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Rab in a soup

2 officials to be closed

HC asks them to explain to it Satkhira incident on June 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately close two Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) officials following widespread allegations of their attempt to implicate a Satkhira businessman in a false arms possession charge.

The two officials are Operation Commander of Rab-6 (Khulna) Maj Kamruzzaman and Deputy Assistant Director Delwar Hossain.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Delwar Hossain ordered Kamruzzaman and Delwar to appear before the court on June 8 to explain the incident.

A team of Rab led by Kamruzzaman and Delwar reportedly went to Natuadanga village in Sadar upazila of Satkhira and tried to implicate Shafiqul Islam, owner of a shrimp enclosure, in a false arms possession charge on May 22.

Agitating villagers confined the Rab team to Shafiqul's house for over five hours following the incident.

The court yesterday directed the home secretary to form a probe committee to investigate the incident within 10 days and submit a report.

The government has also been asked to submit a report before the court on what steps it has taken following the incidents and to ensure safety of Natuadanga villagers.

The HC bench issued a rule upon the government to explain in two weeks why it should not be directed to take action against Kamruzzaman and Delwar for their failure to perform their duties of protecting the fundamental rights of the people.

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Arms planted

The Daily Star finds how an innocent fell victim to shady law enforcers, Rab dragged into controversy in Satkhira

SHARIFUL ISLAM from Satkhira

Now it appears certain that firearms were planted inside a Satkhira businessman's house three hours before a controversial arms recovery drive by Rapid Action Battalion there on May 22.

The search at dead of the night at the house of shrimp businessman Shafiqul Islam, also a ward unit Awami League leader, who has a long track of good family reputation, left the Rab men to face unprecedented public wrath.

However, it's not certain yet who placed a bag containing three shutter guns through the window of a room. Shafiqul's wife Nilufar Begum first discovered the bag, which her husband threw outside.

Family members and neighbours say they later saw a Rab man push the bag inside the balcony through the grill.

Though the Rab high-ups have yet to confirm who kept the firearms inside the house, they are now certain Shafiqul has nothing to do about it. They suspect someone planted those and informed the elite force to put Shafiqul into trouble.

"I woke up after Rab personnel knocked on our gate around 12:30am. As I earlier heard the story of plot to harass innocent people, without a second thought I ran to ensure that all my windows were shut," Nilufar told The Daily Star.

She added when she found one window was still open, she went to shut it and saw the bag on the floor. She took it to her husband, who opened it and found the guns inside.

"I ran upstairs and threw the bag outside, and the Rab members must have heard the thud. After about two hours of kicking on four

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Burnt for refusing to marry 'drug peddler'

Criminals waylay girl, pour petrol, set fire to her for refusing to marry one of them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a grisly assault last night in Pallabi of the capital, a group of three men set fire to a teenage girl on a busy street in front of passers-by, because she had refused to marry one of the attackers.

The victim Aleya Akhter, 18, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), while the passers-by caught the beastly suitor, and handed him over to police after a good beating. But the other two attackers managed to run away.

The victim is now fighting for life in DMCH. She has mixed burn injuries on 65 percent of her body, said a doctor.

Aleya, daughter of a rickshaw mechanic Abdur Rashid, was attacked by the three near her residence, as she was going to Mirpur-11 with her aunt Razia Begum, for buying clothes for her two younger brothers around 8:00pm.

Razia told The Daily Star last night, as she and her niece were looking for a rickshaw on the street, the suitor Mohammad Khokon, 30, who used to be their neighbour, called them on a cellphone and said he had something very important to discuss with them. He requested them to go back towards their house where he was waiting for them.

As they got near the house, Khokon and his accomplices Babu and Rana got off a parked rickshaw, grabbed Aleya,

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Aleya lies in bed at the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night. A doctor said she is in critical condition with 65 percent of her body burnt. Inset, Mohammad Khokon, the stalker.



PM for raising people's food purchasing capacity

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that purchasing capacity of the people has to be increased to ensure their access to food.

"Producing more food does not guarantee access to food. People must have the purchasing power to buy food," she told the inaugural ceremony of a two-day Bangladesh Food Security Investment Forum at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

Food Division of Food and Disaster Management Ministry organised the programme in collaboration with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) with financial assistance from USAID, DFID and EU.

The premier said while food is not secured for all today, tomorrow the potential impacts of climate change are going to make it even more difficult.

Bangladesh has the potential to attain high yields in

It's now official

China Tibet Mountaineering Assoc hands Musa certificate for conquering Everest

PINAKI ROY, form Kathmandu

Musa Ibrahim is now officially listed as the first ever Everest conqueror from Bangladesh.

"This is to certify that on 23 May, 6:50 am, Md Musa Ibrahim climbed the peak of Everest, Chomolungma of Mount Everest" is written on Musa's certificate.

China Tibet Mountaineering Association yesterday handed over the certificate to Musa at the base camp in Tibet. The liaison officer of the CTMA around 1:00pm gave the certificates to all 12 mountaineers in Musa's group who successfully reached the top of the world last Sunday.

Asked what the certificate says, Musa read it out over telephone to The Daily Star correspondent.

"It is the fulfilment of a dream. It is not possible to express in words the emotions. I was overwhelmed when I reached the top of the peak," Musa said.

A tired Musa, who has been scaling up and down for 36 days, came down to the base camp at 5,200 metres from the advanced base camp (at 6,450 metres) Tuesday afternoon.

Between May 10 and before the final attempt to reach Everest, Musa had to climb up and down between the two base camps to get



accustomed to the thin air.

He was coughing over the telephone yesterday evening. "It is now snowing here at the base camp. Apart from the mild cold I caught, I am okay," he said.

"We tried to go up last Wednesday [May 19]. We had to climb a vertical ice wall at North Cole at 7,100 metres [from sea level]. But could not proceed due to snowstorm. So we came back to advanced base camp and waited for good weather," Musa said.

On 21 May, it seemed it would be impossible to climb up. Some groups came down due to the bad weather that day, he said.

"But we decided to wait a bit more. And finally the weather started to improve and we started for Everest on Saturday [May 22] evening," Musa said.

Several groups followed with helmet-mounted torches on. And it looked like a procession of light, Musa said.

Around 8,300 metres, the pipe of Musa's oxygen tank developed a leak and he was having breathing difficulties. Fortunately, the sherpas were able to fix the pipe.

He said when he was at the top and the sun came up he got scared. He said he might not have had the courage to climb to the top if he had seen the sheer drop before.

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Japan Garden City fined for non-compliance of fire safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Fire Service and Civil Defence Department on Tuesday fined Japan Garden City, a property developer, Tk 1.90 lakh for violating fire safety rules in its housing estate at city's Mohammadpur area.

The court led by the Executive Magistrate Abul Bashar Md Shamsuzzaman penalized the property developer for not installing fire-fighting equipment in the 16-storied buildings.

Sources said at least seven members of a family living in the building no-6 of Japan Garden City died in a blaze in a last February night.

The developer was required to obtain clearance certificate for all 26 buildings from fire department, but it acquired only one for the whole project, said Md. Zahurul Amin Bhuyan, assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

There were hosepipes but many of them had no connections with the reservoirs, the official said.

It was necessary to have at

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3 Rid officials face trial in absentia

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday said the three Rid Pharmaceuticals officials, charged with manufacturing adulterated paracetamol syrup, would be tried in absentia.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Drug Court passed the order as the accused -- Director Abdul Gani and Pharmacists Mahbulul Islam and Enamul Haque -- failed to appear before the court within the deadline.

Upon receipt of a report from Brahmanbaria police on execution of arrest warrants against the three, the same court on April 25 asked the authorities concerned to publish advertisements in two Bangla dailies asking the officials to appear before it by May 26.

But the officials did not comply with it. Police earlier took more than eight months to submit a report before the Drug Court that the accused were absconding.

Brahmanbaria police, however, on April 25 placed the report on execution of arrest warrants against the three.

The court said non-submission of the report was delaying the trial.

Mizanur Rahman, managing director of the company and his wife Sheuly Rahman, also a director, now on bail, were present at the court during the hearing of the case.

On August 11 last year, five officials of the company were charged with producing adulterated paracetamol syrup that caused death to 28 children across the country from June to August last year.

The Dhaka Drug Court issued the arrest warrants against the five after Directorate of Drug Administration Superintendent Shafiqul Islam filed the case with it on the same day.

A total of four cases, including one in Brahmanbaria, were filed outside Dhaka in this connection.

RAMNA KALI MANDIR Govt asked to stop building unauthorised structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to stop the construction work of unauthorised structures on the Ramna Kali Mandir premises adjacent to Suhrawardi Udayan in Dhaka.

The HC bench of Justice Shamim Hasnain and Justice Emdadul Haque passed the order upon a petition filed by advocate Ashok Kumar Ghosh, a SC lawyer.

The court fixed June 2 for further hearing on the petition.

The petition stated that the HC on August 31 2006 directed the government to maintain status quo on construction of any structure at the temple.

Some people recently started the construction work of temples in the names of Manav Guru Hari Chand Thakur and Loknath Thakur, that violated the HC order, said the petitioner.

Assistant Attorney General SM Asadullah Tarek and advocates Subrata Chowdhury, Jhulan Kanti Paul, Ashok Kumar Ghosh appeared for the petitioner.



JMB chief Saidur Rahman being escorted to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka yesterday through a crowd of onlookers and journalists. PHOTO: STAR

Depleted JMB targets Dhaka

Detained militants tell detectives

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN and KAILASH SARKAR

The banned Islamist militant group Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh has been hoping to attract new recruits by signalling its re-emergence through a series of explosions in the capital, said intelligence sources yesterday.

"Due to the arrest of the group's current chief, their reorganising efforts will fail," Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad told The Daily Star.

"The execution of their former chief Abdur Rahman basically destroyed their network. Recently they were trying to reorganise from the capital," the IGP added.

Current JMB chief Maulana Saidur Rahman alias Zafar, who was arrested by law enforcers on Tuesday, told detectives that his detained third wife Naima Akhter, and two other women who managed to escape Sunday's police raid on their Dania hideout, are well trained in use of grenades and other firearms.

During a preliminary interrogation, he admitted to his earlier

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M Anis Ud Dowla
re-elected as the Chairman of
Pioneer Insurance Company Limited

Mr. M Anis Ud Dowla, a renowned industrialist and current Chairman of Pioneer Insurance Company Limited was unanimously re-elected as the Chairman of the Company in the 151st board meeting held on 26 May, 2010.

Mr. Dowla is the Chairman of ACI Group. He is also the President of Metropolitan Chamber Of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka.

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