

Eyewitness tells

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OC Pradeep went to the spot. After getting off the car, Pradeep kicked the man lying on the ground and stomped on his neck with his foot," the source added.

Shahidul earlier knew Liaqat and Pradeep but he did not know the victim when the incident took place. Later, he came to know that the deceased was Maj (ret'd) Sinha.

Judge Mohammad Ismail recorded Shahidul's deposition, which began at 10:15am and continued till around 2:00pm. The defence then cross-examined his statement.

Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam said all 15 accused in the case were present in the court yesterday.

The court began recording statements of witnesses in the second phase of the hearing on Sunday and ended yesterday.

Although the court has summoned 15 witnesses to testify during this period, only four witnesses could testify before the court till yesterday.

Sinha, 36, had been making travel documentaries for a YouTube channel called "Just Go". He was returning to Cox's Bazar from Teknaf when he was killed in a police firing at a checkpoint of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) at Teknaf's Shamlapur area on July 31 last year.



A migrant child, who was rescued from the English Channel, is carried by a Border Force Officer, in Dover, Britain yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

For 5 years she was locked up, tortured

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four or five months ago as she became physically and psychologically ill, Mizanur said, adding that she then made her way to a relative's house in the district.

"Until then, her family had assumed she was dead."

The PBI, which has been reinvestigating the case filed after she went missing in 2016, came to know about her return recently.

Five members of the gang -- Lata Begum, who employed the girl, her husband Baser Mia, their sons Rabbi and Al Amin, and driver Sohag -- were arrested from Dhaka, Mizanur told a press briefing at his office yesterday.

Speaking to The Daily Star, the victim said Sohag, Rabbi and Al Amin were among those who raped her during captivity.

PBI officials said the girl's aunt sent her to Lata's house in 2016, where she stayed for only a week.

Later, Sohag took her to his house and raped her. Lata's sons also raped

her there.

They later forced her into sex work and took her to another house. She was moved to several houses during captivity.

Failing to contact her, family members went to Lata's house. She told them that the girl left her house for her village.

Meanwhile, a decomposed body of a girl was recovered from Bhatara area and the family primarily identified it as their loved one.

The victim's aunt then filed a case with Bhatara Police Station against Lata, her family members and an unnamed driver, on charges of rape and murder, Mizanur said.

The accused were arrested but released on bail after six months.

Meanwhile, DNA samples of the dead body and the victim's parents did not match, confirming that the deceased was not their daughter.

Bhatara Police then submitted the final report in June 2019 to a Dhaka Court -- citing factual errors

in the case. The court asked PBI to reinvestigate the case as the victim remained missing.

The PBI then finally arrested the accused for forcing the girl into sex work after she returned.

Mizanur said Lata is the ringleader of the group and used to force girls into sex work. She would also give money to the victim's aunt so that the latter would not file cases against her in this regard, he said.

"We are going to file a case against the five arrestees and the aunt with Bhatara Police Station. If other names emerge during investigation, they will be implicated in the case too," said Md Shamsuzzaman, PBI additional superintendent.

Speaking to The Daily Star, all the accused denied the allegations against them. Meanwhile, the girl's aunt is on the run, PBI officials said.

The victim's mother said they are happy they got their daughter back but demanded justice for the ordeal she had to endure.

Bangladesh Liberation Front formed

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unity among the rank and file of the freedom-loving people of Bangladesh, having faith in the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Awami League and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The meeting, by a resolution, called upon India and all other countries of the world to accord immediate recognition to the Government of Bangladesh. The resolution also appealed to them to give "active assistance" to the Government of Bangladesh and the Mukti Bahini in the form of arms and ammunition.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In Dhaka-Cumilla-Chattogram Sector, Mukti Bahini today fired on Pakistani positions in Koteswar, Amratoli and Jambari, and killed 13 enemy soldiers.

Mukti Bahini exchanged fire with Pakistani troops in Teliapara, killing

nine enemies.

The war bulletin, issued by Bangladesh Forces Headquarters, reported a serious dissention between Razakars and Pakistani troops. They referred to an incident occurred today in Ulipur where a group of Razakars clashed with Pakistani troops. Two Pakistani soldiers and two Razakars lost their lives in the clash. Later on, in reprisal, Pakistani troops killed about two hundred civilians in the area.

'ANSWER LIKE VIETNAM' Andrie Malraux, well known French writer and former minister of culture, advised the people of Bangladesh to "answer like Vietnam".

In a letter to Jayaprakash Narayan, chairman of the preparatory committee of the international conference on Bangladesh, who had invited him to attend the conference, Malraux said that in view of the situation in

Bangladesh today, democracy was irrelevant. "Bengal does not defend a political system -- it defends its life. It must answer like Vietnam: If we must die, we will die but this will cost you so much that you will end by going away."

He further said Bangladesh should not try to appeal to the Anglo-Saxon liberalism of 40 years ago or depend upon good feelings from absent-minded Americans but it must avail itself of its courage.

In Malraux's opinion, "petition making is useless. What is vital is the military organisation of Bangladesh. Either it would accept pitched battles with Pakistan and would be wiped out or it would organise its guerillas and Pakistan would be defeated. Even the USA could not crush Vietnam."

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Incorporate Bangabandhu's

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to wage a decisive struggle against the Pakistani rulers and to achieve the long-cherished independence.

Delivering the verdict on a writ petition, the HC asked the government to include the March 7 speech in the textbooks through an expert committee.

The committee will determine how the March 7 speech of Bangabandhu will be included in the textbooks, Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashar told The Daily Star.

The HC also ordered the government to complete construction of the monument of Bangabandhu delivering the March 7 speech at Suhrawardy Udyan as early as possible.

The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice Shahed Nuruddin handed down the judgment after hearing of the petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Bashir Ahmed in November 2017 seeking necessary directives in this regard.

The grounds on which the HC bench delivered the verdict could

not be known as its full text was not released yesterday.

During yesterday's hearing, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told the court that the government will work in line with its directives on this issue.

Petitioner Bashir himself moved the petition and requested the HC bench to direct the government to include Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech in the textbooks for students of school, college and university so that they can learn about the significance of the speech.

On February 25 last year, the HC directed the government to declare March 7 as "National Historic Day" and to issue a gazette notification in this regard.

It also asked the authorities concerned to set up murals of Bangabandhu in all upazilas and districts across the country during the Mujib Borsho and to submit a compliance report in a month.

The directives, issued by the HC on February 25, 2020, have already been implemented, Deputy Attorney General Bashar added.

Bangladesh

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hundreds of thousands of Afghans being displaced following the withdrawal of US forces and the Taliban's takeover on August 15.

On Tuesday, the Taliban formed an interim government after three weeks of negotiations within its factions.

Shahriar said Bangladesh will take its decision independently on the recognition of the new Afghan government when it will have a permanent one.

He said the Taliban has changed from what it was during its previous rule in 1996-2001, but how far it has really changed at the grassroots level is yet to be seen.

"We are watching the situation closely."

However, he said, as there is a huge humanitarian crisis, the Bangladesh government will be ready to extend support.

EU top diplomat Josep Borrell on August 17 called for a dialogue with the Taliban in Afghanistan to prevent the crises, but made clear that it doesn't mean international recognition.

"We have to get in touch with authorities in Kabul ... whoever they are. The Taliban have won the war," he said, speaking after a video conference among EU foreign ministers.

"We'll have to talk to them in order to engage in a dialogue, as soon as necessary, to prevent a humanitarian and potential migratory disaster."

He feared the situation in Afghanistan could trigger a migration crisis like the one in Syria in 2015.

Such a dialogue will also have to focus on the prevention of terrorist presence in Afghanistan, he added.

One of the conditions of the US withdrawal agreement with the Taliban was that Afghanistan would not be used as a land for terrorists attacking foreign countries.

Cop involved

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themselves as DB police officials, and showed me and my brother inside the car. They put handcuffs on us, blindfolded us, and beat us up. They dumped us near the Rampura staff quarters the next morning," the victim said in the case statement.

ADC Akter said several incidents of robbery have taken place all over the city in recent times, and in many instances it was claimed that DB officials were involved.

"But we had failed to identify those involved in the robbery. Finally, we could track down the ring following the incident at Kawla and found that six people, including sub-inspector of CID Aksaduzzaman, were involved in this robbery and looting," he said.

Following the leak of the phone call on Tuesday night, SI Aksaduzzaman was arrested yesterday morning.

"Our investigation is at the final stage and the charge sheet will be submitted soon," he said, adding that two of those arrested in the intervening period have already given their professional statements.

Aksaduzzaman faced departmental action, and was fired after the case was filed, said the police official.

In the leaked phone call, supposedly the wife of the SI, kept alleging that she gave Tk 1.28 crore to a certain senior DB official and kept alleging that she personally gave Tk 14 lakh to DB's deputy police commissioner Kayser Rizvi Korayshi.

When contacted, Korayshi said the audio clip was fabricated and that the man speaking on the phone was not

him.

"The SI's wife has been requesting us to give him clearance. The audio is fabricated. I have had no conversation like that. This is not my voice. This is them trying to frame me," he claimed.

"We will investigate the phone call to see whether these claims are true," said ADC Akter when asked to comment on the allegation of bribery against DC Korayshi.

"As the process of submitting charge sheet is at the final stage, the accused are trying desperately to stop this process," he added.

Aksaduzzaman could not be reached as he was arrested yesterday morning.

One of the people allegedly present during the robbery, one Hasan Raja, gave a confessional statement to the CID stating that he received Tk 70,000 as his share of the booty.

The driver of the microbus, Harunur Rashid Shajib, also gave a confessional statement stating that SI Aksaduzzaman took him along, saying there would be a raid.

Amir Hossain Talukder, among those accused, told The Daily Star that his wife had given Tk 16.5 lakh to Aksaduzzaman's wife to facilitate Amir's release.

"My brother sold a shop in Shariatpur and arranged the money. My wife gave the money to the CID officer's wife to get me released."

"When I wanted proof, she played a phone conversation between her and a DB official," Amir told The Daily Star.

Amir claimed that he was framed in the case.

A bridge too low

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we found the vertical clearance of the bridge is around 15 feet. It should have been at least 25 feet considering the class-3 river route," said Ashraf Hossain, deputy director of BIWTA.

"No medium size vessels will be able to ply the waterway because of the low vertical clearance of the bridge," he said.

A proposed capital dredging project will also be hampered as, the BIWTA official said, the bridge will obstruct operations of dredgers.

The RHD did not take approval from Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), which is mandatory for constructing a bridge over a river, he added.

Currently, operation of vessels beneath the bridge is suspended because of the construction work and dumping of construction materials.

Locals, including environmentalists, have been protesting the "faulty" construction of the bridge on the 38km Jashore-Benapole highway, which plays a vital role in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh.

That three-lane bridge has been built in a way that plying of even small boats will be difficult during monsoon, said Iqbal Kabir Zahid, chief advisor of Kapotaksha Bachao Andolon, a platform working to save the river.

Croes of Taka has gone down the drain for the faulty design, he also said.

Contacted, Shyamal Kumar Bhattacharyya, director of Cross-Border Road Network Improvement Project, said "Generally, we take approval when the river route is defined by the BIWTA."

"But for this route where the bridge has been built on, we didn't take a written approval from the BIWTA as the route is not defined by them."

However, according to the Rules of Construction Control at Inland Water, Adjacent Areas, 2010, if any organisation wants to build any structure on a river route or a riverbank, it must take the clearance from BIWTA.

Shyamal denied the allegation that the bridge has low vertical clearance or there was any fault in its design. "There is no error from our side," he said.

"We have stopped the bridge construction work for now following a protest by a group of local people. We will resume the work when the matter is solved."

The feasibility study was done in 2015-16, the design was completed in 2017 and the work order was given in 2018, said the director.

He, however, could not say the exact cost of building the bridge.

The director said the total construction costs of this bridge and three others, an approach road and an axle load control station were around Tk 329 crores.

Ant bites intense as their

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have learned that the "mandibular teeth" of ants - those on the outside of their mouths - are tightly bound together with zinc atoms that make up more than 8 percent of the weight of the tooth.

The zinc atoms are laid out evenly in a way it lets the ants cut the leaves and not suffer any damage. "We could see that the zinc is uniformly distributed in the tooth, which was a surprise," said PNNL materials scientist Arun Devaraj in a statement.

"We were expecting the zinc to be clustered in nano-nodules."

Due to the prevalence of zinc, the researchers estimate it's possible for the ants to use 60 percent or less of the force that they would have to use if their teeth were made from material similar to humans, such as enamel.

This feature could be implemented by engineers, according to University of Oregon Associate Professor Robert Schofield, who led the study.

"Human engineers might also learn from this biological trick," said Schofield. "The hardness of ant teeth, for example, increases from about the hardness of plastic to the hardness of aluminum when the zinc is added. While there are much harder engineering materials, they are often more brittle."

During the course of their study, the researchers looked at a piece of an ant tooth and then used a microscope technique known as atom probe tomography, which allowed them to see how the zinc atoms were arranged.

Vaccination centres

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"We hope we would be able to come up with a good news shortly."

About the transmission situation of novel coronavirus, he said the transmission has been in a downward trend for the past 30 days.

"The case detection rate has been below 10 percent for the past four days in a row," Nazmul said, adding, "If we can maintain this, we could be in comfort to a great extent."

He also said, "If the transmission declines further, going back to normalcy would be easier."

The DGHS in a press release, meanwhile, reported 52 deaths from Covid-19 in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday.

Besides, the case detection has also dropped as the DGHS reported 2,497 new cases across the country. The previous day, 2,639 people tested positive.

Against 27,528 tests yesterday, the positivity rate was 9.07 percent.

With the latest count, the total number of deaths from the deadly virus reached 26,736, which is 1.76 percent of all confirmed cases so far.

On March 8 last year, the DGHS reported the first three Covid-19 cases in the country. Since then, 15,22,302 people tested positive for the virus.

Of yesterday's deceased, 20 were men and 32 women.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)		
IEB Bhaban (5-8 th & 14 th Floor)		
Ramna, Dhaka-1000		
INVITATION FOR TENDER		
01 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications Division	
02 Agency	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).	
03 Procurement Entity Name	Director, Administration Division, BTRC.	
04 Invitation for	Procurement of Laptop, Desktop Computer & Genuine Operating System	
05 Invitation Ref. No.	14.32.0000.430.07.001.21.1775	
06 Date	08/09/2021	
KEY INFORMATION		
07 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National)	
FUNDING INFORMATION		
08 Budget and Source of Funds	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
09 Tender Name	Procurement of Laptop, Desktop Computer & Genuine Operating System	
	Date	
	Time	
10 Tender Publication date	08/09/2021	-
11 Tender Collection date	08/09/2021	-
12 Tender Pre-bit Meeting	16/09/2021	3:00 PM
13 Tender Last Selling Date	22/09/2021	-
14 Tender closing Date & Time	23/09/2021	2:00 PM
15 Opening Date and Time	23/09/2021	2:30 PM
16	Name & Address of the office	
Selling Tender Document	BTRC, IEB Bhaban (5-8 th & 14 th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000	
Receiving Tender Document	-do-	
Opening Tender Document	-do-	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
17 Eligibility of Tenderer	i) Tenderer will have legal, financial, professional capability to deliver and install the Tendered Items and have 05(five) years' experience in the relevant field. ii) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Goods of at least two (2) contract successfully completed within the last 03 (three) years, with a value of at least Tk. 60 (Sixty) lakhs.	
18 Brief Description of Goods	As per schedule	
19 Brief Description of Related Services	As per schedule	
20 Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	1000/-	
21 Tender Security Amount (Tk)	150,000/-	
22 Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Yakub Ali Bhuiyan	
23 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director, Administration Division	
24 Address of Official Inviting Tender	BTRC, IEB Bhaban (5-8 th & 14 th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000	
25 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 880-2- 9554689; E-mail: yakub.ali@btrc.gov.bd	
26	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Md. Yakub Ali Bhuiyan
Director
Administration Division, BTRC
Phone:-02-9554689; E-mail:-
yakub@btrc.gov.bd

SHANG-CHI

LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS

QUIZ CONTEST

The Daily Star | STAR CINEMA

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Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced through email.

Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email

QUIZ - 05 What creature is the "Great Protector"?

WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ - 04

1. Rokeya Akter, Gulshan 2.
2. Md. Sakif Bin Shafi, Dholpur
3. Mubtasem Anjum, Mohammadpur
4. Naimul Hoque Koushik, Shantinagar
5. Kamrun Nahar, Jatrabari
6. Md. Easir Arafat, Gazipur
7. Adib Hasan Shovon, Mohammadpur
8. Mohammad Saif Uddin Nabil, Chattogram
9. Rownak Jahan, Mohammadpur
10. Sanjid Khan Majlish, Rampura