



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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## Cop bombed to death, 2 more killed in shootout

Suspected outlaws attack ASIs in Jhenidah; constables trade fire with Cox's Bazar robbers for six hours

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown assailants with suspected ties to underground operatives bombed an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police to death and critically wounded another ASI in Jhenidah on Thursday night, while robbers shot dead two constables in a shootout in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

A robber named Ruhul Amin, 28, was also killed in the Cox' Bazar shootout.

Police yesterday picked up 20 people for questioning.

ASI Zahidul Islam, 35, and ASI Habibur Rahman, age unknown, of Harinakundu Police Station in the

southwestern district came under bomb attack on their way back to the police station by a motorcycle after patrol duty at Harinakundu upazila headquarters at around 10:00pm, according to our Kushtia correspondent.

Police said when Zahid and Habib reached near Godhuli Cinema, unidentified miscreants, lying in wait, hurled a powerful bomb at the two.

Zahid died on the spot as the bomb blew off the right side of his head. His colleague Habib, who was driving the motorcycle, was hit by shrapnel. He is now undergoing treatment at Jhenidah Sadar

Hospital. Zahid's body was sent to the hospital for autopsy.

The superintendent of police (SP), Jhenidah, however, suspected hands of underground operatives in the incident.

Abdul Aziz Sarkar, deputy inspector general of Khulna Range, visited the spot yesterday and held a closed-door meeting with police officials at Jhenidah. All police stations under Khulna Range have been put on red alert.

Bomb attacks on the law enforcers are on the rise in the outlaw-infested southwestern region.

As many as 12 policemen have been bombed to death in the region

in the last one and a half years.

Operatives of underground outfits Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and its rival faction, PBCP Janajuddha, have been blamed for most of the killings.

COX'SBAZAR FACE-OFF

The gunfight between police and robbers took place at Dakater Ghona of Hoikong Union under Teknal upazila in Cox's Bazar district, our Cox's Bazar correspondent said.

The constables who died in the firefight are Abu Taher, 45, and Md Abu Taher, 50, of Hoikong Police

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Residents in Dimia Upazila in Nilphamari use a boat to commute yesterday as floodwaters triggered by monsoon rains submerged vast areas over the past few days.

PHOTO: STAR



## SEPARATION OF JUDICIARY

### Govt sits on hand as SC deadline expires July 19

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will seek more time to fully implement the Supreme Court (SC) directives on separation of the judiciary as it has yet to complete the tasks the court asked it to complete by July 19.

The SC on April 19 gave the government three more months in the 18th extension of the deadline to fulfil the 12 point directive it issued to the government in December 1999.

When the government sought an extension of the deadline by four months on April 13, the court expressed annoyance at the delay and asked the government to come up with an affidavit, citing specific reasons for further extension.

On April 19, the court expressed satisfaction at the government initiatives for the separation of the judiciary as explained by Attorney General AF Hassan Ariff and gave the government three more months. In the wake of the deadline extension, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told the press that the government would comply with the court order by the fresh deadline and would not seek any more extension.

He also said legal instruments for the separation would be put in place within the timeframe the Appellate Division has set for the government.

But Moudud has shifted from his position, saying the judiciary will be separated by December.

On Thursday he claimed the

drafts of two sets of rules on separation of the judiciary from the executive were awaiting President Iajuddin Ahmed's approval. "After the presidential approval, the rules will be promulgated and the judiciary separated by December."

The government also needs to amend the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) to comply with court order, but the parliament secretary says the government is yet to submit an amendment bill.

When the government attorney prayed for time on April 19, he told the court the government complied with the directive by promulgating Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission Rules, 2004.

Three other rules and a bill for

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### 'Criminal' held by Rab dies at DMCH

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal who was arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) with two firearms from Rifles Square in Dhanmondi Tuesday died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning.

DMCH sources said Shahjahan Ali, 25, was admitted Wednesday evening with injuries to his hands and legs.

A Rab official seeking anonymity said their members rescued severely wounded Shahjahan from a mob that held him with the firearms and gave a thrashing.

Sources said he fell sick Wednesday during interrogation and was rushed to the DMCH.

However, inquest report prepared by a magistrate at the DMCH mentioned Shahjahan's arms and legs were swollen. A mark of injury was also found on his head, but the report could not confirm whether it was a fresh or old one.

## Raging floods ravage 15 dists

Lakhs marooned, more areas to go under water

#### STAR REPORT

Monsoon flooding triggered by days of torrential rains and raging torrents cascading down hills across the border marooned several lakh people, displaced many more and destroyed crops in the fields in 15 districts yesterday.

At least three people including a girl drowned in floodwaters in Sherpur, Bhola and Sirajganj and fierce-flowing rivers ate metres into their banks in the northern, north-eastern and southern districts, making thousands of people homeless. A man was missing after a boat capsized in Sylhet.

People in their swamped villages in Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Bhola, Barisal, Bogra, Sherpur, Faridpur, Rajbari, Sirajganj, Sunamganj, Sylhet and Moulvi Bazar reeled under food, drinking water and medicine crisis.

In Bhola, gushing floodwaters forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes in the town and four upazilas and take shelter on embankments and highlands.

Our Nilphamari correspondent adds: After three days of continued rain and onrush of hilly waters from India, the Teesta and its tributaries stranded about 30,000 people in their flooded homes in 15 unions in Dimla and Jaladhaka upazilas.

Many people living in the low-lying areas of East Chhatnai, West Chhatnai, Khagachari, Teparkharibari, Khalisha Chapani and Jhugach Chapani of Dimla upazila and Daubari, Golumunda, Koimari and Sholmari unions in Jaladhaka upazila were also forced to evacuate their homes.

All the 44 sluice gates of the Teesta Barrage were opened to reduce pressure of the water flowing 64 centimeters above the danger mark.

Local residents said two flood control dams at Holdibari and Banpara in Jaladhaka upazila were damaged, threatening further inundation.

UNB adds about 25,000 people



PHOTO: STAR

Floodwaters spill over road into Bhola town.

were marooned in Sadar, Aditmari, Kaliganj and Hatibandha upazilas in Lalmonirhat district.

The swollen Teesta was threatening to swamp Burimari Land Customs Station on the Lalmonirhat-Burimari Road and cut the road links between the station and the rest of Bangladesh.

In Rangpur, seven of 10 unions in Gangachara went under water and about 15,000 people living by the rivers were forced to take shelter on higher ground.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: The rain-fed Ghagot river flooded 12 unions in Sadar upazila for the second time in this monsoon, bringing unbearable sufferings to the residents struggling to overcome the woes.

Gaibandha district jail sources

said knee-deep torrents invaded about 500 prisoners in the jail, compelling the authorities to pump out floodwaters.

On the back of flood agony, a tornado lashed Kholahati and Kamarjani unions in the Sadar upazila, injuring 25 people and flattening at least 400 structures including houses, schools and shops and uprooting trees.

In Sherpur, at least 40,000 people were marooned in Jhenaigati and Nalitabari upazilas as the Bhugai and Chellakhalali rivers burst their banks in several places, the district administration said.

A raft of government office in Jhenaigati upazila went under knee-deep water and the road links between Sherpur and other upazilas were threatening to break down.

The body of Abdul Gafur, 65, was found on a bridge after he was carried by raging floodwaters early yesterday.

Erosion of the raging Jamuna and Bangali rivers picked up pace at Dhap, Ontarpada, Devdanga, Karnabari and Esamari, triggering Water Development Board to pile sandbags on the vulnerable spots.

At Kumarkhal in Kushtia, the Padma and Goral continued to devour their banks, destroying about 500 houses and washing away betel-leaf farms on 1000 acres.

In Faridpur, the Padma threatened to burst the under-construction flood protection embankment in Degree Char.

Our Barisal correspondent adds: More low-lying areas in the Sadar, Ilisha, Daulatkhanda and Borhanuddin went swamped in the last two days.

About 40,000 people who were forced to evacuate their homes and take shelter on higher land were reeling under acute shortage of food, drinking water and medicine.

Raging floodwaters carried a five-year-old son of Md Hanif, a fisherman of Koral Hat village along the Meghna, and he was missing until yesterday.

The Bhola district administration distributed dry food among about 1,500 affected families in Dhaniala and Kachia unions.

The islanders are living under the shadow of a deluge as the authorities sat on their hands six days after a breach in the town protection embankment.

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## Paying too big a price

Housing crisis pushes female garment workers to have unwanted sex, contract STDs

#### SULTANA RAHMAN, back from Konabari, Gazipur

Hostile social environment is forcing thousands of female garment workers in Konabari Union of Gazipur district to live with fake husbands, leading to spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and unwanted pregnancy.

About 300 factories in 19 villages of Konabari employ nearly one lakh garment workers, mostly female. Unmarried workers -- both male and female -- cannot rent any house unless they claim to be married.

Many of these poorly paid workers talk co-workers into posing as husbands or wives to get houses (mostly shanties) on rent and the consequences of this are

worse for women workers. A medical centre in Konabari run by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) detected as many as 229 workers with acute STD between January and June this year.

The centre also found a dozen unmarried young workers pregnant in May and June. After pregnancy tests, these women did not return to the centre for further check-up. Physicians at the centre believe they went for abortion elsewhere.

Medical Officer at the centre Dr Raihan says, "The number of STD-infected workers is possibly much higher as many of them do not come to us for medical check-up."

He identified 'socially-

imposed lifestyle' of garment workers in the area as the main reason for the increasing number of STD infection and unwanted pregnancy.

Most garment workers in Konabari are women aged 15 to 30 and many of them are from rural areas across the country.

"If we want to rent a house, either we have to get married or pretend that we are married and we will stay with our wives," said Haroon, one of the garment workers.

His fake wife Sumi said, "I came to this area about two years ago along with a neighbour named Khokon, who was working in a garment factory. Initially, I stayed with Khokon but I had to leave him

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### Ahsania Mission - The Daily Star - Prothom Alo raises Tk 6cr for cancer hospital

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In its pursuit to build the biggest cancer hospital in the country under private sector initiatives, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (Dam) continues its fund-raising campaign with the assistance of country's two leading national dailies -- The Daily Star and The Prothom Alo.

So far, Ahsania Mission received donations worth Tk 6cr 5 lakh and 25 thousand from various business entities and individual philanthropists for constructing the 160-bed Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital at Uttara in the city.

Besides, Ahsania Mission also received Tk 90 lakh and 87,636 from donors for further expansion of the

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Heaps of stinking, hard-to-recycle garbage dumped onto the Gulshan Lake near Aarong, posing grave threat to the environment and public health alike. A boy, right, shows yesterday his catch, a few among thousands of fish that died reportedly from chemical poisoning over the last three days in the lake because of pollutants released by industrial units in Teigaon.

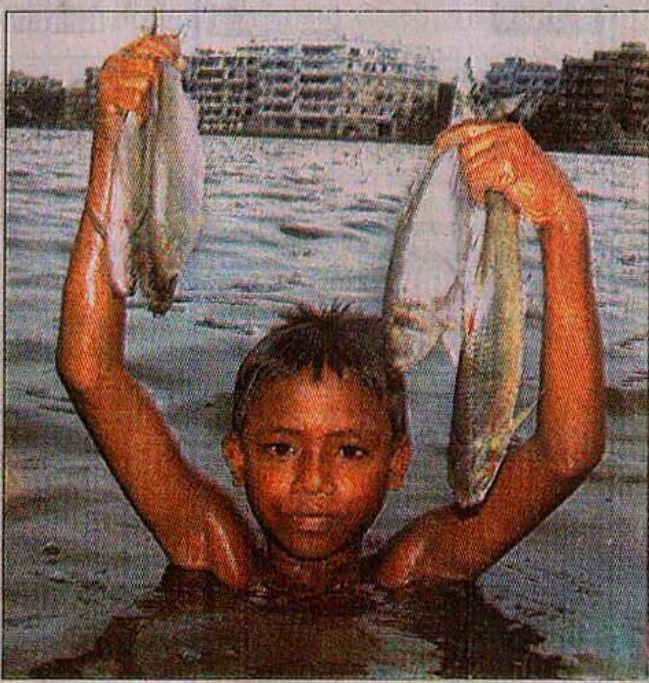


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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