

## State minister's cousin ambushed at Savar, robbed of Tk 40 lakh

Sanwar Sinha critically bullet-hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a daring daylight heist, robbers ambushed the microbus of Sanwar Habib Sinha, administrative manager of Acme Laboratories, shot him and two others, and snatched around Tk 40 lakh in cash at Savar yesterday.

They also took away the licensed revolver of Sanwar, a cousin of State Minister for Health Mizanur Rahman Sinha.

Critically injured Sanwar, 43, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet wounds in his chest, abdomen and leg.

Two other staff of Acme who were accompanying Sanwar on a microbus also received bullets in

legs.

Sanwar withdrew Tk 40 lakh from the Dhanmondi branch of the National Bank Ltd. to pay staff salary and was going to the factory at Dhamrai by a microbus.

When the microbus reached Raj Fulbariya at around 1:00pm, a white microbus suddenly overtook it and stopped, blocking the road.

Before anybody could sense anything, a private car stopped just behind the Acme microbus. Four armed men emerged from the car and fired on Sanwar and the other two from pistols through the window.

The robbers then snatched a

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## PM orders BCS appointments completed by year-end

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed the authorities concerned to complete appointments in various BCS cadre services by December 15 on the basis of results of 22nd BCS examination in order to generate more employment.

She also directed the authorities to arrange a special BCS examination to recruit teachers for government colleges and for immediate recruitment of 2,000 nurses to improve health services.

More than 5,000 teachers would be recruited through the planned special BCS exam to fill in vacant posts, sources said.

The prime minister gave the directive while presiding over a meeting at the ICC in the PM's Office Complex to review progress of activities of different ministries and departments.

Khaleda Zia instructed the Planning Commission to facilitate and expedite project approval procedure to finish projects on schedule.

In this regard, she put emphasis

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## 3 to die for killing Humayun Kabir

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

A court in Dhaka yesterday sentenced three people to death after convicting them of killing an engineer in 1999.

In his sentencing, the judge of the court said Faisal Alam Ansari, his brother Mohammad Saiful Alam Ansari and their hit man Rana Ahmed killed Humayun Kabir in a secluded place in a bid to grab his property.

Faisal, a partner of Humayun's oil business in the US, murdered him at Central Road in Dhanmondi on the night of November 21, 1999 when he went with him (Faisal) to



Humayun Kabir

see a bride.

Humayun, who had worked as an engineer in the US since 1981 and married an American woman, came home to Bangladesh on November 13, 1999.

Judge Mohammad Sirajul Islam of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka handed down the verdict in a crowded courtroom at 12:15pm in a trial that examined 28 prosecution witnesses.

Faisal, who was present at the highly policed court, looked com

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A doctor checks a critically wounded Sanwar Habib Sinha at the DMCH after robbers shot him at Savar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 70 jungle bandits raid Bhandaria upazila HQ, overpower police to loot

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Robbers looted 11 shops at Bandar Bazar, the headquarters of Bhandaria upazila, and got away with valuables worth Tk 1.5 crore in the early hours of yesterday.

The robbery took place in the midst of a joint operation to curb crime in the southwestern region.

Police said the heavily armed robbers coming from the Sunderbans raided 10 jeweller's shops and a variety store.

Police claimed that they could not match the superior firepower of the robbers. Local people, however, alleged that the police response was not adequate.

Five persons including a policeman were injured in the clashes.

Sub-Inspector Shamsul Huq of the Bhandaria Police Station admitted that their wireless set was switched off at the other end, preventing them from contacting police stationed at Pirojpur.

The mob brought out a procession and vandalised three vehicles including that of the additional deputy commissioner (General) of Pirojpur, who came to visit the spot yesterday. Police arrested local political leader Rustam Ali for damage of the vehicles.

Police and local sources said a group of 60 to 70 robbers carrying sophisticated firearms moved along the river Pona in trawlers and

landed at Gazipur Kanua bank of the Bhandaria upazila headquarters just after midnight on July 29.

They walked about two kilometres, split into two groups and surrounded the Bandar Bazar from two sides. The robbers tied seven night guards of the bazaar on the premises of a resthouse.

One group of robbers fired gunshots and blasted bombs to keep the police engaged while the other did the looting. The sounds of gunshots and blasts had drawn the attention of patrol police of three constables led by Assistant SI Zahid. They tried to prevent the looting by firing from their .303 rifles.

Eight more constables from the Bhandaria Police Station joined the patrol police team with four .303 rifles, but could not overpower the looters firing back from sophisticated weapons without any let-up. Police retaliated with only 32 rounds.

The jeweller's shops are Sundari, Matri, Rupa, Bandhua, Priya, Shilpi, Hira, Sananda, Bourani and Newgini. Milton Rakomari Stores is the grocer's shop. After completing the looting the robbers left the place by the same trawlers at about 2:30am.

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City people never know for sure what is in wait for them when they go out after hours of driving rain. A road in Arambagh, flooded by yesterday's rain, gets risky for a woman who needs walking a long way from home every day.

PHOTO: STAR

## Militant-troop shootout kills 7 in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

Five militants, an Indian soldier and a Muslim woman were killed in separate shoot-outs in restive Indian-administered Kashmir, police said Tuesday.

A spokesman said Indian troops ringed a suspected hideout in Mahu village, near the town of Banihal about 120 kilometres (75 miles) south of the summer capital Srinagar, and asked the rebels to surrender.

"The militants instead opened fire injuring an army major," the spokesman said, adding that in the retaliatory fire four militants were killed.

He said the four were believed to be the members of Hizbul

Mujahedin, Kashmir's dominant rebel group.

In the neighbouring village of Dessa, a soldier was killed in a fierce overnight clash with rebels, the spokesman said.

Another rebel was shot dead in a separate encounter in the southern Udhampur district overnight, a police spokesman said.

Suspected rebels overnight shot dead a Muslim woman Nusrat Bano in the village of Ajar in northern Baramulla district, police said, adding her sister was also injured.

Indian Kashmir broke out in rebellion in 1989 after provincial elections, which Islamists were

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## Private firm to manage Ctg int'l airport

UNB, Chittagong

Security, cleaning and maintenance operations at the Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport will be handed over to private management with a view to earn more profit.

The decision was taken at a ministerial meeting in January, as earning from the airport was not sufficient to repay the loan given by Japan, said an official source.

The decision will come into effect within three months, the

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## Clarification

The Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) in a clarification yesterday said its attention has been drawn to a news item published in The Daily Star on July 27 titled "Private Universities galore, but none fulfills criteria".

The IUB in the clarification said

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## Constant vigil on city bus terminals soon 105 'criminals' rounded up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will deploy permanent forces to five city bus terminals soon to cut extortion and harassment of transport owners, workers and passengers.

The decision came after a two-day crackdown by joint forces rounded up 105 people, including eight listed criminals, in a move to end anarchy at the bus terminals.

The permanent forces, primarily consisting of policemen of different ranks, will be deployed after the ongoing crackdown ends at Sayedabad, Joy Kali Mondir,

Gulistan, Mohakhali and Fulbaria bus terminals, said DMP Commissioner Ashraf Huda yesterday.

The joint forces comprising police, paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles, Rapid Action Team and the Detective Branch of Police arrested 65 alleged extortionists, including five listed criminals on Monday night following a directive from the prime minister.

The forces arrested 40 people, three of them listed criminals, in raids on Sayedabad, Mohakhali, Joy

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## Wife of German ambassador passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marie-Luise Andreas, 59, wife of German Ambassador to Bangladesh Dietrich Andreas, died on July 23 in Bonn, Germany.

She was suffering from throat cancer.

Marie had come to Dhaka about two years ago with her husband.

Marie-Luise had been away in Berlin for the past few months.

The couple was very popular and well known for their hospitality and enthusiastic interest about Bangladeshi culture.

She developed many close friends among Bangladeshi intellectuals. Along with her husband, she travelled extensively across Bangladesh, particularly to German funded development projects.

Her innumerable friends in Bangladesh have been saddened by her untimely death.

## Hearing on Gram Sarkar today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court Division will hear today a petition seeking stay of the formation of Gram Sarkar till disposal of a writ petition in this regard.

A bench comprising Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Justice AFM Ali Asgar will hear the petition.

Barrister Tanjibul Haq, an associate of Dr Kamal Hossain, filed the petition yesterday.

The writ was filed by Dr Kamal on July 6 behalf of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).

The government plans to start formation of Gram Sarkar on August 2.

"Training programme for officers is going on. I hope we can start forming Gram Sarkar on August 2," State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ziaul Hoq Zia told The Daily Star recently.

The BLAST in its writ challenged two sections of Gram Sarkar Act, 2003. The High Court then issued a rule asking the government to explain in a week why the formation of Gram Sarkar should not be declared unconstitutional.

The government responded to the rule recently. And now it plans to start constituting Gram Sarkar at 40,392 wards in 448 Union

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