

# One killed in Magura police shootout

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A suspected robber was killed during a "gunfight" with police in Kashundi bridge area on Magura-Dhaka highway early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Aminul Islam, 30, of Azampur in the sadar upazila of Magura.

Aminul was an accused in five robbery cases filed with Magura sadar and Islamic University police stations.

Sudarshan Roy, assistant superintendent of police in Magura, said a team of law enforcers conducted a drive in the area around 2:00am after receiving a tip that a gang of robbers were felling logs on the road to commit a robbery in the area.

As police approached the spot, robbers opened fire on them prompting the law enforcers to fire back, triggering a gunfight, police claimed.

"Aminul was caught in the line of fire and received four bullets while others managed to flee," Roy said.

A number of people from adjacent areas rushed to the spot on hearing the gun shots.

"Police rushed Aminul to Magura sadar hospital with the help of locals but the doctors declared him dead at 3:00am," witnesses said.

Police said they fired 18 bullets during the exchange.

Four police constables were injured during the incident. They were constables Taz Uddin, Kamrul, Mamun, and Lal Mia.

Police recovered a 9mm pistol, five bullets, two crude bombs and sharp weapons from the spot.

The body was sent to Magura Sadar Hospital for an autopsy.

# Protests in Mirpur

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He said the accused told him that they had no clue as to how she had died.

The Daily Star correspondent tried to reach the accused for their comments but police and security guards prevented him from going into the flat citing security grounds.

Police picked up Siddiqur Rahman, Emdadul Haq, Ershadul Haq Titul, and Sohel Rana, employees of the apartment block, for interrogation.

Jonia's mother Ful Banu said a couple of hours after Jonia left for the flat, the police came over, took her to the building and showed her the body of her daughter.

She claimed that despite their insistence that Jonia was raped and murdered, the police recorded an unnatural death case.

However, ADC Masud denied the allegation and claimed that the victim's family did not want to file any case.

When a neighbour was washing Jonia's body, as part of her last rites, two bite marks on her chest and several scratch marks on her body were allegedly discovered yesterday.

This information enraged locals and several hundred people gathered on Rokeya Sarani at Kazipara with Jonia's body and blocked the road for about an hour from 10:30am.

They then went to NAM Garden with the body and tried to enter the apartment block. Police charged truncheon on them.

The locals laid siege to the apartment block around noon but about 20 minutes later they went to the police station and laid siege to that for about an hour. The mob returned to the NAM Garden around 1:00pm.

Around 2:00pm, police forcibly took the body to a graveyard in Sheorapara where Jonia was buried in the evening.

The mob continued its siege until 2:30pm without the body.

More than 100 policemen were deployed in the area.

Ful Banu told The Daily Star that Jonia had been working at the flat instead of her as she was sick.

She said Jonia did not go to the flat on Sunday to work but rather to introduce their neighbour Lolita Begum, 35, to take over from Ful Banu as the part-time house help.

Ful Banu claimed that Lolita told her that the government official's wife offered Jonia a full-time job at the home and was not interested in employing Lolita part time.

# SC verdict today

FROM PAGE 1

Quasem Ali, 63, a member of Jamaat-e-Islami's central executive council and considered by many as a top financier of the anti-liberation party, was sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal-2 in 2014 for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

On February 24, the apex court fixed today for delivering the verdict on his appeal.

The other four judges of the bench are: Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, Justice Mirza Hussain Haider, and Justice Mohammad Bazlur Rahman.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday expressed the hope that the capital punishment for the convict would be upheld.

Talking to reporters at his office, the top law officer of the state said the apex court would deliver the verdict on the basis of statements of witnesses, evidence, information, and documents.

No politicians' comments on the chief justice would affect the verdict, he said.

Quasem Ali's lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain has expressed optimism that his client would "get justice" today.

He too said political comments would not influence the judgment, adding that they would accept the apex court's verdict.

Khandker Mahbub on Sunday, however, said the apex court had been "undermined" by the comments of the two ministers. He also expressed the hope that the apex court would take action against them.

Food Minister Qamrul Islam and Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque on Saturday and Sunday blasted the chief justice.

Qamrul, also a joint general secretary of Dhaka city Awami League, at a party meeting on Sunday said the chief justice in an open court made some observations that raised questions about the prosecutors and investigators' role in the trial.

"I am aggrieved by his comments in the open court," the minister said.

Qamrul alleged that the comments had similarities with those made by some political parties that opposed to the war crimes trial.

"He [Quasem] is now in the condemned cell, but his money is well active outside the prison...."

"I have a clear suggestion ... Let there be a bench of the Appellate Division, keeping the present chief justice out of the bench, which he now leads, and then let there be a fresh hearing of the appeal. This is my demand in clear terms. There is no other option," he said, and "humbly requested" the chief justice to accept his proposal.

Minister Mozammel Haque on Sunday said the chief justice should not deliver the verdict in Quasem's case.

The attorney general the same day

termed their comments unconstitutional and unprecedented and urged all to refrain from making any such comments against the chief justice.

Meanwhile, an SC lawyer yesterday served a legal notice on the two ministers asking them to explain their comments.

SM Zulfiqur Ali sent the notices to the food and liberation war affairs ministers seeking their explanation within 24 hours.

In the notice, Zulfiqur asked the ministers to explain as to why their comments on the chief justice and a matter pending with the court should not be declared illegal, unconstitutional and be considered as an offence tantamount to contempt of court.

The lawyer said if the two ministers did not provide any explanation in time, he would file a writ petition with the High Court seeking necessary action.

According to the prosecution, Mir Quasem, until November 6, 1971, was the president of Chittagong town unit of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami. He was made the general secretary of the East Pakistan Chhatra Sangha on November 6, 1971.

He went into hiding after the Pakistan occupation forces and their local collaborators surrendered on December 16, 1971. But years later, he re-emerged and subsequently assumed the role of Jamaat's chief financier.

He had been leading a free life until his arrest on June 17, 2012, at the office of the daily Naya Diganta, a concern of Diganta Media Corporation, of which he was the chairman.

The Tribunal-2 on November 2, 2014, sentenced Quasem to death after finding him guilty on 10 charges for abducting, confining, and torturing people during the war.

He was also sentenced to death for the murders of young freedom fighter Jasim, Ranjit Das, and Tuntu Sen at Dalim Hotel, an Al-Badr camp in Chittagong.

The tribunal also jailed him for 20 years for the abduction, confinement, and torture of Lutfar Rahman Faruk and Seraj and another 10 years for abduction, confinement, and torture of Nasiruddin Chowdhury.

He also got seven years in jail for six other charges. The charges are abduction, confinement, and torture of Jahangir Alam Chowdhury; abduction, confinement, and torture of Saifuddin Khan; abduction, confinement, and torture of Hanurun Rashid Khan; abduction, confinement, and torture of Sanaulla Chowdhury, Habibur Rahman and Elias; abduction, confinement, and torture of Sayed Md Jamaluddin and six others; and abduction, confinement, and torture of Zakaria, Salahuddin alias Chuttu Miah, Iskandar Alam Chowdhury, Nazim Uddin and many others.

# Artist Mithu dies

FROM PAGE 16

Locals rushed him to nearby Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Mithu, husband of reputed artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma, suffered fatal head injuries and died of brain haemorrhage, doctors at the hospital said.

Rickshaw-puller Abdul Jalil was also injured, said Sub-inspector Khairul Islam of Dhanmondi Police Station. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

On a visit to the spot, the tree was found uprooted and lying across the road, crushing the rickshaw.

Security guards of nearby buildings said the heavy rain on Sunday evening might have loosened the soil surrounding the tree.

Mithu bagged National Film Award as best director for his debut film Gohine Shobdo in 2010.

He and Kanak Chanpa, both students of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University, got married in 1991.

Kanak Chanpa was in no fit state to talk to the media after the incident. Relatives said their son 20-year-old Arjo Shrestha was in London for higher education. The couple also has a 17-year-old daughter named Shiropa Purna.

Friends and well-wishers mourned the death and rushed to Mithu's home soon after hearing about the incident.

Mithu was supposed to attend a programme at Nordic Club in the capital yesterday evening, said family friend Shubrata.

Meanwhile, DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique in a statement expressed shock over the death and sent his condolences to the bereaved family.

Mithu was a celebrated film director, cinematographer, scriptwriter and video editor.

his studies at the arts institute. Mithu joined Bangladesh Television in 1986, where he contributed to camera and script work.

He first directed in 1992 "Shopne Shobuj Pahar", a musical TV programme, assisted by the Saarc cultural exchange programme.

The first TV play directed by him was Dhusor Album the next year. He went on to work on more than 60 plays, more than 100 musical programmes and a few documentaries.

Mithu's many solo and group art exhibitions at home and abroad focused on his diversified experience, in which he predominantly captured the country's political turmoil, labour uprising and garments exploitation.

His son Arjo is an international award-winning filmmaker and daughter Shiropa a promising filmmaker and painter.

# Father, son

FROM PAGE 2

Tajul said his wife Rubi Begum now takes care of them as he is not able to work.

The Daily Star had sent photos of Tajul and Ruhul to Samanta Lal Sen, chief coordinator of National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery of the DMCH, to get his views on the disease.

"They seem to have the tree-man disease. But, unless we practically see and diagnose, we can't be sure," he said. He also suggested that the two are brought to Dhaka for diagnosis and treatment.

BEGGING FOR LIVELIHOOD Tajul and Ruhul were compelled to beg for a living as they could not work.

"It's very hard to arrange meals twice a day," he said.

He said he could not even arrange their treatment due to extreme poverty. Tajul received free treatment at different hospitals but those could not help him get rid of the disease.

Moreover, doctors suggested amputating his hands and legs. "How would I have my hands and legs cut-off? Then I wouldn't be able to beg even."

# Taiwan minister apologises over illegal search claims

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan's defence minister apologised yesterday after claims that military police illegally searched a private home sparked an outcry in the now-democratic island, which spent decades under martial law.

Military police late last month found a man surnamed Wei trying to sell online three government documents dating back to 1960-70 which they believed were classified documents.

Posing as buyers, the military police contacted Wei. The officers, who had no search warrant, said they went to Wei's home and "obtained" the documents with his consent.

Wei said he handed over the documents after the military police threatened to prosecute him for concealing them and for leaking state secrets.

The case came to light after Wei's daughter told the story on one of the island's most popular social media websites over the weekend.

"I apologise to all countrypeople for the uneasiness and disturbance caused by the event," minister Kao Kuang-chi told parliament.

Military abuses are especially sensitive in Taiwan, which was under martial law from 1949 until partial democratisation in 1987.

Yang Chia-liang, spokesman for the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), accused military police of abuse of power and infringing a citizen's human rights.

Civilian prosecutors are investigating the case.

The military says the documents were related to Chinese communist spies and confessions they made after they turned themselves to Taiwan's government in the 1960s and 1970s.

But yesterday it acknowledged the documents had been declassified.

The Kuomintang (KMT) party, which fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to the communists on the mainland, ruled with an iron fist for decades.

Taiwan became a full democracy after the first direct presidential election in 1996.

The KMT will hand over power to the DPP in May after losing the presidential and parliamentary election in January.

# Inventor

FROM PAGE 16

"A true technology pioneer, Ray was the man who brought us email in the early days of networked computers," his employer, the defence contractor and electronics giant Raytheon, said in a statement on Sunday.

"His work changed the way the world communicates and yet, for all his accomplishments, he remained humble, kind and generous with his time and talents, he will be missed by one and all."

A company spokesman said Tomlinson died on Saturday, and the cause of death was not yet confirmed.

Tributes poured in from the online world. "Thank you, Ray Tomlinson, for inventing email and putting the @ sign on the map. #RIP," Google's Gmail team tweeted.

Vint Cerf, considered one of the fathers of the Internet who was once a manager of the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), lamented the "very sad news" of Tomlinson's passing.

When Tomlinson invented the "user@host" standard for email addresses, it was applied at DARPA's ARPANET, a US government computer network that is considered the Internet's precursor.

He was the first to use the @ symbol in this way, to distinguish a user from its host.

At the time personal computers were virtually unknown, and the use of personal email -- now a keystone of electronic communications -- would not be adopted at a mass scale until the 1990s.

# 14 individuals

FROM PAGE 16

Pakistani military force in 1971, AKM Abdur Rauf (posthumous), typographer of the constitution, KM Shehabuddin, first head of Bangladesh's New Delhi mission, and Syed Hasan Imam for playing a courageous role in cultural activities in support of the Liberation War.

Besides, Rafiqul Islam (posthumous) and Abdus Salam have been nominated for the award in Mother Language category for playing a role in achieving recognition of February 21 as International Mother Language Day while Dr Maqsudul Alam (posthumous) has been nominated in science and technology category for decoding the jute genome.

# Hackers steal

FROM PAGE 1

The AMLC filed a case in this regard in the Philippines, and received a court order to freeze the accounts of those involved in laundering the stolen money.

Wishing anonymity, a deputy governor of the BB, said the Federal Reserve Bank of New York failed to do due diligence in dealing with the hacking threat.

However, the Federal Reserve Bank denied that its payments systems were breached, reports Reuters.

"To date, there is no evidence of any attempt to penetrate Federal Reserve systems in connection with the payments in question, and there is no evidence that any Fed systems were compromised," said New York Fed spokeswoman Andrea Priest in response to queries about the claim.

Talking to reporters on the matter yesterday, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said it is a "very unusual situation".

"I cannot make any statement as I was not informed by the central bank about it. I just saw the news in the media," Muhith said after a meeting with the newly appointed country director of the World Bank in Dhaka.

According to BB officials, hackers stole the money from a BB account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on February 5. Soon after the BB came to know about the hacking, it started working on the issue secretly so that the matter doesn't go public.

But the issue came to the fore after inquirer.net, a leading news website in the Philippines, revealed that the funds laundered were of a financial institution in Bangladesh.

Now the financial regulator of the Philippines is investigating what could be the biggest money laundering case ever detected in the country.

Investigators in the Philippines found that computer hackers stole around \$100 million which was brought into the country's banking

system. It was sold to a black market foreign exchange broker, transferred to at least three large local casinos, sold back to the money broker, and moved out to overseas accounts -- all in a few days.

"We are confident of recovering the funds as it was channelled into the Philippines financial system," said a senior BFUI official.

"Two of our officials recently visited the Philippines to hold talks on the issue," added the official.

According to BB officials, this laundered money can be recovered through the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StARI), a partnership between the World Bank Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which supports international efforts to end safe havens for corrupt funds.

StAR works with developing countries and financial centres to prevent the laundering of the proceeds of corruption and to facilitate more systematic and timely return of stolen assets.

# Sri Lanka fires security boss for harassing lovers

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's government has sacked a senior security official after guards chased away couples from a monument in Colombo for holding hands, a minister in the conservative Buddhist country said yesterday.

The move came after a couple posted video of the guards on social media and is a marked change from the former government, under which police would routinely round up young lovers for kissing in public.

Deputy foreign minister Harsha de Silva said he intervened after visiting the Independence Square monument on Sunday and finding security guards were driving away unmarried couples.

# Rising Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

disappointed was an aspect that was obvious at the end of the game on Sunday.

There seemed to be a look of disbelief in the faces of most of the players. At that moment, all they seemed to want to do was finish the post-match ceremony as quickly as possible and hit the road back to their hotel.

The defeat was also disappointing for the thousands of fans who braved the storm and the rain at the Sher-e-Bangla National stadium.

However, if one were to analyse the entire tournament as a whole, then it would be clear to see how much progress the Tigers have made in this format in the last four months. From drawing a series against Zimbabwe to reaching the final of a major tournament in the span of just over a month suggests that the Tigers are on the right path.

There have been plenty of positives from the Asia Cup. Take for instance the rise of Mahmudullah Riyad. The batsman has averaged 121 in the tournament. That number is the highest ever in T20I series that includes at least four matches. He was the calmest of the lot and proved that T20I matches could be won merely by playing proper cricketing shots.

Sabbir Rahman, the player of the series, was the other batsman who displayed brilliant skills. The interesting part is that neither of these batsmen attempted to thud every ball outside the park. They both initially depended on singles and then smacked the deliveries when the right time arrived.

These are typical qualities that a good T20 player has. All that Sabbir and Mahmudullah need to do is nurture them and make the best out of it.

While these two players did shine, the unfortunate aspect and possibly a concern was the failure of the rest of the batting order. Soumya Sarkar did hit form towards the end, but still seems a bit rough. Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim had awful experiences in the middle order.

Mohammad Mithun is yet to get set in international cricket.

If Bangladesh want to do something special in the ICC World Twenty20, they will need their main men to stand up.

The bowling, on the contrary, seemed to be spot on. Taskin Ahmed was the most impressive and he was backed up well by Al-Amin Hossain. Mustafizur Rahman seems to have nearly recovered from his side strain and when he joins the side in the World Cup, the bowling unit is bound to get a lot stronger.

The only concern here would be Shakib. The left-hander was whacked out of the park in the final and many will hope that he rediscovers the line and length that has made him so effective over the years.

With the Tigers set to play their first game of the first round against the Netherlands tomorrow, it is best that they forget the India defeat. The roles will be reversed when they take on the non-full member nations for the pressure will be on them. The likes of Ireland, Netherlands and Oman will have nothing to lose and they will be giving it their all.

Going by how seriously coach Chandika Hathurusingha and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza set different tactics for each game in the Asia Cup, the Tigers are going to put at least as much effort in the next three games as they did in the Asia Cup.

# A dream of self-identity

FROM PAGE 16

"I dreamt of a son," says Nahar, "but God blessed me with a daughter. Mina has proven herself better than any son and I am so proud of her!"

After completing her Master's degree in social science from Rajshahi University in 2000, Mina embarked upon her primary school teaching career. A year later she married engineer Kabirul Ahsan Ripon from the same village, with whom she started her own family.

It was in 2010 that she established the dairy, with two cows. "When I started the farm locals, colleagues, relatives and even my husband criticised the decision. They wondered if it was at all necessary," explains Mina.

"It was my father's dream to have a dairy," she continues. "He wasn't able to achieve it before his death from cancer. I followed his instruction because I wanted to work towards realising his dream."

Were he alive there is no doubt Mina's father would be pleased with the results. There are currently 50 cows at the dairy, with 20 producing up to 150 litres of milk per day.

recalls, "My initial plan was to pursue an ambitious career away from the village, but as an only daughter I couldn't leave my parents. Nonetheless I was determined to establish, beyond the primary school, an independent self-identity."

"Mina is an educated woman ready to take on any challenge," says Md. Shahdat Hossain, headmaster of the government primary school where Mina works. "She's worked hard to make her own identity alongside the teaching profession. The dairy farm is the result of her efforts."

"Mina is an inspiration to local women," the headmaster continues. "The people of Bongram are proud of her." Indeed, following her example, many of Mina's neighbours have also embarked upon establishing agro-businesses in addition to their regular work.

Recognised as a successful entrepreneur by Bangladesh Bank, Mahfuza Mina has achieved her father's dream. In establishing a strong self-identity she has achieved her own. But Mina's efforts are not yet done.

Most recently she's trying her hand at sheep and goat farming. "I'd like to build a fully-fledged, diversified agro-business," she says. And what Mahfuza Mina sets out to achieve, her personal history tells us, she usually does.

"When I first graduated," Mina