



From left, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, President Abdul Hamid and Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha at an iftar party organised by the Supreme Court on its premises yesterday. PHOTO: PTD

# One more killed in 'gunfight'

## 11 killed in the last 5 days across the country

STAR REPORT

One man was killed and two others injured during "gunfights" with police in Narail, Jessore and Satkhira districts early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rakib, 30, son of Mokhles Hossain of Chanchai village of Lohagara upazila in Narail.

With the latest, 11 people have now been killed in "shootouts" or "gunfights" since the killing of the wife of the superintendent of police in Chittagong on Sunday.

Biplob Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station, said that on receiving information that a band of robbers were preparing for a robbery, a team of police launched a drive at Dighalia Dokkhinpara village in the upazila around 2:30am.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the gang members opened fire prompting retaliation from police. Rakib was hit by a bullet in this exchange.

He was rushed to Lohagara Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead.

Other members of the gang escaped. Rakib was wanted in 12 cases, including robberies, the OC said.

In Jessore, Abu Ichha, 45, outgoing member of Raipur Union Parishad of Bagharpara, was hit by a bullet during a gunfight between police and robbers at Kodalia on Jessore-Magura Road around 4:00am, OC of Bagharpara Sairuddin Ahmed said.

His wife Afroza Begum, however, claims that a team of eight to 10 policemen picked up Ichha from their Naldanga residence around 2:00am yesterday.

"In the morning, I came to know that my husband is in the hospital. He was shot in one leg," she said.

The victim was initially taken to Jessore Medical College Hospital, but was later shifted to Dhaka when his condition deteriorated, sources at Jessore Medical College said.

Sanjit Adhikary, son of Kartik Adhikary of Jalalpur village of the upazila and a known activist of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party, was injured in a 'gunfight' with police at Tegharia in Tala of Satkhira.

Kamal Hossain, sub-inspector of

Tala Police Station, said a police team on receiving a tip-off conducted a drive in Tegharia around 1:30am where Sanjit and his cohorts were staying.

The gang members opened fire at the police triggering retaliation. Sanjit received bullet-wounds in the fire exchange, he said.

Police arrested Sanjit while the other gang members managed to flee. Sanjit has been admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital under police custody.

### Police rescue missing Hindu priest unhurt

#### One arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rangpur police yesterday rescued a Hindu priest unhurt within 24 hours after he had gone missing and arrested a person in this connection.

Uttam Kumar Mohanta, 50, a resident of Sardarpara village under Pirganj upazila, went missing on Friday morning.

Md Abdur Razzak, superintendent of police of Rangpur, confirmed it at a press conference at his office around 4:00pm yesterday.

The SP said the priest was on his way to administer a wedding on Friday morning. A gang of criminals called him in his cellphone and asked him to go to the Gaibandha Railway Station.

As he arrived at the station around 10:00am on Friday, three criminals took him to Lalmonirhat on a train.

The criminals again took him to the house of Anwar Hossain, 40, son of Altaf Uddin of Karnapur village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

They called his son Akash Chandra Mohanta and demanded Tk 1.5 lakh as ransom for his release.

Informed by the family members, a team from Rangpur police led by Abdullah Al Faruk, ASP (General), raided the village around 10:00am on Saturday and rescued the priest.

The police arrested Anwar Hossain in connection with the abduction. They said they are trying to find out if there was any military links.

# Where is Kalpana?

FROM PAGE 16

"... We will continue to ask for investigation and for justice -- and so do many people in Bangladesh too. This is the reason why Amnesty International started this photo action. We want to show with as many personal statements as possible, that Kalpana Chakma is not forgotten -- even after 20 years," he wrote to The Daily Star explaining the objective of the campaign.

Chris Chapman, indigenous rights researcher/adviser at Amnesty International said the campaign started on June 2 and new photos were being uploaded "constantly".

"She was described as a symbol of resistance, and we wanted to create an action which is a way of resisting the failure to give Kalpana and her family justice," he emailed The Daily Star.

"We thought of a photo action because we heard from many Bengali activists that Bangladeshis outside the CHT know very little about the struggles people face there. That's why we have the posters in Chakma, Bengali and English languages," he explained.

People from Bangladesh, Germany, Denmark, Romania, the USA have posted their pictures with the poster at tumblr's myunseensister page. An Australian MP, a German policeman and an Egyptian activist has signed up for the campaign. A similar response was seen on Facebook and Twitter.

Joy Aselemann, a young woman from Darmstadt in Germany wrote on the photo she posted on tumblr: "When will the perpetrators of Kalpana Chakma be brought to justice?"

In fact, this question has plagued Kalpana's family and friends for the last 20 years.

The abduction took place a year before the signing of the CHT Peace Accord, a political agreement signed between the government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (United People's Party of the Chittagong Hill Tracts) in 1997 that ended decades-long struggle between the Shanti Bahini, an insurgent group, who fought for the rights of ethnic minorities, and the government forces.

Kalpana was the organising secre-

tary of the Hill Women's Federation. She was campaigning for senior presidium member of the Pahari Gana Parishad Bijay Ketan Chakma, who was an independent candidate of 1996 national election, which took place only hours after Kalpana's abduction.

According to Kalpana's family and indigenous rights activists, she was vocal against the military presence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and supported CHT's autonomy-oriented movement Jana Sanghati Samity (JSS), and thus earned the chagrin of security forces.

After Kalpana's eldest brother Kalindi Kumar Chakma filed a case regarding her kidnapping with Baghaichhari Police Station on June 12, 1996, the government on September the same year formed a three-member judicial enquiry committee.

The committee interviewed 94 people including the alleged prime suspect Ferdous Kaiser Khan of Kojochhari army camp in Rangamati. Two other suspects named by eyewitnesses were Village Defence Party (VDP) men Nurul Haq and Saleh Ahmed.

The probe committee report submitted to home ministry was never made public.

On May 21, 2010, police submitted the final report of the case without any conclusive remarks on Kalpana's abductors and whereabouts. Kalpana's brother rejected the report. A similar reinvestigation report was submitted by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Chittagong Zone on September, 2012.

On January 16, 2013, the magistrate court of Rangamati handed over the case to the District Superintendent of Police (SP) of Rangamati for reinvestigation.

On July 20, 2014, SP Amena Begum submitted a progress report about the case and sought more time and since then the submission date of the admission report has been changed more than 20 times.

Amena left Rangamati in 2015 and the case is now being handled by her successor SP Sayeed Tarikul Hassan.

SP Hassan told The Daily Star that

they were carrying out investigation as per the directive of the court.

He said the investigation of the case, which is very old, would take longer to complete and it might not be possible to complete and submit the report by the next report submission date, on July 12, fixed by a court.

Omar Waraich, media manager, Asia, Amnesty International, told The Daily Star last night that Aura Freeman, Amnesty International's campaigner for Bangladesh, Nepal and the Maldives, was engaged in the http://myunseensister.tumblr.com campaign.

### Man changing

FROM PAGE 2

"We mainly make different types of flower baskets and tubs for the flower shops in the capital which they use to keep flowers," Nasima said.

As the price of bamboo increased a lot recently, it was not possible to make much profit from the work, but still one could earn around Tk 300 from it a day, the couple said.

Anwar Hossain of the same village said late Shukur Dewan of Borni village had started making bamboo products first in the area about 50 years ago and he later taught the others who showed their interest in it.

Around 1,200 families of three villages worked in this trade, but many left the profession for better paying jobs, he said.

Anwar added that besides ordinary household items like *dala* (flat basket with a high rim), *kula* (winnowing fan), *chalan* (sieve), *jhaka* (large basket for carrying goods), *khachi* (wicker basket) and *khaloi* (fish-creel), the villagers also produce beautiful and quality kitchen baskets, cake baskets, bags, nests and different showpieces by bamboo. These are being exported to foreign countries, including the US.

One of the wholesalers in the area Yasin Sikder of Borni, who himself makes bamboo products, said he collects orders from different markets and shops in Dhaka and has the items made by the villagers.

# TONU MURDER

## 2nd autopsy report to be submitted today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second autopsy report of Comilla Victoria College student Sohagi Jahon Tonu will be submitted to the investigation officer today.

Kamada Prasad Saha, associate professor of forensic medicine department of Comilla Medical College, also head of the medical board formed for the autopsy, told The Daily Star that the report will be submitted to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Gazi Mohammad Ibrahim.

Asked about the findings of the report, he advised to get the information from the authorities who would have the report today.

The first "controversial" autopsy report published on March 21 was rejected by Tonu's parents as it could not ascertain the reason for her death or find any symptoms of rape.

As per the order of a court, Tonu's body was exhumed on March 30 and a medical board was formed for the second autopsy.

Almost two months after the killing of the 19-year-old, the CID on May 16 said Tonu was raped before she was murdered.

The findings exposed the flaws in the inquest and first autopsy which did not find any evidence of rape.

The murder of Tonu created a huge uproar of protest throughout the country. Her body was found about 400 yards from her house inside Comilla Cantonment on the night of March 20, according to her family members.

### Suspect held

FROM PAGE 16

Investigators suspect that Robin was one of those who took part in the gruesome killing of Mitu, 32, on June 5.

In the CCTV footage collected from a roadside camera, a person in a chequered shirt and blue denims with a mobile phone in his hand is seen across the street from where Mitu was murdered.

Police suspected the person took part in the killing and later fled the scene with two others on a motorbike.

He will be produced before a Chittagong court today with remand prayers, said police sources.

Meanwhile, a microbus driver, who was detained from Sitakunda on Thursday, was released as police did not find any strong evidence of his involvement in the killing, said the CMP commissioner.

Law enforcers seized the vehicle from Bhatiari of Sitakunda upazila on Wednesday and detained Jan-e-Alam for interrogation.

On June 5, three assailants stabbed and shot Mitu dead when she was taking her son to his school bus stop at GEC intersection in the port city.

In a curious development, banned militant outfit Ansar al-Islam or the Bangladesh chapter of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) reportedly condemned the killing of Mitu.

"Ansar al-Islam, the Bangladesh division of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), released a statement condemning the June 5, 2016 killing of Mahmuda Aktar, the wife of Bangladeshi anti-terror investigator Supt Babul Aktar, as impermissible under Islam," a post of SITE Intelligence Group on Friday read.

The condemnation came hard on the heels of the beginning of a crack down on militants by law enforcers. In previous instances, SITE reported so-called statements by militant groups, like IS and AQIS, claiming credits for such killings.

Asked about the post, Bahar said the militant outfit might have issued the statement to avert criticism for the killing. It is also possible that the group was not involved in the killing and so it doesn't want to take the blame, he said.

# Toiling for a mere living

FROM PAGE 16

One day, Russell teamed up with an older boy of the neighbourhood, who was also from an impoverished family, and got on a bus leaving for Dhaka.

At Sadarghat Launch Terminal, he either sleeps on the vast pontoon, or at an Emergency Night Shelter of Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, an NGO. He has difficulty remembering the time he had spent at his home. He said he studied up to class-III at a madrasa, but had to drop out after his father's death.

"I like being in the terminal and helping people with their bags," he said with a smile.

Russell is one of the 6,89,037 child labourers in Dhaka division. While countries across the globe observe World Day Against Child Labour today, there are an estimated 3.45 million working children, aged between 5 and 17, in the country, according to Child Labour Survey 2013 of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The Bangladesh Labour law 2006 defines child labour as children working more than 42 hours a week. Children doing "light work" up to 42 hours a week are considered working children.

Abdulla Al Mamun, programme coordinator at Manusher Jonno Foundation, said the labour ministry through a gazette in 2013 published a list of 38 hazardous forms of child labour. But children working in terminals as porters, domestic helps, and waste pickers were not included in the list.

Due to lax monitoring by the gov-

ernment, exploitation of children in informal labour sectors goes unabated.

At Sadarghat, children can be seen toiling away in physically demanding jobs throughout the day. There are around 90 homeless children like Russell staying at the night shelter there.

Talking to this correspondent at the terminal last week, Russell said his back often aches due to hours of carrying heavy loads.

While the natures of work the children do are detrimental to their health, they also fall victim to abuses of different kinds. During a visit to the shelter, most of the boys alleged that older men try to harass them if they find the boys alone at night.

The children did not want to elaborate on the nature of the harassment. They, however, hinted that they were sexually abused sometimes.

Sagor, one of the boys staying at the shelter, said he used to do the dishes at the kitchen of a launch before he started selling bottled water to travellers.

The 11-year-old boy's rib bones were visible, which clearly shows that he has been suffering from malnutrition. He was wearing trousers only and had one shirt which was wet at the time.

"My hands became itchy and sore from the detergents I used to clean the dishes. I could hardly sleep at night because of the burning sores. When I complained about my hands, they gave me only Tk 20 to buy medicines," he said, adding that he used to get Tk

4,000 a month for his job at the launch.

Sagor, who never received any schooling, said he lived with his mother in a Shariatpur village after his parents got separated five years ago. One day while playing in the field, his father forcibly took him to a different village where he lived with his second wife.

"I missed my mother a lot and fled from my father's house. As I didn't know the way to my mother's house, I just got on a bus from a terminal and ended up in Dhaka."

Sagor added that he cannot even remember the name of his mother, let alone the address of his mother's house.

Wahida Banu, executive director of Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, an NGO that runs 200 shelters across the country for impoverished children and 75 learning centres in Dhaka for working children, said the government should establish a department entrusted with the task of eliminating child labour in hazardous conditions.

She also suggested that the government make it a rule that no children can be outside of schools during school hours.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Md Mujibul Haque Chunnun said that in the budget, his ministry proposed a project to train and rehabilitate 50,000 children engaged in informal sectors.

"Eliminating child labour from both formal and informal sectors would take some time, considering the reality of the country," he added.

# Man lives 555 days

FROM PAGE 16

Larkin's real heart was removed from his body in November 2014. It was replaced with a device that allowed Larkin to stay home instead of in a hospital while waiting to receive a transplant.

It finally arrived this year, in May. Now, Larkin is recovering from his procedure at the University of Michigan Frankel Cardiovascular Center. He is scheduled to return home as early as next week.

At any given time, there are about 4,000 patients nationwide waiting for human heart transplants, according to the US Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

Some patients with end-stage heart failure may wait months or even years before a suitable donor heart becomes available, said Dr Billy Cohn, a cardiovascular surgeon and director of the Center for Technology and Innovation at the Texas Heart Institute.

"Many of these patients have hearts that are so weak, the kidneys, liver and other critical organs will fail while they are waiting," said Cohn, who was not involved in Larkin's care. "Many of these patients would die without some form of support," such as an artificial heart.

Larkin didn't realize that his heart was suffering until nine years ago, when he collapsed without warning while playing in a basketball game. It turned out that Larkin had a genetic form of heart disease called familial cardiomyopathy. His brother, Dominique, 24, was soon found to have it, too.

The condition occurs when heart muscle stretches and enlarges the open area of at least one heart chamber, inhibiting the organ from pumping blood efficiently.

The type of cardiomyopathy seen in Stan and Dominique, called arrhythmogenic dysplasia, causes arrhythmias and failure on both sides of the heart, said Dr Jonathan Haft, a cardiac surgeon at the University of Michigan who operated on the brothers.

Both brothers eventually progressed to heart failure and cardiogenic shock, and they were equipped with artificial heart devices in late 2014. Dominique stayed in the hospital with his device for six weeks before receiving a human heart transplant.

But Larkin, who was thriving with the device, was the perfect candidate to live outside the hospital, Haft said.

"I was shocked when the doctors

started telling me that I could live without a heart in my body and that a machine was going to be my heart. Just think about it -- a machine," Larkin said.

It's not the first time a patient has lived for a long time with an artificial heart, but Larkin became the first patient in Michigan to go home with the portable device.

The SynCardia temporary artificial heart in Larkin's chest replaced his failing heart, including its chambers and four valves. Two tubes, exiting the left side of Stan's body beneath the ribcage, connected the artificial heart to a 13-pound machine called the Freedom Driver.

The driver, which was carried in a backpack, not only powered the artificial heart, it delivered pumps of compressed air into the heart's ventricles, allowing blood to be pumped through the body.

### AL postpones

FROM PAGE 2

decided to extend the committee's tenure by six months.

Failing to hold the council in December, the party on January 9 decided to hold the council on March 28.

It could not hold the programme that time as well due to the first and second phases of the union parishad elections.

On March 20, the AL again set a new date (July 10-11) for the programme.

Sources at yesterday's meeting said, all the sub-committees, formed for the council, placed their reports before the party chief.

While submitting his report, AL Agriculture and Cooperatives Affairs Secretary Abdur Razzak, also chief of AL's sub-committee on amending the party constitution, hinted at bringing some amendments to the AL charter.

Sources said the party might increase the number of posts in its presidium and central committees.

Besides, the party would create two more divisional secretariat posts for ICT affairs and local government affairs.

The party also decided to create three more divisional units for Mymensingh, Faridpur and Comilla.

The ALCWC currently has 73 members: the president, the general secretary, 13 presidium members, 19 secretaries, two deputy secretaries, three joint general secretaries, seven organising secretaries, one treasurer and 26 members.