



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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TALE OF A FIGHTER

15-year-old boy lost mobility in a fall, but refuses to be defeated by misfortune

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ANTI-ISIS DRIVE WIDENS

France launches first strike in Iraq; US to train Syria rebels

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JMB targets to kill high-ups

'Acting chief' along with 6 other operatives held; militants communicated with IS, says DB

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and M RAHMAN

Seven members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, including its acting chief, have been arrested at Ashulia.

They were allegedly plotting to attack VVIPs to get local and international attention.

Following up intelligence, Detective Branch of Police raided the Landing Port Station area by the Turag and made the arrests around 1:00pm on Thursday.

The seven are acting JMB chief Abdullah Al-Tasnim Nahid, 29, Md Naim Ali, 28, Md Sikander Ali Noki, 25, Mahmud-ibn-Basher, 23, Md Masud Billah, 26, Fuad Hasan, 18, and Ali Ahmed, 24.

The arrestees were paraded before the media at Dhaka Metropolitan Police's public relations office yesterday.

At the briefing, police officials said some JMB operatives had communicated with the Islamic State (IS) in leaders and were planning to go to Iraq and Syria to fight there alongside IS men.

Off the record, some police officials talked about the re-emergence of the banned Islamist outfit JMB.

During the raid, the detectives also recovered 10 kilogrammes of gel-mixed chemicals, four bronze idols and some books and leaflets on militancy.

In preliminary interrogation, the arrestees told investigators they were preparing to attack the motorcades of VVIPs and some other important

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Abdullah Al-Tasnim



ASIAN GAMES... Fireworks light up the night sky above the Incheon Asiad Stadium during the opening ceremony of the 17th Asian Games in Incheon yesterday. The colourful opening ceremony kicked off 15 days of competition among 9,500 athletes from 45 countries of Asia. Story on page 14

PHOTO: AFP

Rights activists concerned at Rab's impunity

Rab denies having impunity

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

In agreement with the European Parliament resolution that urged the government to end impunity to the Rapid Action Battalion, rights activists yesterday called for an immediate halt to extrajudicial killings.

Human rights violations are bound to rise if any state security force is given impunity, they observed.

Concerned by continued human rights abuses by the Rab and other security forces, the European Parliament adopted the resolution on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu yesterday said the government has no plan to formulate any law giving impunity to the Rab.

"The force [Rab] is operating as per law and its members have to face punishment under the law if they commit any misdeeds," he told reporters at Kushtia Medical College.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mufti

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Rab officers 'asked to kill Nur too'

Major Arif in confessional statement narrated sensational abduction and killing 'on orders from a top Rab official'

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A top official of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) had ordered former Rab officers Lt Col Tareque Sayeed Mohammad and Maj Arif Hossain to kill Nur Hossain, alleged mastermind of the seven-murder incident in Narayanganj.

The top official gave the order when Tareque, commanding officer (CO) of Rab-11, and Arif, company commander of the elite force unit, met him at the Rab headquarters two days after a Rab team led by Arif killed Narayanganj City Corporation panel mayor Nazrul Islam and six others.

They, however, did not execute the order as the situation in Narayanganj already heated up following the abduction, sources said quoting from the confessional statement of Arif Hossain.

In his statement given before a Narayanganj magistrate on June 4, Arif, who

along with Tareque was sacked from the army following the gruesome murders, also said the top Rab official was aware of the abduction and killing, the sources added.

Nazrul and his four associates and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker and his driver were kidnapped from the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road around the same time in broad daylight.

NARAYANGANJ 7-MURDER

In the confessional statement, Arif also narrated how Rab teams led by himself and Lt Commander SM Masud Rana, who was later sacked from Bangladesh Navy, abducted the seven on April 27, killed them and dumped the bodies at the confluence of the Meghna river in the early hours of the following day.

Nur Hossain, now in an Indian jail, provided the officers necessary information and ensured that there was no public gathering at Kanchpur Ghat area on that night

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Anaesthetics injected before killing the seven

8 Rab men smothered them to death with plastic bags

Rab-11 CO gave final go ahead

Bodies taken to Meghna confluence in a trawler

Bodies tied to brick packets dumped

Nur Hossain ensured there's no gathering under Kanchpur bridge

Arif asked Nur for a trusted person's bank a/c number

Govt takes food safety seriously

Health ministry can take lead role in checking food adulteration, Nasim tells

The Daily Star

PORIMOL PALMA

Health Minister Mohammed Nasim said his ministry should lead the government initiatives to ensure food safety.

Although the food ministry is tasked with helming the initiatives, Nasim believes his ministry is better equipped to carry out the work.

"If we keep the health ministry as the lead ministry and then involve the food, agriculture, commerce and other relevant ministries, we can work in a more effective way," he said, adding that the health ministry has an adequate number of experts and staff compared to any other relevant ministry.

He said he communicated the issue to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina two months ago when she had visited the health ministry.

"We told her that it was the role of our ministry but it went to the food ministry. We want to change it. She heard it. We will take the decision upon discussion," he said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at his

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Giving voice to the voiceless

Bangladesh-born Canadian computer engineer makes device that helps mute people to communicate

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

Tarik Sayeed at a grocery shop in his hometown Pentticon, Canada, two years ago saw a young lady ask a salesman for something through gestures.

The salesman could not understand what she wanted and so was repeatedly asking her questions. At one point, the lady who was unable to speak left the shop without buying anything, with tears in her eyes.

That very brief moment prompted the Bangladesh-born Canadian computer engineer to think of how to ease the communication of the world's 350 million mute and deaf people with others, and after putting much effort along with two other software engineers from Bangladesh he came up with a device that is now on trial and error checking.

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PHOTO: STAR

Tarik working on his device that can translate gestures of the speechless into words.

United Kingdom remains united

55pc say no to independence of Scotland in historic referendum

AFP, Edinburgh

Scots yesterday rejected independence in a referendum that left the centuries-old United Kingdom intact but headed for a major shake-up that will give more autonomy to both Scotland and England.

Queen Elizabeth II called for "mutual respect" among Scots following a highly divisive campaign. The queen appealed for Scots on both sides to set aside their differences, saying: "Despite the range of views that have been expressed, we have in common an enduring love of Scotland."

Despite a surge in Scottish nationalist support in the final fortnight of the campaign, the anti-independence "No" camp secured a clear margin of 55.30 percent of the vote against 44.70 percent for the separatist "Yes" side.

After a campaign that inspired other break-away movements, especially in



Spain's Catalonia, and opened a Pandora's box of demands for more autonomy across the United Kingdom, turnout was 84.6 percent -- the highest ever for an election in Britain.

"No" campaigners across Scotland cheered, hugged and danced as the results came in the early morning.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said he was "delighted" and added: "Now the debate has been settled for a generation."

US President Barack Obama said he hoped to continue his country's "strong and special relationship with all the people of Great Britain and Northern Ireland."

Scottish leader Alex Salmond conceded defeat and said he would be stepping down from his post and from the leadership of his Scottish National Party (SNP) in November.

"For me as leader, my time is nearly over. But for Scotland the campaign continues

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