

# His 22-year streak comes

FROM PAGE 12

10 others in raids in Cumilla and Dhaka and recovered 4,725 dresses from their possession, he said.

The gang was also behind a theft of 11,000 pieces of clothes from a shipment Jayanti Knitwear Limited was sending to the UK on May 11.

A case was filed regarding that incident on September 12.

The buyers penalised Jayanti Knitwear \$28,908 for the missing products.

Such thefts are tarnishing the country's image, said Hafiz Akter.

In primary interrogation, Shahed admitted that he stole from 5,000 trucks and lorries.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed him on a one-day remand while two of the other arrestees, Abdur Razzaq and Imran Khan, made confessional statements in the court.

The others were sent to jail.

Shahadat Hossain Sumon,

additional deputy commissioner of DB, said garment factories usually outsource the job of shipping goods to Chattogram port.

"On the way, these trucks stops at a warehouse in Cumilla where the gang members take out several products from every pack on the truck and then reseal the packs," Shahadat told The Daily Star.

The robberies weren't detected until the shipment reached the buyers abroad, he said.

The gang used to sell the goods to local buyers who later shipped them abroad, said the ADC, adding that officers now know the names of 40 individuals, including the local buyers who will be arrested soon.

In his confession, lorry driver Imran said he was given Tk 15,000 by the gang on May 11 for stopping the lorry full of garment products at a warehouse in the capital's Matuail and allowing the robbers to steal.

# Govt can ask for anyone's

FROM PAGE 12

published in the media. Another question that's being raised by the journalists is why the bank account details were asked for with the name of organisations. I think if someone is transparent, there's no reason to be worried about."

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan called the letter by BFIU unexpected. He said this when a delegation of senior journalists met him at his Secretariat office.

"I think there has been a misunderstanding and I personally believe that the letter should not have been issued in such a way," said the minister while talking to reporters after a meeting with the delegation.

The delegation comprised prime minister's ex-media adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, journalist leaders Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Kuddus Afrad, Abul Kalam Azad, Abdul Jalil Bhuiya, Omar Faruk, and Sajjad Alam Khan.

Asaduzzman said he talked to all organisations including National Security Intelligence (NSI), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and

Special Branch, Bangladesh Bank to discuss this issue.

He assured journalists that he would sit again with them to find out more about the issue and take action accordingly.

"Your reputation has been undermined. You are in pain," the minister said, adding, "It has to be ensured that such incident does not occur again."

IPTV

Asked about BTRC closing online TV channels, the information minister said regulatory bodies must be very careful about who they allocate domains to.

Mahmud said his ministry only gives registration to IPTVs, but they get domain allocations from the BTRC. "The question is how they got the domain allocations. I think one has to be very careful from now on before allocating a domain."

He said there would be a tripartite meeting of Information, Posts and Telecommunications and the ICT ministries on Wednesday to discuss the matter.

# When does appendix

FROM PAGE 12

This pain is known as "appendicitis," and has notoriety among many who experienced it.

One may also lose their appetite, feel sick and even experience irritable bowel movements.

Since, the appendix has partly done its job of securing our immunity, it might at times be prone to damage by viruses or bacteria. Sometimes, it can get entangled with your large intestine and clog up your bowels. If, by any chance, the appendix ruptures, it can cause serious complications.

If one experiences a persisting pain near their abdomen, doctors' advice is an absolute must. But do know that you will have to prepare yourself for a swift surgery to take the poor

appendix out if necessary.

The procedure to remove appendix, otherwise known as appendectomy, has been the only cure to appendicitis for the past 120 years. Although some doctors may suggest antibiotics, it's not a one-size-fits-all treatment. Your doctor will only prescribe a surgery to you if there is no way out. The first step is to not panic. It is a standard medical procedure, done by experienced laparoscopic surgeons. Trust your doctor and prepare according to their directions.

Full recovery from the surgery takes a few weeks. However, one should be cautious not to engage in any activity that can strain their abdomen. A minimum of six weeks following the surgery is generally recommended to fully heal.

# India to start exports

FROM PAGE 12

is set to quadruple to over 300 million doses next month, the minister said.

Total production could top 1 billion in the last three months of the year as new vaccines from companies such as Biological E are likely to be approved, he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram K Doraiswami said: "Supplies should start in reasonable quantities soon, with priority partners like Bangladesh being among the earliest recipients."

India had supplied 6.6 crore doses to nearly 100 countries before halting the vaccine export.

The announcement by the Indian health minister came a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to the US to attend the maiden in-person Quad summit where the vaccine issue will be come up prominently.

The summit will be attended by President Joe Biden of the US, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga.

Modi is also likely to hold a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina on the margins of the UN General Assembly session in New York, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

India wants to vaccinate all its 944 million adults by December and has so far given at least one dose to 64% of them and two doses to 22%.

India's inoculations have jumped since last month, especially as the world's biggest vaccine maker, the Serum Institute of India, has more than trebled its output of the AstraZeneca shot to 200 million doses a month from April levels, reports Reuters.

Indian companies have set up the capacity to produce nearly 3 billion Covid vaccine doses a year.

# US to end travel bans for vaccinated passengers early Nov

AFP, Washington

The United States announced yesterday it will lift Covid travel bans on all air passengers in November if they are fully vaccinated and undergo testing and contact tracing.

Jeffrey Zients, coronavirus response coordinator for President Joe Biden, told reporters the new "consistent approach" would take effect "early November."

The easing of travel restrictions, imposed 18 months ago by Donald Trump as the Covid-19 pandemic first erupted, marks a significant shift by Biden and answers a major demand from European allies at a time of strained diplomatic relations.

Numerous safeguards will remain in place to suppress the spread of the virus, which has already killed more than 670,000 Americans and is

resurgent after what many had hoped was a lasting dip earlier this year.

"Most importantly, foreign nationals flying to the US will be required to be fully vaccinated," Zients said.

It wasn't immediately clear if the new rule only applied to US-approved vaccines or if other brands, such as those produced in China or Russia would also qualify. Zients said that would be determined by the US Centers for Disease Control.

Restrictions on vehicle movement from Canada and Mexico will remain in place. "We do not have any updates on the land border policies," Zients said.

Zients said passengers will need to show they were fully vaccinated before boarding planes to the United States, as well as providing proof of a negative Covid-19 test taken within three days.



A medical worker observes secondary school students after they receive a dose of the coronavirus disease vaccine at a school, in Putrajaya, Malaysia yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Bangladesh's UN delegation announced

FROM PAGE 12

representative in the UN; and AMA Muhith, counselor, Bangladesh mission in the USA were already in New York and would join the delegation there.

**DATES OF EAST PAKISTAN BY-ELECTIONS REVISED**

The chief election Commissioner of the Pakistan Election Commission announced today a revised timeline for the by-elections to the vacant seats in the National Assembly and the Provincial Assembly from East Pakistan.

According to the revised schedule, nomination papers for election to the National Assembly and the Provincial Assembly of East Pakistan would be received by the returning officers concerned on October 20 and October 21, 1971, respectively. The last date

for withdrawal of candidature would be October 28, 1971, in the case of both assemblies. Polls would be held for election to the two assemblies simultaneously, commencing from December 12, 1971, and would be completed by December 23, 1971.

**ON THE WAR FRONT**

In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani position in Patharghatha, killing five enemy soldiers and injuring three. On the same day, Mukti Bahini encountered Pakistani troops and irregulars in Chaukiapara and killed three troops. In an ambush on the Pakistani troops in the same area, Mukti Bahini killed two soldiers and injured two others. Another group of Mukti Bahini raided Saidullapur Police Station in Rangpur district and recovered 12 shotguns. Several police

officers were wounded during the action.

In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini encountered Pakistani troops in Barabari area and killed five. In the same area, they engaged another column of Pakistani troops and exchanged fire. In this action five Pakistani troops and three collaborators were killed.

In the Mymensingh-Sylhet sector, Mukti Bahini ambushed Pakistani troops and Razakars in Gazipur Tea Garden area, killing five soldiers and eight Razakars. They also recovered five rifles. On the same day, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops and Razakars in Samanbagh Tea garden and nearby areas, killing seven Pakistani soldiers.

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# DGHS driver

FROM PAGE 1

government employee like Abdul Malek to possess illegal arms, the tribunal observed in the judgement.

The judge also observed that the "exemplary punishment" was meted out to Malek so that no government employees could even consider possessing illegal arms.

The accused could not show any licence or documents in support of the firearms and ammunition which were seized from his possession, the judgement said.

It is evident to the court that the accused was involved in illegal activities with the illegal arms as there is otherwise no reason to possess the illegal arms, the judge continued.

In the verdict, the judge said the prosecution was able to prove the

charges against Malek.

During a raid, a team of Rab on September 20 last year arrested Malek from Kamarpara area under the capital's Turag Police Station, along with a foreign-made pistol, a magazine, five rounds of bullets, fake currency worth Tk 1.5 lakh, a laptop and a mobile phone.

The next day, Alomgir Hossain, an inspector of Rab-1, filed a case with Turag Police Station under the Arms Act.

Investigation Officer Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury, also a sub-inspector of Rab, on January 11 submitted the charge sheet against Malek to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka in the arms case.

On March 11, the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka framed

charges against Malek in the case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu said the prosecution was satisfied over the judgement in the case.

However, defence lawyer Md Shahinur Islam said, "We have been denied justice.

"We will challenge the verdict at a higher court," he added.

**MALEK'S REACTION ON JUDGEMENT**

While being taken out of the courtroom, Abdul Malek expressed his strong dissatisfaction over the judgement.

"Rab did not find anything in my house," he said.

"Rab has framed me in a false case, I will go to a higher court for a fair trial," he shouted at the journalists.

# Sinha fell to ground

FROM PAGE 12

I was on my way to the marina that night near Shamlapur Bazar to collect the money some fishermen owed me," he said, describing how he came to witness the murder on July 31, 2020.

Soon after the shooting, former officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das arrived there with a team of policemen, he said. After talking to Liaquat, Pradeep kicked Sinha multiple times.

"I saw the incident. A few moments later, the body was loaded on a mini truck which then left the scene."

Hamid claimed that he knew Liaquat and Pradeep before. But he learnt about the identity of Sinha after the incident.

The deposition began around 10:00am and went on until around 3:00pm. Judge Mohammad Ismail recorded it.

Two other eyewitnesses, Firoj Mahmud and Shawkat Ali, also testified at the court yesterday. Firoj is a rickshaw-puller and Shawkat is a wage labourer. Both of them are residents of Teknaf.

The court source said their account of the events were similar to that of Hamid's.

The lawyer of the accused then cross-examined their statements. The proceedings ended around 5:45pm.

All the 15 accused were present at the court yesterday, said Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam.

Yesterday was the first day of the third phase of witness testimony. It will end tomorrow.

The court summoned a total of 23 witnesses to testify in the three days.

From August 23-25, the court recorded the statements of Sinha's sister Sharmin Shahriar Ferdous and his associate Shahedul Islam Sifat in the first phase.

In second phase from September 5-8, local fish trader Mohammad Ali, auto-rickshaw driver Kamal Hossain, a local mosque's muezzin Hafeez Mohammad Amin and a local mosque's Imam Shahidul Islam made their depositions before the court.

There are 83 witnesses in the case.

On June 27, the court framed

charges against 15 accused. Of them, 12 are police personnel, including Pradeep, Liaquat, sub-inspector Md Shahjahan, and assistant sub-inspector Liton Mia. They were all suspended from the force.

Investigators submitted the charge sheet on December 13 last year.

The formal trial began on August 23.

Sinha, 36, was making travel documentaries for a YouTube channel called Just Go and was returning to Cox's Bazar from Teknaf when he was killed in police firing at a check point of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) in Shamlapur area.

Accused officers claimed that they tried to search Sinha's vehicle when Sinha pointed his pistol at them, prompting them to shoot back in self-defence. They also claimed that they seized drugs from the vehicle.

Sinha's elder sister Sharmin later filed a murder case with Cox's Bazar Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court accusing Pradeep, Nanda Dulal, and several others.

# Gunmen kill police inspector in southeast Nigeria

AFP, Lagos

Gunmen have killed a police inspector in southeast Nigeria, police said yesterday, the latest attack in the restive region where dozens of officers have died this year.

In the attack on Sunday, gunmen ambushed a police patrol in the commercial town of Onitsha in Anambra state and opened fire, state police spokesman Ikenga Tochukwu said in a statement.

"The attackers drove in a Sienna vehicle... and started shooting at the patrol vehicle along Ukegbu

junction," he said.

"Unfortunately, during the exchange of gunfire, one police inspector paid the supreme price."

Other officers were wounded in the attack, he said.

No group has claimed responsibility for recent attacks, but police often blame the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), a proscribed separatist group demanding an independent state for the ethnic Igbo people.

IPOB denies its armed wing, Eastern Security Network, is involved in the attacks, but separatist agitation is on the rise in southeast and southwest

Nigeria.

Tochukwu said that "in a bid to escape the police responding team, the hoodlums set the patrol vehicle ablaze."

In nearby Enugu state, gunmen also attacked an electoral office and set parts of the building on fire.

Officials however said the blaze was put out before vital election materials and equipment could be damaged.

Dozens of police officers and other security personnel have been killed since the beginning of the year in targeted attacks in the southeast.

# Bangladesh still

FROM PAGE 12

Finland, Singapore, and Denmark, and Germany are included in the top 10.

Bangladesh ranked 122th in the institutions pillar among the countries, 128th in the human capital and research pillar, 95th in the infrastructure pillar, and 95th in the market sophistication pillar.

It is 122nd in the business sophistication pillar, 92nd in the knowledge and technology outputs pillar and 123rd in the creative outputs pillar.

"This year's edition is being released in the middle of a continuing Covid-19 pandemic, which has taken a grim toll on lives and livelihoods, but also given us many examples of human ingenuity, resilience and adaptability," said Daren Tang, director-general of the WIPO, in the foreword of the report.

"Indeed, the GII 2021 finds that the innovative sectors of the global economy have remained strong, despite severe disruptions."

To overcome the pandemic and build back better, nations need to continue supporting the translation of great ideas into game-changing products, he said.

"How do we do this? This is the ultimate goal of the GII: to discover what works best in producing an ecosystem where people can achieve their highest potential, innovating and creating to improve lives everywhere."

# Two die

FROM PAGE 12

around noon when they were working at the reactor building at unit-2 of the power plant, causing the casualties.

The injured worker was sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for better treatment, the official said. He, however, could not confirm the identity of the injured.

Dr Asma Khan, Ishwardi upazila health officer, said the two workers died before they were taken to the health complex.

Md Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said the bodies would be sent to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsies.

An unnatural death case would be filed in connection with the incident, the OC added.

# Scientists transform

FROM PAGE 12

environmental pollution," said Professor William Chen, director of the food science and technology programme at NTU.

The fruit's husks, which make up more than half of the composition of durians, are usually discarded and incinerated, contributing to environmental waste.

Chen added that the technology can also turn other food waste, such as soy beans and spent grains, into hydrogel, helping limit the country's food waste.

Compared to conventional bandages, the organo-hydrogel bandages are also able to keep wound areas cooler and moist, which can help accelerate healing.

The researchers say using waste materials and yeast for the antimicrobial bandages is more cost effective than the production of conventional bandages, whose antimicrobial properties come from more expensive metallic compounds like silver or copper ions.

A durian wholeseller, Tan Eng Chuan, said he goes through at least 30 crates of durians a day during durian season - as much as 1,800 kg. Being able to use the parts of the fruit that are ordinarily discarded, he said, was an innovation that would make enjoying it "more sustainable".