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SHAH CEMENT

Light went out in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH with ANDREW EAGLE

Two police officers died while trying to rescue hostages during the terrorist attack on Gulshan's Holy Artisan Bakery has been reported worldwide. That in the death of one of them, Mohammad Rabiul Karim, Bangladesh lost an assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch from Dhaka Metropolitan Police is widely known. But it's his family and the locals from his native village of Katigram in Manikganj who know it best: just how much Bangladesh lost when we lost Rabiul.

"He wore all types of clothes," says widow, Umme Salma, 34, who is expecting their second child. "Lungi, t-shirt and gunchha: he used to dress like that when returning from university class, because he wanted to observe how bus employees interact with ordinary people."

Rabiul, who was locally known as Kamrul, was really shocked when the bus conductor addressed him using the overly informal Bangla version of 'you', 'tui', instead of the polite 'aapni' form. "He experienced that only when he wore expensive clothes was he properly respected," she says.

Family and friends recall how on one occasion when Rabiul was posted as an assistant commissioner with Rab-3, while not in uniform his motorcycle was randomly stopped in Dhamrai by an on-duty police officer. Despite showing the officer his papers he was asked to go to the police station, which he did. As all his papers were valid he left the place soon thereafter, without ever having disclosed his identity. Rabiul was not one to seek preferential treatment because of his job.

To ask around the village about the son of late Abdul Khalek and elderly mother Karimun Nessa is to hear compliment after compliment. Rabiul was a patriot. He was a

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Clockwise, Assistant Commissioner of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Rabiul Karim, killed in the Gulshan terror attack, with students of his specialised school -- Blooms -- in Manikganj; His widow Umme Salma showing their seven-year-old son a photograph of the police officer; a teacher giving lessons to a student inside a classroom of the school; students being brought in a van; and the school.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

France unites to denounce terror

Muslims, Catholics gather in churches to pray and mourn for slain priest

AFP, Rouen

Muslims attended Catholic mass in churches around France yesterday in solidarity and sorrow following the brutal jihadist murder of a priest, the latest in a string of attacks.

More than 100 Muslims were among the 2,000 faithful who packed the 11th-century Gothic cathedral of Rouen near the Normandy town where two jihadist teenagers slit the throat of 85-year-old Father Jacques Hamel.

"I thank you in the name of all Christians," Rouen Archbishop Dominique Lebrun told them. "In this way you are affirming that you reject death and violence in the name of God."

Nice's top imam Otaman Aissaoui led a delegation to a Catholic mass in the southern city where a jihadist carried out a rampage in a truck on Bastille Day, claiming 84 lives and injuring 435 including many Muslims.

"Being united is a response to the act of horror and barbarism," he said.

The Notre Dame church in southwestern

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HOUSING CRISIS

Some respite for low-income people

Mohammadi Group implementing a project in Gazipur for garment workers, hawkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When renting a decent flat is too expensive for the low-income groups in the capital and its suburbs to afford, owning a flat is a dream far off.

But a new initiative can make both of these possible. Shuborno Prangon, a project initiated by Mohammadi Group, one of the leading garment exporters in the country, could show the way to providing decent housing to garment workers, street hawkers and other people with low income.

The group is building a residential area on 1.7 acres land in Dogri area of Gazipur where 1,200 of its employees and workers will live once the project is complete by early 2019.

The project will reach its break-even in nine years. Break-even is the point of balance making neither a profit nor a loss.

A complex with seven floors, schools and playgrounds would be built and medical facilities would be ensured under the project.

Some 30 percent of the complex inhabitants will even become owners of the flats after nine years during which they will only pay the monthly rent, said Iqbal Habib, an architect and director of Vitti Sthapati Brindo Ltd, an architect firm which has designed the housing project.

Usually, he said, a person from the lower income group spends Tk 2,000 in monthly housing cost while his family expenditure is around Tk 6,800.

Spending Tk 42-46 for every square foot of their houses, they cram into slums and use shared toilet and kitchen, said Iqbal.

"But it costs me just Tk 23.5 for every square foot of my home in

RELATED STORY ON B1

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GOVERNING BODY

Hold polls in 6 months

HC asks authorities in its full verdict on private school, college governing committees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the authorities to form within a month ad-hoc committees at private educational institutions and then hold elections to their governing bodies.

The four-member ad-hoc committees, each to be headed by a government official, must hold the elections in six months.

The countdown started yesterday.

The move comes to make sure that no unelected bodies can govern any of the country's 18,500 privately-run secondary schools and colleges.

The committees will be formed by the relevant chairman of the Education Board. The committees will also include one

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Photo goof-up

Assam govt includes famous photo of Noakhali floods in its report



AGENCIES

In a major goof up, the Assam government on Saturday included a two-year old world-famous photograph of Bangladesh's Noakhali flood in its interim report on floods to Indian Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who was on a day-long visit to the state.

The report was handed over by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to the HM who was there to survey the flood condition in the state.

The report comprised of nine photographs. Out of this, one turned out to be the famous picture of Noakhali flood, where a young boy rescues and carries a baby deer amidst water.

The photo has been taken by wildlife photographer Hasibul Wahab. It was given by Caters News Agency in February 2014 and was said to have got

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Tokyo gets its first woman governor

AFP, Tokyo

Veteran politician Yuriko Koike was elected yesterday as Tokyo's first woman governor, partial results showed, and immediately vowed to get a grip on the megacity's troubled 2020 Olympic preparations.

The 64-year-old former TV anchorwoman, defence minister and environment

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 1
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-47 8-15
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Two men on a boat collect water lilies (Shapla) in Muslim Nagar Rajer Khola area of Munshiganj for sale. The photo was taken recently.

Erdogan tightens grip further

Seeks control of spy agency, chief of staff; 1,400 soldiers sacked, 50,000 passports cancelled in widening purge

AGENCIES

Turkey's government yesterday dismissed nearly 1,400 military personnel, including a top aide to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in the latest round of a sweeping purge following a failed coup.

The announcement in the official gazette came as Erdogan sought to tighten his grip over the country by bringing the armed forces and spy agency under his control.

The coup saw a rogue group within the military unsuccessfully attempt to depose Erdogan, who has since launched a huge crackdown on those suspected of complicity.

Erdogan's aide-de-camp Ali Yazici, who was arrested five days after the July 15 putsch, was among the 1,389 dismissed by a new decree in the official gazette.

Chief-of-staff Hulusi Akar's aide-de-camp Levent Turkkan and Defence Minister Fikri Isik's executive assistant Tefvik Gok were also discharged.

State-run news agency Anadolu said the soldiers were dismissed because of alleged links to the movement led by US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara accuses of masterminding coup.

Gulen strongly denies the charges. Turkey on Thursday already reshuffled the

upper echelons of its military. The latest expulsions followed the dishonourable discharges of 149 admirals and generals -- almost half the military's entire contingent -- along with 1,099 officers and 436 junior officers.

Erdogan told the A-Haber television channel late Saturday that he wanted to introduce constitutional changes to bring the Turkish spy agency and military chief of staff directly under his control, which would need parliamentary approval.

The new decree also confirmed his announcement that a new national military university would be established within the defence ministry, while military schools and academies would be closed down.

Military hospitals are to come under the control of the health ministry.

A senior official said on Saturday that Turkey had intercepted encrypted messages sent by followers of Gulen on the app ByLock well before the coup attempt, giving Ankara names of tens of thousands within the preacher's network.

Erdogan also said a three-month state of emergency declared in the wake of the coup could be extended, as the French authorities did after a string of jihadist attacks in the country.

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