

Ashulia bank heist hideout raided

Fake DB vest, herbal medicine, oil recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police yesterday raided an alleged hideout of robbers involved in the Ashulia bank heist last month, recovering four fake vests of the Detective Branch of police and several hundred bottles with labels of an unauthorised company claiming the contents to be herbal medicine and oil.

Eight people died, one afterwards for stabs, 25 were injured and one robber was beaten dead by a mob after the gang of eight to 10 stormed Bangladesh Commerce Bank Limited's Kathgora Bazar branch in Ashulia Industrial Area on the outskirts of the capital on April 21.

One Md Shahjahan Miah had been living with his wife and three children in the four-room tin-shed house at Aragon village, some two kilometres from the bank, said the case's investigation officer Dipok Chandra Shaha quoting the locals as saying.

They fled soon after the incident, he said.

Seven arrestees suspected to have carried out the attack informed that they had taken refuge there after the attack, added Dipok, also Ashulia Police Station's officer-in-charge (investigation).

The robbers had gathered at Kathgora Bazar from different areas before the heist, he said.

The seven are Borhan, Al-Amin, Mintu, Babul, Zasim, Harun and Sohel.

UN-chartered ship docks in Yemen with fuel

AFP, Sanaa

A ship chartered by the UN's World Food Programme has docked in conflict-hit Yemen bringing precious fuel to boost aid deliveries, the agency said in a statement on Sunday.

The boat docked Saturday in the western port of Hodeida in a move aimed at "opening up a new humanitarian lifeline for civilians impacted by the conflict" in Yemen, where drastic fuel shortages have hurt aid operations, the WFP said.

Charges pressed

FROM PAGE 3

September 26; abduction, torture and killing of Fazlur Rahman of Atkapara on August 23; killing of Paresh Chandra Sarkar of Ramnagar on September 7; torture and killing of Abu Bakar Siddique and Rapali on August 25; and arson and vandalism in Atkapara on September 15.

JAMALPUR AL-BADR
Meanwhile, ICT-2 directed the inspector general of police to submit by May 17 a report for the second time specifically stating whether six of eight Jamalpur "Al-Badr men" were "absconding" and whether their arrest would be possible.

Shamsul Haque, 75, and AKM Yusuf Ali, 83, were held following arrest warrants the tribunal issued on March 2 against the eight based on the prosecution's petition.

Law enforcers then submitted the first report on execution of the arrest warrants only saying that they could not arrest the others.

The two, along with Ashraf Hossain, 64, Prof Sharif Ahmed, 71, Abdul Mannan, 66, Abdul Bari, 62, Harun, 58, and Abul Hashem, 65, were allegedly involved with Al-Badr Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army.

The tribunal on April 29 accepted five war crimes charges against the eight including murder, abduction and torture committed in Jamalpur during the Liberation War.

The tribunal also adjourned proceedings against alleged Razakar Forkan Mallik until May 13 following a defence petition seeking time.

2 'robbers'

FROM PAGE 16

raided Nadabala Khal in Chandpai range of east Sundarbans where Mayjha, ringleader of the gang, along with his aides was holding a clandestine meeting around 5:00pm, said Maj Adnan Kabir, deputy commander of Rab-8.

Sensing the elite force members' presence, the criminals opened fire. The Rab members retaliated, triggering the "gunfight" that lasted around half an hour.

At one stage, the robbers retreated into the deep forest. Later, the two "robbers" were found dead on the spot, the Rab official said.

Rab claimed that 13 homemade and foreign firearms and 100 bullets were recovered from the spot.

Pay hike to raise govt

FROM PAGE 1 days later.

Contacted, Musharraf said the committee's report was almost ready and would be submitted to the finance minister soon. The ministry would then place it before the cabinet.

Sources said the committee might advise the government to implement its recommendations in phases.

In the first phase to be implemented in July of the next fiscal year, basic salaries and allowances of all civil servants, defence staffs and teachers getting MPO would be increased.

According to the commission report, for full implementation of its recommendations, the government will need Tk 22,953 crore in addition to the budgetary allocations of Tk 36,017 crore in the current fiscal year.

The amount doesn't include the expenditure on salaries and allowances for defence staffs.

The commission recommended 100 percent rise in basic salaries of government staffs on average in all grades.

It also proposed raising basic salary of the lowest grade to Tk 8,200 from Tk 4,100.

The review body, however, might suggest increasing the amount by Tk 50

to Tk 8,250.

One of its officials said they might propose keeping unchanged basic salaries recommended by the commission for almost all grades, except for the lowest one.

A nominal cut in salary -- ranging from Tk 2,000 to Tk 3,000 -- may be suggested for the highest-level government officials, who would get a monthly salary of Tk 80,000-Tk 1 lakh as per the commission's recommendations, said the official.

The commission also recommended increasing the 20 to 22 types of allowances for government staffs. But the committee is likely to suggest some changes in those to ease the government's financial burden.

The official said there are some allowances that are given in proportion to salaries. The committee might propose changes in such a way that the recipients wouldn't get less than what they receive now. It would help reduce pressure on state coffers.

The committee might also endorse the commission's recommendations for providing house loans and introducing health or accident insurance for government staffs. But those would not take effect immediately, added the official.

Party braces

FROM PAGE 16

Umunna admitted Labour had spent too much in the past -- something Mr Miliband pointedly refused to do during the campaign and many say significantly damaged his chances.

He said: "Going into the crash, should we have been running albeit a small and unremarkable deficit? Of course we shouldn't."

Asked by Sunday Politics whether she was running for the leadership, she said: "Yes." It was the first time she confirmed publicly that she was running. In an interview with the Sunday Times, Ms Kendall said Labour needed a "fundamentally new approach".

Ms Kendall, who served as Burnham's deputy as a shadow health minister, said Labour had lost voters over the economy and -- like Umunna -- had said "far too little" to more aspirational voters.

"I think we lost because people didn't trust us on the economy. People didn't think we understood their lives, shared their values and aspirations," she said.

Meanwhile Hunt said he wanted to be "one of those voices" in rebuilding the party, adding: "I'll certainly be considering that in the coming days."

But an unnamed leadership rival hit out at the raft of MPs from the 2010 intake who have been all-too-happy to criticise Miliband's campaign just days after they were part of his front-bench team.

A source from an "unannounced" leadership campaign told the New Statesman the likes of Mr Umunna and Ms Kendall were "behaving like family members taking jewellery off a corpse".

There is disagreement however over how long the leadership race should take, with some arguing against a long, drawn-out process similar to 2010 when the party lost ground to the Conservatives early on and failed to

offer a counter-argument to the line that New Labour's spending spree had caused the recession.

Sources from Labour's head office said on Friday that the party wanted a relatively swift leadership battle to make sure it does not repeat this mistake, but others are demanding a more route and branch approach to make sure the party not only chooses the right leader but also to make sure it learns all the necessary lessons about its failure.

Jon Ashworth, who was part of Mr Miliband's campaign team, thinks the party should take its time over appointing a new leader, an approach that is backed by one of the contenders -- Hunt.

Nur Hossain

FROM PAGE 16

hiding after the gruesome seven murders in the city in April last year.

Nur too was absent from the last 10 to 11 general meetings of the NCC as he has been in an Indian jail following his arrest in Kolkata on June 14. He is facing charges of illegally entering the country.

According to the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, if any elected representative remains absent from three consecutive meetings without any logical ground, he or she can be removed. So Nur could be suspended on this ground too.

He was also charge-sheeted in the seven-murder case on April 8 and he could be temporarily removed for this. As per Section 12 of the Act, a mayor or councillor, if charge-sheeted in criminal cases, can be suspended.

The notification, signed by senior assistant secretary Jashim Uddin Haider, declared Ward 4 vacant.

The LGRD ministry sent a letter on the same day to the Election Commission requesting it to hold by-polls for the vacant councillor post.

Khaleda wants to know

FROM PAGE 16

former organising secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Anisur Rahman Khokon, have been subjected to enforced disappearance during the tenure of the Hasina-led government since 2009, she alleged.

"It could not be known what has happened to them as there has been no trace of them since their disappearances," reads the statement undersigned by Asaduzzaman Ripon, BNP's secretary for international affairs.

"The relatives of the missing BNP leaders are still waiting for their near and dear ones to return home. They don't know whether their loved ones were murdered without trial," it said.

"Their relatives could not even know the dates of death of their loved ones. They did not get the opportunity to visit their graves or offer prayers," the statement said.

"In this backdrop, we and the family members of Salahuddin are very much concerned about his fate. Salahuddin's wife, also a former BNP MP, has repeatedly appealed to the prime minister to get her husband back. But instead of taking any measure, the premier made a cruel mockery of Salahuddin going missing," it said.

"Where is the security of common people if the government remains silent on the missing of a BNP leader like Salahuddin, a former state minister?" Khaleda questioned.

The BNP chief reiterated her demand for safe return of Salahuddin and "restoration of law and order".

Last evening, a BNP delegation, led by party standing committee member Moyeen Khan, visited Hasina Ahmed, wife of Salahuddin

Ahmed, at her Gulshan resident to console her.

Talking to the reporters, Hasina Ahmed called upon the government not to do politics on the issue of her husband going missing and ensure his safe return.

She reiterated her call to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for instructing the law enforcement agencies to "return" her husband, alleging that the detectives had picked him up.

The face-saver

FROM PAGE 16

'Clear' was set up by Ethan Czahor -- a former communications officer for Jeb Bush who lost his job after a series of old tweets of his were, in his own words, "uneathed [and] spun completely out of context to make me appear as someone I am certainly not".

The former improv comedian and startup founder says he set up the app, which can connect to your Facebook, Twitter and Instagram profiles, in order to "make sure situations like mine never happen to anyone ever again".

'Clear', which is in beta stage at the moment, works by combing through your social media feeds using its own algorithms as well as IBM's Watson supercomputer to highlight keywords such as swearing or anything that refers to a specific group like gay people or women.

According to Mashable, being able to identify potentially embarrassing photos or videos is on the "roadmap" for the app in the future.

In the meantime then, try the old fashioned trick of not posting anything embarrassing in the first place.

Citizens' group

FROM PAGE 16

of the group, said the president should have absolute power over giving approval of certain crucial issues and besides, he should have optional power and also the power of expressing his opinion independently.

Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, M Hafizuddin Khan, Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Mazumdar, Prof Tofail Ahmed, Syed Abul Maksud, Dr Ahsan H Mansur and Manjur Hasan, among others, also spoke at the programme.

The group suggested the president be elected through direct or indirect polls and duties and responsibilities of the prime minister be re-defined.

Huda said they would seek people's opinion on the proposal and will make it public after finalising it. He hoped the political parties would pay attention to make the effort a success.

Criticising the ruling Awami League and the BNP, he said the country's journey towards an effective democracy has been facing barriers as both parties give extreme focus on the polls process.

"But, for establishing an effective and meaningful democracy, holding an election is not sufficient," Huda said in a written statement.

Huda stressed that 10 state organs including Jatiya Sangsad, Supreme Court, Election Commission, Anti Corruption Commission, political parties, civil society and media should be reformed.

The group also suggested that holding referendums on local and national issues should be made mandatory.

In the briefing, the group also suggested the necessity of a bicameral parliament in the country and of bringing change in the present electoral system for ensuring transparency in the voting process.

Speakers also recommended proportional representation in parliament.

Police sergeant

FROM PAGE 3

asked to submit reports within three working days.

Rakib Ahmed, an assistant professor of journalism and media studies, was assaulted in House Building area while he was going to the airport station to board a Sylhet-bound train around 10:05pm.

As the train was scheduled to leave the station at 10:20pm, the driver and Rakib requested the on-duty traffic sergeant to allow them to move promptly, but he hurled abusive words.

Rakib was beaten up by the cop and two other constables as he protested against the misbehaviour, he said.

Yesterday, over 100 JU students blocked Dhaka-Aricha highway for more than two hours demanding punishment for the assaulters.

Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association will also demonstrate on the campus this morning.

Dhaka University Journalist Association, of which Rakib was a president, protested against the assault on the DU campus yesterday.

HC summons

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh's labour law says a female is entitled to 112 days (four months) of maternity leave which can be availed 56 days before the expected delivery date and afterwards.

The baby was declared dead at a local hospital.

Rajju Rahim, general manager (manufacturing), told our Gazipur correspondent, "Hamida has been working here for two years. She did not tell us she was pregnant."

"She told her supervisor Ratan Miah that she was not feeling well. He referred her to the factory doctor, who prescribed painkillers when she complained of abdominal pain," he said.

"After that she went to the toilet, where she had a miscarriage," said Rahim.

"She was about four-five months pregnant and had taken three abortion pills on that morning," said Mehedi Hasan, duty doctor of Modern Hospital, where Hamida and the baby were taken.

The Daily Star could not reach Hamida, taken back to her residence by family members after being shifted to the factory's clinic.

Managing Director Syed Nasim Manzur said Hamida did not apply for maternity leave.

"Last year, we paid her maternity benefits a little over Tk 26,000 as she was on leave from April to August to give birth," he told The Daily Star over the phone. She joined on August 12.

"As a compliant factory, we have the rules for maternity leave. We paid Tk 60 lakh as maternity leave last year and this year we have paid Tk 24 lakh as benefits for female workers," he said.

"But the whole matter is very painful for us," he added.

DEADLY SPAIN CRASH

Nations ground A400M planes

AFP, Madrid

Britain, Germany and Turkey grounded their Airbus A400M military transport planes Sunday after one crashed in Spain, killing four people, as authorities hailed passers-by who rescued two survivors.

The pair, a mechanic and an engineer, were in stable but serious condition at hospitals in Seville, the capital of the southwestern region of Andalusia.

The plane, due for delivery to the Turkish air force in June, crashed in a field just north of Seville's airport on Saturday after hitting a power line in an apparent attempt at an emergency landing.

Two farmers and another passer-by who were in the area at the time rushed to the scene of the accident and helped emergency services workers pull the survivors from the plane, the head of Andalusia's regional government, Susana Diaz, told reporters.

Diaz hailed the "generosity" of the three men while Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy called one of the farmers a "hero" in a Twitter message, accompanied by a photograph of the premier shaking the man's hand.

The plane was one of the new A400M troop and vehicle transporters manufactured by European aerospace group Airbus.

The crash was the first involving one of the A400M military airlifters, which Airbus assembles at a plant in Seville.

Britain, Germany and Turkey said they would temporarily stop flying their A400M transport planes until the causes of the accident were known.

France, the largest operator of A400Ms, said it was not grounding its planes at this point.

"We have no reason to lead us to stop our A400 fleet," said Colonel Jean-Pascal Breton, the head of the press service of the French air force.

Malaysia, which received its first A400M plane in March, has not yet announced its position.

There are a total of 12 A400M planes in use at the moment -- France has six, Britain and Turkey have two each and Malaysia and Germany each have one.

Spain's Guardia Civil police force has opened a probe into the accident while the Spanish government said it would form a joint commission involving the budget ministry and the defence ministry to investigate.

Airbus Defence and Space, the Airbus division responsible for military aircraft, sent a team of experts to the crash scene to help with the investigation.

"We will do all it takes to support the authorities in their investigation which has just been launched," Airbus Group president Tom Enders said in a Twitter message late on Saturday.

The A400M programme has been beset by problems since it was launched in 2003.

In addition to production and delivery delays, the programme ran 30 percent -- or 6.2 billion euros (\$7 billion) -- over budget.

In 2010, Airbus mulled scrapping the entire project amid doubts about its financial viability.

In the end the programme was maintained, but not without renewed troubles.

Shortly after Germany took delivery of its first A400M last January -- four years late -- Der Spiegel published a list of 875 construction errors or malfunctions detected in the plane.

In January, Enders offered an apology to British officials for continued delays to seven A400M craft earmarked for delivery in 2015.

He described industrial reasons for the delays as "not catastrophic" but sufficiently "embarrassing" to merit remedial measures.

Airbus -- which was previously forced to set aside 551 million euros from 2014 earnings to pay for continued delays -- has yet to reveal a promised new delivery schedule for A400M planes.

A total of 174 A400M planes have been ordered, including 50 by France, 53 by Germany, 27 by Spain and 22 by Britain.

The crash is the second big military airplane tragedy in Spain this year.

In January, a Greek fighter jet experienced technical failure during takeoff and crashed into pilots and mechanics on the ground, killing 11 people and injuring 21.

Burundi forces begin clearing protest barricades

AFP, Bujumbura

Burundi's security forces began clearing barricades in the capital Bujumbura on Sunday after the government ordered an immediate end to protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza's controversial bid for a third term.

Protesters pledged to defy the order and continue weeks of street demonstrations, branding the government demand a "declaration of war", but there was limited resistance as security forces deployed.

A small, peaceful rally was held in the city centre for the first time on Sunday when hundreds of women gathered outside the interior ministry to call for "peace and unity".

"We want peace, we want unity and democracy for all Burundians," they chanted, ringed by dozens of police officers.

Earlier on Sunday one man was shot, and later died, as police and soldiers used force to remove barricades erected in some city neighbourhoods after the government's order to dismantle all barriers within 48 hours.

"The military came to tell us that the roads were to be cleared and we could not resist armed men with guns. We decided to let it go," said Fabrice, a leader of the protest movement.

Police deployed early on Sunday morning while some people were still sleeping and others were preparing to go to church. "They surprised us," said Claude, a 25-year old student protester.

"Even if they clear the barricades we will rebuild them. There has been a lot of gunfire and some wounded," he said.

At least 19 people have died since Nkurunziza announced his intention

to run for a third term in elections due next month, sparking weeks of angry demonstrations.

The latest confrontations between demonstrators and security forces came after a one-day "truce" declared by protest leaders on Saturday allowed a semblance of normality to return to Bujumbura.

But in a decision issued on Saturday, the National Security Council demanded an "immediate and unconditional" end to what it called an "insurgency" and ordered security forces to remove barricades "within 48 hours, in Bujumbura and the rest of the country".

Protesters angrily dismissed the order.

"Who cares about the orders of the National Security Council! Le Nkurunziza leave first! Otherwise we will continue," said Ficare, a 26-year old in the Cibitoke neighbourhood that has seen some of the worst clashes.

On Saturday night, soldiers trying to move a shipping container dragged across a road to block the main thoroughfare were forced to give up when faced with hostile youth.

The army has so far played a neutral role, often coming between stone-throwing protesters and police, and is popular among protesters who believe they are being protected from the police. But tensions have begun to appear in recent days.

The National Security Council declaration shows that the government does not intend to back down in the face of the protests, despite international pressure, while protest leaders also remain firm in their resolve to continue demonstrating, leaving little hope for a negotiated way out of the crisis.

HC directs Narail police

FROM PAGE 3

Narail and the officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station to submit a report by May 18 informing their steps.

Besides, the court issued a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be directed to prosecute the persons under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, and ordered the authorities concerned to ensure treatment and security of the victim, Bobita Khanom.

According to media reports, Bobita Khanom, 21, of Lohagarha upazila, was tied to a tree and beaten with sticks

by her husband Shafiqul Sheikh and some of his family members until she fainted on April 30 for "theft".

Police sent Bobita to Upazila Health Complex and later she was shifted to Narail Sadar Hospital.

Narail's superintendent of police said police have already arrested Shafiqul's uncles Kalam Sheikh and Hiru Mia and are trying to arrest the other five accused in the case filed by her family.

Bobita was released yesterday from Narail Sadar Hospital and five policemen have been deployed for her security, he added.