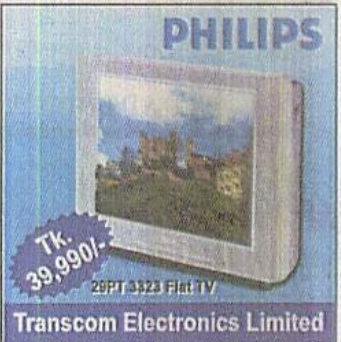




The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XV NO. 119

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 19, 2005

JAISTHA 5, 1412 BS

RABIUS SANI 9, 1426 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

www.thedailystar.net

Cops yet to find lead to AL leader's killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police were yet to find a lead to the killing of Law Affairs Secretary of Dhaka City Awami League (AL) Advocate Khorshed Alam Bachchu on Tuesday.

"Our investigation centres on whether he (Khorshed) had enmity with any one in his personal or professional life or at his village home," Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Kahinor Miah said yesterday.

He also said they are yet to talk to the members of the AL leader's bereaved family members. "We hope to find clues to the killing when we talk to the family members alongside the ongoing investigation," he said.

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Armoured cars lie idle on glitches

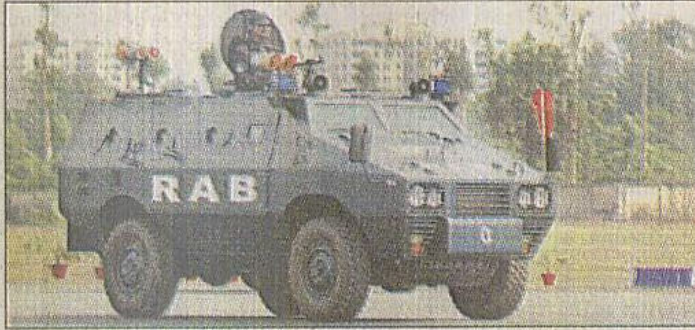
SHARIFUL ISLAM

Most of the 12 armoured cars purchased for use by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police are lying abandoned due to recurring mechanical problems, sources in the Police Headquarters said.

The government bought the China-made armoured cars in 2004. Of the 12, 10 were purchased for police use and two for Rab.

Rab first introduced the armoured cars, generally used by defence forces as war vehicles, at the Independence Day parade at the National Parade

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STAR FILE PHOTO

A file photo shows an armoured car of Rab at the Independence Day parade at the National Parade Square in Dhaka.

Jubo Dal leader killed in Rab 'encounter'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal and Dhaka city leader of ruling BNP's youth wing Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal was killed during an 'encounter' with Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) at Sutrapur in the city yesterday.

Relatives of the Jubo Dal leader Salahuddin alias Mehedi, 35, of Distillery Road, said a plain-clothes team of Lalbagh police arrested Salahuddin from a motorcycle garage on nearby Abul Hasnat Road Tuesday afternoon and later Rab men shot him dead.

But Rab sources said neither police nor the Rab arrested Salahuddin and he died during their encounter with criminals.

A special team of Rab-3 went to Distillery Road in midnight on

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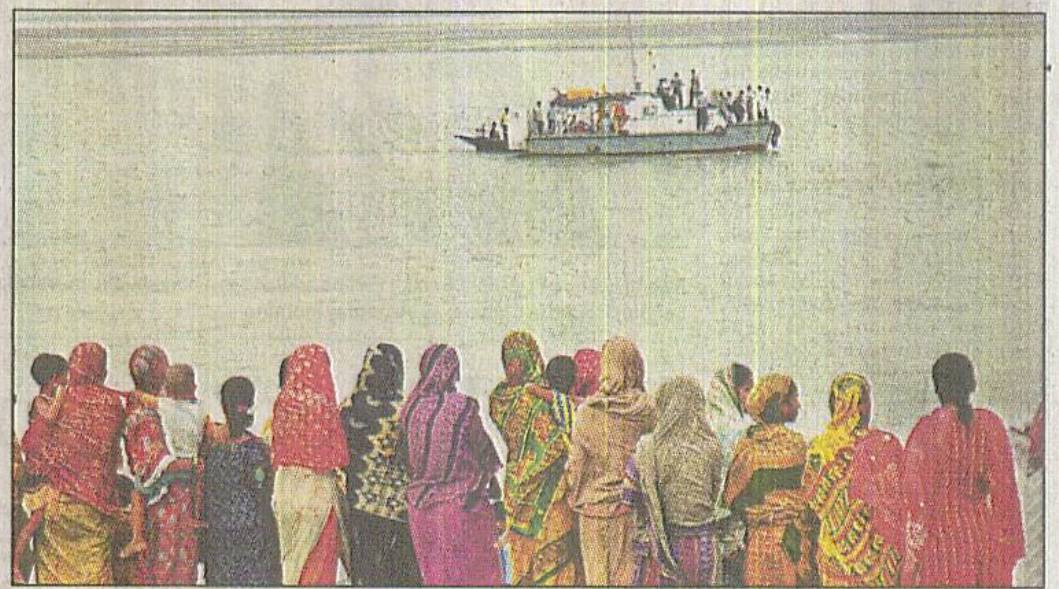


PHOTO: STAR

Relatives anxiously watch a rescue vessel conduct a search for MV Raipura that sank with more than 200 passengers aboard in the Jamuna on Tuesday, barely two days after a similar tragedy at Galachipa in Patuakhali accounted for the death of no fewer than 82 people.

No more money whitening

Tax ombudsman next year, says Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The provision of whitening black money will be discontinued from next fiscal year, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said.

He also said a tax ombudsman will be appointed in the next fiscal year and a law will be passed in this regard in the budget session of parliament. The ombudsman will have offices in all districts to deal with harassment of taxpayers.

"We cannot allow legalisation of 'haram' (illegal) money every year,"

Saifur commented about black money at a pre-budget consultative meeting of the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

"This does not uphold morality or honesty," the finance minister said in reference to the existing five different provisions for converting black money into white.

"A few years ago, the opportunity to whiten black money was given for investment in share market and industry. This scope will expire this fiscal year as this contradicts the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Moudud, Sircar hit back

SCBA chief dares law minister to prove political ties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government and parliament are at loggerheads with Supreme Court lawyers over their ongoing agitation for removal of a High Court judge and the Supreme Court Bar Association's decision to cancel the speaker and law minister's membership.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar had termed the lawyers' movement "unconstitutional" and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said it is "politically motivated", but the lawyers believe they are making such comments to

foil the Bar's legitimate movement.

The speaker and the law minister, both barristers, yesterday rejected the cancellation of their membership of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and maintained that the action was illegal.

The speaker also rejected the lawyers' remarks that he does not have jurisdiction to give a ruling on the SCBA movement at the Supreme Court. "I have that jurisdiction as a protector of the constitution," he explained.

Moudud said, "The SCBA resorted

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Hartal passes off peacefully

Another one on Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the main opposition Awami League (AL) in the capital yesterday passed off by and large peacefully barring some stray incidents of police attacks on pro-hartal pickets and processions.

The shutdown was called protesting the killing of Dhaka City AL Law Affairs Secretary Advocate Khorshed Alam Bachchu.

Meanwhile, the AL has called for another dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country on Saturday in protest against the killing of Khorshed.

Announcing the hartal at a press conference at party's Dhanmondi office yesterday evening,

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil

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JAMUNA LAUNCH SINKING Shut hatches stoke fears of bodies trapped inside

150 still missing, 2 bodies found; Patuakhali toll now 82

STAR REPORT

The death toll in Manikganj launch sinking rose to four as two more bodies were recovered in the Jamuna in Shibhalaya upazila yesterday, while about 150 missing passengers, who were on deck, are feared dead.

The doors and windows of the launch were locked during the storm, locals said quoting the survivors,

who fear the missing people died inside the vessel, reports our Manikganj correspondent.

The sunken launch could not be salvaged until yesterday evening, more than 27 hours after the accident.

Eighteen divers of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) rescue team started operation at noon but had to

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Army men beat up 20 villagers

STAR REPORT

A group of army personnel beat up and injured about 20 people, including a carrying woman and some children, over a trivial matter yesterday at Sultanpur village in Feni municipality, triggering panic in the area.

They also picked up a newly married youth and ordered the local ward commissioner and union parishad (UP) members to hand over to them the villagers who 'attacked' two army men yesterday noon. All the youths of the village went into hiding, fearing more attacks.

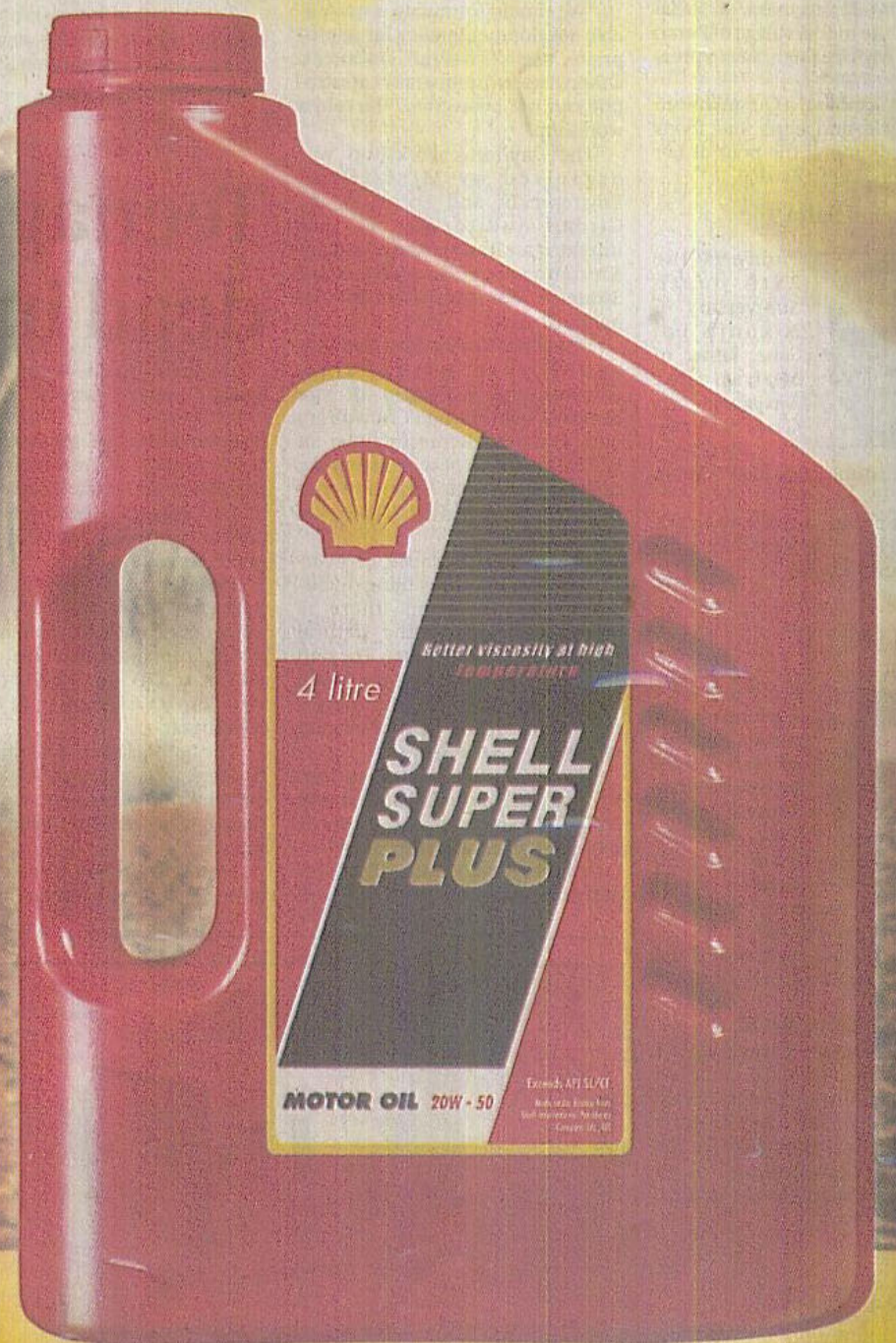
The injured included Rahima, 20, a pregnant woman, and UP member Rabiul.

Some of the injured were treated at Feni Sadar Hospital.

Witnesses said two army personnel -- Sergeant Mofizur Rahman and

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