

# Cops yet to know abandoners of Uttara arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six days into the recovery of an arms cache from a remote canal in Uttara, Dhaka Metropolitan Police was still to know its source.

Neither did police trace the SUV that had carried the arms and ammunition to the scene.

The Detective Branch of DMP is tasked with investigation.

Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, told The Daily Star Wednesday that police were yet to know who dumped the arms and ammunition there and why.

Tipped off, police recovered 97 foreign pistols, about 1,060 bullets, 497 magazines, 10 bayonets, and 188 cleaning rods from the canal on Saturday and Sunday. A man drove an SUV to the place and threw the arms and ammunition into the canal, police quoted its source as saying.

On Monday, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Miah said they assumed that a "vested interest group", trying to grab state power by creating instability, dumped the arms cache there.



Traffic congestion clogs Mirpur Road in the capital yesterday around 1:00pm with city dwellers hoping to complete their tasks on the last workday of the week and reach home before iftar.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# DoE fines nine factories Tk 85 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined nine factories Tk 85.63 lakh in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Razbari and Chittagong.

The team led by DoE director (monitoring and enforcement) Md Anwar Hossain Hawlader fined the factories for discharging untreated liquid waste to different water bodies, lowlands or other places and damaging the environment.

Golden Horizon Limited was fined Tk 5.93 lakh, Asia Pacific Papers Mill was fined Tk 12.48 lakh, Four H Dying and Printing was fined Tk 43.92 lakh, S Alam Supper Edible Oil of Chittagong was fined Tk 2 lakh, Linde Bangladesh of Dhaka was fined Tk 3,840, Rokeya Rahman Kobir Mohila Unnayan Kendra (dying section) of Rajbari was fined Tk 2,144, Bangladesh Dying of Narayanganj was fined Tk 3.12 lakh and Central Effluent Treatment Plant at Savar was fined Tk 14.4 lakh, said a press release.

The team also directed the factories to set up effluent treatment plant (ETP) as early as possible and keeping those functional and disconnecting bypass lines which are used to discharge untreated waste.

# Still long queues for Eid tickets in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Like previous days, people thronged the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station and different bus counters yesterday to buy advance tickets ahead of Eid.

Many waited for hours to get tickets since early hours.

"I have been waiting since 1:00am. After waiting for around eight hours, I finally got a ticket for Dinajpur," said Mustafizur Rahman, a college student.

Tickets for July 1 and 2 were sold and for July 3 will be sold today.

As per the revised schedule, tickets for July 4 and 5 will be sold on June 26 and 27, said officials.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will

inaugurate a new train on Dhaka-Chittagong route on June 25 at Kamalapur, which will carry 1,000 passengers, they added.

Meanwhile, private bus operators yesterday continued selling advance tickets for the third consecutive day.

Talking to The Daily Star, many passengers said they did not get tickets of desired dates.

In response, bus operators said the demand for tickets of some particular dates like June 30, July 1, 4 and 5 is much higher than the capacity.

However, there was a small crowd at Chittagong Railway Station on the second day. Tickets for July 3, 4, and 5 will be sold today, tomorrow and the day after.

# No compromise over independence of judiciary: CJ

UNB, Comilla

Chief Justice SK Sinha yesterday asserted that there will be no compromise when it comes to the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

He said this while addressing a views-exchange meeting in Comilla Court Bar Association Auditorium.

"In almost all the countries of the world, there exist some problems between the administration and the judiciary. We also have some problems here," he added.

The chief justice also noted that a huge backlog of cases has been created, while the justice seekers have been suffering due to absence of witnesses during hearings.

He called on the police and public prosecutors to play their due role in ensuring the witnesses' presence.

Observing that the greatness of a nation is adjudged not by its financial assets, but by the rule of law, which he said must be established to ensure the real progress.

# WAR CRIMES IN SHARIATPUR A second victim links Sulaiman, Edris to rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A second rape victim yesterday testified in court about how she and some 15 other women were picked up and raped for three days by Razakars, including Sulaiman Mollah and Edris Ali Sarder of Shariatpur, and the Pakistani army men during the Liberation War.

The 80-year-old, from Dakhin Madyapara village under Palang Police Station of the district, gave deposition as the sixth prosecution witness in the case.

On Wednesday, the first of the rape victims, also a sister-in-law of the sixth witness, gave an identical description, linking Sulaiman and Edris, before International Crimes Tribunal-1.

Facing four charges, Sulaiman is now in jail and pleads not guilty, while Edris is on the run.

The sixth witness yesterday said early in the Bangla month of Jaistha, Razakars and the Pakistani army men came to their village, detained the women, and 20-22 male persons before setting fire to houses.

They were taken to a jute mill in Madaripur and kept confined separately based on gender, she said, adding that the detainees included some children and three of her sisters-in-law. "They released us after the Pakistani army men and Razakars raped us keeping confined for three days."

But the male detainees were not released and they never returned, she said.

The witness said back home, they found their houses burnt down and took shelter in the house of Wahab Ali Gharami. A few days later, they left for India and returned after the war, she said.

"After returning home, we learnt that Razakars Sulaiman Mollah and Edris Ali Sarder were among the Razakars who took us to the jute mill in Madaripur," she added.

Defence counsels completed her cross-examination and the three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque adjourned proceedings until July 25.

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