# Arms planted

FROM PAGE 1

grill gates, one broke down around 2:30am and soon a Rab man put the bag into the balcony," said Shafiqul.

By that time around eight people gathered around the house and three of them claimed to have seen the Rab man putting the bag inside.

"As we shouted out simultaneously 'Rab is putting something inside the house', another Rab man collected the bag and ran outside. Later they handed the firearms to police," said Anisul Islam, a neighbour.

Rab later called Anisul to make him a witness and take his signature on the seizure

Anisul said he can clearly remember every detail of that moment including the bag lying on the balcony facing towards east. Nilufar said as she shouted

with others and asked the Rab man about what he was putting inside, he hurled a spade handle at her and used abusive language.

As Nilufar was talking, her Asif Al-Ekram in juvenile accent said, "I saw police [Rab] hurled a spade at my mother."

Ekram was so upset with the Rab action that he just trembled and could not even cry as the crime busters continued kicking on the gates for two hours. He even said he saw Rab men beating his uncle Zia. Anisul and another neigh-

bour Samad said Rab men gave them a blank sheet of paper and asked them to sign on it, but they refused. Further controversy sur-

rounds Rab due to some legal discrepancies as they did not prepare a seizure list on the spot in front of two local dignitaries though it is mandatory for the law enforcers. Rather, they handed over

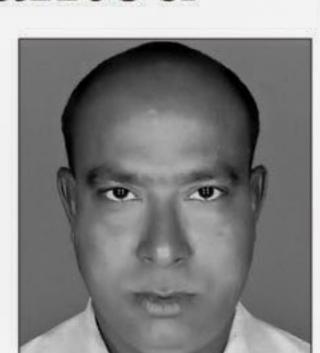
the firearms to the police and Officer-in-Charge of Satkhira Police Station MA Hashem later filed a general diary in this regard. Even the GD is flawed as it

only mentions handover of the firearms. Mysteriously, there is no mention of the place from where those arms were seized and whether any seizure list was prepared in presence of two witnesses.

Another GD filed by Rab Deputy Assistant Director Delwar Hossain says the firearms were recovered from the house near the balcony grill and signatures of two Rab members were taken on the seizure list.

Local investigators suspect Rab did not put the arms inside the house initially. After discovering the thrown bag outside, they might put it inside the balcony in the onestorey house in Natuardanga village eight kilometres west of Satkhira town.

Shafiqul, joint secretary of



Shafiqul Islam

Shibpur union AL, suspects chairman of a nearby Union Parishad with whom his family has a long-standing rivalry might be responsible. Rab sources say on the

basis of information from a local source they launched the operation led by Maj Kamruzzaman of Rab-6. As Kamruzzaman did not verify Shafiqul's identity and records before the drive, he came under serious bashing from the Rab high-ups. The sources add the elite

force is now desperately trying to find out who misguided them and whether anyone of four-and-a-half-year-old son the raiding team was involved. Local sources believe

certainly someone tried to put Shafigul into trouble. Shafiqul is the son of

Rupchand Sarder, a wealthy man with good reputation, from Alipur village. Shafiqul has also the reputation of being a good man and his reputation led people from nearby villages to rush to his house for his help during the controversial operation. "We came in aide of

Shafiqul as we know that he is innocent. He always extends his help when we need it. We never believe such a good man can possess illegal firearms,' said 60-year-old Abdul Gaffar of the same village. Many other villagers ech-

oed the same. Sirajul Amin said Shafiqul's

family is rich and owns around 600 bighas of farmland. He did not need to keep any illegal firearms as he can afford to keep licensed ones, he added. OC MA Hashem said dur-

ing his service with Sadar police no case was filed against Shafiqul. He said he needs to check whether there was any case before his time. Local sources say two cases

were earlier filed against Shafiqul centring land dispute with rivals.

Contacted, Rab Director General Hassan Mahmood Khandker said they have given emphasis on the matter and already formed a twomember enquiry committee headed by Additional Director General Col ASM Jahangir

The team has already visited the spot and talked to the family. If Rab members are found guilty, they must face punishment, the Rab chief

# Graft alleged

Members of the main committee in yesterday's meeting asked home minister and her deputy to stop the purchase process saying that the subcommittee found evidences of corruption in the process.

Talking to reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Mujib-ul-Haque, a committee member told The Daily Star, "The committee members including its chairman demanded to stop the purchase process at this moment as we have started inquiry into the alleged corruption in the purchase move."

The committee chairman Maj Gen (rtd) Abdus Salam, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, however declined to talk and requested Mujib-ul-Haque to brief reporters.

Mujib-ul-Haque, also a Jatiya Party (JP) lawmaker, said chairman of the committee Abdus Salam and subcommittee head Mirza Azam also sent separate letters requesting the home minister to withhold the purchase process until the completion of the

parliamentary inquiry. "The minister and the state minister refused to do so saying the purchase is very important for the fire service and civil defence department," he

added. "The members of the committee including its chairman ran into a heated debate with the ministers on this issue," Mujib-ul-Haque also said.

Wishing not to be named, a member of the committee told The Daily Star that Mujib-ul-Haque threatened to quit membership of the standing committee at one stage of the alter-

cation with the ministers. When reporters drew his attention to this issue, the JP

lawmaker said, "I told the com-

mittee chairman that what is the worth of our investigation if the work order was given before

members raised similar argu-"The sub-committee at its

He said that all the attending

first meeting found some evidences of corrupt practices." "Despite our strong objec-

tions, the ministers were rigid in their opinion and told that the purchase process would go on."

"The home minister requested us to find out the specific irregularities. Then the purchase process would stop, otherwise not," Mujib said. Officials at the home minis-

try said, the director general's office of the fire service and civil defence department was in the process of procuring 19 fire fighting equipments including special vehicles, ladder, fire extinguishers and others.

Some people concerned sent written complaints to the standing committee pointing irregularities in the purchase

### Students force

FROM PAGE 16 Faculty of Engineering and

Technology. However, an hour later, agitated students put up a fresh blockade at Doyel Chattar on hearing a rumor of evening courses to be introduced at 22 departments by

June this year. The students withdrew this blockade around 4:30pm and met Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique at his

office. Vowing not to allow any "commercially run" course, students of the department had been demonstrating

against the decision for last five days. Ramadan.

## Maddhapara miners call off strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Miners of Maddhapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGMCL) in Dinajpur called off their indefinite strike yesterday, four days after they enforced it demanding job regularisation and payment of arrears.

The hard rock workers withdrew the strike after the MGMCL authorities assured them of meeting all their demands within a year.

The assurance came from a meeting began at about 1:30pm between the authorities and the leaders of the workers employees union.

Managing Director Farook Hossain and three deputy general managers were present at the meeting while president of the union Mainul Islam and its general secretary Mustafizur Rahman attended on behalf of their organisation. Earlier, a meeting was held

between the mineworkers, the MGMCL authorities, law enforcers and Dinajpur district administration at the MGMCL from 10:30pm on Tuesday to 1:30am on Wednesday for resolving the matter. But the talks ended inconclusively. The agitating miners, who enforced the strike Saturday

midnight, kept confined over 100 officials and staffs, including the managing director, in the complex since Monday On May 16, the workers at a

press conference placed their demands and said they would call a strike if their demands are not met by May 18.

## BCL dissolves 4 district committees **DU CORRESPONDENT**

Four organisational district committees of Bangladesh Chhatra League were dissolved yesterday. The districts are Dhaka,

Munshiganj, Rajbari and Meherpur. Chhatra League President

Mahmud Hasan Ripon and General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Rotan made the decision citing the reason that the top leaders of those districts did not follow their directives regarding preparations for councils a the districts, Chhatra League insiders said. Earlier, the two dissolved

district committees of Satkhira, Brahmanbaria and Manikganj.

A Chhatra League press release, signed by Ripon and Rotan, said the four commit tees were dissolved as per a decision made by the central executive council of the organisation.

Rotan said the end of tenures of those committees was one of the reasons behind dissolving them.

## TCB exempted

FROM PAGE 16

In its proposal, the commerce ministry said prices of essentials like lentil, gram, edible oil, onion, sugar and powder milk have become unstable in local market due to price spiral in international market, less domestic production against demand and businessmen's tendency to make too much profit.

The ministry explained the need for market intervention through the TCB in such a situation. But past experience shows that commodities cannot be procured in time if PPA provisions are complied with. Besides, in some cases commodities cannot be purchased through tender due to their high prices, it said.

Meanwhile, a parliamentary body yesterday asked the ministry concerned and the TCB to take all steps to arrest price hike of essentials in Ramadan in addition to monitoring markets in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna.

"Usually problems centring prices of essentials arise from these three markets. The committee therefore asked the ministry to closely monitor these markets ahead or Ramadan," said Lutful Hai, chief of the House body that met at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Replying to a question, Hai, a ruling Awami League lawmaker, however said the government will not fix prices of essentials.

Asked about the mechanism and process of market monitoring, he could not give details. The House body chief men-

tioned that the TCB already has a stock of six lakh tonnes of edible oil and five lakh tonnes of sugar to meet the needs during

# SC lawyer faces

Hamid.

He would lodge an appeal

with the Supreme Court

against the HC order, said

Advocate Abdul Baset

Majumder, vice chairman of

Bangladesh Bar Council, said

this is the first time the HC

ordered the Bar to cancel

authority to cancel any law-

yer's enrolment for profes-

ZA Bakul, founder chairman

of the school; Sarwar Jahan

and Akhter Hossain to appear

before the court on June 2 to

lawyer Abdur Rouf and

exempted petitioners' coun-

sels Abdul Khalek and Jamilur

Akhter from contempt charge

after they offered uncondi-

tional apology to the court for

their involvement in sup-

pressing information about

court that the Rajshahi Bar

Association earlier cancelled

Hamid's enrolment certifi-

He alleged that Bakul

Despite repeated

attempts, Bakul could not be

committed forgery with the

HC by submitting fake docu-

ments to move the case.

reached for comment.

Mahmud Hossain told the

The bench also warned

The Bar Council has the

The HC bench also asked

enrolment of a lawyer.

sional misconduct.

give explanation.

the writ petition.

FROM PAGE 16 He filed the petition on behalf

of Sarwar Jahan, former principal of Sahapara Girls' High School and College at Shibgani Chapainawabganj and Akhter Hossain, former headmaster of the school.

On May 13, the petition was moved before the HC bench that issued a suo moto contempt of court ruling against four lawyers including MA Hamid for suppressing facts on filing of the writ petition and its rejection order.

Mahmud Hossain, a counsel for the school's governing body, said the HC ordered cancellation of Hamid's enrolment for suppressing facts and committing forgery in different ways. He said in the 90s Rajshahi

Bar Association barred

Hamid from legal practice in the Rajshahi court for committing forgery in moving cases. Hamid, however, refuted all allegations against him. The lawyer said he filed the writ petition on behalf of his cate for committing forgery. clients with the HC bench

headed by Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik as another HC bench of justices Nazmun Ara Sultana and Md Rais Uddin in April dropped the petition.

Risky nations

It draws on a basket of indicators, including the number and frequency of these events, the total deaths that were caused and the death toll as a proportion of the country's population. Disasters include earth-

quakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, storms, flooding, drought, landslides, heat waves and epidemics. "Poverty is an important

factor in countries where both

the frequency and impacts of natural disasters are severe," said Maplecroft's environmental analyst, Anna Moss. "Poor infrastructure, plus dense overcrowding in high-

risk areas like flood plains,

river banks, steep slopes and

reclaimed land, continually result in high casualty figures." According to the NDRI's figures, Bangladesh has suffered more than 191,000 fatalities as a result of natural disasters in the past 30 years, and Indonesia a nearly equal num-

2004 tsunami. In Iran, the big vulnerability factor is earthquakes, which

ber, the vast majority of which

were inflicted by the December

claimed 74,000 lives over this risk reduction," she said.

## Burnt for refusing Pallabi police station, detained

said.

some others chased the attack-

Later they handed him over to a police patrol team, which took him to Pallabi police sta-

the fire out, while screaming.

Later lying on a bed in DMCH with most of her body bandaged, Aleya told The Daily Star, "I had to leave my job at a garments factory three months ago due to Khokon's stalking. We also had to move our residence to Pallabi from Mirpur Gudaraghat, as Khokon used to be our neighbour at Gudaraghat.'

Aleya even after she and her family moved from the old neighbourhood, said Razia. She said Khokon's wife also of some who had died in the recently went to the new resi-

Sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Yakub Ali said Khokon is originally from Mirzaganj of Patuakhali, and he is phensidyl peddler. He also said the attack seems to be premeditated. Khokon however claimed

that he is a vegetable vendor, but Babu is a Yaba peddler.

director of Burn and Plastic

India, ranked 11th, lost

141,000 lives -- including 50,000 to earthquakes, 40,000 to floods, 15,000 to epidemics and 23,000 to storms -- while the tally in China, rated 12th, was 148,000 lives, of which 87,000 were lost in the 2008 Sichuan quake.

Three G8 countries are considered "high risk," the next category down from "extreme. They are France (17th in the

overall rankings) and Italy (18th), which were hit by killer heat waves in 2003 and 2006 and the United States (37th), whacked by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The countries least at risk are

Andorra, Bahrain, Gibraltar,

Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, Qatar, San Marino and the United Arab Emirates. Moss pointed to experts warnings of the impact of climate change on rainfall. Disruption of weather patterns

of drought and flood. "Our research highlights the need for even the wealthiest countries to focus on disaster

months, but when she got to

know that he is married and has

children, she refused to con-

tinue the relationship. Later she

started an affair with Babu,

Aleya, he said he did not, but

Babu did. Asked why Babu did

that, Khokon said Babu got mad

at her because she was main-

taining relationships with both

called Aleya on the cellphone

asking her to meet him.

clean-up

5 bodies

AFP, Kathmandu

team finds

A team of 20 Sherpas on a

clean-up mission on Mount

Everest has come across five

bodies and collected over 2.5

tonnes of rubbish, the pro-

ject coordinator said yester-

Everest in late April to collect

garbage left behind by climb-

ers and to retrieve the bodies

mountain's "death zone'

above 8,000 metres (26,000

feet), where oxygen levels are

Coordinator Chakra Karki

"We came across Fisher's

body ... and took pictures but

did not touch him," Karki

told AFP by telephone from

a third of those at sea level.

book "Into Thin Air".

base camp.

The Sherpas left for

Everest

He however admitted that he

Asked why he set fire to

claimed Khokon.

of them.

poured petrol on her, and set fire to her with a matchstick in front of the passers-by, Razia

"The whole thing happened within a few seconds," she said. As Razia and Aleya screamed for help, some of the pedestrians came to their aid while

ers and caught Khokon.

Other witnesses said caught on fire, Aleya dived on a puddle on the street, and started to roll over it, desperately trying to put

"Despite being married and having two children, he has been proposing me to marry him", Aleya said adding, "As I have been refusing to marry him, he has been stalking me." Khokon has been stalking

dence of Aleya's family, to dis-

cuss the problem with them.

Dr Samanta Lal Sen, project

Surgery Unit at DMCH, said Aleay's condition is critical. Talking to The Daily Star in is predicted to lead to more frequent and bigger episodes

Khokon claimed that he had an added. affair with Aleya for several

> investigate the matter. Selina told The Daily Star that she was not involved in selecting the teachers for the training. "They were selected

Some 84 headmasters from across the Rajshahi division joined the training on May 22, said the officials.

know from an anonymous caller that there are fake headmasters among the partici-

the institute authority yesterday morning began to scrutinise the list of participants with district education offices

56 participants were not headmasters and the schools they mentioned had never existed.

### Lord's Test

Cricket and SuperSport 7 from 4.00pm.

But the inclusion of skipper Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal could soften the blow for the Tigers who play only their second Test at the 'home of cricket' since gaining Test status almost ten years ago. Bangladesh lost their only game at Lord's by an innings and 261 runs inside three days.

told AFP that the team had found as many as five bodies, including that of American Scott Fisher, who was a guide on the mountain during the infamous 1996 disaster two-Test series. described in the best-selling

> Mohammad Ashraful would be another boost after the visitors who had a rough start, suffered two defeats out of their three warm-up matches.

### Sent back 100 7.03 21.27 7.78 100 20.57 Approved 100 7.70 20.46 Approved 7.77 8.42 Approved

## FROM PAGE 16

sellitatTk2.37. In the face of persistent

power cut with a power deficit of around 1500MW, which inflicts widespread public suffering, the Power Division opted for the costly rental power projects. The Power Division told the

cabinet committee that it had recommended purchasing power at a higher price to ensure quick recovery of the power situation by the next irrigation season.

be generated by furnace oil for five years.

To get rid of the power crunch in the country, the government has decided to set up power plants with a capacity of total 1,000 to 1,200MW, according to the Power Division proposal. Earlier, the cabinet committee in last month approved

three unsolicited deals of rental power plants which would produce about 300 MW Of the deals, the PDB has

### Fake headmasters FROM PAGE 16

Talking to The Daily Star, the institute Director Swapan Kumar Dutta refuted the allegation and said only the institute employee Abdul Hannan, who went into hiding soon after the incident, might

The fake headmasters managed to flee when the authority called the police, he said. Before their escape, the

ments from 25 fake headmasters where they confessed to their guilt, Dutta said. All of them stated that they gave money to Hannan for participating in the training

and he prepared necessary documents for their participation, he added. Beauty Parveen, subinspector of Rajpara Police

seeking help in the matter. "After we went there, the director told us that the fake persons were forgiven and we

A three-member committee was formed with the training course coordinator Selina Afroze as its chairman to

by district education offices concerned," she said.

On Tuesday, Selina came to

Based on the phone call,

live on satellite channels Star

Shakib endured a bout of chickenpox and Tamim, who injured his wrist last month in a domestic game, have been declared fit for the first of the

> Dhaka court. Baishakh celebration on April 14,2001.

# JMB targets Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

Jamaat-e-Islami.

they added. Law enforcers so far raided

many more such hideouts are outskirts. JMB operative Abu Bakkar

limited scale. Shiblu also said the aim of

recruits. An intelligence official said Shiblu was the chief of the

planned operation.

The official added that the

first, to assert its reemergence. It also reveals that the group has plans to assassinate some people in the judiciary,

nition of which are yet to be known by the sleuths. Meanwhile, arrested Saidur Rahman, Naima Akhter, and full-time JMB member Abdullah-hel-Kafi

each yesterday.

Musa said during descent he became very weak and two Australian climbers helped

Bangladeshi mountaineer who also ventured to the Everest.

"But we have not talked as we did not meet face to face." The Daily Star correspondent asked his colleague,

for The Daily Star?" "Along with the flag of Bangladesh, I have taken a photo with a big logo of The Daily Star on the peak of Mount Everest," Musa, a sub editor of The Daily Star, said.

the Tibet-Nepal border on Friday or Saturday. "The time is not confirmed yet, as our whole team will move together," he said.

tain, is expected to return to Dhaka on June 2. Members of North Alpine Club and friends of Musa are

gathering in Kathmandu to

Nasrin Zahan Lipi, second

secretary of Embassy of

Bangladesh in Nepal, yester-

greet him.

day said she is also keeping in touch with Musa.

### Ramna blast **FROM PAGE 16**

However it could not complete

transferred to the previous

the trial in due time as most of its

yesterday.

jihadi books.

as well.

Justice.

inspector Saiful Islam filed a

case with Kodomtoli police

against the three in connec-

coordinator Amir Hossain

alias Sharif, and another full-

time member Nur Hossain

alias Sabuj, both of whom had

been arrested from

Narayanganj on Sunday, were

sent to 7-day remand each

against the two on Monday, in

connection with possession of

bomb making materials

firearms, ammunition, and

against Shiblu on Sunday, in

connection with possession of

firearms and explosives, and

ment at Dhaka Medical

College Hospital as he was

wounded in a bomb explosion

that he himself carried out

trying to escape arrest,

wounding eight law enforcers

The HC came up with the

order and rule upon a writ

jointly filed by rights organisa-

tions Human Rights and Peace

for Bangladesh, and Society of

tor general of police, director

general of Rab, commander of

Rab-6, Kamruzzaman and

Delwar were asked to comply

with the order and reply to the

appeared for the petitioners,

while Deputy Attorney

General Nazrul Islam Talukder

Japan Garden

least three fire extinguishers in

each floor but the developer

emergency fire exit must

have a one-metre width, but

Japan Garden City Limited

made the width 29 inches

has already raised 19 buildings

with seven more under con-

struction and sold over 1700

exits are not fitted with fire-

proof doors and some of the

ered the fire safety lapses in

the real estate in its routine

operation, the fire official said.

about the safety clearance for

fire alarms did not work.

safety measures.

Sources said the company

Zahurul also said that fire

The mobile court discov-

Despite repeated notice

Md. Wahiduzzaman, man-

plained that fire department

did not notify them that all

buildings required separate

clearance certificates.

As per the safety rules, the

kept only one, Zahurul said.

was present for the state.

FROM PAGE 1

only, he said.

flats so far.

Advocate Manzill Murshid

The home secretary, inspec-

2 Rab men

Shiblu is undergoing treat-

assault on law enforcers.

Three cases were filed

Two cases were filed

The group's military wing

tion with terrorist activities.

affiliation with Bangladesh

The intelligence sources said JMB operatives have been storing handmade grenades in different hideouts in the capital. The grenades were not manufactured in the capital,

three JMB dens, two in the city's Dania and the other at Painadi of Narayanganj; but they could not ascertain how there in the city, and on its

Siddique alias Shiblu, who had been injured during his arrest on Sunday, told detectives that the group had recently trained some of its female operatives in using grenades, and they have been taking preparations to carry out a series of grenade attacks in the capital on a

the planned attacks is to signal the group's re-emergence, and to attract prospective new

top brass of JMB used codes in documents outlining the attack plans. The law enforcers have such a document in their possession, and have been able to decode it, he said.

The document says the

group would carry out small

scale attacks in the capital

and some "traitors", the defi-

were sent on six-day remand

Special Branch Sub-

It's now official

him with pills. "Did you see Muhit around?" asked the correspondent about the other

He said, "Yes, I saw him from far away on May 19.

all buildings the company did "Musa, what is the exclusive not care, said the official. aging director of the enterprise, said the mobile court fined them for lacking fire

Asked whether the violation of safety rules was correct, He will start his descent he said, "Their rules do not from the base camp towards corroborate with ours.' Wahiduzzaman com-

Musa, the first Bangladeshi to climb the highest moun-Hasina sits FROM PAGE 16 Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also

"I called him on Tuesday when he came back to the base camp," she said.

witnesses, including investigation officers, did not appear before the court with their statements within the given timeframe. The case was then

### president of Chittagong City AL unit. Mohiuddin has strong opposition within the party and the leaders against him may not work for him in the

Under the circumstances,

Hasina decided to sit with them

and ask them to work for the

polls, sources say.

forth victory of Mohiuddin in Chittagong City Corporation, party insiders said. Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Chittagong City unit General Secretary Kazi Enamul Haque

Danu, Chittagong North unit President Mosharraf Hossain MP, General Secretary MA Salam, South unit President Skhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu MP and General Secretary Moslem Uddin Ahmed have been invited to the meeting scheduled at 11:00am. Lawmakers Nurul Islam,

MA Latif, Shamsul Haque Chowdhury, ABM Abul Kashem Master and two state ministers Afsarul Amin and Hasan Mahmud and three leaders AJM Nasir Uddin Chowdhury Rezaul Karim and Ishaque Miah have also been invited.

### Purchase Per month Company & Capacity **Tariff rate** subsidy in Committee in MW in taka Location crore taka Action Khulna Power Company, Khulna Sent back 7.80 25.54 115 Summit Power Company, Madanganj 7.96 102 22.62 Sent back IEL Consortium, Gazipur Power Pac Holdings, Keraniganj JV Consortium, Meghnaghat IFDC-Valcan Energy (BD), Noapara

# Rental power

According to a Power Division proposal, the PDB would purchase power from the plants at a rate between Tk 7.70 and Tk 7.78 per unit and

Power in these plants will

electricity. signed a contract with British company Aggreko for generating 200MW power from July-August.

have been responsible.

institute took written state-

Station, said the institute director called the police

returned at 3:00pm," Beauty

concerned. By noon, they found some

Their inclusion and the improving form of

court to complete the trial, the tribunal said. ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, The other case filed under the Explosive Substances Act is now pending with another Ten people were killed and scores injured in the blast at Ramna Batamul during Pahela