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RAID IN KAMRANGIRCHAR Cops name 3 arrestees

One of them 'involved' in Hossaini Dalan attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two men killed on Wednesday night in an "encounter" with detectives in the capital's Hazaribagh were leaders of a faction of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), detectives claimed yesterday.

This faction of the banned militant outfit is financed mainly by a quarter trying to foil the ongoing war crimes trial, they added.

The group was also responsible for the recent attacks at Hossaini Dalan and two police checkpoints at Gabtoli and Ashulia, said DB Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam at a briefing at the media centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

According to detectives, a victim of Wednesday's "shoot-out" is Kamal alias Hiran, Dhaka regional commander of the outfit, and the other is Abdullah alias Noman, commander of Dhaka's northern command.

Hiran and JMB's explosive expert "Boma Shakil" slipped through law enforcers' fingers during a raid in Mirpur's Shah Ali area on December 24 last year, said Monir.

Hiran and Noman had been looking for Shakil to kill him after detectives busted their Mirpur den and seized a huge number of grenades, he added.

Some already arrested operatives of the JMB faction had told detectives that Hiran would carry out an attack on the DB office on Minto Road in the capital, said a DB official asking not to be named.

This faction of JMB became inactive opposing the leadership of Maulana Saidur Rahman after the execution of the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talks to an elderly woman during a programme to distribute winter clothes among the poor in Paglapir of Rangpur yesterday. The PM went there to witness the winter exercise of Bangladesh Army.



PHOTO: PMO

Second phase of Ijtema begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second phase of Biswajjema, the largest Muslim congregation after the Hajj, begins today on the bank of the Turag river at Tongi in Gazipur.

A huge number of devotees have already thronged the 160-acre Ijtema ground to attend this phase ending on Sunday with the Akheri Munajat, seeking spiritual well-being and welfare of the Muslim Ummah.

Thousands of Muslims are expected to offer the Juma prayers at the venue today.

Engineer Giasuddin, one of the members of the Ijtema organising committee, said volunteers, dividing into 10 to 12 groups, and workers of Gazipur City Corporation are taking part in the cleaning activities on the Ijtema ground.

This year for the first time the congregation is being held in four phases to deal with overcrowding and lack of accommodation for the devotees.

People from 33 districts, including Dhaka, are taking part in the first two phases

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

JAIL IN GRAFT CASE SC scraps acquittal of Ariful Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday scrapped a High Court verdict that had acquitted Ariful Haque Chowdhury, former mayor of Sylhet City Corporation, in a corruption case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Sylhet Police Station on September 9, 2007, against the BNP leader for allegedly amassing wealth worth over Tk 2.63 crore through graft and concealing information about it.

On June 23 the next year, a special judge's court in Sylhet sentenced him to 10 years' imprisonment.

Following an appeal by the BNP leader, the HC on April 9, 2013 acquitted Ariful of the corruption charges.

Apart from scrapping the verdict yesterday, the SC also asked the HC to hold



SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

USING PARKING SPACE FOR OTHER PURPOSES Rajuk starts drive from Jan 18

Next drive to be against commercial establishments in designated residential areas of capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk from January 18 is going to start a drive against buildings in Uttara, Dhanmondi, Gulshan and Banani areas that use their designated parking space for other purposes.

A survey on such buildings in the areas has already been done, said an official of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha.

"We are going to conduct the drive simultaneously in four areas -- Uttara, Dhanmondi, Gulshan and Banani -- to clear the parking spaces," said Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, one of the authorised officers of Rajuk.

He said they in the first phase would conduct the drive to free the parking spaces and the ramps constructed on footpath by the building owners.

Mizan said the drive would continue until the job was done and then they would go after residential buildings being used for

commercial purposes.

The decision for the drive and to demolish structures on parking spaces was made at a meeting chaired by Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain at his office.

Dhaka city corporations would also not issue any trade licenses for businesses in those areas.

Mizan said around 60 percent buildings of Uttara, Dhanmondi, Gulshan and Banani were not using their designated parking spaces and were using them for shops, restaurants, offices, and clinics.

During the drive, representatives of Dhaka Wasa, DPDC, and the city corporations would be present alongside policemen.

Three executive magistrates of Rajuk would conduct the drives, he said.

Gulshan, Banani, Uttara, and

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

TORTURER OF RABBI IGP promises stern action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police authorities will take stern actions against the cops responsible for torturing Bangladesh Bank (BB) official Golam Rabbi, said Inspector General of Police (IGP) AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday.

"If anyone becomes victim of harassment [by police], then we will show zero tolerance. If any policeman commits a crime, we will not show sympathy [for him]," he told reporters, emerging from a meeting in Naogaon.

Replying to a query, the IGP said the allegation of torturing Rabbi against some police personnel would be investigated.

If found guilty, action will be taken against them as per the existing law as well as police law, he added.

His comment came a day after BB Governor Atiur Rahman, in a letter, urged Shahidul to ensure trial of the guilty policemen.

Rabbi, an assistant director of the central bank, was tortured allegedly by police in the capital's Mohammadpur area on Saturday night.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

'World's first family robot'



MAILONLINE

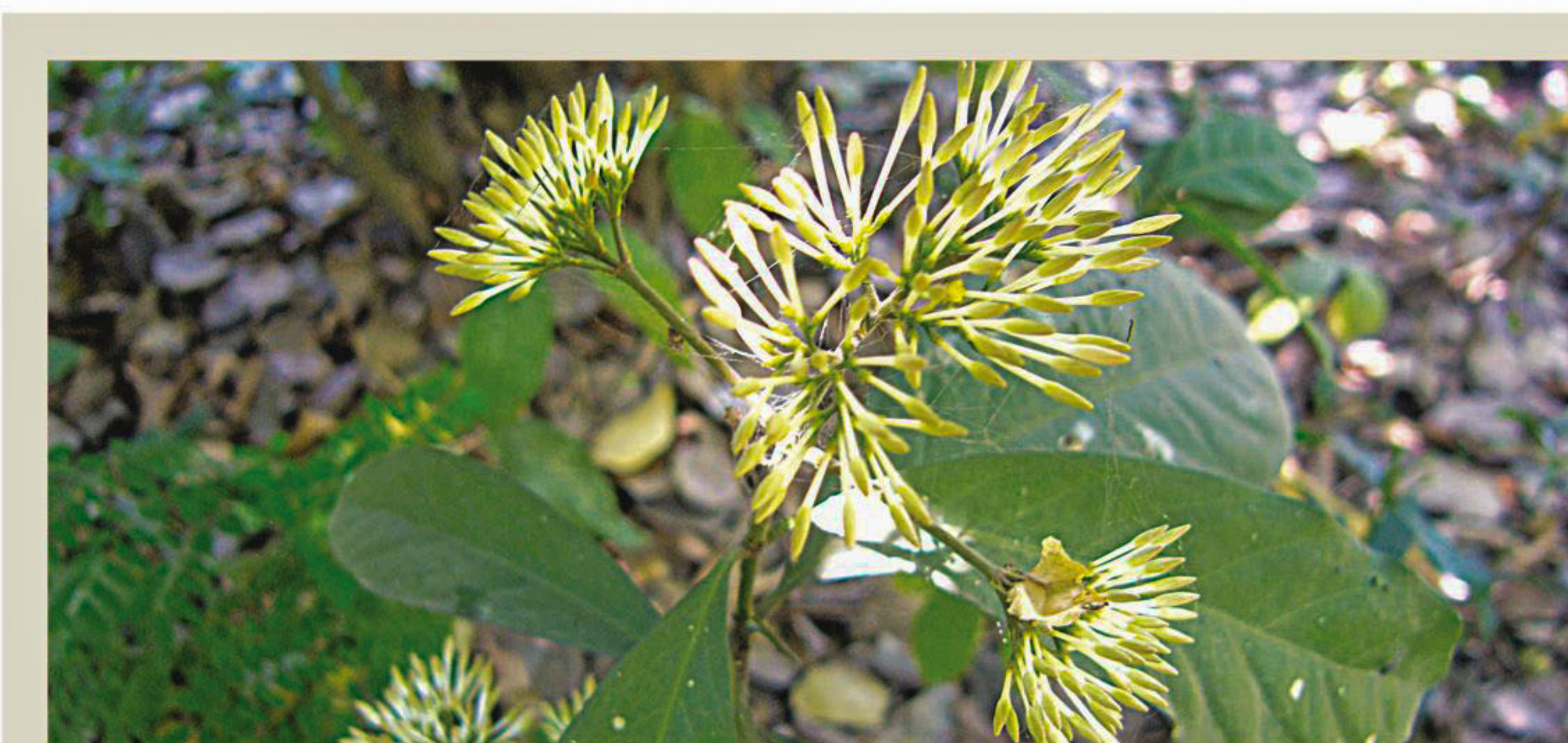
Alpha 2, the world's first "affordable humanoid butler", has charmed the crowds at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas this week.

The voice-controlled droid can do everything -- turn on the lights, help with housework, organise your diary and read your children bedtime stories.

And thanks to its 20 servo motors that bend its joints, the robot can also move around like a human, allowing it to do things such as dance and teach yoga.

The 17 by 19 inch robot is the work of Chinese firm, UBTECH, which launched as an Indiegogo campaign in November and raised over \$1.3

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



The beauty of wild Rangan

MOKARAM HOSSAIN

I have been to Aronnok quite a few times. It's a farmhouse close to the Ordinance Factory in Gazipur. This is one of the best farmhouses that I have seen in Bangladesh. This is neither a large garden nor a house -- it can rather be termed "a patch of dense forest."

The owner of the house, Mr Sohul Ahmed, is an ardent nature lover and perhaps that explains why he did not erect any boundary wall around the farm. He did not want any wall to interrupt the connection between the house and the surrounding shal forest.

With no humans living nearby, Aronnok has its

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

World now Ebola-free

AFP, Monrovia

The world breathed a sigh of relief yesterday as a two-year Ebola epidemic that killed 11,000 and triggered a global health alert was declared over, with Liberia the last country to get the all-clear.

The deadliest outbreak in the history of the feared tropical virus wrecked the economies and health systems of the three worst-hit west African nations after it emerged in southern Guinea in December 2013.

At its peak, it devastated Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, with bodies piling up in the streets and overwhelmed hospitals recording hundreds of new cases a week.

"Today the World Health Organization declares the end of the most recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Liberia and says all known chains of transmission have been

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TIMING
JANUARY 15**

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-30 12-30 4-00 5-36 7-00
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-40 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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