

## Man held for Brac Bank money looting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday arrested a man suspected of looting Tk 1 crore from the car of a Brac Bank official in Dakkhin Surma upazila of Sylhet the day before.

Hasanuzzaman, 28, was detained in Sunamganj district town, said Dakkhin Surma police, adding that he had a long track record of mugging and other crimes.

Meanwhile, police are interrogating the car driver, Soheli Ahmed.

An armed gang on motorbikes snatched the

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## Sayedee's appeal hearing continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday continued hearing for the fifth day the appeal filed by Delwar Hossain Sayedee challenging the verdict that sentenced him to death for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

During the hearing, SM Shahjahan, a counsel for the Jamaat-e-Islami nayebe-ameer, placed statements of prosecution witnesses recorded by the International Crimes Tribunal-1. The ICT-1 delivered the verdict on February 28.

Advocate Shahjahan read out that eight charges brought against the accused (Sayedee) have been proved beyond reasonable doubt.

It was proved that Delwar Hossain Sayedee

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Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) demolishes "JM Sen Avenue", a two-storey building constructed in 1928 and one of the 64 buildings listed as risky by Chittagong Development Authority (CDA), in Lal Dighir Par yesterday. It was the second of the risky buildings knocked down so far. CCC Executive Magistrate Najia Shirin led the drive, as its owners did not comply with a September 10 order for the building's demolition within a week.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## HC seeks four past orders on Rampal power project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought its past four orders regarding construction of the coal-fired Rampal power plant in Bagerhat, some 14 kilometres from the Sundarbans, to decide on a writ petition praying for its directive to stop the construction.

Four Supreme Court lawyers filed the petition on Sunday seeking to halt the construction till a proper environmental impact assessment was done.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Zafar Ahmed asked the petitioners' lawyer Manzill Murshid to place before it copies of the orders by tomorrow.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opposed the petition, saying some people were intentionally moving such petitions to stop the construction on excuses of environmental damage.

The plant will cause no environmental damage and reduce subsidy on electricity, he said.

Manzill argued that the government reportedly permitted Power Development Board to construct the plant without conducting a proper environmental impact assessment.

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## Three held with mugged goods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested three men and seized a huge number of mugged goods raiding the capital's Kalabagan and Paltan areas Sunday night and early yesterday.

The arrestees are two alleged muggers Asif Azadi, 23, Saiful Islam Jony, 23, and Monir Hossain, 30, an employee of Suma Electronics, who would sell the goods.

Following a tip, Rab arrested Asif and Jony in front of Eastern Plaza Sunday night with two laptops and a motorcycle, said Lt Col MM Anisur Rahman, commanding officer of Rab-2, at a press briefing at its headquarters.

Based on their information, Rab raided a shop, Yes Tel, at Bangabandhu National Stadium and New Habib Electronics, Shahinur Electronics and Suma Electronics at Moulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium and seized 34 laptops, three tabs, 124 mobile phones, four cameras, three passports, and Tk 57,000, he added.

Besides, Rab-2 yesterday arrested one Iftekher Kadar, 30, in Mohammadpur with fake notes worth Tk 35,000 and a car bearing a sticker reading "member of parliament".

## Govt officials not cooperative with info seekers

TIB roundtable on RTI act implementation told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Right to Information Act 2009, which allows mass people access to state-held information, is not properly implemented as government officials refuse to reveal information, speakers said at a roundtable in the capital yesterday.

The discussion, "Creating Demand for RTI Act 2009 Implementation: Challenges and Solutions", was organised at Brac Centre by Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) to mark International Right to Know Day on September 28.

"Government officials often refuse to cooperate, claiming that the information sought is classified," said Information Commissioner Sadeka Halim.

Authorities decline to share even very common information that should be publicly open, said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

"Information like the list of VGD (vulnerable group development) card holders is withheld," she said.

Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said only a negligible amount of government data was classified information protected by the Official Secrets Act. "Such officials are merely being unhelpful. If they refuse to cooperate, legal action can be taken against them."

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said even information about the Rampal power plant and the Padma bridge projects could be sought using this act.

In addition, speakers said, people lack awareness about the act.

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## DCs AS RETURNING OFFICERS Decision depends on ground realities

Says Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will decide on whether to appoint deputy commissioners as returning officers in the national election considering "ground realities" a few days before the poll, said Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz yesterday.

"Announcement on who the returning officers are will be made alongside the poll schedule. Those who can ensure a free, fair and peaceful election will be appointed," he told journalists at his EC Secretariat office in the capital.

Several electoral experts and organisations recently suggested appointing EC officials as returning officers.

Shah Nawaz said, "We will complete amendment to the election code of conduct before announcing the poll schedule and it will be amended in such a way so as to ensure a level playing field."

Seeking cooperation from all political parties, he said,

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