

## Hasina's APS held

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Chittagong University correspondent

A single-barrel gun and two cartridges were found at Bilahachara of Pekua in Cox's Bazar.

The troops rounded up one person, seized a single-barrel gun, 20 cartridges and five other lethal weapons from Sonua under Banskhali upazila while they arrested another with a pipe gun from Chandraghona in Rangunia.

Our correspondent in Tangail reports, joint forces led by the army held Sarishabari upazila Jubo Dal leader Faezul Kabir Talukdar at the headquarters on Tuesday.

Faezul Kabir Talukdar alias Shahin Talukdar, 40, is also the chairman of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) in Sarishabari, sources said.

Joint forces of the army and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) 11 arrested four alleged criminals and recovered a revolver, a local LG (light gun), a pistol, 50 grams of gunpowder and a few knives in

Tongi and Gazipur on Monday, according to our Gazipur correspondent.

The arrestees, Haris Mia, 25, and Sohel alias Munshi, 22, from Barobari in Gazipur, Bachchu Mia, 30, and ATM Jaber Hossain, 30, from Tongi had robbery; hijacking and rape cases filed against them, Police sources said.

The joint forces in Satkhira yesterday arrested two listed criminals including a local Jubo Dal leader, said our correspondent.

The two arrested are Badruzzaman Badru, former president of Tala upazila Jubo Dal and a listed criminal in Tala, and Duke, a listed criminal in Jessor, police sources said.

Several cases had been filed against Badru and Duke with Tala, Patkeghata and Kotwali police stations.

Our Narsingdi correspondent reports: The joint forces detained BNP Raipura upazila unit secretary and UP chairman Faizur Rahman along with six others yesterday.

### ORIENTAL BANK HC asks why anti-graft action against officials won't be illegal

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule asking for explanation why the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) action in suing Oriental Bank officials, including its former managing director CM Koyes Sami, should not be declared illegal.

Responding to a writ petition filed by Sami, a division bench comprising Justice MA Wahhab Mian and Justice M Emdadul Huq issued the rule.

Earlier on Sunday, the bench had issued similar rule upon the ACC following writ petitions filed by the four bankers charged with defalcation of the bank money.

"All the rules will come up for hearing today," a court source said.

On January 25, Kazi Monjur Hossain, a senior assistant vice-president of Oriental Bank, lodged a criminal case against Orion Group chief Obaidul Karim, bank's MD CM Koyes Sami and 22 other incumbent and former officials of the bank for embezzling Tk 596.44 crore in connivance with one another.

Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan appeared for the accused, Koyes Sami.

### Businessman

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about 2:30pm on Tuesday, Rab officials said.

"While searching, the team found one shotgun, two double-barrel guns, one airgun and three walkie-talkies. They also seized 5,242 cartridges and 5,373 rounds of ammunition from the house," said the case statement.

The Rab said the firearms and ammunition were "illegal".

Anwar told the Rab that he had negligence in renewing the licences of the firearms and ammunition and that he has had no valid documents of those since the licences expired three years ago, Rab sources said.

Anwar claimed that he collected the firearms and ammunition as a "hobby" and "not for committing any crime". He said he used the firearms and ammunition to hunt birds.

Anwar was handed over to Ramna police and a case under the Arms Act was filed against him.

The court also fixed March 4 as the next date for hearing of the case.

According to the Prothom Alo report, the mayor helped Siddikul Islam alias Bangla Bhai in his militant activities in Rajshahi in 2004 and also offered him money.

### Rajshahi mayor

FROM PAGE 16  
Minu sued Editor Motiur Rahman, Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Reporter Kamru Hasan for running a report on Tuesday terming him as a "godfather of Islamic militants".

The CMM Afzal Hossain ordered the officer-in-charge of Boalia police station to investigate into the case and submit a report by March 2.

The court also fixed March 4 as the next date for hearing of the case.

According to the Prothom Alo report, the mayor helped Siddikul Islam alias Bangla Bhai in his militant activities in Rajshahi in 2004 and also offered him money.

### Corrections

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company, which was attested by the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka recently.

In fact, the draft contract was attested by the Bangladesh High Commission in Canada, not by the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka.

In a clarification, the Canadian embassy asserted that it does not promote any individual organisation.

We apologise for the mistake.

**ERROR IN CLAUSE**  
We made another inadvertent mistake in a report headlined "Polls must be interim govt's main priority" on January 30. Former law minister Abdul Matin Khoshru made a reference of the clause 118 in the constitution, but it was published as clause 158. We regret the error.

The matter is scheduled for hearing today in the SC.

On January 16, President Iajuddin Ahmed approved the four rules of the judicial services -- Judicial Service Commission Rule 2002, Bangladesh Judicial Service Pay Commission Rule 2002, Bangladesh Judicial Service (Service, Constitution, Composition, Recruitment, Suspension, Dismissal and Removal) Rules 2002, and Bangladesh Judicial Service (Posting, Promotion, Leave, Control, Discipline and other Service Condition) Rules 2001.

The rules relevant to separating the judiciary from the executive have been published through gazette notifications.

The much-expected separation of the judiciary now requires only an amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) as per the 12-point directive of the Supreme Court (SC) given in 1999.

On January 21, the SC said it had detected some errors in the rules and those need to be corrected.

The court also asked the attorney general to minutely examine the rules, get rid of the flaws and issue a gazette notification on the amended CrPC.

The presentation would also include reports on managing the demand and supply of electricity, especially during next summer.

### Charge goes up

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operate without such a crane at a port.

After installing the cranes last year, the number of ships calling at Chittagong Port increased significantly, sources said, adding that the port authorities increased the charge following a compensation claim Saif Powertec Limited that was awarded the job of container handling as the handling of containers through port operators was very slow.

The company issued a letter claiming Tk 10 lakh compensation per day following a work stoppage programme enforced by the port operators.

The private operation of the crane was stopped for around one month due to opposition by a section of dock workers backed by Chittagong city Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

They besieged the Chittagong Container terminal, obstructed the operation of cranes by the private company and demanded cancellation of the agreement signed with it.

The port operators forcibly stopped the activities of the private company more than once during the political agitation programme of the Awami League's 14-party alliance in November-December last year.

The operation was stopped from November 12 last year and the private company resumed the operation on December 15, following a High Court order that asked the port authority to restore the operation by the private company for three months.

The High court also issued a rule nisi asking the CPA to explain why the suspension of the cranes would not be declared illegal and unlawful.

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## 1.75 lakh sacks

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forces arrived at his business establishment, sources said.

The joint forces raided Mashud & Brothers and Ahmed Trading at Khatunganj at around 11:30am. From there they detained three of Mashud & Brothers' staff -- Subhash Chowdhury, Mohammad Ali and Abdul Rahman, and an Ahmed Trading official Sabir Ahmed.

During primary interrogations, the four revealed that their firms are involved in hoarding huge quantities of basic commodities in three warehouses rented from Victory Jute Mill in the AK Khan Gate area under Pahartali Police Station of the city, added the sources.

The four arrestees led the joint forces to the warehouses where huge quantities of adulterated goods were found stockpiled in thousands of sacks. Hundreds of workers were busy mixing up sub-standard and unsafe goods with quality edible goods to be supplied to wholesale and retail markets all over the country.

The seized items included 50,000 sacks of wheat, 50,000 sacks of sugar, 25,700 sacks of lentil, 23,720 sacks of mustard seeds and 28,450 sacks of peas.

The present wholesale value of the goods was estimated at around Tk 35 crore, sources said.

The four arrestees were not handed over to police till submitting this report yesterday evening.

### Bogra torture

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were suspended after a primary investigation conducted by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Khan Sayeed Hasan into the police brutality following the publication of a photograph in The Daily Star the day before.

The OC was closed to the DIG range office of Rajshahi while the other four were closed to Bogra Police Lines. The police authority also formed an inquiry committee and asked them to submit the report by January 30.

A two-ton gold necklace was found from Ratan Kumar, who police tortured after hanging from the ceiling at Sadar Police Station on January 25, without showing him arrested as a suspect in a 25-ton gold theft case. He later confessed his involvement with the crime.

Wahab became unconscious and fell on the ground as SI Jasim beat him mercilessly soon after his arrest.

The on-duty doctor declared him dead after he was taken to hospital.

The victim's son Asaduzzaman alleged that the police beat his father to death adding he would file a case later on.

Wahab's body was handed over to his relatives after post-mortem.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Delwar Hossain Sayeedi of Sadar circle said the victim died due to cardiac arrest as he tried to run away sensing police presence.

Freedom fighters protested the killing of Wahab and demanded punishment of the police official.

### Govt in hunt

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million as education sector support credit and another \$40 million as railway sector policy support from the World Bank.

Another official said the government had informal talks with the World Bank for release of the funds as a number of major conditions for the aid have already been fulfilled or under process.

Funds for the development support credit and railway reform policy might be released next month while there is a chance of getting the education sector support credit by the end of the current fiscal, the sources said.

"Privatisation of Rupali Bank is in the final stage and steps will be taken soon for corporatisation of four nationalised commercial banks," a finance ministry official said terming the moves as major conditions for the World Bank fund.

He said the donors are also happy with the move to separate the judiciary from the executive branch of the government and about the move to revitalise the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

The chief adviser talked on the matter while addressing the secretaries on Tuesday where he said the government will not tolerate any dilly-dallying in ADP implementation.

The finance ministry sources said the government is now contemplating to cut some less important projects of the current fiscal and to provide money for more important projects.

"The government will review the ADP next week to identify the most important projects," a source said.

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam held separate meetings with the planning ministry and the External Relations Division (ERD) officials on Wednesday and discussed the progress of ADP implementation of the current fiscal.

He said a deal might be signed next month with the Saudi prince on selling Rupali Bank, if the government agrees with his proposal.

The Bangladesh Bank's recently released economic policy statement also asked the government to take immediate steps to sell Rupali Bank.

The central bank sources said the government was compelled to

borrow a large amount of money from the banking sector in recent times due to declining foreign aid and low revenue earning.

The government's total borrowing from the banking sector was Tk 6,300 crore from July 1, 2006 to January 9, 2007, sources said adding that the bank borrowing limit was fixed at Tk 5,434 crore for the entire fiscal in the budget.

About the ADP implementation, sources said only 20 percent of the ADP has been implemented in the first five months of the fiscal. A source however pointed out that government borrowing from banks increased despite low implementation of ADP.

He said the GDP growth will also be affected with the slow pace of ADP implementation and for this the interim government has emphasised on increased ADP implementation during the remaining period of the fiscal, requiring more money.

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## Cops beat one to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A freedom fighter was beaten to death by police yesterday at Neha village under Sadar upazila of the district.

The victim was identified as Abdul Wahab, 55, son of another freedom fighter Amin Uddin of Chhohogaria under the same upazila.