

Rab 'shootout'

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The deceased, Rashedul Islam alias Murti Rashed, 25, was a listed criminal in the area and was accused in a number of cases, including extortion, Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Kafal Police Station said.

Flight Lt Khaireul Mamun of Rab-4 said a patrol team challenged Rashed and his gang while they were holding a 'secret' meeting near High Tech Hospital at Kachukhet at about 2:30am.

Sensing Rab's presence, the gang opened fire at them compelling them to shoot back.

Rashed was caught in the line of fire and died on the spot while his accomplices managed to flee the scene, he said. Police sent his body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

A foreign-made pistol, three bullets and a cartridge were recovered from the scene.

Meanwhile, at Paltan, two alleged muggers were rushed to DMCH with bullet wounds on their knees as a team of Rab-3 shot at them.

Joynal Abedin Rubel, 18 and Md Sohel, 20 along with two others were attempting to mug pedestrians at Shahid Nazrul Islam Sarani in Paltan around 1:10am when a patrol team of Rab challenged them, said Riazul Huq, deputy assistant director Rab-3.

Rab opened fire at them when the criminals tried to flee the scene.

A toy pistol, a knife and four mobile phone sets were recovered from their possession, police said.

Amini

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while the other for making derogatory comments against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

However, the reasons behind withdrawal of the orders could not be known immediately.

Earlier at noon, the court issued an arrest warrant for Amini hours after AB Siddiqui, president of Bangladesh Jonontri Parishad, filed a case against him for making derogatory remarks about Hasina.

In the complaint, the plaintiff alleged that Amini at a March 18 rally in the city's Muktangon had said the prime minister would be forced out of the power.

The same court also summoned Amini and Maulana Abdullah Wasel, publicity secretary of Islami Ain Bastobayon Committee, to appear before it on April 26 in the other case filed for making anti-state remarks.

Hafez Maulana Ziaul Hasan, president of Sammilito Islamiote, filed the case in the morning with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

Ziaul Hasan in his complaint said Amini at a conference at Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association auditorium in the city made the remarks while criticising the national women development policy on March 21.

When asked about the withdrawal of the order, Dhaka Bar Association President Sheikh Hemayet Hossain, also counsel of Ziaul Hasan, told The Daily Star the magistrate, after hearing the case, issued summons upon Amini and Wasel in presence of the complainant and a number of journalists.

"I could not realise how the same magistrate withdrew the order without informing the complainant and others about it," Hemayet said, adding that such order has tarnished the image of his client.

When contacted for comments, an official of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court told The Daily Star that Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Enamul Haque was out of his chamber.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Islami Ain Bastobayon Committee (IABC) at a meeting yesterday warned the government of 'dire consequences' if 'anything happens' to Amini.

The meeting was organised in front of the Jatiya Press Club following filing of cases against Amini, president of IOJ, a component of BNP-led four-party alliance.

Participating in the meeting, IABC leaders said they will stage demonstrations across the country if anything happens to their leader Amini, also president of IABC.

"We will make the April 4 hartal a success at any cost. Government's repression and arrest of leaders will not be able to prevent us from observing hartal," said Abdul Quasem, chief of Dhaka city unit of IOJ.

The IABC activists also brought out a procession and chanted slogans demanding withdrawal of cases filed against Amini.

Escape mission

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where they had jobs.

To them Tunisia meant hope and a chance to get home in one piece, and see their wives, parents, children.

They prayed and dreaded their turn.

A man in uniform then asked them to leave.

The young Libyan driver did not wait a single moment more. He put the car in gear and drove away with seven on board and leaving one lying on the roadside behind.

There was absolute silence inside the car.

They reached Tunisia border the next day and was taken to Choucha camp in Tunisia on a bus.

Suruj said the young man of around 30 years came from Sirajganj. He did not know him well as they worked in different sections of the construction firm Al Jamal Sorika.

He said, "It seemed we were making our way through the land of death, as all too often we saw dead bodies left lying beside roads."

The Libyan owner of his firm left when rebels took over Benghazi.

The owner told the workers that he could not take care of them any more in such a situation in Libya.

Around 300 Bangladeshi used to work there and they left in groups.

Suruj and the other seven waited until water ran dry at the firm.

At Choucha camp, a tent was provided and their passports were taken away by the authorities.

"We only knew we were alive and that was all that we could hope for."

In Choucha camp, very often four to five men had to share a small piece of cake no bigger than 100 to 150gm. Sometimes hundreds standing in the queue for food never got any, he said.

Those who were lucky enough to get food had the heart to share it with their tent mates.

"I could neither stand in a queue nor walk during the few days at the camp," Suruj said.

He came home on March 16.

Suruj is the lone bread winner of his family of seven, including four school-going daughters and elderly widowed mother.

He said a manpower broker took Tk 2.75 lakh from him promising a job to fetch him Tk 20,000 a month.

He went to Libya on January 20, 2010, but his employers never paid him and kept him confined to the site and forced him to work.

He ran away in May and started working for Al Jamal Sorika. He was being paid Tk 27,000 a month there.

He is now very weak and broke. "I can't even afford the pills the doctor prescribed," he said.

Suruj was a bus driver before he went to Libya. He had borrowed money with high interest to pay the broker. Now he has no money to pay back the loan.

Alim gets bail

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cabinet, had filed a petition with the court seeking bail on medical and humanitarian grounds.

Granting his prayer, the tribunal said Alim will have to stay in his son's residence at the capital's Banani until further orders.

Alim was also asked to surrender his passport to the tribunal registrar and appear before the court whenever summoned.

The court said Alim's son Faisal Alim and his counsel Tajul Islam will pay Tk 1 lakh bail bond as security money to the registrar.

As per the conditions, Alim must not make any statements to the print or electronic media and has to co-operate with the investigation agency in discharging its duties. And he has to give his cellphone number, if he uses, to the registrar.

The bail order will be cancelled if any of the conditions is violated, the court said.

The court fixed April 28 for further order and asked the accused to appear

before it on that day.

Prosecutor Syed Haider Ali yesterday opposed the bail prayer saying that Alim was getting proper treatment in jail and should be kept under detention for holding a fair investigation into allegations against him.

Alim's lawyer Tajul Islam told The Daily Star in the afternoon that the police did not release his client from jail until then, as the bail bond was yet to be paid.

The police picked up Alim from his Joypurhat residence on March 27.

The tribunal on that day issued the arrest warrant following a petition by the prosecutors saying that Alim was involved in killing more than 10,000 people in collaboration with the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War.

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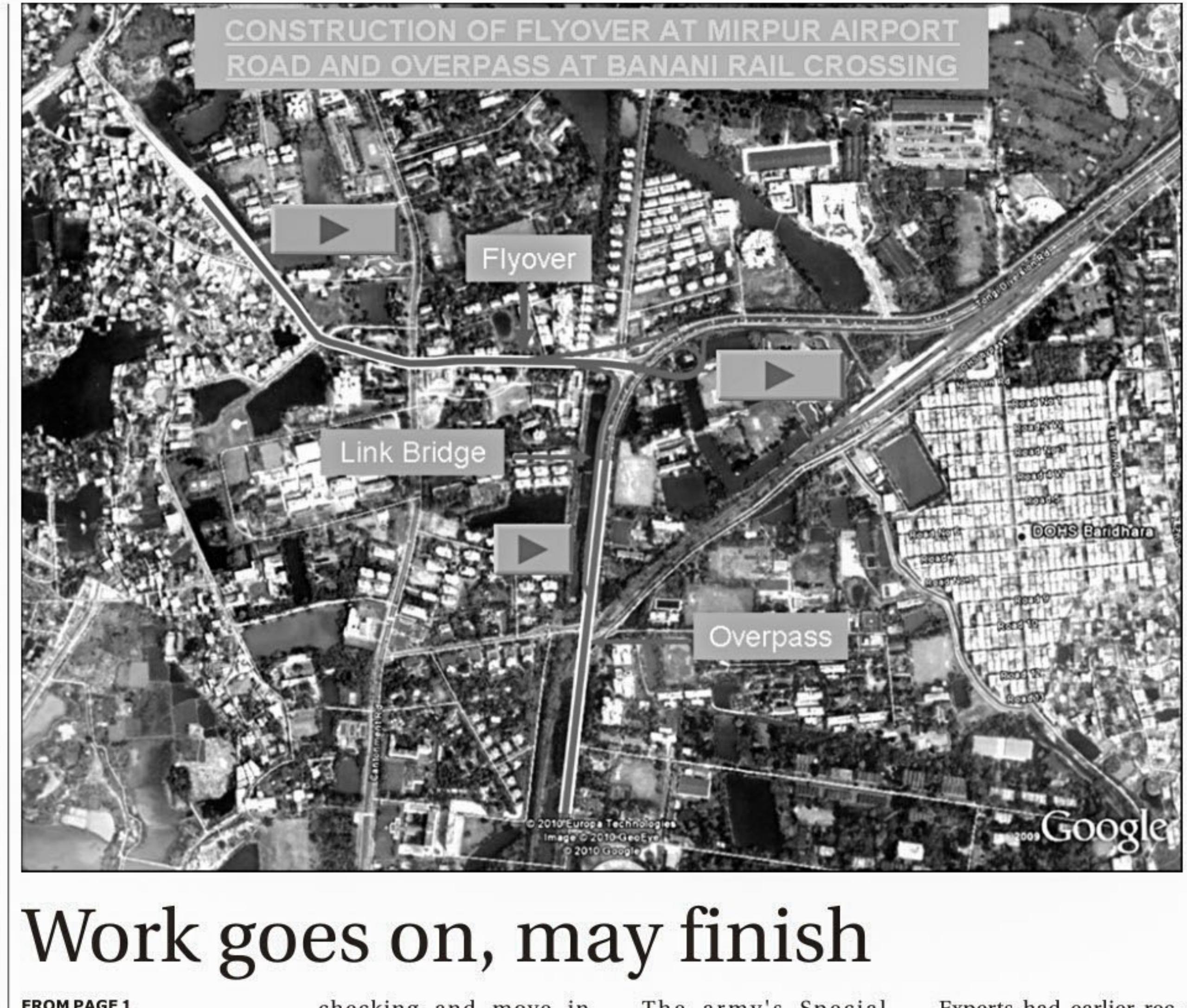
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Work goes on, may finish

FROM PAGE 1

"The main construction work will begin in June. Meanwhile, we are doing the piling and other groundworks," said Colonel Abu Sayed Mohammad Masud, project director (PD) of the Tk 193 crore initiative.

As per a study about 30,000 vehicles will use the flyover every day. He said the construction of the 0.8 km Banani overpass will be completed four months ahead of the cantonment flyover.

The flyover and overpass will establish a direct east-west linkage between Mirpur and Zia Colony on the Airport Road.

Presently, the residents of Mirpur and Pallabi are to take a long detour at Bijoy Sarani to go to Airport due to the restriction on the cantonment roads.

"Once the flyover is opened, these people will cross the cantonment in just 10 minutes without any

checking and move in Airport, Badda or Banani directions," said the PD.

Similarly, people coming from the Airport and willing to go to Mirpur and Pallabi will use the flyover. They will also use the overpass and head straight towards Kakoli, avoiding the level-crossing at Banani Staff Road.

A link bridge will connect the overpass with the flyover for those who are coming from Kakoli direction and willing to go to Mirpur and Pallabi. People coming from Mirpur and heading towards Banani or Kakoli have to use a U-loop just before Radisson hotel.

Once the flyover and the overpass are opened, U-turns on roads from Kakoli to Zia Colony will be stopped. The U-turns will be kept open for internal vehicular movement of the army, navy and other establishments on either side of the Airport Road.

He suggested construction of either U-loops or underpasses at the points to mitigate the problem.

Experts had earlier recommended the government construct an underground tunnel linking Jahangir Gate and Rokeya Sarani so that Agargaon and Rokeya Sarani-bound vehicles can move through it lessening the congestion in front of Prime Minister's Office.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday visited the construction sites and expressed satisfaction over the progress of the construction works of the flyover and the overpass.

The entire Dhaka city will take a different look towards the end of the present government's tenure," he said, adding that construction of three flyovers, several level-crossings and the elevated expressway will be completed within the tenure improving the overall traffic movement in the capital.

The army's Special Works Organisation (SWO) took charge of the project in June 2010. It then engaged two contractors -- Mir Akther Hossain Ltd for constructing the flyover with Tk 90.55 crore and Abdul Monem Ltd for the overpass and the linkage bridge with Tk 71.38 crore. The cost excluded construction materials.

The Armed Forces Division is to supply the construction materials -- cement and rod -- to the firms with rest of the budget money.

Project Consultant Prof Azadur Rahman said the project will benefit the Mirpur people but vehicles will have to remain stuck at Kakoli crossing, Banani road No 11, and Chairmanbari points disrupting smooth flow of traffic.

He suggested construction of either U-loops or underpasses at the points to mitigate the problem.

The entire Dhaka city will take a different look towards the end of the present government's tenure," he said, adding that construction of three flyovers, several level-crossings and the elevated expressway will be completed within the tenure improving the overall traffic movement in the capital.

"In that case, we may prefer on consensus to restore the original article 70 of the constitution," he said.

"We are examining whether changes should be brought to the existing article 70 or the original one should be restored," Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair and spokesperson of the special committee, told The Daily Star on Wednesday.

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