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Another dies in Rab action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was killed in a 'crossfire' between his accomplices and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on the city protection embankment in Mohammadpur yesterday.

The elite force nabbed Jahangir Alam alias Dipu, 23, in Jigatola at around 4:00pm Tuesday, said Rab sources. He was later questioned about his hidden firearms at Rab-2 office.

Following his statement, a Rab team took him to the embankment near the Rayerbazar martyrs' killing ground to seize the arms at around 4:30am.

A Rab press release said Dipu's men opened fire on the anti-crime force, which at once retaliated.

As Dipu made an attempt to escape, he received five bullets and died on the spot, the release added.

The Rab seized a single-shooter gun with two live and one spent bullets from the spot.

The Rab and other sources said

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia makes official the launch of a stamp of Tk 6 denomination released on the occasion of the 13th Saarc Summit 2005. The ceremony took place at her office yesterday.

FREEZE ON AID TO BANGLADESH

Dutch govt to contest court ruling next week

STAR REPORT

The Dutch government will contest by next week a Dutch court ruling on Monday for a freeze on the Dutch government's development aid funds to Bangladesh worth 30 million euro or Tk242 crore a year.

A Dutch company, Tulip Computers, won a case at a Dutch court for an embargo on the Dutch government funds to Bangladesh under international law, as Bangladesh refused to pay the company 4.2 million euro in damages over a contract cancelled last year.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka confirmed the court ruling to The Daily Star Tuesday night but

said, "The Dutch government has decided to appeal against the court verdict. We will sort out how much money is involved in the verdict by this weekend and we will inform the government immediately."

A Dutch court in February compounded the Bangladesh government's worries after it ruled the cancellation of a contract to run an IT project here as illegal. It also ordered the government to pay 4.2 million euro or Tk 33.8 crore as compensation for investments already made for the project by Tulip, as reported by www.theregister.com

"We are very disappointed at the verdict. But we are sorting out the

specifics of the impact of the court ruling," said a Dutch embassy diplomat, preferring anonymity. "The conflict, however, is one between the private party, Tulip Computers and the Bangladeshi government."

A high official of the foreign ministry, however, told The Daily Star on Tuesday they are still in the dark about developments on the matter and are unaware of any freeze on Dutch aid funds.

According to EU laws, if court order is not followed, ocean- and air-liners carrying Bangladesh flag would become liable to confiscation in European Union (EU) countries.

In December 2000, the

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Mother, daughter die in fire

UNB, Moulvibazar

A woman and her daughter were killed and four others injured when a drum filled with inflammable substance exploded at Shimultala Bazar under Moulvibazar Sadar upazila on Tuesday night.

The dead are Mamata Begum, 35, wife of Mohammad Ali, and 12-month-old Tamanna.

Locals said the drum filled with spirit, kept in front of a shop, exploded with a big bang as Mohammad Ali and his family members were entering their rented house beside the shop at about 7:00pm, leaving all of them injured.

Seriously injured Mamata and Tamanna were admitted to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital where they died at midnight.

The condition of the other injured family members-- Mohammad Ali, 42, Jhinuk, 3, Shilpi,

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International Anti-corruption Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) today observes the first ever UN-mandated International Anti-corruption Day as part of the worldwide campaign against corruption.

Some 100 chapters of the Transparency International, a Berlin-based coalition against corruption, observe the day for the first time around the globe. The TIB has chalked out several programmes at 13 places including Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi to mark the day.

The UN General Assembly approved an anti-corruption convention on October 31 last year in a

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Giant pvt satellite earth station gets going May

Multimedia communications anticipate huge boost

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The country's largest private sector satellite earth station would go into operation from May next, significantly boosting the existing facilities for local and overseas data and multimedia communications.

DNS SatComm Satellite Earth Station, which also is the country's single largest ICT infrastructure project, will be built through a syndicated loan and equity financing from the central bank at Savar

Export Processing Zone, DNS SatComm Chief Operating Officer Atiquel Ahsan told The Daily Star yesterday.

The total project cost has been estimated at Tk 16.24 crore. Of that Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCL) would provide Tk 4.88 crore, and Janta Bank and Prime Bank Limited Tk 2.43 crore each as loan. Of the rest, Equity and Entrepreneurship Fund of Bangladesh Bank would provide Tk 3.18 crore as equity and the

remaining Tk 3.32 would be invested by DNS SatComm.

A contract signing ceremony will be held in this regard on December 14, with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Syed Marghub Murshed present as the chief and the special guests. DNS SatComm earlier obtained the licence to construct the station from the BTRC.

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Morshed for more intra-Saarc trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday called for a fundamental change in the 'largely insignificant' intra-Saarc trade for the third decade's vision of a more forward-looking, inclusive and result-oriented regional forum.

"The third decade of Saarc would

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AL MP, 14 hurt in police clubbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Awami League (AL) lawmaker and 14 of its leaders and activists were hurt yesterday when police clubbed the main opposition party adherents protesting police

obstruction to AL Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury's motorcade during a no-confidence wall preparatory programme in Tangail.

The injured include Ekabbar Hossain, lawmaker from Tangail-7 constituency, AL's student arm Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Organising Secretary Sohel Hazari, Tangail BCL President Faruq Hossain Manik and its General Secretary MA Rouf. Saber, however, escaped unhurt.

Saber, AL's Agriculture and Cooperatives Secretary Dr Abdur Razzak MP, Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Ekabbar Hossain and other central leaders went to Tangail at around 11:00am to mobilise support for the opposition's December 11 no-confidence wall programme.

As the motorcade, joined by local leaders and activists, reached Rabna intersection on Tangail bypass road on way to Jamuna Bridge half an hour later, a large number of police

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Mahathir arrives Dec 17 with trade delegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir bin Mohammad will arrive in Bangladesh on a three-day visit on December 17, said a Press Information Department handout yesterday.

He will lead a business delegation, which will take part in a roundtable discussion with Bangladesh Enterprise Institute.

Mahathir will deliver his speech on "Malaysia 2020 -- from Vision to

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China company buys IBM PC business

REUTERS, Hong Kong/San Francisco

IBM is selling its PC-making business to China's largest personal computer company, Lenovo Group Ltd., for \$1.25 billion, marking the US firm's retreat from an industry it helped pioneer in 1981.

The deal, which forms the world's third-largest PC maker, is the largest overseas acquisition by a Chinese company and the latest example of a mainland firm buying a Western brand to make its mark on the world stage.

It frees International Business

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

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Prayer Timing

December 9

	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

প্রকাশনার ৫৪ বছর

সংবাদ

১৬ পৃষ্ঠার মূল পত্রিকার সঙ্গে ৮ পৃষ্ঠার রঙিন ট্যাবলয়েড

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