

‘I don’t know what mistake I have made’

FROM PAGE 16

“I have been doing this for two decades. My job is not to bow down to anyone,” he said in a packed courtroom, adding that he had been vocal during the rule of BNP, Awami League, as well as during this interim government. “And I will continue to do so.”

“If anyone wants to tag me as a puppet of a particular party, that is their problem,” the journalist added.

Anis continued, “I express all my views on Facebook; nothing is undisclosed...”

Regarding his remark on the possible attack on Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus’s residence, he said, such an incident is a possibility considering the demolition of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib’s residence at Dhanmondi 32, which he termed a “politics of revenge”.

“I do not know what mistake I have made here. I have no links with anyone. If Dr Yunus wants, he can

turn the whole of Bangladesh into a prison – he can do so,” he added.

After hearing from both sides, the magistrate rejected Anis’ bail petition and put him on remand.

Yesterday, Arian Ahmed, a central organiser of the July Revolutionary Alliance, filed the case with Uttara West Police Station against journalist Anis, actor Meher Afroz Shaon, Maria Kispotta, and Imtu Ratish.

On Sunday evening, Anis was picked up from a gym in Dhanmondi and taken to the DB office on Minto Road.

Anis has worked at several media outlets, including print and electronic media. In recent times, he has drawn attention for his active presence on television talk shows.

According to the case statement, the five accused, including Anis, were under the patronage of the Awami League before August 5 last year. Since the July uprising, they have allegedly been spreading propaganda

through social media and talk show appearances to facilitate the return of the AL.

The complainant mentioned that on the night of December 14, while at home, Arian Ahmed noticed on his mobile phone that the journalist had made several posts from his verified Facebook account and, during talk shows, warned that attacks would be carried out on the July Smriti Museum, Dr Muhammad Yunus’ residence, and Grameen Bank.

The statement also says that Maria Kispotta, Meher Afroz Shaon, and Imtu Ratish posted from their personal Facebook accounts in an attempt to rehabilitate the AL.

Such posts have allegedly inspired activists of the banned organisations Chhatra League and Jubo League to engage in conspiracies and terrorist activities aimed at destabilising the state and damaging state infrastructure, the statement added.

3 advisers must zgo if demands are not met

FROM PAGE 16

supported the attack or incited violence against Hadi and the July revolutionaries must be socially boycotted.

Second, within 48 hours, area-based combing operations must be launched against leaders and activists of the Awami League. All “terrorists” linked to the organisation must be arrested and illegal weapons recovered.

Third, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina must be brought back to the country to execute the verdict against her for crimes against humanity. Diplomatic relations with India must be reviewed and not normalised until the accused are repatriated.

“If the demands are not met immediately and no visible improvement in the law and order situation is seen, the home adviser, law adviser, and foreign affairs adviser must resign,” said the Ducus VP.

According to sources, Chief Adviser’s Special Assistant Md Khoda Bakhsh Chowdhury and other senior officials were present at the meeting and assured the delegation that the demands would be fulfilled.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Chhatra Shakti, the student wing of the National Citizen Party, blocked the Shahbagh intersection yesterday.

Protesters there also demanded the resignation of the home adviser for failing to maintain law and order.

The demonstration brought vehicular movement in Shahbagh and surrounding areas to a standstill, reports UNB.

Abu Bakar Majumdar, convener of the NCP’s student wing, said, “We demand the immediate arrest of the attackers who assaulted Hadi.”

On Friday, a day after the schedule for the 13th national parliamentary election was announced, Hadi, an aspirant for the Dhaka-8 constituency, was shot in the head in the capital’s Puranapaltan area, leaving him critically injured.

He was flown to Singapore yesterday for better treatment.

2ND PHASE OF GAZA TRUCE

Israel, Hamas trade blame for delay

AGENCIES

Israel and Hamas have traded accusations that the other is delaying the second phase of the US brokered peace plan in Gaza.

The accusations later on Sunday followed the killing of a senior Hamas commander near Gaza City, while Israel said Palestinian groups were refusing to hand over the remains of the last captive and seeking to “remilitarise”.

Phase one of the October truce called for a cessation of hostilities, the return of living captives and prisoners and the remains of the dead, and for humanitarian aid to be allowed into the enclave.

Once all of those conditions were fulfilled, phase two, which is to include an Israeli withdrawal, Palestinian disarmament and a formal end to the war, could begin, reports Al Jazeera online.

However, since the ceasefire began

on October 10, Israel has continued to attack Gaza on a daily basis, carrying out nearly 800 attacks and killing hundreds, according to authorities in Gaza, while blocking the free flow of humanitarian aid.

Meanwhile, US envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner yesterday briefed EU foreign ministers on Trump’s Gaza peace plan via video conference, an EU official said.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said that he had suggested to EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas that Kushner and Witkoff provide an update on the implementation of the plan to the foreign ministers during their meeting in Brussels, reports Reuters.

Israel is awaiting the return of the remains of the last captive, Ran Gvili, which it says is a condition of moving to the second and more complicated phase of the ceasefire.

Australia mourns victims of mass shooting

FROM PPAGE 16

tally of dead to 16, while his 24-year-old son was in critical condition in hospital, police told a press conference.

The 40 people taken to hospital after the attack included two police officers in serious but stable condition, they added. The victims were aged between 10 and 87.

Police did not release the suspects’ names. Security officials said one was known to authorities but had not been deemed an immediate threat.

National broadcaster ABC and other media identified the men as Sajid Akram and his son Naveed Akram. Home Minister Tony Burke said the father arrived in Australia in 1998 on a student visa, while his son is an Australian-born citizen.

Two flags of Islamic State were found in the gunmen’s vehicle, ABC News said, without citing a source.

Meanwhile, a Sydney resident who wrestled a gun from one of the alleged attackers during the mass shooting is recovering in hospital after undergoing surgery for bullet wounds to his arm and hand, his family said.

Forty-three-year-old Ahmed al

Ahmed was identified on social media as the bystander who hid behind parked cars before charging at the gunman from behind, seizing his rifle and knocking him to the ground.

“My son is a hero. He served in the police, he has the passion to defend people,” Ahmed’s father, Mohamed Fateh al Ahmed, told state broadcaster ABC News in an interview.

He said that Ahmed is an Australian citizen and sells fruits and vegetables. A GoFundMe campaign has been set up for Ahmed with just over A\$1,000,000 (\$665,100) raised in a few hours. Billionaire hedge fund manager Bill Ackman was the largest donor, contributing A\$99,999 and sharing the fundraiser on his X account.

US President Donald Trump called Ahmed “a very, very brave person” who saved many lives. Chris Minns, the premier of New South Wales state where Sydney is located, has hailed him “a genuine hero” and said the video was “the most unbelievable scene I’ve ever seen”.

Major cities including Berlin, London and New York step up security around Hanukkah events following the attack.

Police gave no details of their firearms, but videos from the scene showed the men firing weapons that appeared to be a bolt-action rifle and a shotgun.

Albanese said measures being considered ranged from curbs on open-ended licences to limits on weapons held by a single individual and the types that are legal, including modifications, with permits restricted to Australian citizens.

Witnesses said the 10-minute attack at the beach, crowded on a hot weekend evening, sent about 1,000 people attending a Hanukkah event fleeing along the sand and into nearby streets.

Clarify your remarks on Hadi

FROM PAGE 16

government,” he added.

Rafiqul Islam Khan, assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, in his speech, called for the resignation of the home adviser over the attack on Hadi.

The discussion was chaired by Jamaat’s Dhaka South Ameer Nurul Islam Bulbul.

