

## Rangpur MAYHEM Titu Roy sent to jail as four-day remand ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Dinajpur

A Rangpur court sent Titu Chandra Roy to jail as his remand period ended yesterday.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Ariful Islam issued the order after police produced Titu before the court on completion of his four-day remand in the second phase, said Babul Islam, sub-inspector of Rangpur Detective Brach (North) of Police, also the case's investigation officer.

Police brought him to the court around 3:30pm amid tight security.

Seeking anonymity, a police official said Titu gave a statement under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) before the court. When asked, police officials, including the IO, declined to comment on the matter.

The 40-year-old was arrested on November 14 in connection with a case filed over "demeaning Islam" in a Facebook post. The case was filed with Gangachara Police Station on November 6, and later transferred to the DB.

Protesting the Facebook post, hundreds of zealots attacked Thakurbari village in Rangpur on November 10. They torched 11 Hindu houses, vandalised many others and looted valuables from there.

A man was killed and about 20 others were injured after police fired rubber bullets and teargas shells to bring the situation under control.



President Abdul Hamid stands in solemn silence in memory of the martyred members of the armed forces in front of Shikha Anirban (Eternal Flame) in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

PHOTO:  
PID

## Work professionally

Hamid tells Armed Forces; President, PM pay homage to martyrs

AGENCIES

President Abdul Hamid yesterday asked the members of the Armed Forces to uphold their image both at national and international levels by maintaining utmost professionalism.

"Uphold the image of the Armed Forces...help continue the country's development trend," the president was quoted as saying when the chiefs of the three services met him at Bangabhaban in the afternoon, reports UNB.

President's Press Secretary Joynal Abedin briefed reporters after the meeting.

On the occasion of Armed Forces Day, Chief of Army Staff General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiu Huq, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nizamuddin Ahmed, and Chief of Air Staff Marshal Abu Esrar paid a courtesy call on the president.

Hamid said the armed forces are playing an important role even beyond the border in peacekeeping missions, brightening the country's image abroad.

Earlier in the morning, the president placed floral wreaths at the Shikha Anirban at Dhaka Cantonment.

Hamid, also the supreme commander of Armed Forces, placed wreaths at the altar of

Shikha Anirban (flame eternal) at 8:00am and stood in solemn silence as a mark of respect to the memories of the martyrs.

Later, a smartly turned out contingent of the army, navy and air force presented a salute. Hamid also signed the visitors' book there. On his arrival, he was received by the chiefs of the three services and the principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division.

Meanwhile, BSS adds, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also paid tributes to the martyred members of Bangladesh Armed Forces on the occasion. She placed a wreath at the Shikha Anirban in the morning and stood in solemn silence as a mark of respect.

A smartly-turned out contingent presented a guard of honour at that time, while bugle played the last post. Later, Hasina, also in-charge of the Ministry of Defence, signed the visitors' book.

On November 21 in 1971, Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising army, navy and air force came into being and launched an all-out attack on the Pakistani occupation forces.

Since the country's independence, the day has been observed as Armed Forces Day every year.

## HC questions legality of FF's minimum age

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned legality of the government's last year's decision setting 13 years as the minimum age to be considered as a freedom fighter.

It issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain as to why the gazette notification issued to this effect should not be declared illegal.

The ministry of liberation war affairs issued the gazette on November 10 last year declaring that a person would have to be at least 13 years of age on March 26, 1971 to be considered as a freedom fighter.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Khandkar Shahidul Islam, challenging its legality.

Chief accounts officer of the president's office, Shahidul, recently submitted the petition, saying that he is a freedom fighter and that he has been receiving honorarium as a freedom fighter for the last five years.

He also said his age was 12 years, two months and 21 days on March 26, 1971, and that the gazette has affected him and it is against the spirit of the Liberation War.

## A university student builds his own drone



Suvik Roy holding the drone.

PHOTO: STAR

DIPANKAR ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

Suvik Roy, from Chunkuri village in Khulna's Dacope upazila, has long been inquisitive. From a young age and inspired by Hollywood movies, he has dreamt of building his own drone. Now the fourth-year information and communication engineering student at Pabna Science and Technology University has done just that. The result of two years' active effort with the help of his university supervisor Professor Imran Hossain, Suvik's homemade drone recently took to the sky above a nearby college field to complete its inaugural test flight.

"Originally I wanted to build the drone just for fun," recalls Suvik. "But after I was admitted at the university, I came to understand that drones can be used for many purposes. We live near the Sundarbans, an area affected by cyclones and river erosion. Drones can be used to deliver medicines and disaster relief."

When Suvik first shared his ambition with his teachers and classmates, however, they were not at all encouraging. They rather forbade Suvik from proceeding, telling him to concentrate on his academic studies instead. But Suvik was determined.

"I saw that students at many institutions do make drones," he says. "For me it was a challenge to complete the project because our family isn't rich. I was able to borrow Tk 38,000 from family members and use whatever supplies I could manage from different hardware stores."

Suvik's drone is controlled remotely using the open source Ground Control System. He hopes it will have an operational range of 1.5 kilometres from the controller. The drone, which weighs two kilograms, will be further designed for weather resistance, enabling it to carry up to three kilograms of cargo safely to the desired destination, relying on Google Maps for navigation.

Drones can also have environmental application in assisting with the measurement of various gases in the air, along with temperature and humidity. They are also engaged in security work, with the addition of face-recognition technology often used to effectively monitor secure areas and detect the presence of strangers.

"There are many possibilities for the drone," says Professor Hossain. "With added technology and development, the drone could do many things. It is really an amazing achievement that Suvik built one. His project is one that government and non-government organisations could consider supporting, due to the drone's potential to contribute to the nation."



Makeshift street shops occupy almost the entire length and breadth of a part of Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital's Gulistan, making it inaccessible for medium and large motor vehicles. Illegal occupation of road space is a major contributor to the terrible traffic situation in the city. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Comilla city mayor Shakoo discharged from graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday discharged Comilla City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Monirul Hoque Shakoo from a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2008.

Judge Shamim Ahmed of the Special Judge's Court-8 of Dhaka passed the order on the ground that the charges brought against him (Shakoo) could not be proved, Masud Ahmed Talukder, the lawyer for Shakoo, told The Daily Star.

On Jan 7, 2008, the ACC filed the case against the CCC mayor and his wife with Ramna Police Station on charge of their involvement in amassing Tk 4.57 crore through illegal means and concealing information about wealth worth over Tk 1.12 crore from the commission.

## SIX GAIBANDHA WAR CRIMES ACCUSED

## ICT to deliver verdict today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 will deliver its verdict today in a case filed against six Gaibandha men, including a former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker, allegedly for committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam yesterday set the date, around a month after it placed the case in waiting for delivery of verdict.

The accused are Jamaat's ex-MP Abu Saleh Md Abdul Aziz Mia, Ruhul Amin alias Manju, Abu Muslim Md Ali, Abdul Latif, Najmul Huda and Abdur Rahim Mia. Latif is now in jail while the others are absconding.

The accused are facing three charges -- looting and killing of a Hindu man at Moujamali village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila, killing of a Chhatra League leader, and killing of 13 chairmen and members of five unions in Sundarganj of the district.

On October 23, wrapping up their arguments, Prosecutor Syed Hider Ali prayed for capital punishment, saying that they have been able to prove all the three charges against the accused.

On the other hand, defence counsel Gazi MH Tamim sought acquittal of the accused, saying that the prosecution could not prove any charge.

On that day, the tribunal kept the delivery of the verdict in waiting for a second time after hearing closing arguments from both the prosecution and the defence.

Earlier on May 9, the tribunal kept the delivery of the verdict in waiting after hearing closing arguments in the case. However, the court reached an impasse following the death of its then chairman Justice Anwarul Haque on July 13.

The tribunal on October 12 decided to hear closing arguments again as the tribunal was reconstituted with a new chairman and two members.

On June 28 last year, the tribunal indicted the accused. Meanwhile, yesterday, on a previously set date for the submission of investigation report in a case filed against a Habiganj man for his alleged war crimes in 1971, the tribunal directed the prosecution to submit the report, if any, on December 31.

The tribunal extended the date after the prosecutor of the case, Rezia Sultana Chaman, sought two more months from the tribunal.

Abul Khayer Golap alias Golap Mia, 65, of Habiganj, was arrested on April 11 -- hours after the tribunal issued a warrant against him in the case.

## Plaintiff seeks cricketer Sunny's acquittal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Nasrin Sultana, who had earlier filed three cases against suspended cricketer Arafat Sunny, yesterday sought Sunny's acquittal on excuses that she brought charges against him over a "misunderstanding".

Appearing before the Dhaka Cyber Tribunal yesterday, she said, "We have settled our feud amicably out of court and I have no allegation against Sunny."

Judge (in charge) Md Ataur Rahman recorded her statement and set February 6, 2018 for the next hearing.

Earlier on October 12, the same tribunal framed charge against Sunny in a case filed by the woman claiming to be his wife, under the information and communication technology act.

Mohammadpur police on April 6 pressed charges against Sunny in the case.

According to the case filed on January 5, Sunny opened a fake Facebook account on June 12 last year and sent an indecent photo of the woman through Facebook.

Following the case, Sunny was arrested from his Amin Bazar residence and remanded. He was later suspended from playing cricket.

Two more cases -- one over dowry and another over torturing her -- are now pending with two other courts.



A wild elephant lying dead in a forest in the remote Naikhangchhari upazila of Bandarban yesterday. The animal was seriously injured in a landmine blast in Bandarban-Myanmar border area about one month ago, and it died on Monday noon, according to the local forest officer.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Draft rules for lower court judges sent to SC

Anisul tells journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The draft of disciplinary rules for lower court judges has been sent to the Supreme Court by the law ministry, Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday.

After the draft is vetted by the apex court, it will be sent to President Abdul Hamid. And once he approves it, a gazette notification will be issued in this regard, the minister also said.

The minister made the comments while he was talking to reporters after attending a conclusion ceremony of a training programme organised for lower court judges at Judicial Administration Planning Institute in Dhaka.

So far, the Supreme Court made 26 extensions of the

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