

ASSAULT OF CABBIE

HC directive to sue 3 police constables

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the police authorities to file a criminal case against three police constables on charges of assaulting a cabbie over requisitioning his taxi in the city's Farmgate area on May 13.

A bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Delwar ordered the authorities to close the constables and bring departmental action against them.

The inspector general of police (IGP) and the Dhaka metropolitan police commissioner have to comply with the order.

The bench asked them to submit a report after investigating the matter within seven days.

It also asked the IGP to turn in a report within 15 days on what steps should be taken against the accused.

The accused, Kabir Hossain, Abdul Malek and Arshad Uddin, yesterday appeared before the HC bench to explain the incident.

They told the court that they did not harass

the taxi driver, rather they were controlling the traffic movement at Farmgate on the day as the president was passing through the area.

Driver Ripon Khan said the policemen harassed and assaulted him over requisitioning his taxicab.

Advocate Manzill Murshid, the counsel for Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), earlier filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the law regarding requisitioning of vehicles.

He yesterday placed before the court some photos showing the policemen harassing Ripon.

After hearing the statements of the policemen and the taxi driver, and examining the photos, the court passed the directives, and fixed July 7 for final hearing on the petition.

In response to the writ petition, the same bench on May 23 directed the government to stop harassing the vehicle owners and drivers in the name of requisitioning vehicles.

Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder stood for the government.

Historic June 7 observed

UNB, Dhaka

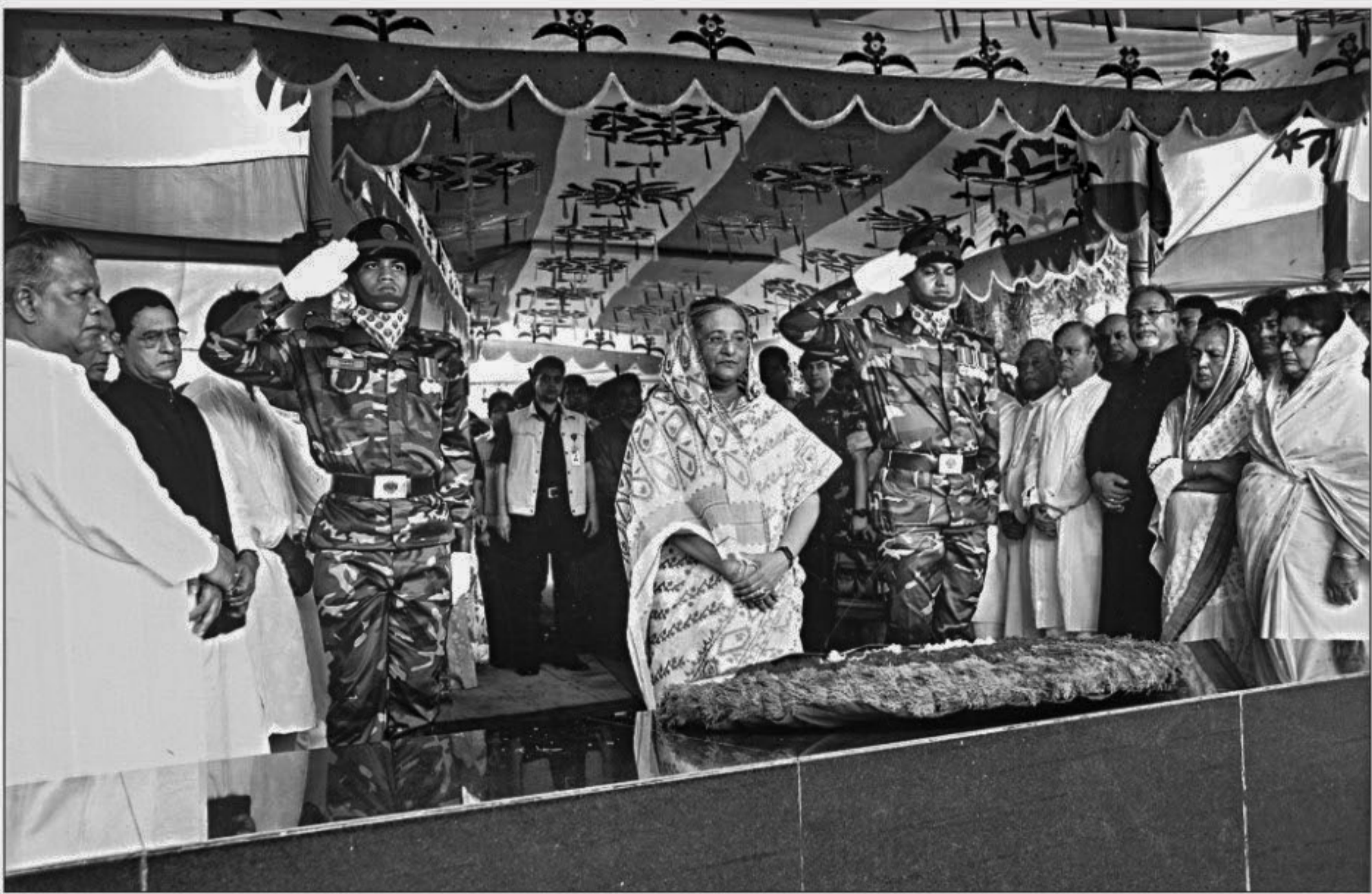
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday placed wreaths at the portrait of founder of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the city in observance of the historic 'Six-Point' Day.

The PM was accompanied by the Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, cabinet members and members of parliament while placing the wreaths in the morning.

Meanwhile, Hasina, as president of Awami League, placed separate wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Senior party leaders including Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Latif Siddique and Begum Matia Chowdhury were present at that time.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jubo League and Swachhasebok League also placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu marking the historic occasion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stands in solemn silence after placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the city yesterday on the occasion of historic June 7.



Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) starts knocking down a seven-storey illegal building in the city's east Begunbari yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

South Asian University starts journey in August

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The South Asian University (SAU) will begin its first academic session from a temporary campus in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in August with 50 students in two masters courses.

The students will be taken from the eight member states of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc), official sources said.

Though the university -- first of its kind in the region -- has been allotted land in the capital for its campus, classes for the first year will be held in the School of Physical Sciences building at JNU.

The building is currently lying vacant and JNU has agreed to lend the premises to SAU to start a temporary campus. The SAU has already advertised for admission to two courses: A two-year programme of masters in Development Economics and a three-year course of masters in Computer Applications, each with 25 seats.

Students from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka can apply for admission. A limited number of seats will also have for students from outside the Saarc region.

As per the rules, the host country will not get more than 50 per cent of the seats and member countries will not get less than four per cent of seats. The seats that are left vacant would be offered to the smaller countries before they revert back to the host country.

JNU Vice Chancellor BB Bhattacharya sent a letter to SAU Chief Executive Officer GK Chadha on June 2 to use the university building for running classes.

The administration department of the SAU has already started work at the CRS Language laboratory building on the JNU campus.

The SAU will have campuses in all eight member countries with India having offered to take the lead. The concept of a world class university was initiated by Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh during the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka in 2005 with an agreement for establishing the university signed in April in 2007 during the 14th summit in New Delhi.

The foundation stone of the SAU campus on 100 acres of land in Maidan Garhi, was laid in 2008.

The initial investment for the university is being made by the Indian government. All Saarc member countries will contribute to operational costs and the university will also raise money from international financial institutions, educational foundations and donors.

The main focus of the university would be on research and postgraduate level programmes. It will offer 12 postgraduate science and non-science faculties as well as a small faculty for undergraduate studies.

At full strength, the university will have 7,000 students and 700 teachers.

A flagship Institute of South Asian Studies will also be established.

CCC ELECTIONS EC warns against violation of electoral rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Sakhawat Hossain yesterday warned that none will be spared if found violating the electoral code of conduct during the campaign for the Chittagong City Corporation elections.

The Election Commission (EC) working to hold the CCC elections in a free, fair and impartial manner in order to present it as a model election, he said at a training session for the polling officers at Dr Khastagir Government Girls' High School in Chittagong.

Later, replying to queries from reporters, Sakhawat observed that the non-partisan local government elections appear to have turned into a partisan election contested by two or three parties.

Addressing the training session, the election commissioner termed the blame game by candidates a rotten culture and urged them to shun the bad tradition of demanding resignation of the election commissioners after being defeated.

He called on the candidates to show tolerance.

He also called on the presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling officers to perform their duties with utmost sincerity and abide by all the rules to present a 'model election'.

Sakhawat said that all necessary measures

have been taken to hold a controversy-free CCC election, and expressed his satisfaction that the candidates are complying with the electoral code of conduct.

"Enough members of the law enforcement agencies will be deployed at each polling centre and the presiding officer can call in members of the armed police, BDR, Rapid Action Battalion and the army, if necessary," he added.

Referring to the last parliamentary elections, seven by-elections and upazila chairman elections, he said those who were defeated in the elections brought allegations of rigging, but there was no legal basis of the allegations and no cases were filed in this connection.

Terming the presiding officers as the backbone of an election, Sakhawat advised them to remain alert to suspicious activities of the polling agents who leave the polling stations and later make false allegations that they were driven away.

If any polling agent wants to leave the polling centre, he must submit a written note, and no allegations would be accepted excepting the written ones, he added.

The training for around 3076 presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling officers is being held at Dr Khastagir Government Girls' High School, Kazem Ali City Corporation High School and Kushum Kumari City Corporation School.

CANTONMENT HOUSE 'President's decision cannot be cancelled'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday continued hearing on the writ petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging the legality of a government notice concerning the cantonment house.

After concluding the hearing for second day, the bench of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Sheikh Hasan Arif adjourned the hearing till 2:00pm today.

During hearing, petitioner's counsel TH Khan told the court that late Ziaur Rahman was an elected president of the country and after his death, a representative of the then president had allocated the cantonment residence to Khaleda Zia as the family member of Ziaur Rahman.

Any decision of the president cannot be cancelled as per provision of the Constitution, he said.

The HC stayed the government notice asking Khaleda to vacate the cantonment house on May 27 last year and issued a rule upon the government to explain why its notice should not be declared illegal.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam was present.

Islamic varsity closed following BCL clash

UNB, Kusthia

Islamic University was declared closed till June 14 following a factional clash of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of ruling Awami League.

The university authorities took the decision in an emergency meeting on Sunday midnight and asked the students to vacate the dormitories by 9am today (Monday).

Witnesses said a clash broke out between two BCL factions over formation of Islamic University unit of BCL, leaving at least 14 students injured on Sunday.

Police arrested five people from the campus in this connection.

Additional police have been deployed in and around the campus to avert any untoward incident.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT Bill to drop provision of past experience

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government again placed a bill in parliament yesterday seeking amendment to the Public Procurement Act (PPA) to drop the provision of past experience as a condition for getting public works worth up to Tk 2 crore.

Planning Minister AK Khandker placed the bill along with some other proposals for a few amendments to the act terming it essential for smooth enforcement of the law.

He placed a bill in November last year with the same purpose to amend the PPA to drop the provision of past experience.

But during scrutiny of the bill the parliamentary standing committee on the planning ministry changed the proposal for dropping the provision of past experience. The House later passed the bill in line with the committee's recommendations.

Finally, the minister came with the new bill to amend the PPA. It was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the planning ministry for scrutiny.

Meanwhile, Jute and Textile Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui placed another bill seeking to amend the Jute Ordinance 1982.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the jute and textile ministry for scrutiny.

The House also passed a bill titled 'Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh (ICSB)' in efforts to improve, expand and control the chartered secretary profession.

IOM dy director general arrives today

UNB, Dhaka

Ambassador Laura Thompson, the Deputy Director General of International Organization for Migration (IOM) worldwide, arrives here today on a 3-day visit.

Ambassador Thompson was elected Deputy Director General of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in June 2009 and assumed her post in September 2009, said a press release.

She was formerly the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mazharul Haque, son of Khan Motaharul Islam of Khulna House in Dhaka, passed away at Virginia of the USA on Thursday at the age of 91, says a press release.

He left behind his two sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

A condolence meeting was held at Rampura Ekramunnesa College for salvation of his departed soul.

Abdul Khaleq Mondol

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Today is the first death anniversary of Abdul Khaleq Mondol, father of Executive Editor Alimuzzaman Rony of the Dainik Thikana, a local daily.

A milad and a doa mahfil will be held at Faridpur Muslim Mission Arambagh Etim Khana and at the residence of West Khabaspur of Mia para on June 11.

Relative and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.



Acid Survivors Foundation forms a human chain in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the city yesterday demanding fair investigation into the Nimtole fire incident. (Story on Page 5)

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong, and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:45pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 38.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 22.5 degrees Celsius at Feni.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.0	26.2	83	69
Chittagong	32.6	25.0	76	86
Rajshahi	38.3	26.5	87	66
Khulna	35.5	25.5	83	66
Barisal	34.5	27.0	84	74
Sylhet	28.0	23.4	90	86
Cox's Bazar	33.8	27.5	74	77

Locals join crackdown

FROM PAGE 16

spontaneously demanding that the government remove the chemicals warehouses and small industries from the densely populated Old Dhaka.

The mobile team led by magistrate Md Al Amin raided five godowns and one factory on Abul Hasnat Road and Bangshal. The court fined the defaulters Tk 6 lakh and realised Tk 2 lakh. Two employees of a factory were also arrested for possessing huge flammable chemicals in residential areas and not having adequate fire safety equipment.

The team first conducted their drive at two units of Sabbitr Chemicals on Abul Hasnat Road. They sealed 50 gallons of flammable chemicals in the godown but could not fine or arrest anyone as everyone fled.

Rozina Begum, a resident of the area, was furious. She came to the magistrate and demanded shifting of the chemicals factories.

"I set marriage of my daughter, but it broke up due to the foul smells of the chemicals here," she told the magistrate.

The team later conducted a drive at an electric bulb factory called Kemi electrics in Ali Noki Deuri. It sealed the factory and fined its owner Tk 4 lakh for not having adequate firefighting equipment.

The police arrested two employees -- Md Shah Alam, manager of the factory, and Md Zakir Hossain, a worker. If the fine is not realised in a week, they will be imprisoned for three months.

The court also conducted a drive at raw materials warehouse of a plastic factory of Jahangir Hossain in the same area. It was sealed but no-one was present there.

The owner of Kamrul Chemicals and Perfumery paid Tk 2 lakh as the mobile court fined him the amount.

The court found a few hundred drums full of flammable chemicals. Though they had licence to run the business they did not have adequate safety measures.

The court ended the drive after raiding the warehouses of Md Helaluddin in Bangshal and Mokimbazar where they did not find anything dangerous.

However, locals said many of them fell sick as chemicals leaked out from that godown in February. Later the house owner changed his tenant and rented it to a detergent powder importer.