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'I don't know what mistake I've made'

Journo Anis arrested in anti-terrorism case, put on 5-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Anis Alamgir was arrested and placed on remand in an anti-terrorism case yesterday, a day after he was picked up from Dhaka's Dhanmondi area.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Jashita Islam placed him on a five day remand after police produced him before the court with a seven day remand prayer in the case, said state lawyer Shamsuddoha Sumon.

The journalist was escorted to the court amid tight security around 5:30 pm from the court's lockup.

During the hearing, Anis was allowed to speak after the prosecution submitted their arguments in favour of granting the remand request.

Anis told the court that he is a journalist, and questioning those in power is his job.

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People gather in front of a floral tribute near Bondi Pavilion following a shooting at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

'3 advisers must go if demands are not met'

Students block Shahbagh for arrest of Hadi shooters

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ducus Vice President Abu Shadik Kayem yesterday demanded the resignation of the home, law, and foreign affairs advisers if their three demands, including the arrest of those involved in the attempted assassination of Sharif Osman bin Hadi, are not met immediately.

He issued the ultimatum at a press briefing after meeting Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

A 10 member delegation led by Shadik met the adviser after police obstructed their procession from the Dhaka University campus to besiege the Home Ministry in protest against the shooting of Hadi, convener for Inqilab Moncho, on Friday.

During the press briefing, Shadik placed three demands.

First, all those involved in the shooting of Hadi, including the attackers, planners, and facilitators, must be arrested immediately. Relevant state bodies, including intelligence agencies, must be held accountable, negligence must be punished, and individuals who supported the attack or incited violence against Hadi and the July revolutionaries must be socially boycotted.

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Shooting of Hadi a bid to derail polls

Says Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The shooting of Dhaka 8 aspiring candidate Sharif Osman Hadi was part of a conspiracy to disrupt the election, BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman said yesterday.

He alleged that a vested group against Bangladesh's interests was repeatedly trying to obstruct the election by using various excuses.

Calling on people to stay united, Tarique said there was no reason to fear and that the election would be held on time.

"We have to stay alert. The conspiracy has not stopped yet. Osman Hadi is a brave son who stands for democracy, and the incident where he was shot is also part of that conspiracy," he said while speaking virtually at a discussion marking Victory Day, organised by BNP at the city's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Asking what Hadi's crime was, Tarique raised three questions and said he thought the answers would make the attackers' character clear.

"First, if the interim government can be made to fail, who will be happy? Second, if the current interim government can be kept in place without an election, who will benefit? Third, if a people's government is not formed through the people's votes, who will gain?" he asked.

"I believe the identity of the attackers of Hadi are hidden in the answers to these questions," he said.

Referring to the election, Tarique said, "After more than one and a half decades, the Election Commission has finally announced the date of that long awaited national election."



'Clarify your remarks on Hadi'

Jamaat Ameer asks CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman has demanded an explanation from Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin over his remarks regarding the shooting of Osman Hadi, convener of the Inqilab Moncho.

Criticising the CEC's comments, the Jamaat chief said the statement had deeply hurt the nation.

"Because of this painful and cowardly attack on Osman Hadi, the whole nation -- anyone who has even a little human feeling -- is deeply shocked. Everyone

is expressing sympathy. At such a time, a person holding a very responsible position, the head of the EC, which will effectively oversee the country in the coming days, made a statement that, I believe, has hurt people like me and many others."

He made the remarks yesterday while speaking as the chief guest at a Victory Day discussion organised by Jamaat-e-Islami Dhaka South at the Jatiya Press Club.

Earlier in the day, CEC Nasir said the country's law and order situation has not deteriorated, describing the recent shooting of Sharif Osman Hadi as an isolated incident.

"I would politely request him [CEC] to explain his statement. It is his responsibility to remove the pain his words have caused in the minds of the people. He must prove that he is fit to hold such a sensitive and responsible position. I urge him to clarify his statement before the nation without delay. Then, if the nation's pain is eased, that is one outcome;

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**ICT VERDICT
Prosecution seeks death for Hasina over life term
Files appeal with SC**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday filed an appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, seeking to enhance the life sentences of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to capital punishment.

The appeal, based on eight grounds, challenges part of the verdict delivered by ICT-1 on November 17 in a case linked to the July uprising.

While the tribunal sentenced Hasina and Kamal to death on one major charge, it handed down "imprisonment until natural death" for a separate charge. Former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who turned a state approver, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the case.

Mamun's brother Shamsul Abedin told The Daily Star yesterday that they received relevant documents and are preparing to appeal against the tribunal's judgement soon.

At the tribunal premises, Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim told

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Australia mourns victims of mass shooting

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia vowed stricter gun laws yesterday as it began mourning victims of its worst mass shooting in almost 30 years, in which police accused a father-and-son duo of killing 15 people at a Jewish celebration at Sydney's famed Bondi Beach.

The incident has raised questions whether Australia's gun laws, among the toughest in the world, need overhaul, with police saying the older suspect had held a firearms license since 2015, along with six registered weapons.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his cabinet agreed to strengthen gun laws and work on a national firearms register to tackle aspects such as the number of weapons permitted by gun licences, and how long the latter are valid.

"People's circumstances can change," he had told reporters before the cabinet met. "People can be radicalised over a period of time. Licences should not be in perpetuity."

Of the two gunmen, the 50-year-old father was killed at the scene, taking the 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.

• Vows stricter gun laws as toll rises to 15

• Police accuse father-and-son duo

• Bondi 'hero' who disarmed gunman recovering

Meanwhile, a Sydney resident who wrested 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.

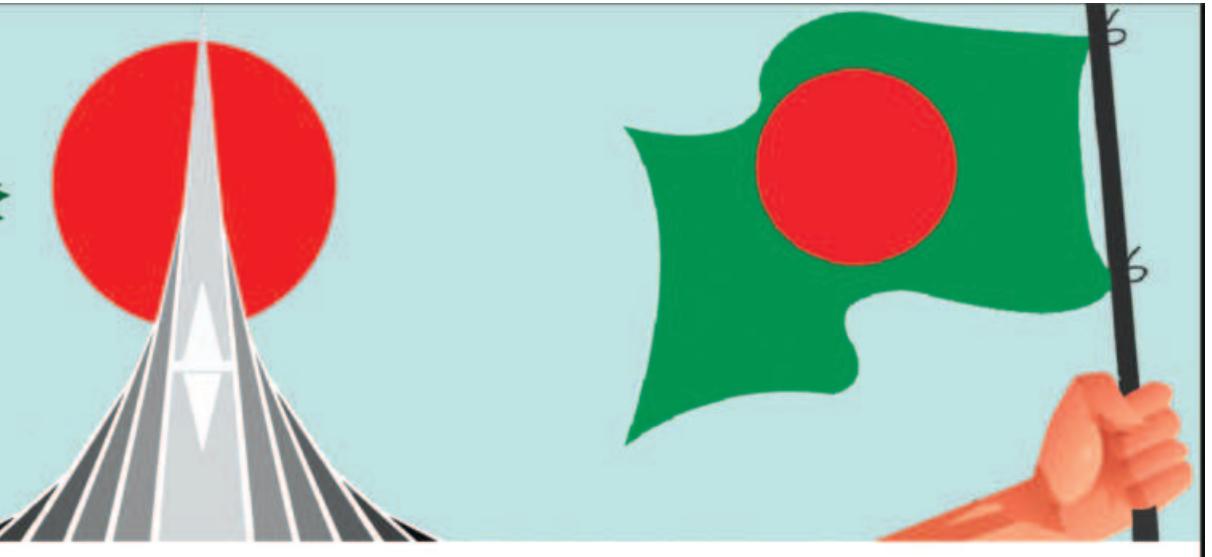
Forty-three-year-old Ahmed al Ahmed was identified on social media as the bystander who hid behind parked cars before charging at the gunman from behind, seizing his rifle and knocking him to the ground.

"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

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