

Two university students jailed for one month

They were giving proxy for Jahangirnagar University admission seekers

JU CORRESPONDENT

Two students of Jahangirnagar University and Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) were jailed last night for one month each for taking the JU undergraduate entry tests on behalf of others.

A mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Pranab Kumar Ghosh, handed down the punishment to Kamruzzaman Razzak, a mechanical engineering student at KUET, and Mohaiminul Islam Salman, a student of geological science at JU.

Though the university authorities detained three students, the mobile court punished the two and found the other not guilty.

Razzak was detained when he was taking the exam under the Social Science Faculty (A unit) as a proxy for Al Mamun Robin, an admission seeker. The admission test for 2017-18 academic sessions was held from 10:30am to 11:30am.

Acting on information from Razzak, the authorities detained Salman and another student Abdul Al Noman of Noakhali Government College in this connection.

After being taken to the JU proctor's office, Razzak and Salman confessed to the offence.

Razzak said he was taking the test as a proxy examinee for Tk 3 lakh while Salman coordinated the process, said Assistant Proctor Mehedi Iqbal.

However, Noman denied the charges saying that he came to the campus with his friend Razzak and he was not aware of the matter.

Trump ties it to 'Dreamer'

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Dreamers if they begin with a list that is anathema to the Dreamers, to the immigrant community and to the vast majority of Americans," said House of Representatives Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

"The list includes the wall, which was explicitly ruled out of the negotiations. If the president was serious about protecting the Dreamers, his staff has not made a good faith effort to do so," they said in a statement.

The Trump administration wants the wish list to guide immigration reform in Congress and accompany a bill to replace DACA, the Obama-era program that protected nearly 800,000 "Dreamers" from deportation and allowed them to secure work permits.

If enacted, the White House priorities could result in the deportation of Dreamers' parents.

The proposals emphasise immigration enforcement and include a request for funds to hire 370 more immigration judges, 1,000 attorneys for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, 300 federal prosecutors and 10,000 additional ICE agents to enforce immigration laws.

"These priorities are essential to mitigate the legal and economic consequences of any grant of status to DACA recipients," Trump's legislative affairs director, Marc Short, told reporters on a conference call. The White House made clear it would not be pushing for Dreamers to achieve US citizenship, only legal status, in a potential deal.

Trump told Congress it had six months to come up with legislation to help Dreamers, who are a fraction of the 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States, most of whom are Hispanic.

The documents call for tighter standards for those seeking US asylum, denial of federal grants to "sanctuary cities" that serve as refuges for illegal immigrants, and a requirement that employers use an electronic verification system known as "E-Verify" to keep illegal immigrants from securing jobs.

HARD LINE
Trump campaigned for president on a pledge to toughen immigration poli-

cies and build a wall along the US border with Mexico. He vowed repeatedly that Mexico would pay for the wall, but began prodding Congress earlier this year to approve funding. Mexico has said it will not pay for the wall.

Trump's suggestion after a meeting with Schumer and Pelosi that wall funding would not have to be part of a DACA fix alarmed some of his supporters.

The White House sees the wall as a priority but has indicated that it could be established as part of a DACA bill or through other legislative avenues. Administration officials said that legislation that did not include all of the priorities on the list would not necessarily trigger a presidential veto.

Republicans in Congress have introduced several bills that include aspects of Trump's ideas, but many Democrats and immigration groups see the proposals as too harsh.

"The Trump administration has put forth a serious proposal to address the enforcement of our immigration laws and border security," said Republican House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte in a statement. "We cannot fix the DACA problem without fixing all of the issues that led to the underlying problem of illegal immigration in the first place."

The White House's wish list targets the flow of unaccompanied minors into the United States. It would require such children to be treated the same, regardless of their countries of origin "so long as they are not victims of human trafficking and can be safely returned home or removed to safe third countries," the White House documents said.

It would expand the list of "inadmissible aliens" to include members of gangs, those who have been convicted of an aggravated felony, and former spouses and children of drug and human traffickers if they receive benefits from such behavior.

The plan also seeks to reduce the number of people who overstay their visas and reform how green cards that establish legal permanent residents are granted.

'Negative consequences' if Trump quits Iran deal

Kremlin warns the US underscoring importance of existing accord

AFP, Moscow

Moscow yesterday warned there would be "negative consequences" if US President Donald Trump fails to uphold the landmark Iran nuclear deal negotiated by his predecessor.

Trump is a fierce critic of the 2015 accord, which he has called "the worst deal ever", and US officials say he intends to tell Congress next week that Tehran is not honouring its side of the bargain.

"Obviously if one country leaves the deal, especially such a key country as the US, then that will have negative consequences," Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman said.

"We can only try to predict the nature of these consequences, which we are doing now," Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

Putin has repeatedly hailed the importance of the existing deal, he added.

Trump is expected to announce that he is "de-certifying" Iran's compliance with the agreement it signed to limit its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

US officials insist this will not sink the deal itself but open the way for Congress to possibly develop new measures to punish other aspects of Iran's behaviour.

Resumed sanctions could derail the accord negotiated with Tehran by former president Barack Obama and other major world powers.

Congress requires the president to certify Iranian compliance with the deal every 90 days. The next certification date is October 15.

Under the law, Congress would then have 60 days to decide whether to reimpose sanctions lifted by the deal.

Jamaat ameer

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Mujibur Rahman, in a statement last night condemned the detention of the party leaders.

They were detained while holding an "informal meeting", it read.

Jamaat carries out activities in accordance with laws, the statement said, adding detention of its top leaders is part of the government attempt to strip the party of leadership.

The party called a countrywide agitation for today demanding release of the leaders.

JP proposes

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during the election.

In its proposal, it said the EC would work independently while holding the election and the interim government would not interfere in that.

The JP also proposed limiting the maximum election expenditure to Tk 20 lakh by each candidate and the use of motorcade for election campaigns.

No "controversial" administrative officials should be appointed at the district and upazila levels after the announcement of the election schedule, it said.

On the demarcation of electoral constituencies, GM Quader, co-chairperson of the JP, told The Daily Star after the meeting that no change should be made to the present electoral constituencies to avoid any controversy.

The EC has been holding dialogues with registered political parties since August 24 to get their opinions as to how to prepare for the next general election likely to be held late next year or early 2019.

It has so far held dialogues with 25 parties out of 40. Bicolpodhara Bangladesh is scheduled to sit with the EC today while the BNP will have its dialogue on October 15 and the ruling Awami League on October 18, sources at the EC said.

The ongoing dialogue is likely to end on October 19.

'Arms supplier' left den 2 days before raid

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She is the younger sister of Nurul Islam Marzan, one of the café attack masterminds, and a distant niece of another dreaded militant and café attack bomb supplier Soheli Mahfuz alias Hatkata Mahfuz.

Marzan was killed in a shootout with police in Dhaka in January and Soheli was arrested in Chapainawabganj on July 8.

Khadija's husband Sagor was among the suppliers of arms and explosives used in the Gulshan attack.

Acting on intelligence from Lawful Interception Unit of Police Headquarters and Bogra District Police, law enforcers launched the operation code-named *Operation Melted Ice* around 2:00am yesterday. The families living in other flats of the four-storey building were evacuated within a short period.

Responding to police's call for her to surrender, Khadija, 19, dropped a suicide vest in her flat on the first floor of the building and walked out of it around 3:05pm, according to police.

She decided to surrender after cops had brought her parents to the spot from Pabna as she wanted. Her daughters Sumia, 5, and Suriya, 3, and son Raju, aged about one and a half years, were with her.

Police later recovered three suicide vests and as many maps, presumably sketches of buildings targeted by militants, and a desktop computer from the militant hideout.

"The suicide vests were so powerful that each of them could have killed 40 to 50 people if exploded in a crowded place," said Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury, additional deputy commissioner of the CTTC's bomb disposal unit, who led his team to the operation.

"A large hole was created on the first floor of the militant hideout when the vests were detonated," he added.

Another official of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit (CTTC) said deadly explosive triacetone triperoxide (TATP) was used in making the vests.

Once a member of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Sagor joined the "Neo JMB" after Bangladesh-Canadian Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury along with some JMB leaders set up the ultra-radical militant outfit on September 23, 2015, reportedly inspired by global terror outfit Islamic State.

Tamim, chief coordinator of the "Neo JMB", and some other leaders of the militant outfit planned and executed the country's deadliest terrorist attack at the Holey Artisan Bakery in the capital's Gulshan on July 1 last year. The attack left 20 hostages, including 17 foreigners, and two police officials dead.

Tamim along with two of his associates was killed during an operation at a Narayanganj militant den on August 27 last year.

leaders have either been killed or arrested in anti-terror operations, Sagor, also known as Joypurhat Sagor, managed to escape arrest, CTTC officials said.

"An expert in bomb-making, Sagor is now the military commander of 'Neo JMB' and one of the most notorious militants among those still eluding arrest," a CTTC official told The Daily Star.

Identifying himself as Moshir Rahman, Sagor rented the flat in Ghop Nawapara area and had been living there with his family for about a year, said a CTTC official who took part in the operation.

He is trying to reorganise the "Neo JMB", CTTC officials said.

After cordoning off the building early yesterday, law enforcers using loudspeakers tried to persuade Khadija to surrender, being confirmed that there were three kids inside.

Ignoring the call, she put on a suicide vest. Around 12:10pm, she set a condition that her parents must appear there.

Minutes after her surrender, police put Khadija and her kids in a white microbus and drove it away.

Alongside Jessore police, members of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's SWAT and bomb disposal unit took part in the operation.

The raid created panic among the neighbouring people, with police off-limiting the spot and nearby area to public. Journalists were allowed to stay at a safe distance.

Rashid said, "It's temporary. Water is yet to recede in many places. As a result, less fish is being netted. Moreover, the ban on catching hilsa fish is another reason for the crisis."

The increase of prices has also affected the sellers as consumption has reduced.

Roostom Kha, a vegetable trader of New Market, said that their sales have remarkably reduced due to the price rise.

"Now we do not have enough customers and our sales have fallen by Tk 1,000-2,000," he said.

Rice is another essential experiencing an upward trajectory in its prices. In the retail market, different varieties of rice are being sold at higher than usual prices. Najirshah is now sold at Tk 68-Tk 70 while the price of miniket fluctuated between Tk 60 and Tk 62. Coarse rice is sold at Tk 54 to Tk 56 per kg.

About the price of rice, Shaheed Bhasani, a rice trader in Moghbazar, said the price of rice was decreasing due to a recent government initiative of meeting the demands of rice traders, millers and importers, in order to stabilise prices.

But there appeared to be no possibility of reducing the price further until new rice comes to the market two months later, he said.

US professor wins Nobel

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"He's made economics more human," the Nobel jury said, calling Thaler "a pioneer" on integrating economics and psychology.

Thaler is well-known for co-founding the "nudge" theory, which demonstrates how people can be persuaded to make decisions that leave them healthier and happier.

"By exploring the consequences of limited rationality, social preferences, and lack of self-control, he has shown how these human traits systematically affect individual decisions as well as market outcomes," the jury's statement said.

IN 'THE BIG SHORT' WITH GOSLING

"His empirical findings and theoretical insights have been instrumental in creating the new and rapidly expanding field of behavioural economics, which has had a profound impact on many areas of economic research and policy."

He has advised several governments, including in Denmark and France, and former British prime minister David Cameron set up a team in 2010 nicknamed the "nudge unit" to reshape a swath of policies to gently prod Britons to make the right decisions to make them healthier and happier.

His work even earned him a glamorous foray into the movie business when he made a cameo appearance, alongside Christian Bale, Steve Carell and Ryan Gosling, in the 2015 movie "The Big Short" about the credit and housing bubble collapse that led to the 2008 global financial crisis.

Thaler told the Nobel committee by teleconference he was "pleased" by the award.

"I no longer will have to call my colleague Eugene Fama 'Professor Fama' on the golf course," he joked, referring to his University of Chicago colleague who won the prize in 2013.

"I think the most important recognition is that economic agents are human, and economic models have to incorporate that," he said.

The 72-year-old takes home the nine million kronor (944,000 euros, \$1.1 million) prize sum, which he jokingly said he would "try to spend as irrationally as possible".

'NUDGE UNIT'

Thaler is a professor at the University of Chicago -- a school popular with the Nobel economics committee. Of 79 laureates so far, more than a third have been affiliated with the university's school of economics.

One of the founders of behavioural finance, which studies how cognitive limitations influence financial markets, Thaler developed a model for explaining how people tend to focus on the narrow impact rather than the overall effect of each decision they make, which is called limited rationality.

This includes the study of how people's loathing of losses can explain why they value the same things more when they own them as opposed to when they don't, which is called the endowment effect.

Thaler illustrated that New Year's resolutions can be hard to keep as short-term temptations disrupt people's plans to save for their old age or

Scientists

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into cells which are precursors of chicken sperm, the newspaper reported.

They then used these cells to fertilise eggs and create hens which inherited those genes, meaning the birds were able to lay eggs containing the disease-fighting agent.

The scientists now have three hens whose eggs contain the drug, with the birds laying eggs almost daily, the report said.

The researchers plan to sell the drug to pharmaceutical companies, halving its price, so the firms can use it first as a research material, the newspaper said.

Consumers may have to wait a while, as Japan has strict regulations concerning the introduction of new or foreign pharmaceutical products, with screening processes that routinely take years to complete.

But the team hopes that the technological breakthrough will eventually help drive down the cost of the drug to 10 percent of its current price, the newspaper reported.

Officials at the institute could not be reached for comment.

rainy days.

"In his applied work, Thaler demonstrated how nudging -- a term he coined -- may help people exercise better self-control when saving for a pension, as well in other contexts," the Nobel jury said.

Thaler and his US counterpart Cass Sunstein turned "nudge" into a political buzzword with their 2008 book of the same name.

In a 2008 column, the duo mentioned that an economist's idea to etch a black house fly onto Amsterdam Airport Schiphol's urinals caused spillage to decline by 80 percent.

"It turns out that, if you give men a target, they can't help but aim at it," Thaler and Sunstein wrote in the US based magazine New Republic.

'THE DICTATOR GAME'
Influential in theoretical and experimental research on fairness, Thaler showed "how consumers' fairness concerns may stop firms from raising prices in periods of high demand, but not in times of rising costs", the Nobel economics committee said in a statement.

Thaler and his colleagues created a tool called "the dictator game" that was used in several studies to measure attitudes to fairness among people from around the world.

Designed to assess how individuals respond to situations where self-interest and equality clash, the experiment gives one of the participants, known as "the dictator", money while the "receiver" is given nothing.

The economics prize is unique among the Nobel awards in that it was created by the Swedish central bank in 1968 -- the others were all set up through the 1895 will of Swedish inventor and philanthropist Alfred Nobel.

It wraps up the 2017 season which saw no woman take a prize in any of the categories.

The laureates will receive their prizes at ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo on December 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel.

Acting CJ

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function on the occasion of signing of a cooperation agreement between the supreme courts of Bangladesh and Russia at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge in the capital.

Visiting Chief Justice of Russia Vyacheslav M Lebedev and Justice Wahhab Miah signed the agreement.

Justice Wahhab Miah said Bangladesh would never forget the great contribution of the then Soviet Union for its strong support during the Liberation War and for providing extensive aid, and tremendous help in building the new nation.

"Relations with the Soviet Union were cordial in the years immediately following independence. The Soviet Union supported Indian actions in aiding the war of independence, and after the war the Soviet Navy sent a floating workshop to Bangladesh for clearing Pakistani mines from the Chittagong and Chalna harbours," he added.

After independence, the newly-formed Bangladesh Air Force received a significant donation from the Soviet Union, said Justice Wahhab Miah. "In March 1972, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman visited Moscow to express his thanks and gratitude to the Soviet Union for their remarkable support during our Liberation War."

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met President Vladimir Putin during her visits to Russia in 2009 and 2013.

"The Bangladesh prime minister took the Russia-Bangladesh relations to a new height, keeping in view the historical foundation of bilateral friendship that was laid by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, immediately after the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971."

Justice Wahhab Miah said under the agreement the judiciaries of the two countries would exchange experience and knowledge in the area of administration of justice and provide assistance and cooperation to each other.

Justice Lebedev talked about extending Russian cooperation to Bangladesh to develop its judiciary.

After the agreement-signing ceremony, the Russian chief justice witnessed the apex court proceedings sitting in the bench, led by Justice Wahhab Miah, along with other judges.

In the afternoon, Justice Lebedev exchanged views with Attorney General Mahbub Alam at his office. The additional, deputy and assistant attorney generals were present.

Veg prices soaring

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Bogra, Chuadanga and Dinajpur, he said.

"Right now I'm getting supply of vegetables only from Chuadanga," he said, adding he has not seen such a crisis in the last two decades.

"Due to flood and heavy rainfall crops are damaged. On the other hand, the period of cultivation of summer vegetables is ending. That is why there is a shortfall of supply in the market," said Abdur Rashid, Deputy Director (Market Intelligence and Statistics), Department of Agricultural Marketing.

"The situation will continue until winter vegetables arrive in the market," he added.

To cope with the soaring price, many families have reduced their consumption.

Enamul Haq, a small trader in the capital's Moghbazar area, confirmed that the price of essentials, especially vegetables, have increased suddenly in the last couple of days.

"I bought a kg of eggplant for Tk 80, but a week ago I bought the same for Tk 40," he said.

Tanjina Sultana, a university student who came to a vegetable market in the New Market area, said the price of most of the vegetables were above Tk 60, although the situation was different a week ago.

"I live in a university dorm. Students, especially the insolvent, are suffering a lot because of the hike. Even, some of my friends have decided not to eat vegetables," she said.


Afzal Miah, a shopper in the same market, said he became surprised seeing the unusual price of green chillies, lemons and onions. The price hike is adding to the people's sufferings, he said.

Mohammad Kamal, a vegetable seller in Moghbazar, said, "The price of green chilli increased due to the crop damage during the recent floods. Now we are selling imported chilli. If the import could not be done, its price would increase more," he claimed.

Visiting several markets of the capital, including Shantinagar, Moghbazar, New Market and Karwan Bazar, our correspondents found the sellers demanding high prices for fish also as there was no supply of hilsa due to the current ban.

"Before imposing the ban, the sales of other fish dropped as people preferred to buy hilsa. During those days, wholesalers had to stock ruhi, katla and other fish. Now they are selling the stock at a high price," said Abdul Matin, who has been running his business for the last nine years at Shantinagar Kitchen Market.

Regarding the high price of fish,



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Ref No: EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ICT/EOI/2017/342 Date: 08 October, 2017

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) Cancellation Notice

Request for Expression of Interest EOI Reference No. EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/Consultant/2017/02
 Dated: 26 September, 2017 which was published in daily newspaper for Consulting Firm for Water Treatment Plant is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Prof. (Dr) Ehsanul Kabir
 Project Director
 Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj