

Emon says his 10 arms already recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dreaded criminal Sanjidul Islam Emon yesterday said the law enforcers have already recovered 10 of his firearms...

During the interrogation in the Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) cell, Emon said Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-4) members recovered his nine firearms...

During the four-day drive, Rab-4 arrested Khan Ahmed Wasib alias Tapu, 25, former general secretary of Mohammadpur Thana Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)...

They also recovered an AK-47 rifle, six pistols, including an Italian Petra Beretta pistol, one German revolver, a one-shooter gun...

Both the JCD men were killed in crossfire with Rab at Savar on June 23 in 2005.

23 in 2005. They were arrested at Pallabi in the city on June 20, 2005. The Rab men also arrested seven members of the same gang...

They were Saiful Islam, Shahadat Hossain, Zahid Hossain, Mohammad Rana, Masdur Rahman, Saidur Rahman Naim...

Meanwhile, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) recovered a pistol along with 32 bullets from Rayerbazar on March 15 according to Emon's confessional statement.

Quoting Emon, TFI sources said in addition to 10 arms, more arms are still in his associates' possession.

Earlier, Emon told CID that collection of new firearms was his hobby and gunrunner Sunil Dey of Chittagong was his supplier.

Emon, along with smuggling ring member Ishaq Ali, was deported by the Indian authorities on March 7. After the deportation, both the criminals were remanded for eight days under the CID custody...

Under the TFI cell.

Committee to monitor private TTCs soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday said a committee will be formed very soon for monitoring the private teachers' training colleges (TTCs) and check the irregularities.

The adviser was addressing a daylong workshop on "Teachers' Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project (TQI-SEP)" at Dhaka Teachers' Training College.

He also said that admission rate in public TTCs has tremendously shrunk while the number of the private ones is on the rise, because students can easily get certificates from private TTCs without studying well.

He added that improving the quality of education is the main challenge for the nation and in this context, proper training should be provided for improving the teachers' skills.

The TQI-SEP aims at improving the quality in the secondary education system along with the teachers' competence and capacity, in order to foster resources of well-educated young individuals who can contribute to the sustainable and prosperous development of the nation, said TQI project director Nazrul Islam.

The total budget of TQI is \$108.7 million. The six-year TQI project will end in September 2011.

50 cheated job seekers return home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty Bangladeshis, who were lured with jobs in Turkmenistan, Turkey and elsewhere by clandestine agents but were finally dumped in the bordering areas of Iraq, returned home on Wednesday.

Assisted by International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the unfortunate job seekers who paid Tk 2 lakh to 2.5 lakh, arrived at Zia International Airport (ZIA) by a flight of Emirates Airline.

IOM Regional Representative for South Asia Rabab Fatima told The Daily Star yesterday that they talked with the returnees who said they were first flown to Dubai on transit visa sometime during 2007 and January this year and then were left in the border areas in Iraq.

"We got some information from these people and will pass this to the government for further actions," she said.

Asked if IOM has any information about presence of Bangladeshis in Kurdistan, Fatima said they do not know anything about them officially, but read from the newspapers.

Meanwhile, Khalilur Rahman of Narsingdi, who recently returned home from Kurdistan, told The Daily Star over telephone that there are several thousand Bangladeshis living an inhumane life in Kurdistan.

Their agents promised them of high-salaried jobs in the American army camps in Iraq, but let them unemployed for months providing them with wrecked houses for living and only bread as meals twice a day, he said.

He said he paid Tk 1.9 lakh to agents - Humayun Kabir and Nadira in Narsingdi who managed his travel to Kurdistan via Dubai on January 29 this year. He however could not say the name of the agent that arranged his travel to Kurdistan.

"I managed a job with salaries worth Tk 6000 a month, but most others were unemployed. They are half-fed and unfed for months. Analyzing the fact that monthly Tk 6000 will not help me recover the money I spent, I decided to come back," Khalilur Rahman said.

He said his agents promised him of employing in Turkmenistan, but finally dropped in Kurdistan of Iraq, a war-ravaged country where Iraqis themselves do not have employments and enough food to eat, let alone others.

When contacted, Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) Director General Abdul Malek said they have no idea of the Bangladeshis in Kurdistan.

"We do not allow anybody to go to Iraq," he said. The government will surely look into the matter, he added.

MANIK SAHA MURDER Case sent back to CMM court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday sent back the sensational journalist Manik Saha murder case to the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mahbubur Rahman.

The judge of Speedy Trial Tribunal Abdus Salam Shikder passed this order.

The case was transferred to Speedy Trial Tribunal from the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on December 22 in 2004.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal recorded statements of 41, out of 61 prosecution witnesses, in 135 working days of the trial.

The first investigation officer of the case was Inspector Mosharaf Hossain, the then officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khulna Sadar Police Station.

The court ordered further investigation following a petition filed by Public Prosecutor SM Abu Zafar.

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Reception to Bangladeshi artists in New York

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

America-Bangladesh Press Club in New York accorded a reception to a team of Bangladeshi artists at a restaurant in Jackson Heights in New York on Wednesday.

The artists will participate in a nine-day painting exhibition beginning in NY today.

They are Rafiqunnabi, Kalidas Karmakar, Farida Zaman, Sheikh Afzal, Rokeya Sultana, Khorshed Alam Selim and Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, reports US-based news agency ANA.

Speaking on the occasion, Rafiqunnabi called upon all to uphold the thousand-year-old Bangalee culture before the young generation living abroad apart from practicing objective journalism.

The newly formed press club will

be turned into a centre for practicing Bangladeshi culture, he hoped.

Kalidas Karmakar said an art gallery can popularise Bangladeshi art and culture in New York and the press club can play an important role in this regard.

Syed-Ur-Rab, president of the press club, presided over the programme that was moderated by Darpan Kabir, secretary of the press club.

A total of 42 painting works will be put on display in the exhibition organised by Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in cooperation with the Bangladesh Mission in UN.

Ismat Jahan, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, will inaugurate the exhibition while Ralph Samuelson, director of Asian Cultural Council in New York, will attend the inaugural ceremony as special guest.



Dr Zobaidda Hannan hands over school bags and materials to students at a programme in Comilla on Wednesday. Advocate Tanbir ul Islam Siddiqui, president of Change Makers, and Headmistress Rokhsana Ferdousi Majumder are also seen in the picture.

Civic education programme concludes

A 12-day civic education programme for students concluded in Comilla on Wednesday, says a press release.

Change Makers, a civic education and human rights organisation, arranged the programme under a project titled 'Institutionalising democracy in Bangladesh: Civic education programme for the high school and madrasa students' supported by the American Centre, US Embassy.

Some 1,500 students from 20 institutions representing class eight to ten received school bags and different materials on civic education during the programme.

Dr Zobaidda Hannan inaugurated the event at the Nawab Fayjunnesa Govt. Girls' High School. President of Change Makers Advocate Tanbir ul Islam Siddiqui moderated the programme.

The aim of the programme is to influence society to spread civic education as an important step towards institutionalising democracy in the country.

Among other issues, the constitution, fundamental rights, state of emergency, human rights, civic duties, national parliament, corruption, terrorism as a global threat and human trafficking were discussed with the students.

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