

## N'ganj SP

FROM PAGE 16  
of Amber Group, and Md Sumon, a driver of Showkat, on charges of possessing drugs and illegal firearms. The two cases were filed after police claimed that they arrested Sumon and seized 1,200 pieces of syaba pills, 28 rounds of bullets, 24 bottles of foreign alcohol, 48 cans of beer, and Tk 22,000 from an SUV in Signboard area under Siddhirganj police station.

Later in the day, Narayanganj SP Harun held a press conference and disclosed that Showkat was in the SUV and was carrying a firearm, but he managed to flee.

He said they raided Showkat's residence and brought his wife and son to Narayanganj for interrogation.

Harun could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts. "What police have done is unfair. Harun demanded Tk 8 crore from my son. As he refused, Harun framed my son in the false cases," Showkat's father MA Hashem, who is also the founder and chairman of Partex Group, said.

Earlier on May 5 in 2016, Showkat sent letters to the president, home minister, the then cabinet secretary and chiefs of different intelligence and law enforcing agencies accusing Harun of demanding an extortion of Tk 5 crore from him.

Harun was then the SP of Gazipur.

In the letter, Showkat had alleged that a sub-inspector on May 3, 2016 called Ambar Denim Store manager Yeahia Babu on behalf of SP Harun and said, "SP Harun sir called me right now. He [Harun] told me to call Showkat's men. I need money, send Tk 5 crore immediately."

"Before this, SP Harun demanded Tk 5 crore twice after calling me to the Lamda Hall of Gulshan Club and Gulshan Kabab Factory Restaurant. He asked me to send the money in dollars to an address in America. At that time, he threatened to destroy my business house if I did not send the money," read the letter.

## Protesting

FROM PAGE 16  
of agitating teachers went to her Hare Road residence in the capital, said Prof Rayhan Rhyne, spokesperson of the platform "Jahangirnagar Against Corruption". Talking to our JU correspondent last night, Prof Rayhan, a teacher of the university's Philosophy department, said they welcomed such an assurance from the minister and that they would submit specific allegations against the VC before her.

However, the platform will continue its agitation until effective measures are taken against the VC, he said.

An official of the education ministry also confirmed this newspaper about the meeting.

## Child dies

FROM PAGE 16  
cousin Wazid, 10, of the same school, remained missing till filing of this report around 11:00pm last night.

Fire service divers, law enforcers and locals were conducting searches to trace Wazid.

Family sources said Soyahor used to live in an adjacent building. He was at the home of his private tutor Sonia, who lived in the building that gave way.

Amena Begum, aunt of Wazid, said a crack, big enough to damage their home's bathroom pipe, had developed in the building on Saturday. The pipe was repaired, but the building owners did nothing about the crack.

Shahida Begum, a neighbour, said the building suddenly collapsed on the canal around 4:15pm.

On information, the fire services rushed to the spot. Locals and fire service officials recovered the body of Soyahor and rescued the five injured.

Abdullah Arefin, deputy assistant director of Narayanganj Fire Service and Civil Defence, said eight teams from the fire service were taking part in the rescue operation.

After the collapse, a few rooms of the building were submerged in the canal.

"Low quality construction materials might have been used when the building was built," Arefin said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, some locals said the three-storey building was constructed around 10 years ago. The construction of the fourth floor was still incomplete.

Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Fatullah police station, said legal action would be taken if anyone is found responsible.

Visiting the spot, Narayanganj Deputy Commissioner said financial assistance of Tk 20,000 would be given to Soyahor's family members.

A probe body will be formed to investigate the incident, and directives have also been issued to take legal action against those responsible, the DC said.

## Opposition leaders

FROM PAGE 2  
a series of questions yesterday, demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi answer those.

Dubbing BJP the "Bharatiya Jasoos (spy) Party", Surjewala said, the government was silent on the issue "despite knowing about it".

"On September 12, the IT minister met the Vice-President of Facebook, but he didn't raise the hacking issue... there was a mysterious silence," he said.

Accusing the government of lying, the Congress said WhatsApp had alerted the government about this in May. So the government's claim that they became aware of the issue on October 31, is not true, Surjewala said.

Rights activists and dissidents in India have accused the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government of intimidating them over their criticism of policies.

Since Modi's ascent to the top post

in 2014, it has banned hundreds of non government organisations and stopped funding of many more.

Rupali Jadhav, an activist, and one of those contacted by WhatsApp said she suspected that she was targeted for her work on caste, class and gender rights.

"We are told India is a democracy. But if our right to privacy is violated, doesn't that raise questions?" AFP quoted her telling an Indian online outlet.

## Tigers offer hope with rousing win

FROM PAGE 1  
three and a half years ago in Bengaluru. Again, more than exorcising the past, it was an auspicious sign for the future that in these two stalwarts, there was enough pedigree left in the team to take it forward in trying times.

And times were difficult. On a sluggish wicket India had rallied to score 30 runs in the last two overs to post an above-par 148 for six despite a fine bowling performance by Bangladesh. Then, opener Soumya Sarkar and Mushfiqur had done their best to provide the tourists a launching pad by taking the team to 114 at the end of the 17th over, which ended with Soumya being the third wicket to fall, bringing an end to a 60-run stand.

But Mushfiqur, then on 37 off 35 balls, was finding it hard to connect his big hits and got a substantial slice of luck when he was dropped at the midwicket fence by Krunal Pandya off leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal in the next over. As importantly, the ball had gone for four. Mahmudullah hit a boundary off the last ball to bring the equation down to 22 from the last two overs.

In the nick of time, Mushfiqur found his range -- a pull, a trademark scoop, a square drive and an edge realised four consecutive boundaries to end the 19th over bowled by Khaleel Ahmed, leaving Bangladesh to score just four

off the last over from debutant Shivam Dube. Mushfiqur had reached 60 off 43 balls with eight fours and a six.

That would remain his unbeaten score as a scampered two and a wide levelled the margin with four balls to go, and Mahmudullah hit a six over long on to deliver Bangladesh's first T20I win over India in nine attempts.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offered her felicitations after the match, saying: "The whole nation is proud of seeing the team spirit of our players and their tremendous performance."

Bangladesh's chase had started with opener Liton Das leaving in the first over, offering a tame catch to point off a rank long hop from pacer Deepak Chahar. Fellow opener Mohammad Naim impressed on debut with a 28-ball 26 and, more importantly, struck up a 46-run partnership with Soumya Sarkar. He holed out off spinner Yuzvendra with the score on 54 for two in the eighth over.

Earlier, the Tigers overcame the absence of Shakib manfully as leg-spinner Aminul Islam and part-time off-spinner Afif Hossain impressed with their accuracy and turn after pacer Shafiqur Islam removed dangerman Rohit Sharma in the very first over.

Pacers Al-Amin Hossain, playing his first T20I since March 2016, and Mustafizur Rahman combined with Shafiqur to keep India to just 35 for one after the six Powerplay overs. Aminul

then came in and reaped the reward as KL Rahul was surprised by the turn to offer a simple chance to Mahmudullah at short cover.

Mahmudullah was rewarded for sticking with Aminul, who was hit for two sixes in his first two overs, as the leg-spinner continued to flight the ball and Shreyas Iyer was beaten by the turn when trying to hit a third maximum, and was caught at the wide long off boundary.

With two left-handers at the crease in Rishabh Pant and opener Shikhar Dhawan, Afif came in and with his accurate off-stump line allowed just four runs from two overs.

The captain then helped strike the decisive blow in the 15th over, running 30 metres to chase down Pant's nudge into a vacant leg side and then firing a throw to Mushfiqur Rahim to find Shikhar Dhawan, sent back by Pant, short of the crease.

In the following over, Afif induced a leading edge from debutant Shivam Dube, backpedalled and took a leaping one-handed catch over his left shoulder to have India five down for 102.

Undoing some of his shrewder decisions, Mahmudullah then tossed the ball to Shafiqur Islam in the 18th over, although Mustafizur Rahman had two overs left. Despite taking the wicket of Pant, Shafiqur was hit for 14 and the last over from Al-Amin cost 16.

## BCL men wanted

FROM PAGE 1  
with Chandrima Police Station, accusing 50 unnamed and eight named BCL men.

Police arrested five BCL men yesterday.

The Directorate of Technical Education formed a three-member committee headed by Director SM Ferdous Alam to investigate the incident in three days.

Last month, about 150 BCL activists did not attend their midterm examinations. The administration then asked them to bring in their guardians to the institute before the final exams.

The students then tried and failed to settle the matter, the principal said.

Ahmed said that he was warned of consequences by his students at that point.

On Saturday morning, the last day of registering for the final exams, a group of students led by the BCL unit Joint Secretary Kamal Hossain Sourav met him and asked him to allow two students to register for the exams even though they did not have the required class attendance, Ahmed said, adding that he refused.

He was attacked a few hours later. The teachers, students and officials of the institute refrained from academic activities yesterday and demonstrated on campus. They demanded suspension of student politics on the campus and tore posters and banners of BCL.

They alleged that the BCL activists often took money from students promising them of better grades.

Adjacent to the administration office, there is room-1119. The BCL activists often took students to that room and beat them up until they gave money, many students alleged.

The authorities broke into the room yesterday and found iron rods and pipes that were allegedly used to beat students up.

The teachers said they informed the police and local Awami League leaders several times about BCL's activities, but no one did anything.

In December last year, BCL men demanded Tk 300 from each of the nearly 4,000 students and beat up those who did not pay, the principal said.

Mizanur Rahman, a student, was

beaten up in broad daylight at the tennis court for not paying the money.

English teacher Nurullah told reporters yesterday that BCL men chased him when he tried to save a student from being beaten up.

Institute officials said most of the BCL men, who are engaged in criminal activities have already graduated. But they did not leave the campus.

Five of the eight named BCL men, who are accused of assaulting the principal, are former students. They are Shanto, Boni, Hasibul Islam Shanto, Salman alias Tony, and Manuf. The three current students are Kamal Hossain Sourav, Murad and Hasibul.

The central committee of BCL yesterday expelled Kamal Hossain Sourav from the organisation and suspended all BCL activities at the institute.

BCL unit President Mehedi Hasan Regan could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Unit General Secretary Rashed Rahman, who graduated from the institute in 2017, said, "There is some truth in the allegations, but all of them are not true."

## Defaulters must make 15pc

FROM PAGE 1  
The lawyer also said he would issue an advocate certificate to the BB immediately so that it can implement the circular, if necessary, as the release of full text of the HC verdict may take time.

Asked, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid said that according to the 2012 BB circular, the banks concerned are supposed to submit lists of names of loan defaulters to the Credit Information Bureau and take permission from the BB for giving the borrowers fresh loans.

From now on, the banks have to follow the conditions of the 2012 circular, he mentioned.

A number of bankers told this newspaper that rescheduling of defaulted loans with 2 percent down payment will depend on the banks as the BB circular in this regard is not mandatory for the lenders.

"The defaulters are struggling to pay 2 percent of their outstanding loans as down payment. How will they pay 15 percent for getting fresh loans," said the managing director of a bank, seeking anonymity.

Yesterday, the HC ordered the BB to constitute a nine-member committee comprising banking experts to find out the loopholes in sanctioning, distributing and recovering the loans, and to make necessary recommendations and suggestions to this effect.

The central bank has also been ordered to follow the recommendations and suggestions of the committee.

The HC ruled that in future, any commercial bank has to appoint its top five officials, including the managing director, under supervision of the BB.

The court said the interest rate of bank loans should be reduced to a

single digit to facilitate business and development in the country.

"We have found that the borrowers have been facing hardship due to high interest rate. So the banks should reduce the interest rate from double digit to a single digit," observed the HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam.

The court said smooth circulation of money is necessary for a sustainable economy and development of the country. And banks are the heart of money circulation, the court said.

Nobody can deny that some financial scams have been detected involving several institutions, including Hallmark, BASIC Bank and Bismillah Group, it mentioned.

The government, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the BB have taken some measures but those are inadequate for stopping these kinds of scams, the HC observed.

## ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

# Delhi supports Dhaka's efforts to solve crisis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India wants safe, speedy and sustainable return of the Rohingyas to Myanmar in the best interest of regional security and stability.

Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar said this in a letter to Bangladesh's Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen recently, according to a statement from the foreign ministry.

"The Indian External Affairs Minister mentioned that the safe, speedy, and sustainable return of displaced persons to Myanmar is in the best interests of all concerned. This is also in the best interest of lasting regional security and stability," the statement said yesterday, referring to Jaishankar's letter.

"India is supportive of Bangladesh's efforts to resolve the Rohingya problem," it added.

In the letter, Jaishankar also expressed his deep admiration for Bangladesh in shouldering the burden of hosting around one million refugees from the Rakhine State.

Of them, some 750,000 fled since August 2017 when the Myanmar military began a brutal campaign against the minority community, which was termed ethnic cleansing by the UN. Rights bodies termed it genocide and crimes against humanity.

Despite two attempts of repatriation under a deal signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar in November 2017, no Rohingya volunteered to return, arguing that the situation in Rakhine is not safe and that there is no guarantee of citizenship. The UN also said the situation there is not conducive for the

refugees to return.

China, a close ally of Myanmar, has not supported any concrete action against Myanmar in the UN Security Council. India, which is also a close ally of Myanmar, wants a bilateral solution to the crisis, instead of any harsh action by the UN.

Bangladesh has also been seeking strong support from its two allies -- China and India -- in resolving the crisis, which analysts fear may turn eventually into a regional security crisis.

Meanwhile, World Bank Executive Director Patrizio Pagano said resolving the Rohingya crisis needs political will.

At a press conference at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in the capital yesterday, he said the World Bank lauds the Bangladesh government and the host community for opening its door for the Rohingyas, and that it has been providing funds as humanitarian assistance to the refugees and host community in Cox's Bazar.

The World Bank is providing \$165 million to help Bangladesh provide relief to the refugees in the country.

Asked if the World Bank, a Washington-based global lender, would impose any sanctions against Myanmar, Pagano said, "The World Bank does not impose any sanction against any country."

He said it rather provides funds to countries for poverty alleviation and improving the lives of the poor.

"We will continue to do so," said Patrizio Pagano.

Nine executive directors and two alternate directors of the World Bank are currently visiting Bangladesh.

## It's needed

FROM PAGE 16  
"Modi emphasised on the fact that the speedy, safe and sustainable return from Bangladesh of the displaced people to their homes in the Rakhine state was in the interest of the region, the displaced persons, and all three neighbouring states -- India, Bangladesh and Myanmar," according to a statement issued by the Indian Prime Minister's Office yesterday evening.

Over a million Rohingyas, who escaped atrocities in Myanmar, have been sheltered in Bangladesh for more than two years.

With regards to the situation in Rakhine, following the completion of the first Indian project to build 250 prefabricated houses, which were handed over to the Myanmar government this July, Modi expressed India's readiness to carry out more socio-economic projects in the Myanmar province.

Speaking at a summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Bangkok -- with Myanmar's de facto head Suu Kyi in the room -- Antonio Guterres said he remains "deeply concerned" about the plight of the Rohingyas, the AFP reported.

Violence in the Rakhine state in 2017 forced more than 740,000 Rohingyas to flee, most seeking refuge in overcrowded camps in neighbouring Bangladesh, in what UN investigators say amounted to genocide.

Myanmar does not recognise Rohingyas as citizens.

The country says it welcomes back those who agree to a bureaucratic status below full citizenship, and if they agree to live under tight guard after their villages were incinerated.

Guterres said Myanmar has the responsibility to "ensure a conducive

environment for the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees", the AFP report said.

Suu Kyi sat in the room expressionless as Guterres spoke.

Only a few hundred Rohingyas have returned to Myanmar so far, with many fearing further persecution in the Buddhist-majority country.

The secretary-general also called on Myanmar "to ensure humanitarian actors have full and unfettered access to the areas of return".

Despite repeated entreaties by the UN and endless criticism by rights groups and world leaders, Myanmar has refused to bend in its approach to the Rohingyas.

Much of Rakhine remains largely closed to aid workers and journalists, who can only visit on tightly controlled, military-chaperoned trips.

It has launched an extensive and increasingly bloody campaign against Rakhine Buddhists, who are also fighting the central state for greater autonomy.

Suu Kyi has come under fire for failing to use her moral force to defend Rohingyas after the 2017 unrest.

The treatment of the minority has shredded her image as an upholder of human rights in the eyes of the Western world.

Myanmar's army has come under fire for covering up the crackdown, which it blamed on Rohingya "terrorists".

A leaked Asean report earlier this year said the repatriation effort could take a further two years, the AFP report said.

Suu Kyi has faced pressure over her country's treatment of Rohingyas from fellow Asean members -- Malaysia and Indonesia, which are both Muslim-majority countries.

## BNP seeks govt help

FROM PAGE 16  
Fakhru said Khoka told his relatives and friends that he wanted to be buried in Bangladesh.

He said Khoka's son had told him over phone that he wanted to fulfil the final wish of his father.

"He was not only a leader of BNP, but a politician with nationwide popularity," the BNP secretary general said.

He also requested the countrymen to pray for Khoka's recovery.

Khoka's son Ishraque Hossain yesterday told that Bangladesh consulate in New York informed them it will issue travel documents to Khoka and his wife to come to Bangladesh.

Ishraq said that Khoka and his wife Israt Hossain submitted their passports to the Bangladesh consultant office in New York for renewing those two years back but they were not given those until yesterday.

On May 14, 2014, Khoka, who also served as a fisheries and livestock minister, and his wife went to the USA with travel visa for cancer treatment.

The freedom fighter stepped into politics through Moulana Bhasani's National Awami Party. Later, he joined the BNP, and was made the party's Dhaka city unit president.

Khoka was elected as an MP in 1991. Later, he contested Dhaka City Corporation election in 2002 and was elected mayor. He held the post for nearly nine years.

The government has said its Mission in New York is ready to issue 'travel permit' if the family of former mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Sadeque Hossain Khoka applies for that.

"Our Mission (in New York) will take necessary steps if Sadeque Hossain Khoka's family applies for travel permit," State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam said in a message shared on his Facebook wall on Sunday.

GOVT TO ISSUE TRAVEL PERMIT  
Meanwhile, State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam yesterday wrote in his Facebook wall that the Bangladesh Mission in New York is ready to issue "travel permit" for Khoka and his wife if the family applies for it, reports UNB.

He said travel permit is the only internationally-recognised method for sending Khoka and his wife back to Bangladesh as they do not have valid passports.

"I've conveyed the decision to our Consulate in New York," said the state minister.

## Tied and beaten

FROM PAGE 16  
against my sister that she damaged their cabbage field and beat her up," he said.

A footage of the incident went viral on social media.

Rafi and Shilpi recently got married and started living at a rented house in Sadar upazila of the district. Rafi, however, refused to contribute to the new family, leaving a burden of due house rent on Shilpi's shoulder, Mamun said.

Shilpi went to her in-law's house on Friday morning to fix this issue when Rafi and his family members tortured her, he added.

On information, Shibganj Raynagar Union Parishad Chairman

Shahiqul Islam took the woman to the union parishad and handed her over to police.

Sub-inspector Hazizur Rahman of Shibganj Police Station detained the victim and requested Shibganj upazila nirbahi officer Alamgir Kabir to place before a mobile court. The police official took the step without scrutinising the allegation brought against Shilpi. He did not even visit the spot.

Contacted, UNO Alamgir Kabir said he refused to punish the woman via mobile court. Instead, he asked the police official to file a regular case in this connection, he said.

Asked, Sub-inspector Hazizur said he did not visit the spot where Shilpi

was beaten as it was far away from the union parishad office where she was kept.

Instead of visiting the crime spot, he relied on the information provided by the UP chairman, he said. However, he denied going to UNO Alamgir.

The Daily Star could not reach Chirman Shahiqul Islam after repeated attempts over phone.

Contacted, Ali Asharaf Bhuiyan, superintendent of Bogura police, said, "We took the case very seriously. If there is any allegation against cops, we will look into those too."

Meanwhile, police arrested both Rafi and his elder brother Saifur Rahman in this connection.