in Lulaing, a remote area of Bandarban's Lama upazila.

## Islami Bank

FROM PAGE 1  
these two directors today [yesterday]," Arastoo Khan, chairman of IBBL, confirmed The Daily Star over the phone. A board meeting would be called soon over the issue, and the two directors' resignation letter would be placed before the board, he said. Arastoo said both directors resigned on personal grounds. Earlier, IBBL at its board meeting held after the annual general meeting (AGM) on Tuesday removed Alam and Mabud from their executive posts. But the meeting decided that they would continue as directors in the bank. The board meeting also approved inclusion of one more director from Saudi-based Al-Rajhi Co in the Islami Bank board, taking the number of directors to 20. On May 11, Alam wrote in Facebook that he was under pressure from some quarters to resign from the post. Later, a media release issued by a group of seven directors threatened to step down if any of them was made to resign under pressure. On May 18, at a press conference, the IBBL chairman alleged that the bank's vice-chairman violated his oath by spreading propaganda about the bank.



Alam Mabud

He claimed that Ahsanul gave wrong information to the media about the Zakat fund, scholarships and Iftar expenditure. The rift in the board of the bank came less than five months after a major change had been made to the board and top management. In January, the IBBL appointed Arastoo as the new chairman and brought major changes to its key positions. At the time, Ahsanul was also elected as the vice-chairman. The conflict stems after the bank declared 10-percent dividend on April 2 for 2016 against a net profit of Tk 450 crore. Some of the directors believe that the board gave "the meagre dividend" to see the bank's share price go on a "free fall" so that a Chittagong-based big business group can buy the shares on the cheap. While the AGM was in progress on Tuesday, the Islamic Development Bank, one of the founding members of Islami Bank, declared it would sell 8.70 crore shares out of its total holding of 12.08 crore shares in the bank at the current market price. In a parallel development, Excel Dyeing and Printing Limited, one of the seven companies that became corporate directors in the bank last year, announced its intent to buy over 3.2 crore shares in Islami Bank within next 30 days. Both declarations came on Dhaka Stock Exchange website on Tuesday. Excel Dyeing which has a representative in the board of the Islami Bank has completed its buy of shares worth over Tk 105 crore within two days of declaration.

## BNP leader

FROM PAGE 1  
Syed Selim and Nowsher, who were present there, were also shot. They were rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital, he said. Nowsher died in the hospital. Talking to The Daily Star, Mithu's elder brother Sarder Salim said he heard some 20 to 25 gunshots. Other details of the incident were not available instantly. Mithu's father Abul Kashem Sarder, a former Phultala Union Parishad chairman, was killed on August 29, 1998. Meanwhile, BNP chief Khaleda Zia, in a statement last night, condemned the killing.

## US intelligence leaks

FROM PAGE 20  
United Kingdom." The British government has expressed its anger at the release in US media of details from the investigation into Monday's concert attack, including photographs of parts of the bomb which left 22 people dead, including children. Arriving in Brussels, May warned that intelligence sharing with the United States was "built on trust". "Part of that is knowing intelligence can be shared confidentially and I will make clear to President Trump that intelligence shared with law enforcement agencies must be secure," she told reporters. Visiting the military alliance's new \$1.2 billion headquarters with fellow leaders later, Trump led a moment's silence for the victims of what he described as "a barbaric and vicious attack on our civilisation". In his statement, Trump -- who was already struggling domestically to stem a tide of damaging leaks from law enforcement agencies -- said the information coming out in the US media was "deeply troubling".

"These leaks have been going on for a long time and my administration will get to the bottom of this. The leaks of sensitive information pose a grave threat to our national security," he said. "I am asking the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies to launch a complete review of this matter, and if appropriate, the culprit should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law." The shellshocked country came to a halt for a poignant minute's silence at 11:00am local time to remember the 22 dead, innocent victims of the latest Islamic State-claimed atrocity to hit Europe.

And as more children were named among the victims of Monday's massacre, Libyan authorities detained the suicide bomber's father as well as his brother while police in Britain carried out fresh arrests and raids. A spokesman for the Deterrence Force, which acts as Libya's Government of National Accord's police, said the brother was aware of Abedi's plan and the siblings were both members of the Islamic State jihadist group.

Abedi's brother Hashem had been "under surveillance for a month and a half" and "investigation teams supplied intelligence that he was planning a terrorist attack in the capital Tripoli", the Deterrence Force said on its Facebook page. Emotions were still raw in the northwestern city, three days after Salwan Abedi's attack on a concert by US pop star Ariana Grande -- especially so as the bomber was born in the city.

Amid the grief, British authorities were left "furious" by repeated leaks of material shared with their US counterparts. Images obtained by The New York Times newspaper showed a detonator Abedi was said to have carried in his left hand, shrapnel including nuts and screws and the shredded remains of a blue backpack.

"We are furious. This is completely unacceptable," a government ministry source said of the images "leaked from inside the US system". The leak, which followed a similar disclosure of the bomber's identity and probe details, has rocked the intelligence-sharing relationship between close allies London and Washington.

The National Counter Terrorism Policing body said the breach of trust caused great "damage" and "undermines our investigations." The attack was the latest in a series of deadly incidents across Europe claimed by IS that have coincided with an offensive on the group in Syria and

Iraq carried out by US, British and other Western forces.

A relative told AFP that Abedi had travelled to Manchester from Libya four days before the bombing.

German police said he had made a brief stopover at Dusseldorf Airport. French Interior Minister Gerard Collomb has said Abedi had "likely" been to Syria after the trip to Libya, citing information provided by British intelligence services to their counterparts in Paris.

British officials said Abedi had been on the radar of the intelligence community before the massacre.

Police announced two new arrests yesterday in their probe, bringing the total to eight people in custody in Britain. A woman detained on Wednesday was released without charges.

Early Thursday, police said they conducted a controlled explosion in the south of Manchester where they were carrying out searches in the Moss Side area connected to the attack.

Underscoring jitters in the city, bomb disposal units were rushed to a college in Manchester, which later turned out to be a false alarm.

Britain's terror threat assessment has been hiked to "critical", the highest level, meaning an attack is considered imminent.

Armed troops were sent to guard key sites, a rare sight in mainland Britain. The attack was the deadliest in Britain since 2005 when four Islamist suicide bombers attacked London's transport system, killing 52 people.

The bombing came just over two weeks before a snap general election set for June 8. Campaigning will resume today.

A total of 75 people are being treated in hospital, including 25 in critical care, medical officials said. Twelve of the injured are aged under 16.

One of those killed was eight-year-old

## CJ sees crisis

FROM PAGE 1  
Mahmud -- placed before the SC their opinions in writing against the 16th amendment to the constitution.

On behalf of TH Khan, his son Afzal H Khan submitted to the top court a statement saying the parliament, which passed the bill on the 16th amendment, is illegal, as the election through which it was elected was illegal.

TH Khan said it would be better if the amendment is scrapped.

The veteran jurist noted that the Supreme Judicial Council, which was empowered to probe allegations against judges and make recommendations for their removal, should be made stronger and more powerful.

Barrister Amir-Ul Islam told the SC that the judiciary deals with the allegation of misconduct against any judge under the rules similar to those in European and Commonwealth countries.

Most of these countries have moved away from the system of removing judges through parliament and delegated the responsibility to judicial council, he said.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud told the apex court that parliament has not been given the authority to remove secretaries or police and military personnel over allegations of misconduct.

"Why the responsibility of removing judges, who sit at the top in terms of education and dignity, will be vested in parliament?"

Will there be any independence of the judiciary and dignity of judges if the authority to remove them rests with parliament? he questioned.

There would be "chaos" if the Supreme Judicial Council ceases to exist, said the jurist.

## Nayem makes

FROM PAGE 20  
sources said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Satyabrata Shikder recorded Nayem's confessional statement at his chamber and sent him to jail afterwards.

The accused told the magistrate that he forced the girl to pop a birth control pill before raping her.

The three other accused in the case, the victims' friend Shadman Sakif, Shafat's driver Billal Hossain and bodyguard Rahmat Ali assisted in the rapes, Nayem said in his confession.

Nayem did not reveal much, but stressed that he was repentant, the sources added.

Ismot Ara Amy, the investigation officer in the case, produced Nayem, a friend of prime accused Shafat, before the court on completion of his seven-day remand.

Shafat, son of one of the owners of Apan Jewellers', earlier confessed to raping the other victim while Sakif and Billal confessed that they were involved in the acts.

One of the victims, lodged the case on May 6 alleging that she along with her friend was raped by Shafat and Nayem at the Raintree hotel, on the night of March 28 after Shafat's birthday party.

NHRC QUIZZED RAINTREE AUTHORITIES  
The Raintree authorities yesterday claimed that many of their employees were resigning in fear of being ostracised in the society.

"The business is going to be ruined..." Adnan Harun, managing director of the hotel, told reporters at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

He added that his family as well as the employees' families were humiliated everywhere. "We are being socially maligned..."

He also sought punishment of the culprits.

The NHRC fact finding committee, formed to look into the matter, summoned Adnan Harun and Raintree General manager Frank Forget along with the Deputy Commissioner (Gulshan) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Moshak Ahmed and Officer-in-Charge of Banani Police Station B M Farman Ali.

But the police officers requested the NHRC to defer their hearings.

In another development, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) in a press release said, Apan Jewellers must to give back around 3,422 gram of gold and a diamond nose-pin to its 182 customers.

After this, 497,808 grams of gold and 1590 pieces of diamond jewelry would be kept seized by the CIID.

## Ex-JMB chief

FROM PAGE 2  
The court fined them both Tk 1 lakh each, in default of which they will have to serve one year more. The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender, the judge said.

Public Prosecutor Kazi Jahangir Hossain expressed his satisfaction with the verdict.

In his observation, the judge said Saidur misinterpreted the Holy Quran and misled and instigated people.

The court framed charges against Saidur and two others on February 12 this year.

After an investigation into the case, detectives pressed charges against the three on August 7, 2010.

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court later transferred the case to the Special Judge's Court-6 for its disposal where the trial began. But it was learnt that the investigation officer did not get any approval for pressing charges from the home ministry, which was mandatory.

The case was later sent back to its previous court for the next course of action. The sessions court then sent a letter to the home ministry for its approval on September 8, 2015.

The ministry gave its approval on August 26 last year.

# Narayanganj teacher files bail petition

Hearing May 31

STAR REPORT

Schoolteacher Shyamal Kanti Bhakta filed a bail petition with the Narayanganj Sessions Judge's Court yesterday, a day after he landed in jail in a bribery case.

His lawyer Shakhawat Hossain Khan said Judge Syed Enayet Hossain fixed May 31 for hearing the bail prayer.

"We hope to get justice from the court as the case is motivated and baseless," he told The Daily Star.

Shyamal, headmaster of Piya Sattar Latif High School in Bandar area of Narayanganj, was forced to do squats holding ears in presence of local Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Salim Osman on May 13 last year over allegation that the headmaster made derogatory comments about religion while meting out corporal punishment to a student.

According to the lawyer, the bribery case was filed under four sections of different laws. The offences under two sections are bailable and the offences under two others are non-bailable.

Shakhawat said, "Although the offences under two sections are non-bailable, the accused are granted bail by courts in around 90 percent cases".

He termed the bribery allegation against the headmaster imaginary. He hoped the Narayanganj court would grant bail to his client considering the merit of the case and the ailing health of the accused.

Shyamal on Wednesday surrendered before another Narayanganj court and sought bail in the case filed by Morsheda Begum, an English teacher at the same school, on July 14 last year.

The court rejected the bail prayer and sent him to jail.

Earlier, the court had issued an arrest

warrant for the headmaster after taking the bribery charges into cognisance.

According to the case statement, the teacher took Tk 1.35 lakh in bribe from Morsheda, making a false promise of having her included in the monthly pay order (MPO) system.

A few days after the May 13 incident last year, the school's managing committee forced Shyamal to step down over the allegation that he had hurt "religious sentiments" of the Muslims.

But an education ministry probe found the allegation to be false and Shyamal was reinstated as headmaster. He underwent treatment in the capital and joined duty on July 10. The school managing committee was dissolved subsequently.

Interestingly, just four days after his return to work, three complaints were filed against him with the Narayanganj Judicial Magistrate's court.

One Rina Begum of Kallyandi area in Bandar filed a case against the headmaster for allegedly torturing her son Rifat, a student of the school, on May 8 and May 13 while Samsul Haque Samsu lodged another case for allegedly hurting "religious sentiments" of the Muslims.

The third complaint was filed by Morsheda for allegedly taking bribe from her.

The Narayanganj court scrapped the first two cases on July 14 last year as an investigation into the same incidents was underway following a High Court order.

However, the court ordered police to investigate the bribery charges.

Meanwhile, Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad, yesterday said the bribery case was aimed at "harassing the headmaster", reports our Narayanganj correspondent.

## Indomitable Rumana

FROM PAGE 20

a blue dress and strappy heels, basking in spring sunshine and the glow of having fulfilled a dream.

The contrast highlights a remarkable comeback from a devastating assault that generated international headlines, triggered rallies against domestic violence and galvanized support from UBC and the broader community.

Rumana, 38, gave credit to her friends and to UBC's Access and Diversity department.

"I always had my friends with me -- they never left me alone," Rumana said after her graduation ceremony.

"I guess my blindness gave me a filter -- so only people with good hearts were able to connect with me."

That dream -- obtaining a master's degree and then, law school -- seemed ripped from her grasp in June, 2011, when Rumana was assaulted by her then-husband while visiting her family in Bangladesh. At the time, she was taking a master's degree in political science at UBC.

Previously, she'd been an assistant professor in Dhaka University's international relations department.

Her family, including her young daughter, stayed in Dhaka after she enrolled in UBC. There had been tension between the couple over her studies and that tension erupted in an assault in Bangladesh, she says. He gouged her eyes and bit her nose, where she still bears a scar.

Four operations in Vancouver failed to restore her sight.

The husband died in a Bangladeshi prison in December, 2011.

The attack generated headlines around the globe. UBC set up a website to collect donations to help with medical and living expenses.

Adjusting was tough.

Growing up, Rumana had refused to play childhood games that involved being blindfolded; she hated not being able to see, even for a second.

"When I became blind, I never realised I would be able to live like this -- but look at me now. The past six years, I have lived as a blind person. You never know what you are capable of until you are pushed into a corner."

Rumana's academic ambitions have tested her and UBC's support systems for students with disabilities.

Volunteer readers at UBC's Crane Library confessed to her after the fact that they had nearly fallen asleep reading some of the dry legal material.

Other course material was recorded on CDs she could listen to at home.

She has thought about a guide dog but so far, hasn't pursued that possibility. She's allergic (although she has been told that hypoallergenic breeds are available) and finds the notion of a guide dog a little daunting, worrying that she wouldn't have the time it takes to make such a partnership work.

For now, she relies largely on friends and HandyDart, a transit service for people with disabilities.

Her family is immensely proud.

When she finished her master's degree and said she wanted to go to law school, they asked, gently, whether she might consider something easier, her brother Mashrur Hossain said.

She was having none of it, asking her brother, "what if I got bored?"

"It's amazing -- I obviously it feels great, to be part of the whole thing ...

but it's probably the best possible outcome that could happen," said Mashrur, a technology entrepreneur who lives in the Netherlands.

During law school, Rumana received the Hilda Janzen Memorial Award, an \$18,000 annual award for students who have good academic standing, have demonstrated leadership and community involvement in feminist and legal issues, and who face financial or systemic challenges.

She also won the \$500 DLA Piper (Canada) Prize in Natural Resource Law, given to students who achieve high academic standing in certain courses.

She worked at DLA Piper last summer and will article there beginning in September.

She spoke at her graduation ceremony, using the opportunity to thank the people who helped her find a sense of direction when she was totally lost.

## Day labourer

FROM PAGE 1

NGO has since helped her to keep up-to-date with available products and services.

"My business has a turnover of 17 lakhs per month," she says, "from which I draw up to Tk

35,000. From business profits I have already released my land from mortgage."

Aklima has three ponds that she always used to farm fish. "In the days of financial hardship," she says, "I had to sell all the fish produced in our ponds. Now I can take some home."

Of course the benefits of Aklima's entrepreneurship are far greater than fresh fish. "Due to my poverty and helplessness," Aklima laments, "I had to give my only daughter for marriage at a young age, which is what happened to me. Now I am more fortunate. I am determined to see my only son complete his education."

Her son Solaiman currently studies in class nine.

"I am really proud of her," says Aklima's husband Abdul Halim Sheikh, who helps out in the shop. "She brought such positive change to our lives. She sets a great example for other local women. She's helpful to farmers who can produce crops in a more scientific way because of her advice." Moreover, he adds, business activities have never prevented Aklima from being an adept household manager.

Aklima's shop, which has branched out beyond agricultural products to offer services such as a mobile banking facility, is popular in the village.

"Aklima gives good suggestions about fertiliser," says vegetable producer and regular customer Reshma Begum, 51. "She helps us achieve just the right fertiliser balance to produce good harvests."

"Aklima really helps the farmers," agrees Nazrul Islam, the agriculture officer for Dumuria

upazila. "She will visit her customers' fields to help them overcome difficulties; and she observes first hand, the results of the products she sells. Sometimes we assist her with additional advice."