

Rajshahi cops seek Home nod to file sedition case against 11 militants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

As advised by the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC), the police yesterday sent a letter to the home ministry seeking an order for filing a 'weak sedition' case against 11 militants held in Rajshahi.

The police also submitted a prayer to the district magistrate seeking detention of two of the hardened militants -- Enamul, one of Bangla Bhai's men and Golam Mustafa, an Arabic student and follower of Asadullah Al Galib.

"Once the home ministry grants the order, we will file a sedition case

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India landslides kill 99, bury 130 others

AFP, Mumbai

At least 99 people were killed and more than 100 trapped as India's worst-ever day of rainfall triggered landslides and building collapses in western Maharashtra state, an official said yesterday.

Thirty-four of the deaths were reported in the state capital Mumbai, India's commercial hub, which was paralysed by 24 hours of pounding monsoon rains, flooding

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Prayer Timing		
July 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

NBR agrees to work with ACC to cut graft

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) and National Board of Revenue (NBR) will work out a strategy for working together to root out corruption.

ACC in a close-door meeting with NBR yesterday proposed reducing the number of stages in export and import as the existing lengthy process creates larger scope for corruption, said a meeting source. The anti-graft watchdog asked NBR to work with it to contain the trend.

Since the formation of ACC in last November, yesterday's meeting was the first with NBR when allegations of corrup-

tion against different units of NBR are rife.

ACC Commissioner Prof Maniruzzaman Mian was accompanied by a number of ACC officials in the meeting held at NBR headquarters. NBR Chairman Khairuzzaman Chowdhury led the NBR team comprising some high officials of VAT, income tax, and customs.

ACC sources said the ACC commissioner went to the NBR to present his views on corruption in general in the country and particularly within the organs of the NBR and how it affects the people.

But as the talks began, the NBR officials started to describe in detail how the NBR functions, much to the

dismay of ACC, which wanted to have an open-minded discussion on pervasive corruption in NBR, said an ACC source.

ACC wanted to discuss the issue of 'speed money', a kind of bribe needed to move the files quickly across different tables in different organs of NBR, could be raised, the ACC could initiate an open discussion about corruption pervasive in the NBR, added the source.

Some discussion however was held at the end of the meeting regarding the ways and means of preventing corruption, at least to bring it down to a reasonable level.

ACC proposed for a joint study by

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FOOD ADULTERATION Five Muslim Sweetmeat staff jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two mobile courts yesterday jailed five employees of a sweetmeat factory and fined four other shops and factories and two restaurants Tk 58,000 in Badda in the capital.

One court led by Magistrate Md Rakan Uddoulah sentenced the five of Muslim Sweetmeat to one-month prison for producing sweetmeat in an unhygienic and filthy environment.

"The owner of Muslim Sweets produces their items in a filthy environment just beside the toilet. They also mix rotten sweets to the fresh ones," said one of the court officials.

The court also filed four regular

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A magistrate and policemen examine unhygienic items at the factory of Muslim Sweets on Free School Street, Hatirpool in the capital yesterday during a mobile court operation.

2 Myanmar nationals held after gunbattle

M-16, G-3 rifles, ammo seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday arrested two Myanmar nationals after a six-hour battle at Naikhhangchhari, seizing from their possession a US-made M-16 rifle, one G-3 rifle and ammunition.

BDR Tuesday night raided the deep forest at Alekhhhang, 17-kilometres from Naikhhangchhari. Sensing the presence of the security personnel, the 'terrorists' opened fire when the BDR reached near their

den at around zero hours, BDR sources said.

"We traded around 250 bullets during the night-long shootout and they [terrorists] retreated at dawn," Zonal Commander of Naikhhangchhari, Lt. Col. Abdul Awal, told The Daily Star yesterday.

BDR chased the retreating terrorists and held two of them. The two -- Thui Tjo, 41, and U-shang Nue, 40, -- who are believed to be Myanmar guerillas, trespassed into the country

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EC, CARETAKER GOVT B Chy, Kamal unveil reform proposals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and Jatiya Oikya Mancha yesterday put forward a series of reform proposals for the Election Commission (EC) and the caretaker government, including appointment of a non-political head of caretaker government on the basis of a consensus among all political parties.

The head of caretaker government should not have any involvement, present or past, with any

political party and must not be a beneficiary of any political party, according to the proposal.

Oikya Mancha Convenor Dr Kamal Hossain and former president and Bikalpadhara President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury at a joint press conference yesterday rejected the chief election commissioner's dialogue proposal and put forward their reform proposals.

Both the parties suggested appointing four election

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Eight-year-old Rajibul Islam seen with his mother at DMCH after his half-slit throat was stitched.

Bravery redefined

Kid outwits killer posing as corpse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bravery comes in many forms, but what an eight-year-old boy showed Tuesday night is one of its kinds.

Rajibul Islam, a Class I student, outwitted a killer, posing as a corpse, withstanding the severe pain of a half-slit throat and severed tendons of the hands at Bashundhara Riverview in Keraniganj, a Dhaka suburb.

Police found Rajib buried in the ground excepting the head yesterday morning at a place too remote for anyone to hear his repeated cries for help on the previous night.

Palash, 24, a notorious goon of

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Tripartite meet to end apparel brawl

Shajahan Siraj sits with BGMEA, BTMA, BKMEA leaders Saturday

JASIM UDDIN KHAN and SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

Three principal trade bodies of the country's apparel sector on Saturday will sit in a meeting convened by Jute and Textile Minister Shajahan Siraj in an attempt to hammer out a solution to their recent bitter disputes.

Shajahan Siraj on Sunday invited Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) to the meeting.

The minister has talked with the

association leaders over telephone and urged them not to make any further comments on the disputed issues in the meantime.

The leaders of BGMEA, BTMA and BKMEA have acknowledged that the current wrangling over allegations of bonded warehouse leakage, under-invoicing and smuggling of fabrics has been a result of "misunderstanding and miscommunication".

"We didn't blame any particular trade body or agency for misuse of bond facilities, smuggling and under-invoicing. But, the menace still exists in the country, jeopardising

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