

Man beaten to death for protesting harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man was beaten to death in the capital's Hajeribagh last night allegedly for protesting the sexual harassment of his friend.

The dead, Ariful Islam Sajal, 22, was a second-year student of Mohammadpur Government College.

Locals said Ariful and his friend Sanjida Akter were in Rayerbazar Dhal area around 8:45pm when two men hurled abusive words at Sanjida.

Hajeribagh police Officer-in-Charge Ikram Ali Miah said one of the men slapped Ariful when he protested

the abuse.

"Later, the men came back with eight to 10 others who attacked Ariful. He was taken to a local hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated," Ikram said.

Locals said that Ariful was attacked with bamboo sticks.

He said Ariful died in DMCH around 9:15pm, adding that his body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

"We are trying to arrest the culprits," Ikram said.

Ten 'unlawfully killed' in Indonesia election riots

AFP, Jakarta

Ten people, including several teenagers, were killed in Indonesia's post-election riots, the human rights commission said yesterday, as it accused police of beating up protesters.

In its final report on the May riots, the agency Komnas HAM said four victims were underage and most had been shot in the capital Jakarta and demonstrations in Kalimantan,

Indonesia's section of Borneo island.

Indonesia's rights commission called on police to find the perpetrators, who it suspected were "actors trained, organised and professional in using guns". It did not elaborate.

"This is a tragedy," commissioner Beki Ulung Hapsara told AFP.

"These are unlawful killings -- or killings that took place outside legal mechanisms -- and that violates the criminal code," he added.

It is just 'eyewash'

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Although the October 30 attack took place in broad daylight, following announcements from two rallies organised by two Islamist groups -- Touhidi Janata and Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, police are yet to arrest the top leaders of those organisations.

The attack was triggered by an anti-religious Facebook post from the account of one Rasraj Das, 27.

Rasraj, a fisherman, was freed in January 2017 as police found evidence that his Facebook account was hacked or faked by someone else before the anti-religious posts were uploaded from it.

In the last three years, however, law enforcement agencies failed to track who actually uploaded the anti-religious post and what was the motive.

INVESTIGATIONS 'ON'
Locals said that frequent changes of investigation officers for five cases has made it difficult to make any headway and submit the charge sheets.

On October 30, Kajal Jyoti Dutta filed a case over vandalism and attacks on Hindu houses and temples.

"Since then, five investigation officers have investigated the case but no progress has been made. I am really worried about the future of the case I filed," said Kajal.

Nasiragar police Inspector Kabir Hossain is now investigating two cases -- one filed by Kajal and another by Rasraj's brother Dayamoy Das over vandalism of their house at Harinber.

Kabir was the second investigation officer for the case filed with attacks in Harinber.

"The accused are unidentified as the plaintiffs cannot identify them. We need to investigate the matter analysing video footage, which is time consuming. But we are trying

our best to submit a report as soon as possible," he told this newspaper.

Nasiragar police Sub-Inspector Kawser Hossain is investigating three cases filed by police, and he is the first investigation officer for a case filed over the arson attack in Nasiragar Paschimpara and Nasiragar Banikpara areas.

But he is the second investigation officer for a case filed over the arson attack in Nasiragar Chengapara.

"We are in the final stage of investigation," said Kawser. He, however, did not give a reason for the delay.

In November 19, 2016 Anjan Kumar Deb filed a case over an arson attack on his house. So far, three investigation officers investigated the case.

Sub Inspector Abu Taher, the current investigation officer, could not be reached for comments.

Brahmanbaria's Detective Branch of police is investigating a case filed against Rasraj Das.

Additional Superintendent of Police in Brahmanbaria Alamgir Hossain said they were monitoring the investigation in all the cases.

"We will submit the reports one after another as soon as all the investigations are in the last stage.

"As there are many accused, it is taking time to submit the investigation reports. Moreover, we will need to submit accurate evidence to court so it is taking some time," Alamgir said.

Rana Dasgupta said, "As all accused are on bail, all witnesses should be protected. We will also need a minorities protection act in this regard."

A culture of impunity and delay in trial were among the central reasons why violence against minorities are taking place, he said.

ACC sues Anis

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"We didn't give any list to BFIU," he said.

ACC Director Syed Iqbal Hossain, who is supervising the ongoing enquiry, echoed the same and said, "There is no question of preparing any list."

So far, the anti-graft body has lodged eight cases against those whose connections have been found with illegal casinos.

ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Proddhan filed the cases against Anis and his wife with its Integrated District Office in the capital's Segunbagicha.

The Daily Star obtained copies of the FIRs.

In the enquiry, the ACC found Anis has a seven-storey building worth Tk 2.63 crore in the capital's Mohammadpur, a 1,400sqft flat worth Tk 1.54 crore; another flat worth Tk 60 lakh in Dhanmondi, a shop worth Tk 28.7 lakh at Multiplan Centre, a 1,300sqft flat worth Tk 32.15 lakh; another 820sqft flat worth Tk 18.15 lakh in Swamibagh, 24.5 decimal of land worth Tk 1.38 lakh in Gopalganj's Mulsudpur, a filling station on 80 decimal of land worth Tk 7 lakh in Gopalganj, and four decimal of land worth Tk 9.68 lakh in Keraniganj.

His total immovable properties are worth Tk 5.74 crore.

Besides, Anis has several investments. He has invested Tk 85.5 lakh in Arafin Enterprise Company, Tk 36 lakh in Ma Filling Station, and Tk 3 lakh in prize bond. He has a car worth Tk 11.25 lakh.

The BFIU in its enquiry has found that Anis concealed information of Tk

5.35 crore found in his bank accounts, the FIR says.

"Analysing documents, including Anis's income tax files, media reports, and secret information, it was found that Anis actually does not have any legal source of income. It is primarily proved that he amassed the moveable and immovable properties from casinos," reads the FIR.

It said the enquiry would continue as investigators found primary evidence that Anis bought 12 flats at Eastern Housing in Shantinagar, a flat in Jigatola and a poultry farm and a hatchery on around 100 bigha of land in Gopalganj. He also accumulated properties around Dhaka worth Tk 200 crore illegally.

Sources said his relatives were collecting rent from his flats and shops. His wife Sumi has a four-storey building on 3,400sqft land worth Tk 1.26 crore in the capital's Shukrabad. She has other immovable properties worth Tk 56.65 lakh.

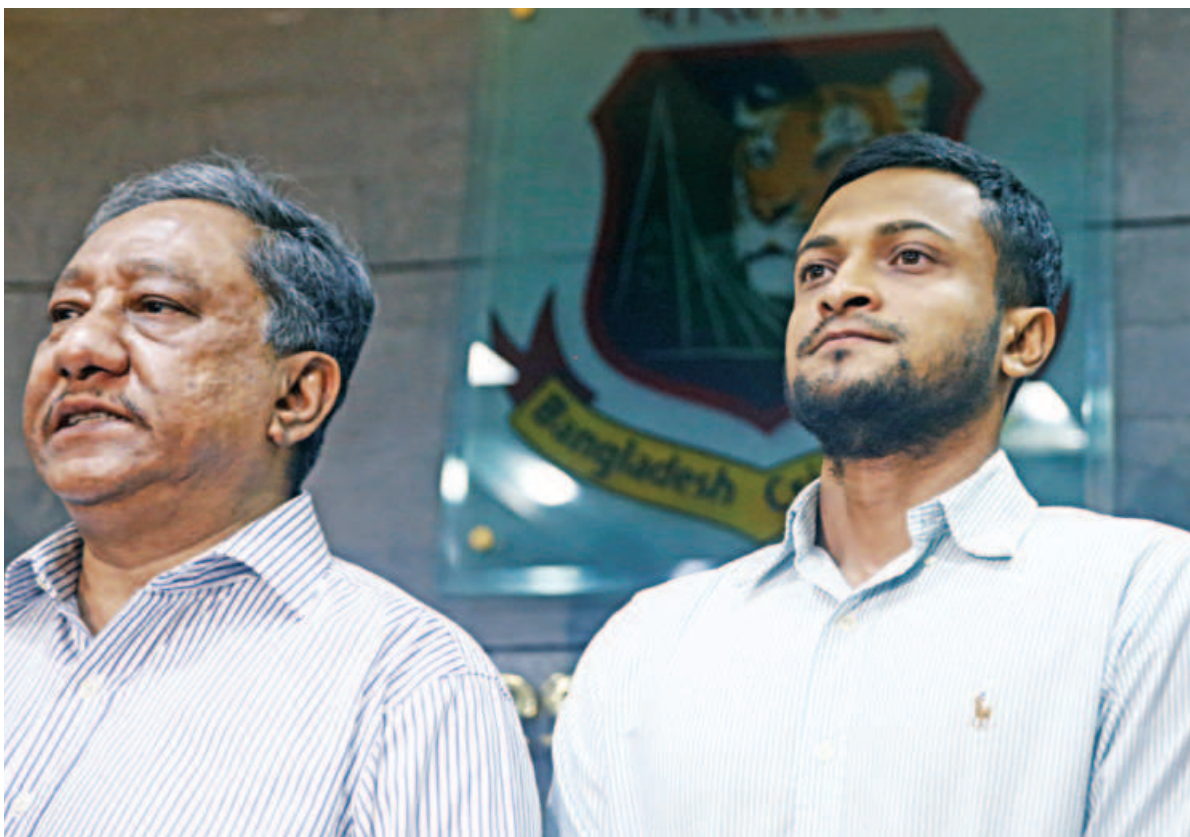
The ACC did not find any legal source of her income, reads another FIR.

On October 23, the anti-graft body requested the Special Branch of Police to impose travel ban on both the accused and 20 other people as part of its investigation into their involvement in illegal casinos and accumulation of wealth from unknown sources of income.

The ban was imposed after the ACC's investigation team found primary evidence against them.

In line with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive, law enforcement agencies began a crackdown on casinos and illegal businesses.

The law enforcers arrested expelled Dhaka South Jubo League Organising Secretary Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan on September 18. After his arrest, they also arrested a number of Awami League, Jubo League, and Krishak League leaders in the capital.



Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan (L) and Shakib Al Hasan address the media at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday after attending a meeting regarding the ace all-rounder's two-year suspension, which was levied by the ICC.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Shakib banned for 2 years

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January 2018. The third was made during the Indian Premier League later the same year, in relations to the April 26 match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kings XI Punjab.

A visibly downcast Shakib visited the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) headquarters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night and held a press conference alongside BCB President Nazmul Hassan regarding the ban.

"I am obviously extremely sad to have been banned from the game I love, but I completely accept my sanction for not reporting the approaches," Shakib told the media. "The ICC ACU is reliant on players to play a central part in the fight against corruption and I didn't do my duty in this instance."

"I will cooperate with ICC and be involved in the Anti-Corruption Unit's (ACU) education session so that promising young cricketers do not commit the same mistake in the future. The way that [I have been supported by] cricket fans, the people of Bangladesh, the BCB and the government during my good and bad times, I wish that your support will always remain. If I have that support, I will be able to return to cricket very soon and be able to fulfill my duties stronger than before and with

more responsibility."

In the reasoned decision, it was revealed that during a period of several months of communication with Aggarwal, the bookie asked Shakib for inside information on the tri-series and team lineup information ahead of the IPL match. Aggarwal had also talked about bitcoin payments and wanted to know about Shakib's 'dollar accounts'. During this conversation Shakib, who had reported an offer of money to underperform during an ODI series against Ireland at home in 2008, had told Aggarwal that he wanted to meet him first.

Shakib did not report any of these instances, and when contacted by the ICC's ACU on January 23 and August 27 this year, said that he thought that Aggarwal was a bit 'dodgy' and that, 'following their conversations, he had the feeling that Aggarwal was a bookie'.

Shakib's prompt and voluntary admission of his breaches, cooperation with the anti-corruption unit (ACU), previous good disciplinary record and the fact that his offences did not affect the outcome of the relevant matches were seen as mitigating factors. On the other hand, aggravating factors in the severity of his sanction was that, despite being an experienced player and a captain, he failed to report the approaches despite

Aggarwal's intentions being clear over several conversations.

"While the BCB is shocked and extremely disappointed that an experienced player like Shakib had failed to report a corrupt approach on three occasions, at the same time we are pleased that he has cooperated fully with the ICC ACU and has pledged his commitment to its education programme," BCB President Hassan said after Shakib finished speaking. "We hope he will come back as a better and wiser cricketer and serve Bangladesh for many more years when his sanction will be over. During the suspension the BCB will continue to support his efforts at returning to cricket."

Shakib had previously been banned by the BCB for six months in 2014 for disciplinary reasons.

Shakib, who made his international debut in August 2006, is widely acknowledged to be the best cricketer Bangladesh has produced and played a starring role in the 2019 World Cup. He has also been at the top of the all-rounders' ranking regularly since 2010.

More recently, he played a leading role in a three-day players' strike which ended with the BCB agreeing to nine of the players' 11-point demand.

Will the rest learn the lesson?

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the upcoming India tour and there were conflicting reports of him being AWOL.

But when BCB officials yesterday said that they were waiting for an ICC circular before announcing a fresh team for the India series, it was evident that a sanction against Shakib was coming. And it came crashing to disturb an otherwise healthy Bangladesh cricket furniture.

Shakib is solely to be blamed for putting the country's cricket in such an embarrassing situation. The ICC rightly said: "Shakib has attended many education sessions and knows

his obligations under the Code. He should have reported each of these approaches."

Over the years Shakib has decided to live on his terms. He has often been criticised for his off-field 'can't care less attitude'. He has served a six-month ban from the BCB before but seems to have learnt little along the way. It is inexplicable how a player, who considered disgraced former Bangladesh captain Mohammed Ashrafal an evil influence in Bangladesh cricket, committed an offence he could have easily avoided with a little commonsense.

Unfortunately, he did not act in the manner in which he has been serving Bangladesh cricket on the field for the last 13-odd years. His wilful disregard for the law put Bangladesh cricket in deep trouble at a time when Bangladesh cricket is in transition.

The BCB planned a fresh journey with Shakib at the helm after the World Cup. Unfortunately, he will not be around for at least one year provided that he avoids the suspended one-year ban.

It can be a good lesson for the rest of the team, but it remains to be seen if they can rise from the ashes.

Whoever corrupt getting caught

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the anti-corruption drive was underway, the premier said her dictionary did not contain the word "fear".

"I wouldn't have started the drive against corruption if I was afraid... I am not a person to be scared of anything."

Hasina said her political background and commitment prompted her to launch the campaign.

Asked if the corrupts beyond the political arena would also be brought to justice, she said suspects were not being arrested based on any criteria.

Regarding the ICC's possible ban on Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, the PM said the BCB would remain beside Shakib and extend all possible cooperation to him.

"The bookies usually communicate with the cricketers. But he [Shakib] didn't give much importance when the bookie contacted him. He even didn't inform the ICC [International Cricket Council] of it. He should have informed the ICC instantly and he committed a mistake. If ICC takes any step, there is nothing much we can do," she added.

About the recent strike by cricketers, Hasina said that "chapter" has already been closed and the problem did not exist now.

"There are a very few countries who support their players the way we support ours," the PM said, adding that the cricketers could have informed the BCB about their demands before calling for a sudden strike.

ONION CRISIS
Responding to a question about the soaring onion prices, the PM said the crisis was temporary and there was nothing to be worried about.

The PM said 55,000 tonnes of onion was entering the country. She said some food can be cooked without onion and many items were cooked at her residence without using onion.

Hasina also cautioned that those who were trying to put the government in an uncomfortable position through hoarding onion would not gain much as onion is a perishable item.

Talking about some recent comments by Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, the PM said being a local MP, he was earlier made the chief of a sporting club in the capital and a casino was being operated there.

She said although Menon made the comments on the last general elections at a function in Barishal, the fact is that he was also elected in that polls and his victory can be questioned for his comments.

Hasina said had the people not voted the AL to power again, the BNP could have waged a movement. "But they [BNP] couldn't do anything."

NUSRAT MURDER
The PM said Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi was a "very brave" girl as she protested and could give her testimony before her death. The testimony was considered as an important evidence in the trial of her killers, she added.

The premier highly praised the media for building a strong consensus among the people over giving exemplary punishment to the killers and thus doing justice to Nusrat's family members.

Citing that the trial of Nusrat murder case is an "example" before the nation, Hasina said steps would be taken so that such cases were disposed of in a speedy manner.

Replying to another question, the PM said it was not possible to give a specific timeframe as to when the work of the Padma bridge project would be completed.

EXTRADITION OF BANGABANDHU KILLERS

Hasina said efforts were underway to bring back the rest of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She said she had handed over a letter to US President Donald Trump about the extradition of one of the fugitive killers, Rashed Chowdhury.

Besides, initiatives have been taken to bring back another killer Noor Chowdhury from Canada, she added. "But the problem is that there is no provision of death sentence in many

ABRAR MURDER

Buet students vow to keep boycotting classes, tests

Says unive not doing enough to meet their demands

DU CORRESPONDENT

Buet students demanding justice for Abrar Fahad yesterday vowed not to return to classes or sit for exams until the authorities met their 10-point demand.

The students came up with the announcement at a press conference held in front of Buet Shaheed Minar.

The protesting students alleged that although the Buet authorities formed a probe body 10 days after Abrar's murder, there was no visible progress in the investigation.

Only two of their demands have so far been met, the students said.

"No one from the Buet authorities has contacted Abrar's family regarding compensation and bearing expenses of the case, though they had issued a notice stating that they would do so," said a spokesperson of the protesters.

"Had the Buet administration wanted, they could have easily met our demands in the last 13 days since some protest programmes were called off," the statement read.

The protesters threatened tough movement in coming days if the authorities failed to implement their demands.

Antora Tithi, a batch-15 student of Mechanical engineering department said, "We know that we are lagging behind academically, but we cannot wait for someone from us to face the same fate of Abrar."

"Let the administrative activities continue, we will not cooperate in academic activities," she added.

Contacted, Buet Directorate of Students' Welfare Prof Mizanur Rahman said, the investigation into the incident is going on and they are hoping to get the probe report by next week.

"The probe committee has sought for 10 more days to submit the report and the request was approved," he said.

Asked about the allegation of not contacting Abrar's family, he said they were trying to "find a proper way" to contact the family.

The agitating students on October 15, called off their protests that started on the day Abrar was killed, but declared they will not return to classes and exams until the authorities expel those involved in the killing on the basis of the charge sheet submitted by the law enforcers.

Abrar, a second-year students of Electrical and Electronic Engineering department, was beaten to death by a group of Chattra League men at the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall between the night of October 6 and early hours of October 7.

FR TOWER DESIGN FORGERY

Charges pressed against five

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday pressed charges against five people in a case filed over forgery in the design of FR Tower in the capital's Banani area.

Md Abu Bakar Siddique, assistant director of ACC, submitted the charge-sheet in the case, in which the accused are Syed Md Hossain Imam Faruq, a lease holder of FR Tower; Liaquat Ali Khan Mukul, chairman of Rupayan Housing Estate Ltd; Md Humayun Khadem, former chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha; Md Sairur Rahman, former chief engineer of Rajuk; and Syed Makbul Ahmed, former authorised officer of Rajuk.

The FR Tower caught fire on March 28. The incident left 25 people dead and 73 others injured.

The ACC had filed two cases against 23 people for their alleged involvement in illegally extending Banani's FR Tower beyond the permitted number of floors.

During investigation, the anti-graft body found that the 23-storey FR Tower had narrow exit points and staircases, and no fire alarm, while the fire exits were blocked.

The building authorities had legally obtained permission for a 15-storey building but they illegally added another eight storeys over time.

English tourists seriously injured in Australia shark attack

AFP, Sydney

An English tourist had his foot bitten off by a shark while another was bitten during the attack in the Whitsunday Islands near Australia's Great Barrier Reef yesterday, officials said.

In the latest in a string of shark attacks in the tourist area, a 28-year-old man's right foot was bitten off while a 22-year-old man suffered serious lacerations to his lower left leg, according to Mackay Base Hospital.

The pair were in a "serious but stable" condition in hospital after being airlifted from the resort town of Airlie Beach, an official told AFP.

They had been on a boat tour of the Whitsunday Islands when they were attacked while swimming in Hook Passage, according to the RACQ Central Queensland Rescue, which operated the helicopter flight.