

## 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 Sabir 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 \$57,608, Rafiqul himself laundered \$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 the Kaliaganj 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 Tk 21,06.64 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 11,78.61 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, he added.

The six are Marfat Ali Shah, Abdul Hashem Mridha, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (retd) Bazlul Huda and Maj (Retd) 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 a m b a s a d o r of the Mujibnagar government, former superintendent of police Mahbubuddin Ahmed, former secretary Khandoker Asaduzzaman and Col (retd) 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 B a n g a b a b a n , a n d 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 govern-

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.

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.

"We will soon contact the authorities concerned [to bring him back.]"

Hanif urged all to remain alert about the conspiracies by the BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami to foil the war crimes trial.

Replies to a query, he said

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 Amin, among others, were present at the press conference.

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.

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.

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

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.

## 5 city schools lock horns

FROM PAGE 20

(class 9), Abdur Radif Bin Rous (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 11), Md Shafayat Hossain (class 9) and Ebrahim Md Resalat (class 9).

From the Siddheshwari branch of Viquarunnisa 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 Amin, among others, were present at the press conference.

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

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

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

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.

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

## 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 Delwar Hossain Sayedee, and BNP lawmaker S a l a u d d i n Q u a d e r 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 awhile.

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 Fakhrul 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-

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 tried 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 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

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

"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.

Times of India and the Dawn of Pakistan and Gulfnews.com ran reports of AP.

The Nation of Pakistan, The Telegraph and The Hindu of India ran reports while Al Jazeera, quoting several agencies, also ran a report on the verdict.

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 business

## RAPE OF DOMESTIC HELP Police finally record case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recorded a case against Kazal Molla, 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 Kantha earlier this month, Kazal raped the girl, aged about 18, in his Mirpur house in the capital, while his wife tortured her.