



Officials weighing gold ornaments at the Mouchak outlet of Apan Jewellers. Customs officials took half a tonne of gold ornaments from five outlets of the jewellery chain and deposited them with Bangladesh Bank for not having proper documents. People, right, who had paid Apan for ornaments, talking to customs officials about when they would have their jewellery.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Half a tonne of Apan's gold now with BB

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gold. What is our fault?" she asked.
A customer at the Gulshan outlet also said wedding of a relative had to be postponed as Apan didn't deliver the gold ornaments.

Asked, Moynul said, "A portion of the confiscated gold was kept aside for those who ordered and paid for the gold. But that amount would only be a tiny portion of what we confiscated." He said after they figure out the proper procedure, they would

give the people the gold they paid for.
On Saturday night, Moynul said Apan owners came up with photocopied documents of about 125kgs of gold saying that they purchased the gold from people who brought it into the country under the baggage rule.

Gold brought in under the baggage rule are for personal consumption; it cannot be used for commercial purpose. Apan owners somehow collected the documents in an

attempt to hide their misdeeds, said the top CIID official.

He added that the papers showed that one person travelled abroad 18 times in five months and brought 200 grams of gold each time.

"We will investigate the matter," he said.

The CIID official in May went for the crackdown amid allegation by one of the Banani rape victims that the prime accused Ahmed Shafat, son of one of the owners of Apan

Jewellers, bragged about being a gold smuggler.

Shafat and the four other accused also boasted about their wealth and said police would not touch them when the two girls warned that they would go to the law enforcers, according to the testimony of one of the two girls.

Invited to Shafat's birthday party on March 28, the two girls went to The Raintree Dhaka around 9:00pm. After the party ended around mid-

night, Shafat and his friend Nayem Ashraf alias Halim raped them in two rooms, alleged one of the two girls who filed the case.

Shafat, and Nayem confessed to raping the girls while three other accused, Shafat's driver Billal Hossain, bodyguard Rahmat and the victims' friend, Shadman Sakif, admitted their involvement in the incident.

Meanwhile, National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) com-

mittee formed to look into the matter quizzed the Deputy Commissioner (Gulshan) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Mostaque Ahmed and Officer-in-Charge of Banani Police Station BM Farman yesterday morning.

"We asked them how police came to know about the case, how the victims came to the police station, and how police recorded the case..." Nazrul Islam, convener of the committee, told The Daily Star.

MITU MURDER CASE

Key suspect still on the run

Relationship between her father and husband sours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A year after Mahmuda Khanam Mitu, wife of then superintendent of police Babul Akhter, was murdered on a Chittagong street, the detectives neither know the motive nor where key suspect Kamrul Islam Shikder Musa is.

Police detective branch has so far arrested seven people in connection with the murder.

The arrestees are Md Anwar, Md Motaleb Miya alias Md Wasim, Ehteshamul Haque alias Bhola, Md Shahjahan, Saidul Sikder Shakur (Musa's elder brother), Md Shazaman alias Robin and Abu Nasar Gunnu.

Two other accused -- Nurun Nabi

and Rashed -- were killed in a "gunfight" with police on July 5 last year.

On June 5 last year, Mitu was stabbed and shot dead when she was walking her son to his school bus stop at GEC intersection in Chittagong city.

Her husband Babul Akhter, then a superintendent of police, filed a case against three unidentified men with Panchlaish Police Station in connection with the murder.

Meanwhile, the relationship between Babul and Mitu's father, Mosharrif Hossain, has now gone sour.

Babul has moved out of his in-laws' home with the children and Mosharrif now accuses Babul of being involved in Mitu's murder.

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3 days on, fear still runs deep among hill people

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stored at my house are still burning. My newly bought motorbike was torched. And all my furniture was looted."

He had sent his six family members to a jungle in Kalo Pahar area. "They are living under the open sky in the jungle in incessant rains with no food. My mother is sick and we have nothing for her treatment," he said.

Kiran was seen rummaging through the wreckage of his burnt house in Manikjhorchora with tears in his eyes. He found nothing that could be sent to feed his family members.

Mitali Chakma, 40, too, came all the way from the jungle to see whether she could manage some food for her two teenage daughters and a minor son.

"I have caught cold as I have been living under the open sky in rains for the last two days," he said.

At Manikjhorchora Government Primary School, these correspondents talked to around 20 victims. They said they had lost everything but would not take any government relief.

"Each of the houses that were

destroyed is worth Tk 10 to 15 lakh. We want the administration to rebuild our houses. We want our houses to be just like they used to be before the attacks. The meagre 30 kg of rice and cash money would be of no use," said Buddhajoy Chakma of Baittapara village.

Following the death of a local Jubo League man, several hundred people from different Bangalee-dominated unions brought out a procession carrying the body and attacked indigenous community houses in the three villages, in Longadu upazila of Rangamati, on Friday morning.

Police on Thursday recovered the body beside the Khagrachhari-Dighinala road at Charmile in Khagrachhari district.

The district administration has put the official number of victim families at 212.

Additional Deputy Magistrate Moazzem Hossain said they completed the list of victims and would send a proposal to the government for their rehabilitation. "We have brought 30 tonnes of rice, and Tk 1,000 for every family," he told The Daily Star.

When told that the victims are rejecting the government relief, he said, "We have brought the rice and cash to win trust of the victims."

Mangal Chakma, chairman of Atharakhora Union Parishad, was reluctant to keep the relief items. He said no victim came to the Tintila Ban Bihar, a Buddhist monastery, to take those.

"No family came to take relief. The victims are still in the hills and jungles. They are agitated. And they are very angry with me as I [on Friday] had requested them not to leave homes and assured them that nothing would happen," he added.

Meanwhile, five Bangalee youths were arrested yesterday in connection with Friday's attacks. None of them is listed in the first information report.

Police are yet to detain Saiful, Jewel and Qayum, who allegedly led the procession from where the attack was carried out. However, those arrested yesterday include Halim and Shah Alam, brothers of Saiful and Qayum.

Sub-Inspector Dulal Hossain of Longadu Police Station filed a case on Saturday against 15 named and

300/400 unnamed persons.

Seven of the named accused were already arrested on Friday.

Mohammed Shafiq Sarwar, additional superintendent of police in Rangamati, visited the Tintila village yesterday.

Asked if police had any failure in ensuring security of the indigenous people, he said, "There were seven to eight thousand people and only 40 police personnel. So it was almost impossible to keep the situation under control. Still, necessary action would be taken if law enforcers are found at fault."

Meanwhile, United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) called a half-day hartal in Rangamati district for today protesting the Longadu attack.

Also yesterday, law enforcers foiled a procession of Pahari Chhatra Parisad (PCP) in College Gate area of Dighinala upazila, Khagrachhari.

The student organisation brought out the procession protesting Friday's arson in Longadu.

Two leaders of PCP were detained from the spot, witnesses said.

Hasina to visit London, Stockholm next week

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to pay a four-day visit to London and Stockholm this month.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday told The Daily Star that the PM would pay a two-day bilateral visit to Stockholm on June 15-16 to further promote trade and investment with Sweden, particularly strengthening cooperation in ship-building and garment sector.

On her way to Stockholm, Hasina would make a private visit to London and from where she would go to Sweden. She is expected to leave Dhaka on June 12.

During her Sweden visit, the PM would hold a bilateral meeting with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, and the two leaders would sign a joint statement which would

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Govt working to expand the Sundarbans

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Day, tree fair and National Tree Plantation Campaign in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

"To expand the Sundarbans, we've already taken an initiative to create artificial mangrove forests." She had already given directives to the authorities to expand the forest across the coastal region.

The PM also said her government had taken various steps to preserve the biodiversity of the world's largest mangrove forest and introduced "smart patrolling" to contain crimes inside the forest. The authorities have taken measures to create alternative employment opportunities for local people living around the forest so that they don't cut down trees unnecessarily.

Earlier, Hasina handed over "Bangabandhu Award for Wildlife Conservation", "National Environment Award" and Prime Minister's National Award for Tree Plantation at the programme.

Emphasising the importance of waste

management in the industrial zones, Hasina said she already asked the authorities to ensure the use of central effluent treatment plants (ETP).

The government has made it mandatory for every industrial zone to build ETPs to ensure waste management centrally, and directed all concerned to strictly monitor so that no one can violate the directives.

Terming Bangladesh the biggest delta in the world, Hasina said hills, seas, rivers and canals, and plants and animals made its rich biodiversity, and this biodiversity provided people with all necessary food, clothes and housing materials.

The country's biodiversity is now facing a challenge due to its over population, indiscriminate felling of trees and extraction of natural resources, cutting of hills, filling of water bodies, reduction in navigability, misuse of chemical fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture and above all unplanned urbanisation and industrialisation, Hasina said.

On protection of the environment, the PM said her government took effective steps to reduce the environmental

pollution and deal with adverse impacts of climate change through tree plantation and afforestation.

Recently, Bangladesh Biodiversity Act, 2016 was enacted to preserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable extraction of natural resources.

Moreover, the government has been putting in efforts to conserve natural resources and environment through sustainable management.

Hasina urged all to plant at least one fruit, one timber and one herbal saplings to contribute to the maintenance of the natural and ecological balance and to making a green-economy dependent golden Bangla a reality.

At one point, she said, "Whatever project we take, at least we give special attention to the Sundarbans so that this forest must not be affected."

Environment and Forests Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, Deputy Minister Abdullah Al Islam Jakob and Secretary Istiaque Ahmed also spoke there.

Deputy Commission of Barisal Gazi Md Saifuzzaman and Mokarram Hossain of Kalabagan, Dhaka received

the National Environment Award under the individual category while Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd got it under the institution category for their contribution to protecting the environment through checking pollution.

Prof of botany at Chittagong University Shafiq Haidar Chowdhury, journalist Aatur Rahman Kajal of Srimangal, and Rinku Rani Mandal, on behalf of Village Tiger Response Team, received Bangabandhu Award for the Wildlife Conservation-2017.

Hasina also handed over cheques to the beneficiaries of the social afforestation programme.

Later, the prime minister planted a jackfruit sapling at the BCCI compound marking the National Tree Plantation Campaign. She also inaugurated the National Environment Fair and National Tree Fair-2017 at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day is "Connecting to the nature" while the theme of the Tree Plantation Campaign is "Those who plant tree become rich".

Withdrawal from Paris pact will isolate US: Iran

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday joined the international chorus of criticism against President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, saying it would further isolate the United States.

"The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris accord indicates the government's lack of responsibility regarding the global community and it will increasingly isolate them,"

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1,500 injured in Turin stampede

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pedestrians on London Bridge and then going on a stabbing spree before being shot dead by police.

"Even if there have been no Islamist attacks in Italy, the panic of last night shows they are achieving their objectives even here," said Roberto Calderoli, a Senator for the Northern League.

Several thousand fans had turned up to watch the match in the Piazza San Carlo in downtown Turin.

As fear took hold, a rush towards exit points quickly accelerated and the square emptied so quickly it was left strewn with hundreds of shoes ripped off people's feet as they ran.

The square was still dotted with shoes, clothes, bags and patches of blood yesterday morning. The high number of cuts was blamed on beer in glass bottles having been freely available before and during the match from unlicensed vendors.

"We heard a noise, then there was a movement of people like a wave and everyone started falling over each other," said Luca, one of the fans caught up in the drama.

"I have got blood on me from the people who fell on top of me, people were screaming, jumping over each other," he told AFP. "It was really awful - we really thought it was

Manchester again."

HEYSEL MEMORIES

Some of the injuries occurred after a railing around the entrance to an underground car park beneath the square gave way under the weight of the crush, causing some of those injured to fall up to two metres (nearly seven feet) onto tarmac.

Local media cited older Juventus supporters present as saying the panic had evoked painful memories of the 1985 Heysel disaster, in which 39 mostly Italian fans died when they were crushed by a collapsing wall before the start of that year's European Cup final, against Liverpool.

Another fan, Giulio, said he had been knocked to the ground. "Everyone just trampled over me. I got separated from all my friends. I don't have the slightest idea what happened."

Fellow supporter Filippo took refuge in a restaurant in a neighbouring square. "They gave us something to drink and we stayed there until it was calm outside and we went back to find the shoe my daughter had lost."

"It was very stressful," added Gaetan. "With everything that is going on nowadays, it's only to be expected. We just panicked and tried to get out of there."

BAGGAGE RULES

Duty-free privilege now only three times a year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The new budget brings bad news for a section of businessmen as it limits to three the number of times a year they can bring along goods through land ports duty free.

The present baggage rules allow a person to bring along \$ 400-worth goods tax free, irrespective of the number of times the person comes in.

Some businessmen, widely referred to as "luggage party", make use of this facility to bring in Indian goods.

An official of the National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh says this

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Brac's nanosat

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Once launched into the orbit, the nanosat, a cube measuring 10cm along its edge and weighing around one kilogramme, will be passing over Bangladesh four to six times every day.

The ground station, which will be used for receiving data from the nanosat, has been established at Brac University's Mohakhali campus.

On May 25, Brac founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed formally inaugurated the ground station, located at the rooftop of Building-4 of the university.

On 8 February, Brac University became the first Bangladeshi educational institution to get its very own nano-satellite, developed and assembled by three of its students -- Abdulla Hil Kafi, Raihana Shams Antara and Maisun Ibn Monowar -- using technology and facilities of a Japanese university.