

## Living with remains

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Abdur Rahim, 35, left behind his wife Hasina Akhter Lucky, 25, three-month-old son Arafat and 70-year-old mother. The family now faces a walter of uncertainty.

During a visit to the family, Lucky was found weeping with her three-month-old baby on the lap, while her mother-in-law was just sitting beside her lost and speechless.

"We have a few cases of soft drinks stored for the shop but no food or water," said Lucky, who does not know how to brave forward with two children and aged parents-in-law.

In another part of the area yesterday afternoon, A-level student Adeeb Rahman, 18, was seen almost going insane in front of the five-storey abandoned building from where the fire broke out.

He tried to storm into the sealed-off building apparently to kill its owners. As he was resisted, he swooped on the members of army, police and Rab and some locals. He desperately kicked them off and tried to beat them up with a chair. At one stage he fell unconscious.

Dhaka City Corporation Ward-69 councillor Mohammad Mohan told The Daily Star, "The boy lost his mental balance after witnessing the catastrophe."

"Adeeb rescued his mother Fouzia Rahman, sister Alvi Rahman and domestic help Jyotsna from their house in a three-storey building," Mohan said.

His mother and sister are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, but Jyotsna died a day after the inferno.

Seventy-year-old Shamsunnahar, who miraculously survived with her 12-

## ACC serves

**FROM PAGE 16**  
On February 7, the ACC began probing the alleged misappropriation of Tk 2.5 crore after receiving an investigation report from parliament.

The four-member team headed by Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Khan had to submit an incomplete report in April, as it could not complete examination of the 784-page parliamentary report in one month time limit that the ACC act permits.

The committee began second phase of its inquiry in April and has almost completed the job, sources said.

The probe has found evidence to bring charges against the three, they added.

Deena said a team from the PMO has bought almost everything necessary for the wedding.

Former Awami League lawmaker Haji Selim, a member of the shopping team, said they have spent around Tk 8 lakh on gold ornaments, cosmetics and wedding clothes.

"Around 500 people, including family members and relatives of the brides and grooms and local dignitaries will attend the ceremony to be held according to old Dhaka customs," Selim added.

The fire broke out during Runa's engagement ceremony on June 3.

Runa's wedding had been planned for June 22. Local youth Sadiur Rahman Suman is her bridegroom.

The JS probe body submitted its report with huge documents on July 9.

## Reckless driving

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issued the original order.

Reckless driving and speeding are major causes of road accidents that, according to police records, claim 3,500 lives a year, Prof Shamsul Hoque, director of the Accident Research Institute of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He also said a World Bank survey conducted in 2002 found that around 10,000 persons are killed annually in road accidents across the country, which also causes an annual financial loss of Tk 7,500 crore.

According to BRTA, there are over 12 lakh motor vehicles in the country, and the agency will not be able to install the speed monitoring device in all those vehicles by the current deadline.

So it will go to the court again before June 30 seeking an extension of the deadline, and permission for installing the device in all motor vehicles in phases, starting with 71,505 trucks.

"We already held a meeting with representatives of five companies that are equipped to provide vehicle speed monitoring services, and discussed how we can start installing the device in trucks," Director (Engineering) of BRTA Saiful Haque told The Daily Star recently.

Although it is not yet fixed how much it will cost to install the device in a vehicle, BRTA sources said the cost will probably be between Tk 10,000 and Tk 12,000, and there will also be a monthly

member family, was mummeling continuously at the ruins of her house. She was seen narrating how they escaped the devastating blaze.

"It was a storm with waves of fire. We all 12 were in the house when the fire started. Suddenly we sensed danger and just ran out of the house and through a narrow lane. I cannot say how I could run so fast at the age of 70."

She added, "Though I have lost my house and everything we had, it does not worry me. But I cannot bear the pain from seeing the dead bodies of my neighbours and their children," said Shamsunnahar, sobbing.

Meanwhile, the army have set up a counselling centre in the Ponchayet Committee office to counsel the survivors suffering psychologically. Two doctors from the Army Medical Corps were found counselling there.

DCC councillor Mohan said so far four survivors were counselled at the Ponchayet Committee office where the army personnel set up a coordination centre.

Officials from the coordination centre say they are also continuing supply of food to the survivors.

Two burn victims were released from the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, while 23 others were still undergoing treatment.

Besides, 12 others are also receiving treatment at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

## Sisters'

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time, as groom Jamil's family was in two minds about timing of the ceremony after losing nine family members in the fire that killed 119.

Talking to The Daily Star late last night, PMO Director General Deena Huq said Jamil's family has given their consent and the weddings will be held at Gonobhaban tonight.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is very sincere about the weddings and she will do everything for them," she added.

Deena said a team from the PMO has bought almost everything necessary for the wedding.

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## Full-fledged National HR Commission by this month

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government will constitute a full-fledged national human rights commission (NHRC) through appointing a new chairman and six members within this month, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said yesterday.

As per provision of the law concerned, the NHRC will be comprised of a chairman, one permanent member and five non-permanent members, the minister said.

"I have already talked to the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsads, who is the chief of the NHRC selection committee, about appointment of its chairman and members."

Shafique said this while talking to newsmen after a meeting with Swedish Ambassador Britt Hagstrom yesterday.

The law minister said the NHRC's incumbent chairman Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury will go into retirement on June 20, and its two members (Prof Niru Kumar Chakma and Munira Khan) have already retired.

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So, all the posts of chairman and members of NHRC will become vacant after June 20, the minister said, adding that the selection committee would soon hold a meeting to select the chairman and members of the commission.

The government would appoint an ombudsman to probe the allegations against any governmental, semi-governmental or statutory body, Shafique said.

The government is now looking for a suitable person for the post, he added.

He also said that Tk 10 crore would be allocated in the next budget for the expenditure of holding the trial for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

Referring to his recent visit to Uganda, Shafique said all the representatives from the participating countries, who attended the review conference on international criminal court in Kampala, have extended their support to the Bangladesh government for holding the trial.

Repying to a question, he said the investigation into the crimes against humanity has been going on smoothly. The investigators will say when they would submit the charge sheets, he added.

Mahmudur

**FROM PAGE 1**

With this, Mahmudur Rahman was remanded for twelve days in four cases filed for twelve days' in four cases filed with different police stations on different dates.

Biman Bandar police on Monday filed the sedition case against Mahmudur Rahman and 15 other government high officials in connection with a "secret meeting" at a private firm office at Uttara, Dhaka on November 2006.

In his forwarding report, Sub-Inspector Azizur Rahman Sarkar, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said that Mahmudur Rahman was holding a meeting with various government officials of different levels on November 24, 2006 at his Artisan Ceramics in the city's Uttara area.

They were conspiring against the caretaker government ahead of the national elections, which was at that time scheduled for January 22, 2007.

Of them, Mahmudur Rahman was the patron of the secret meeting. So, he needs to be remanded for ten days to find out the purposes of conspiracy and to arrest the absconding accused mentioned in the case, the IO said.

On the other hand, Mahmudur Rahman termed the allegations brought in the case false and fabricated. He thought that his dead body would come out from the jail.

He was brought to the court on a prison van with general prisoners at 9:30am. But he was not provided with water.

Mahmudur Rahman was also placed on a four-day remand in another case filed with Uttara Police Station for creating subversive activities across the country. But police sought a ten-day remand.

The companies informed BRTA that each of them has the capacity of installing the device in all motor vehicles in phases, starting with 71,505 trucks.

According to the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983, the maximum speed for light vehicles like cars and motor cycles is 113 kilometres per hour (kmph), for buses and minibuses it is 56 kmph, for heavy vehicles like trucks it is 40 kmph, and for fire brigade vehicles 48 kmph.

Although it is not yet fixed how much it will cost to install the device in a vehicle, BRTA sources said the cost will probably be between Tk 10,000 and Tk 12,000, and there will also be a monthly



Doctors inspect Irshad Ahmed at the ICU of Birdem Hospital in Dhaka after transplanting his liver on Thursday. This is the first successful surgery of its kind in the country.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Local doctors

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Patients suffering from Hepatitis B, liver cancer or liver cirrhosis would soon be able to have liver transplantation at Tk 30 to 35 lakh, said experts.

Prof AK Khan said after procuring some sophisticated equipment within four to five months, Birdem would go for full-fledged liver transplantation.

A 24-member team conducted the surgery for long 17 hours and both the patient Irshad Ahmed, 42, and donor his uncle Khaled Abdullah, 29, are now in good condition.

Irshad Ahmed is kept in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) while Khaled had been shifted to a cabin from the ICU, said the doctors.

The transplant cost Irshad only Tk 16 lakh as the instruments used for the surgery were provided free of charge by different organisations.

Dutch Bangla Bank provided a huge amount of money to the DAB while Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh, Gastro liver Hospital and India for transplantation.

There are more than one lakh liver patients in Bangladesh who need immediate transplantation, the experts said.

Bangladesh could not go for liver transplantation for lack of trained manpower. So a significant number of patients with liver cirrhosis were going to Singapore, Bangkok and India for transplantation.

He was collecting information about a protest programme by several hundred RU students against load-shedding.

Sources said agitating students blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at around 11:30pm. The Juba League activists confronted the agitation and chased them and hacked Belal with machete.

Belal was rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

He was collecting information about a protest programme by several hundred RU students against load-shedding.

The court came up with the orders and rule following a writ petition filed by three Supreme Court lawyers -- Mahbub Shafique, KM Hafizul Alam and Imranul Hye Sajib -- seeking its directives on the government to take action concerning the incident.

They filed the petition as a public interest litigation on the basis of the newspaper report.

The petition stated that the victim filed a case with Kawnia police on May 31.

But police have not yet arrested accused Belal Miah, it mentioned.

The petitioners themselves moved the petition, while Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder repre-

resented the government.

Jahedul asked her to go with him but she declined his proposal. Being angered, the stalker hacked her indiscriminately, including her head and back, in presence of local people.

The thumb of her right hand was chopped off in the attack and she became senseless, witnesses said.

Jahedul had been stalking me for the last six months. He went to our house on Monday night and offered to marry me. I and my parents have refused his proposal," said the girl to The Daily Star.

Victim's mother said parents of Jahedul are known to them, as his father Abdur Rouf is also a railway employee.

Jahedul tried to marry her daughter several times, said adding the stalker did not stop in his attempt though they and their daughter refused the proposal.

Jahedul claimed that he had an affair with the girl for five years but she refused his proposal as she has developed a new affair with a railway staff of Lalmohor station.

A case has been filed with Sadar Police Station in this connection, police said.

## Magistrate, SP

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the crime.

It directed the deputy commissioner of Rangpur to shift the victim, now in Rangpur central jail, to safe custody under a government or non-government organisation.

Besides, the court issued a rule upon the government to explain why sending the victim to jail should not be declared illegal, and why it should not be directed to ensure proper custody for her.

An HC bench comprised of Justice AHM Shamuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Dewar Hossain issued the orders and the rule.

The daily Jugantor on June 4 published a report saying that local Jubo League leader Md Bullet Miah of Kawnia upazila in Rangpur violated the 22-year-old woman, keeping her confined for 10 days last month.

The HC ordered the chief judicial magistrate to explain to it why he sent the woman to jail custody on May 31.

And it asked the chairman of forensic department at Rangpur Medical College (RMC) to produce the medical report on the victim.

Respondents to the HC orders and rule include the secretaries to the ministries of home, law, social welfare and women and children affairs, inspector general of police, the DC, SP, OC and chief judicial magistrate concerned, superintendent of Rangpur jail, RMC chairman of forensic medicine department and accused Bullet Miah.

Witnesses said Binodpur Bazar unit Jubo League cadres, led by Sujan and Suman, hacked Belal Hossain, the Rajshahi University correspondent of the Financial Express at around 12:30pm.

Belal was rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

He was collecting information about a protest programme by several hundred RU students against load-shedding.

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