

Gone within moments

Lax security exposed as 2 death-row militant convicts snatched from cops on Dhaka court premises; red alert issued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two militant convicts on death row escaped from a crowded court area within moments around midday yesterday.

Only one police constable was walking four militant convicts, including the two sentenced to death, to the prison cell of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court from a courtroom.

Each two of the convicts were handcuffed together and the policeman named Nur-e-Azad was holding one end of a rope that tied the handcuffs together.

As they reached near the gate of the court premises, the convicts started punching and slapping Nur. Several others, believed to be accomplices of the militants, soon joined the convicts and sprayed something at Nur's face, causing him to momentarily go blind and fall to the ground.

Two of the militants managed to untie the rope and tried to flee. But a security guard caught them at the gate. The other two, still tied with the rope held by Nur, dragged him out of the court premises and made him let go of it. A man waiting on a motorcycle

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

And so, it begins



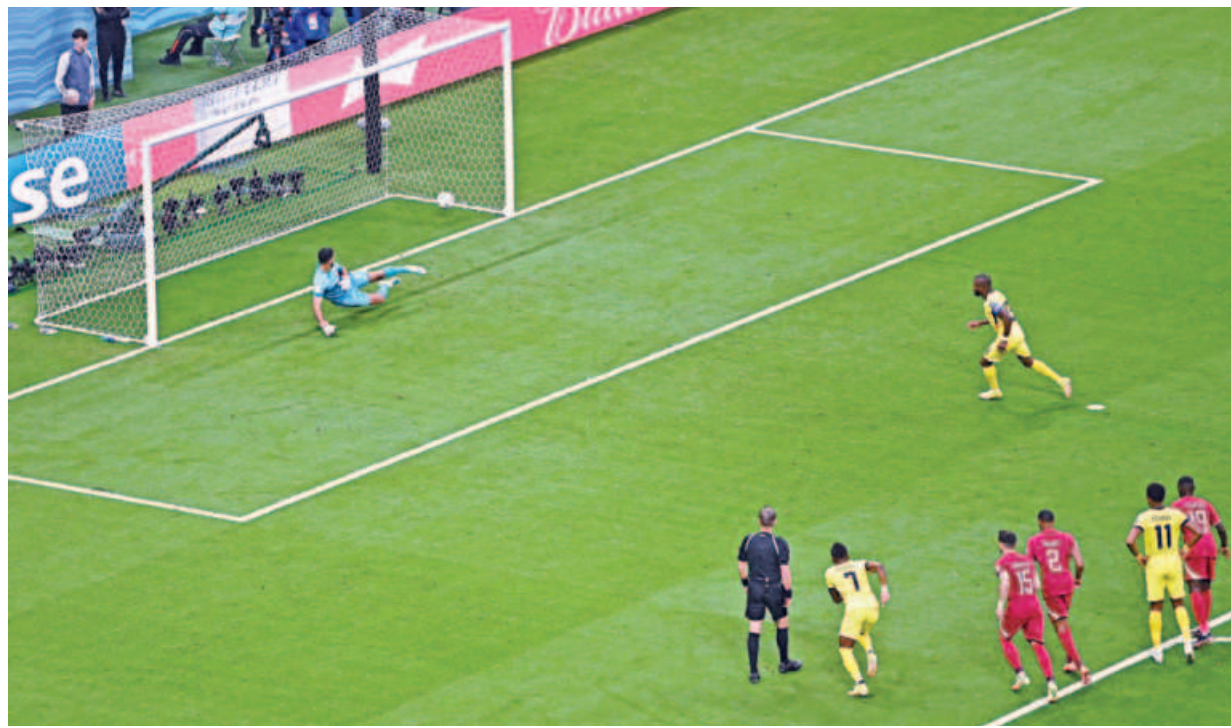
IRESH ZAKER

Yesterday marked the beginning of the quadrennial global circus that is the men's football World Cup. Unfortunately, the narrative around this edition of the tournament, especially in the Western media, seems to be centred more around non-footballing negativity than anything that would take place on the football pitch.

In spite of FIFA president Gianni Infantino's full-throated — and perhaps slightly hysterical — defence of the hosts, there remains a deep sense of disquiet about Qatar's legitimacy as World Cup hosts and, by extrapolation, FIFA's credibility as the guardians of global football.

Although I suspect that much of this discomfort will subside once the first whistle blows, the issues that have surfaced should not be glossed over. After all, the World Cup does not need to be tarnished in this way since it is an

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Ecuador captain Enner Valencia scores the first goal of the 2022 FIFA World Cup from a spot-kick against Qatar in the opening match of Group A at the Al-Bayt Stadium in Al Khor on Sunday. The 33-year-old striker added another in the first half as the South American side ran away with a comfortable 2-0 victory over the hosts.

PHOTO: AFP



Valencia steers Ecuador past Qatar

AFP, Al Khor

Qatar became the first home team to lose their opening World Cup match as Ecuador cruised to a 2-0 victory over the hosts, with Enner Valencia scoring twice in the tournament curtain-raiser on Sunday.

Asian champions Qatar enjoyed the backing of the majority of the crowd at the 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium, but could not follow a glitzy

opening ceremony with a statement performance.

Ecuador thought they had made a dream start when they silenced the home fans as Valencia headed in, only for the goal to be ruled out by VAR for an offside in the build-up.

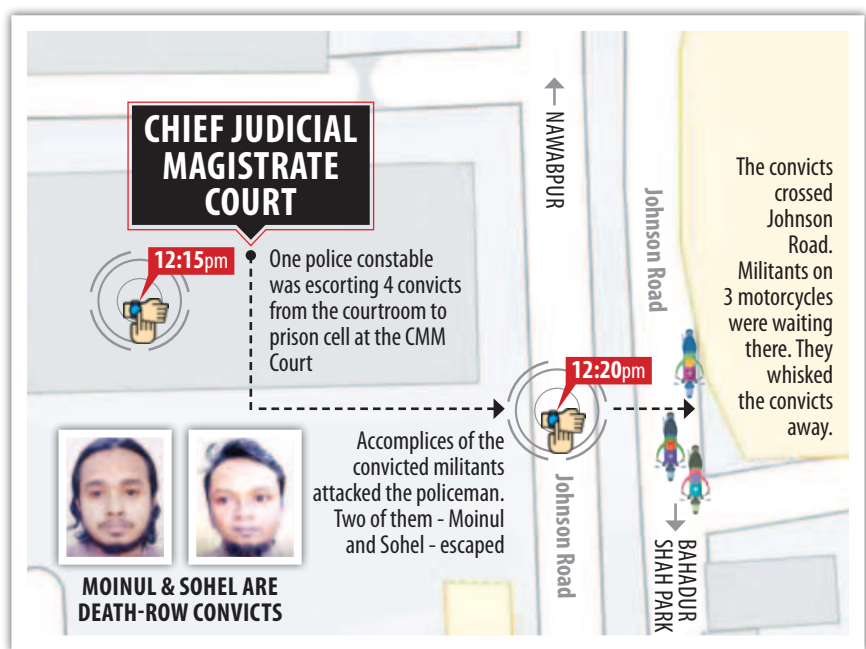
Valencia did break the deadlock with a penalty in the 16th minute and doubled his tally just after the half-hour mark.

Qatar improved slightly in the

second period, but by the end of the 90 minutes, the excitement which greeted the build-up — featuring Morgan Freeman and BTS star Jung Kook — was a distant memory as thousands of fans left early amid a deflated atmosphere.

Felix Sanchez's Qatar will likely need a positive result in their second Group A match against Senegal on Friday just to avoid the ignominy of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



GRAND INAUGURATION

HEARTIEST GRATITUDE TO HONORABLE PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA FOR INAUGURATING 7 NEW BUSINESS UNITS OF MEGHNA GROUP OF INDUSTRIES (MGI)

Commercial Operations

- Meghna PVC Ltd.
- Sonargaon Solar Energy Ltd.
- Meghna Foil Packaging Ltd.
- Meghna Bulk Bag Industries Ltd.

Official Groundbreaking

- Cumilla Economic Zone Ltd.
- Meghna Glass Industries Ltd.
- Meghna Re-rolling & Steel Mills Ltd.

Honorable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, inaugurated 7 new business units of Meghna Group of Industries (MGI) through video conference on November 20, 2022. Honorable Member of Parliament from Narayanganj-3 constituency Mr. Leakoat Hossain Khoka, MP, Executive Member (Additional Secretary) of BEZA, Md. Ali Ahsan, Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate of Narayanganj, Md. Monjurul Hafiz, Superintendent of Police of Narayanganj, Golam Mostofa Rashel, PPM-Bar, Chairman & Managing Director of MGI, Mostafa Kamal, and representatives from the investors were present during the inauguration.

Photo courtesy: Prime Minister's Office