

## Robber killed in Rab 'gunfight'

A CORRESPONDENT, *Bagerhat*

A robber was killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at the Sundarbans of Bagerhat yesterday (Tuesday) morning.

The dead was identified as Zakir Hossain alias Chhoto, 38, leader of robber gang Chhoto Bahini.

The elite force also recovered six foreign-made firearms, 43 bullets, 13 cartridges and a huge amount of foods, said Maj Sabbir Rahman Osmani, deputy commander of Rab-8.

## Smart fridge

FROM PAGE 20

company Samsung has a 10-inch Wi-Fi-enabled touchscreen and includes apps such as Epicurious for recipes and Evernote for note-taking.

"The fridge, because it's the hub of the family and the kitchen, is now another access point without having to drag around your tablet or have your phone with you in the vicinity of where you're cooking or entertaining," said Warner Doell, a vice president in the home appliance division at Samsung Canada.

The display enables users to keep up with the news, weather and even Twitter from the fridge door. It can also replace hand-written calendars with Google Calendar integration, and run slideshows of photos, according to Doell.

Shopping lists can be created on the fridge with the Evernote app, which will sync to smartphones and recipes can be found at Epicurious.

"You can say, 'I have these ingredients in the fridge -- what can I make?' and it will show you recipes that you can prepare," said Doell.

For people who have trouble keeping track of expiration dates of food items, there's an app for that, too.

But with smartphones and tablets are already ubiquitous in homes, does the smart refrigerator offer more than novelty?

Doell said it does.

"I get asked a lot why do you need a screen on a refrigerator? And it's a good question because we're inundated with technology today," said Doell.

The main reasons, he explained, are ease-of-use in managing settings, such as the refrigerators' temperature, and for convenience because consumers are demanding pervasive connectivity.

## Money

FROM PAGE 1

stake in Soft Talk Online HK Ltd in Hong Kong.

The official said the ACC would seek the details of the transactions for the bank accounts and take necessary steps to bring back the money.

The ACC has initiated steps to send Mutual Legal Assistance Request (MLAR) to the countries concerned through the attorney general's office as it is the central authority for dealing with such matters.

Of the \$5,77,608, Rafiqul himself laundered \$5,64,581 and the rest was found in a bank account of Destiny Singapore, a concern of the group in Singapore.

ACC sources said the amounts were siphoned off from Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd (DMCSL) and Destiny Tree Plantation Ltd (DTPL).

On July 31 last year, the anti-graft agency filed two cases with Kalabagan Police Station, accusing 22 officials of Destiny Group including its MD Rafiqul Amin and Director Lt Gen (rtd) M Harunur Rashid for laundering Tk 3,285.26 crore between 2006 and April last year by cheating investors.

It filed a case with the same police station against 12 Destiny officials for laundering about Tk 2106.64 crore out of the DTPL.

The amount was laundered in the name of paying salary, honorarium, dividend, commission, incentive and promotional costs.

Twenty-two top officials of the company were sued by the ACC in another case for laundering Tk 1178.61 crore from the DMCSL.

The amount was embezzled by cheating people and transferring the money to other non-profitable and non-operational companies of the group.

## Zia did nothing to punish

FROM PAGE 20

Yesterday was the second day of the hearing on the government's appeal against a High Court verdict that acquitted six former army personnel who were among those convicted of the jail killing by a lower court.

The six are Marfat Ali Shah, Abdul Hashem Mridha, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (rtd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (rtd) Bazlul Huda and Maj (rtd) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed.

Anisul quoted statements of four prosecution witnesses in the case when he was placing arguments before the apex court.

The witnesses are former foreign minister late Abdus Samad Azad, also moving ambassador of the Mujibnagar government, former superintendent of police Mahbubuddin Ahmed, former secretary Khandoker Asaduzzaman and Col (rtd) Safayet Jamil.

Ziaur Rahman had been angry with the four leaders for he could not be the army chief when they were in the cabinet, Anisul said during the hearing.

The conspiracy to kill the four had been hatched at the Bangabhaban, and Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed, who took over power following the coup, played the lead role in this since the four had opposed Mushtaq's plan to form a confederation with Pakistan during the rule of Mujibnagar government.

The then president Mushtaq feared that he might have to face problems if the four national leaders formed a democratic government on being released from jail, the state counsel said.

## Govt has no failure

FROM PAGE 20

incumbent government, AL acting general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said the ruling party had fulfilled most of its electoral pledges and the remaining ones would be met by its last one year in office.

He was speaking at a press conference at Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's political office in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Asked about recent violent activities by Chhatra League, student body associated with the Awami League, Hanif said, "Those, who are trying to create anarchy in the name of student politics, will be dealt with iron hand. None have been spared and none will be."

A special assistant to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Hanif praised the government for the announcement of the

ment on being released from jail, the state counsel said.

Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Haq Dalim, one of the conspirators, visited the Dhaka Central Jail on November 2, 1975 to see the positions of the national leaders, he added.

Hearing these arguments of the state-appointed lawyer, the six-member full bench of the SC headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain adjourned the proceedings till today.

In 2004, the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court sentenced three accused -- Muslemuddin, Marfat Ali Shah and Abdul Hashem Mridha -- to death and 12 others to life imprisonment.

The 12 convicts are Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Bazlul Huda, Lt Col (dismissed) Khondaker Abdur Rashid, Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Haq Dalim, Lt Col (rtd) SHMB Noor Chowdhury, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, Lt Col (rtd) AM Rashed Chowdhury, Maj (relieved) Ahmed Shariful Hossain, Capt (rtd) Abdul Majed, Capt (relieved) Kismat Hasem and Capt (relieved) Nazmul Hossain for abetting the killers.

The HC in 2008 upheld the capital punishment of Muslemuddin and acquitted Marfat and Hashem.

It also exempted from the case Farooq, Shahriar, Mohiuddin and Bazlul Huda, who were executed in the Bangabandhu assassination case in January, 2010, and did not say anything about the eight others who had been awarded life term by

the lower court.

On January 15 this year, Anisul Huq placed statements of seven prosecution witnesses, out of 64 in the jail killing case.

## Sayedee's

FROM PAGE 20

According to the three charges, numbered 5, 14 and 16, Sayedee was involved in killing and rape in Pirojpur during the Liberation War in 1971.

Mizanul argued that Sayedee was not linked with the incidents, which were referred to during the cross-examination of prosecution witnesses and the investigation officer of the case.

He pointed out some anomalies on the part of the prosecution and the investigation officer in terms of producing witnesses.

Mizanul placed part of the argument for about six hours on Sunday and one and a half hours on Monday.

The tribunal allotted two days to the prosecution and three days to the defence to complete their closing arguments. The prosecution completed their argument last week.

In the dock yesterday, Sayedee passed his day reading an Islamic book and sleeping on the dock's couch.

The proceedings of the case have been adjourned until today.

On January 3, the tribunal rejected retrial petitions of war crimes accused Ghulam Azam, Motiur Rahman Nizami and Sayedee.

The tribunal on Monday also rejected three petitions to review the decision as it did not find anything new in the review applications.

the present government had not filed any case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. All the charges against her had been brought by the last military-backed caretaker government and now the law would take its own course.

The Awami League directed its metropolitan, district and upazila units to complete holding councils by next two months and continue collection of primary memberships, Hanif said.

All union, wards and thana committees of Dhaka would be formed by next six months, he added.

AL leaders AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Ahmed Hossain, Badiuzzaman Bhuiyan, Minral Kanti Das, Afzal Hossain, Aminul Islam Amin, among others, were present at the press conference.

## 5 city schools lock horns

FROM PAGE 20

(class 9), Abdur Radif Bin Rouf (class 6) and Md Haider Ali Shadab (class 10). From Motijheel Govt Boys' School, Arpon Biswas Joy (class 7), Ashiq Rahman (class 9) and SM Rahatul Islam (class 7) qualified.

Motijheel Ideal School performed the best as 30 initial participants had to battle seven rounds. Three qualifiers from this school are Jannatul Fatima Kabir (class 10), Md Shafayat Hossain (class 9) and Eqra Md Resalat (class 9).

From the Siddheshwari branch of Viquearunessa Noon School, Afifa Hossain (class 10), Shoptorshi Otondrita (class 7) and

Narmeen Wafa (class 7) qualified. From the Dhanmondi branch of the school qualified Rehnuma Sifat (class 8), Tasnim Tabassum (class 8) and Sadia Tasnim Raisa (class 10).

Winners from Baptist Mission Boys' School are Mehedi Hasan Akash, Md Rafiqul Islam Raja and Arun Alfred Madhu, all students of class 10. From Oxford Mission High School, Suchona Afrin Suchi (class 9), Umme Zinat Tabassum (class 10) and Tania Haq won.

In Barisal Zilla School, 26 initial participants had to battle five rounds, with Tahmeed Hossain (class 9), Tanjil Hasan Taj (class 9), Adri

Ahmed (class 9) and SM Faiham Sadi (class 10) coming up as four qualifiers.

"I was really surprised at how well the students performed in a school from Barisal. They gave us no choice but to pick the last four since they got all the words correct in two tie breakers," said Rezwan Habib, a judge from the champs21.com team.

Contestants can play the Spelling Bee game online on champs21.com as many times as they choose for the online round, which continues till February 28 as only their best score will be chosen when it comes to selection for the divisional round.

## Body recovered

FROM PAGE 20

mobile phone since then.

On Saturday night, unidentified persons over phone told Chan Miah's wife Dolly Akhter that he has been kidnapped from Moghbazar. They demanded a ransom of Tk 50 lakh, which was later settled at Tk 20 lakh.

The family filed an abduction case with Ramna Police Station the next day.

The last time kidnappers talked to his wife was around 2:30pm yesterday. They gave her a mobile phone number and told her to send the amount through bKash service by 8:00pm.

Yesterday afternoon, the authority of Akra residential hotel at Moghbazar contacted police to report a foul smell coming out of the room No 306.

Around 7:00am Saturday, two people hired the room and since afternoon that day the room had been found locked from outside, they said.

Following the hotel authority's filing of a general diary, Ramna police came to the hotel, broke in the room and found the decomposed body on the bed.

The mouth was tied with a vest and there were black marks on his throat, Sub-Inspector Kazi Shariful

Islam told this correspondent.

The body, identified by family members, was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

The police officer said he talked to the kidnappers over phone several times posing as Chan Miah's relative, and the criminals frequently changed spots for the ransom handover.

Family members say Chan left Ashulia around 9:30am but according to the hotel authorities two people rented the room at 7:00am. They suspect the two were criminals and Chan Miah was taken to the room afterwards.

## Petitions pile on Tribunal 1

FROM PAGE 1

The petitions ate up the court's time, which the prosecution sees as a delaying tactic, but the defence lawyers said they were preparing to file even more petitions with Tribunal-1 to ensure justice for their clients.

The Tribunal-1 is dealing with the war crimes charges against former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam, Jamaat's Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee, and BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

Until December 6 last year, the testimony recording of the first defence witness in Ghulam Azam's case was pending while deposition and cross-examination of the first prosecution witness in Nizami's case had been recorded.

Trial proceedings against Sayedee were complete pending verdict, and testimony and cross-examination of 17 witnesses in SQ Chowdhury's case were done with.

But after December 6, Ghulam Azam's case saw little progress. The first defence witness is yet to complete testifying. The witness gave a two-day deposition on defence documents on January 8 and 9.

The defence filed a petition to include more documents and the tribunal allowed it, which means the witness would continue testifying for quite a while.

Nizami was indicted on May 28 last year with 16 charges of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. The tribunal recorded deposition of the second prosecution witness on December 18, but his cross-examination is yet to

begin.

SQ Chowdhury's case is stalled at where it was on December 6. Prosecution had produced the 18th witness on December 17 but nothing significant happened as the defence lawyers did not show up.

Chowdhury's counsel Fakhru Islam said they would file more petitions with the tribunal on different issues as these issues came up after the alleged Skype conversation between the former Tribunal-1 chairman and the expatriate legal expert.

One of the petitions could seek recall of all orders passed by the former Tribunal-1 chairman, he claimed.

On Sunday, the BNP leader's counsels filed a contempt of court petition with the tribunal against expatriate legal expert Ahmed Ziauddin.

On December 23 and 24, the defence filed three petitions for retrial of the war-crimes accused Jamaat leaders. After hearing their submissions for a week, the tribunal rejected the petitions on January 3.

The tribunal allowed the defence and the prosecution to place the closing arguments of Sayedee's case again on January 13-17. It could not hear the arguments all week, apart from on two days, as it was busy hearing submissions of review petition and prosecutor-removal petition.

The prosecution on Thursday once again sought capital punishment for Sayedee after completing arguments. The defence is now placing their closing arguments once again.

Contacted over the phone, defence counsel Mizanul Islam claimed that they were filing these petitions as per law. He dismissed the prose-

cution claim that they were delaying the trial. He also said they were yet to decide on filing more petitions.

Prosecutor Syed Haider Ali said the defence files unnecessary petitions. "They file petitions which have no connection with the law [International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973]. Some of their petitions are even contradictory."

Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon, however, is optimistic. He said he is very hopeful that the proceedings of cases pending with the Tribunal-1 would gather momentum again this week.

## Assault

FROM PAGE 20

had been rewarded for his sincerity in discharging duties. "He has been rewarded after taking into consideration all his activities including the incident with Farroque."

MK Alamgir was talking to reporters after a programme of the Police Week-2013 at the capital's Rajarbagh Police Lines auditorium.

Harun is among the 67 policemen who have been awarded Bangladesh Police Medal and President Police Medal for their outstanding performances.

During hartal hours on July 6, 2011, Farroque was beaten up by Harun, then additional deputy commissioner of Tejgaon division, on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital. The BNP leader was leading some opposition lawmakers marching towards parliament. Earlier, they tried to stage a sit-in on the street in Farmgate but failed due to police obstruction.

## Int'l media covered it widely

FROM PAGE 1

In its first verdict, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 on Monday sentenced expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad to death for genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

The BBC report headlined "Bangladesh cleric sentenced to death for war crimes" termed the tribunal "controversial" and identified Azad as a "well-known Muslim cleric".

With the subheading "Fractious politics" in another report, titled "Bangladesh's watershed war crimes moment", the BBC said, "While the ruling Awami League has made the trials one of its key goals, the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party or BNP has been less forthcoming."

"The BNP has maintained an electoral alliance with the Jamaat-e-Islami since 2001 and many in the party feel the alliance gives them their best chance of returning to power. But the BNP is unable to oppose the trials."

Mentioning "Skype scandal", it said the tribunal itself suffered a setback last month, when hours of conversation over Skype

between one of its presiding judges and a Brussels-based lawyer were revealed in the press.

The BBC also had a third report on Monday about key war crimes suspects being tired at the tribunals.

The New York Times, quoting Associated Press, ran a report titled "Bangladesh: Fugitive Sentenced to Death by War Crimes Tribunal" where it identified Azad as "popular Islamic televangelist and a member of the Jamaat-e-Islami party".

"Jamaat-e-Islami campaigned in 1971 against Bangladesh's war of separation from Pakistan. The party is accused of supporting or in some cases taking part in atrocities committed by Pakistani troops," it said.

"Bangladesh says that during the nine-month war, Pakistani troops and local collaborators killed three million people and raped about 200,000 women," it added.

AP ran the report titled "Bangladesh sentences Islamic cleric to death for crimes from 1971 independence war," where it identified Azad as "an Islamic cleric formerly tied to a fundamentalist party".

## It's internal affair

FROM PAGE 1

Azad for genocide and crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The British Foreign Office Minister Baroness Warsi said: "The British Government notes the verdict by the International Crimes Tribunal in the case of Abul Kalam Azad. The British Government supports the efforts of Bangladesh to bring to justice those responsible for committing atrocities during the 1971 War, although we remain strongly opposed to the application of the death penalty in all circumstances."

"The British Government is aware of concerns expressed by some human rights NGOs and legal professionals about proceedings at the International Crimes Tribunal. We hope that the International Crimes Tribunal addresses such concerns promptly and thoroughly to ensure the continued integrity, independence and reputation of

the legal process in Bangladesh."

Talking to newsmen in Dhaka yesterday, German Ambassador Albrecht Conze said every country must find its own way to deal with the past.

"Every country that has a painful past must find its own way to deal with the past. Bangladesh seems to be on the way to find that way.... It is entirely your affair how to deal with your past. But I can understand being a German when the past has been painful it is important to create the condition to turn the page and you are about to do that," the German ambassador said after laying the foundation stone of a common building for the French and German embassies at Baridhara.

Asked if he was satisfied with the procedure of the trial process, the German envoy said he did not follow precisely the proceedings of that court.

"I think the tribunal has

taken into consideration some of concerns voiced somewhere in the international field, especially in Britain. And, I have myself not seen any flagrant violation of due procedure. In fact what I can tell you what the Law Minister has told us. The procedural law concerning this tribunal has been written more than 30 years ago by two eminent German professors of penal law and I have no reason to suspect the law is flawed," he added.

French Ambassador Michel Trinquier, who was also at the programme, said: "It is not correct to interfere into the case. It is for every country to decide how to solve the problem of the past. Some countries passed amnesty laws while others set tribunals to try the crimes committed."

Asked whether the tribunal was in the right track, he said, "It is for you to decide. It is for you to think. I saw a poll in the newspapers that majority of people are in favour of the trial."

RAPE OF DOMESTIC HELP

## Police finally record case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recorded a case against Kazal Mollah, who claims to be an aide to Awami League lawmaker Simin Hossain Rimi, his wife and two others on charges of violating and torturing a domestic help.

According to reports of the Bangla daily Kaler Kantho earlier this month, Kazal raped the girl, aged about 18, in his Mirpur house in the capital, while his wife tortured her.

Police initially refused to take a case against Kazal, who claimed to be the assistant private secretary of Rimi, an MP from Kapasai in Gazipur.

But Rimi said Kazal was neither her APS nor relative, according to reports.

The victim herself filed the case around 7:00pm, said Khandaker Rezaul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Uttara Pashchim Police Station.

Names of the two other accused were not immediately available.

Earlier on Monday, police sent the girl to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment as per a High Court order.

## World jobless numbers rise

Says ILO

BBC ONLINE

The number of jobless people around the world rose by 4 million in 2012 to 197 million and is expected to grow further, the UN labour agency warns.

In a report, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said the worst affected were youth: nearly 13% of the under 24s were unemployed.

It said global unemployment was projected to rise 5.1 million this year and by a further 3 million in 2014.

The trend reflected a downturn in economic growth, the document said.

This was particularly the case in developed countries.

The report -- Global Employment Trends 2013 -- said that 6% of the world's workforce were without a job in 2012.

It revealed that long-term unemployment was also growing, pointing out that a third of Europe's jobless had been without work for more than a year.

Many were giving up, with the report estimating that 39 million people had withdrawn from the labour market.

## BCL, Jubo League

FROM PAGE 1

Local business owners of Pirtala Bazar called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal today protesting BCL men's attack on their establishments and for injuring 20 businessmen.

The engineering section of PSTU called a tender for Tk 47 lakh and yesterday was the last date of submission, sources said.

The clash ensued around 11:00am when Shafiqur Rahman Khan, president of BCL upazila unit and his men were intercepted by cadres led by Kamruzzaman Sohag, president of BCL's PSTU unit on their way to the vice chancellor's office to submit tender documents.

Chase and counter chase continued for over two hours. At one stage BCL men of upazila unit vandalised the university cafeteria and attacked 150 shops injuring the owners when they tried to resist.

Law enforcers arrived at the spot and brought the situation under control around 5:30pm.

Twenty of the injured, including, Abul Kalam Azad, president of Pirtala Bazar Committee were sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

The authorities have cancelled submission of tender and will hold two separate meetings with BCL men and the local businessmen shortly, Md. Nawab Ali, the university registrar said.

Professor Shamsuddin, VC of PSTU said additional police have been deployed on the campus for higher security.

Meanwhile, Pirtala businessmen brought out a procession yesterday evening demanding punishment to the attackers.