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RU PROF REZAUL MURDER 8 JMB men charged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Detectives submitted a charge sheet yesterday against eight militants of banned outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to a court in Rajshahi University Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee murder case.

One of the accused, Shariful Islam, an RU English department student, from Sripur of Bagmara upazila, is now absconding. Codenamed Khalid by the JMB, he was found during an investigation to have "planned the killing and played the lead role in coordinating it".

Khairul Islam Payal alias Badhan, killed during the raid on Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka, and two others -- Nazrul Islam alias Bike Hasan and Tareque Hasan Milu alias Osman, killed in "crossfire" in Rajshahi and Bogra, were also involved in the murder.

The other accused -- Maskawath Hasan Sakib alias Abdullah, RU crop science department student Rahmatullah, Abdus Sattar and his son Ripon -- gave confessional statements in the case.

The Daily Star collected copies of the statements. The chief metropolitan magistrate of Rajshahi will hold the hearing on the charge sheet tomorrow.

The trial will be held against five accused as three others are dead, said Inspector of the Detective Branch of police in Rajshahi Rezaus Sadik who investigated the case.

Of the accused, Shariful, Badhan, Nazrul, Osman and

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



A man sleeps at six in the morning parking his rickshaw at Shahbagh intersection yesterday. While the lower temperature courtesy of a low over the Bay made many city dwellers want to stay curled up in bed, some were less fortunate.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Depression crosses Ctg coast Crops damaged

STAR REPORT

Heavy rain took toll on crops in coastal areas, including Chittagong, Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna, as a deep depression, which had formed over the Bay of Bengal, crossed Chittagong coast near Sitakunda yesterday noon after it became weak.

According to an official of Met office, light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and the rest parts of the country may remain dry today.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, crops of over 9,000 hectares of land were affected by the heavy rain due to the deep depression.

Aminul Huq Chowdhury, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

4 JMB men arrested in Rangpur Gun, bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police yesterday arrested four alleged operatives of banned terror outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Rangpur.

Police said they recovered a handgun, three crude bombs and several sharp weapons from their possession while four other associates of the arrestees escaped during a raid near an abandoned brickfield at Shahbazpur village of Rangpur Sadar upazila around 2:30am on Sunday.

Three police personnel were hurt as crude bombs were hurled at the law enforcers while police also fired at least six gunshots during the raid, according to police.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

25 wounded as police, Santals, labourers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least 25 people were injured in a clash between indigenous people and labourers as well as police at Shahebganj sugarcane farm of Rangpur Sugar Mills yesterday over land dispute.

Indigenous Santal community in the area have long been demanding ownership of the land, which the government acquired from them to cultivate sugarcane for the mill.

Police said the authorities of the mill deployed labourers, who were accompanied by police at the farm about 20 kilometres away from the mill, for harvesting sugarcane around 11:00am.

At one stage, around 100 indigenous protesters arrived at the scene as the labourers started harvesting sugarcane. The police chased the indigenous people, triggering a chase and counter-chase.

Police fired rubber bullets and

lobbed teargas canisters to disperse the confronting groups. The indigenous people shot arrows at police and the labourers, injuring nine law enforcers and a number of workers.

The injured were taken to Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex.

During the Pakistan regime in 1952, the government acquired 1,840 acres of land at Shahebganj to set up the sugarcane farm.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Armed with bamboo and bow and arrows, adivasi people clash with police and workers of a sugarcane farm in Gabindaganj of Gaibandha yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Anti-IS offensive begins in Raqa

Mosul battle slows as Iraqi forces push into more densely populated areas

AGENCIES

A US-backed Kurdish-Arab alliance yesterday launched an offensive on the Islamic State group's de facto Syrian capital Raqa, upping pressure on the jihadists after Iraqi forces entered their Iraqi bastion Mosul.

"The major battle to liberate Raqa and its surroundings has begun," Jihan Sheikh Ahmed, a spokeswoman for the Syrian

Democratic Forces (SDF), said at a press conference in Ain Issa, some 50 kilometres north of the jihadist bastion.

In Washington, a US official confirmed the start of the operation.

"We will first undertake an effort to isolate Raqa to set the stage for an eventual assault on the city itself to liberate it," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

ATTACK ON HINDUS India tells Dhaka, it's worried

STAR REPORT

Following the recent attacks on the Hindus in Brahmanbaria and elsewhere in Bangladesh, India has expressed its concern about the safety and security of the community.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had directed the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka to convey to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina India's grave concern about the matter, reports our correspondent in New Delhi.

"I have asked the Indian High Commissioner in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Ads push kids to eat junk food

REUTERS, London

Children in Europe are bombarded with hidden digital advertising and marketing promoting fatty, sugary and salty foods that is damaging their health and adding to the region's obesity problem, World Health Organization experts said on Friday.

The researchers called for policymakers to do more to protect children from junk food

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



First Textiles Reverse System by Alif Group in Country

Wolfram Engel, CEO of Green Line Environmental Technology, along with Markus Reinken, director of Lidl (Germany); Anne Lillelund, country manager of DVC, and Md. Azizul Islam, chairman of Alif Group, attends the launch of the reverse osmosis system in Alif Group Shadhin Garments in Gazipur on November 3.

EU parliament delegation due this month

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A 15-member European Parliament delegation will arrive in Dhaka in the middle of this month to discuss Bangladesh's politics, freedom of expression, and labour and human rights issues with politicians, business leaders, NGOs, and the media.

"This is an important European parliamentary delegation...though this delegation will actually look into the trade issues, but it relates to a host of other crucial matters," a diplomatic source told The Daily Star yesterday.

The source said the delegation members would start arriving in Dhaka on November 13 and would begin its mission on November 15.

Sources said Chair of the Committee on International Trade Bernd Lange and Chair of the delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia Jean Lambert will be in the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

7th Death Anniversary of **Mir Zahir Hossain**

7th November, 2016 marks the 7th Death Anniversary of **Mir Zahir Hossain** (1947-2009) former Managing Director of Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd., Mir Cement Ltd., Mir Concrete Products Ltd., Mir Real Estate Ltd., Mir Telecom Ltd. He was also the former Chairman and one of the founders of NCC Bank Ltd., former president of Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry (BACI) and general secretary of International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors' Associations (IFAWPCA).

His hard work, vision, work ethics, perseverance and philanthropic sense has set the path of establishment for Mir Group of Companies. May we all strive to achieve the standard of success that he was able to.

On this occasion we mourn his loss and we remember him at his element: an enthusiastic perfectionist in business and general people welfare. Please keep him in your prayers. May Allah bless him with eternal peace and a place in heaven.

All Members of the Mir Family