

Police gun down drug dealer during arrest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An alleged drug dealer was shot dead by police after he "resisted arrest" and "attacked" the law enforcers with a sharp weapon in Gobindasree area in sadar upazila early yesterday.

Police identified the deceased as Ruhel Ahmed, 35, from Mostofapur union of the same upazila.

Three members of the police -- Abdul Malik, 45, sub-inspector of Moulvibazar Sadar Police Station and constables Salahuddin, 25, and Fakhru Islam, 50 -- and their driver Bazlu were injured in the attack, said police.

Among the injured, Abdul Malik was sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Akiluddin Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Moulvibazar Sadar Police Station, said police chased Ruhel and opened fire on him in Gobindasree area while he was fleeing the scene after he "resisted arrest and assaulted the police with a machete".

Ruhel was later found with bullet wounds inside a bush nearby and sent to Sylhet General Hospital where doctors declared him dead, the OC said adding that the body will be sent to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

'Lost' boy returns

FROM PAGE 2

The boy claimed that he then decided to go to New Delhi -- a place he had heard of and seen on TV.

Again, he got on a train and reached Delhi. He said he roamed around the city all day and went to Delhi railway station at night to sleep.

At the station, Yamin came across some officials of Butterflies, an India NGO. They took him to their office, said Mahbul Alam, project coordinator of Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, Chittagong.

The boy claimed that he had Tk 38 with him, which he converted into rupees from a shop at Sealdah and got 30 rupees in exchange.

Yamin said he remembered the mobile phone number of one of his sisters.

The Butterflies officials contacted the sister about two weeks ago and asked them to take Yamin back home.

Mahbul said as his sister informed the officials about their inability to bring Yamin home due to financial constraints, Butterflies officials contacted Aparajeyo-Bangladesh Dhaka office and sent the boy to Dhaka on January 3.

"We handed him over to his family today [yesterday] at a programme at Chittagong City Corporation office," he added.

Yamin, however, could not say the dates and time of his trip to India.

At the programme, CCC Mayor Nasir urged Yamin's family members to take proper care of the boy. He said the city corporation would bear the expenses of his studies and cooperate with him in every possible way. Yamin's mother, Shamsunnahar, received the boy and expressed her gratitude towards all concerned.

Villagers make

FROM PAGE 20

There are a number of trees on the homestead of one Ashok Kumar Chowdhury in the village, and the birds have taken shelter on the trees. Locals say the birds have been staying there for the last two years.

The villagers have taken it upon themselves to protect the birds. They say they alert newcomers and visitors and prevent them from hunting.

They even search bags of visitors to make sure they do not bring traps or nets with them.

Ashok, who is a village doctor by profession, said, "The birds first came here five years ago, but went away after some days. They flew in the next year but left again. Finally, the birds started staying here for the last two years."

According to locals, the birds leave the trees in the morning in search of food in nearby rivers, canals and ponds, and come back around noon. After a few hours, they wing their way to the water bodies again and return at dusk.

Villager Anjana Mondol, wife of Sunil Mondol, said, "We enjoy the chirping of the birds. It is really fascinating to see the birds flying in unison."

Expressing his resolve to protect the birds, Sofi Sheikh, a villager, said, the villagers take good care of the birds and keep a watchful eye on them so that the birds are not hunted or killed.

"We neither kill the birds nor do we allow others to kill them. If any bird gets injured due to storm or heavy rain, we try our best to treat it," he said.

Climate change

FROM PAGE 20

The report comes at a time when the world enters its second year on the way to achieve the 2030 Global Agenda or SDGs that seeks to leave none behind.

According to the study, a total of 6,457 weather-related disasters occurred during 1995-2015, which claimed more than 600,000 lives and affected another 4.2 billion people.

It revealed that low-income countries suffered the greatest losses, which was estimated to be about 5 percent of their GDP.

The UN report does not provide any specific estimate on Bangladesh, but says it is one of the few countries facing gross socio-economic losses.

Citing a recent study, UNDP Country Director Kyoko Yokosuka said 95 percent of the poor coastal people in Bangladesh experienced the impacts of climate change. One of the top three reasons for their failure in poverty reduction is climate change, she pointed out.

"Poor in general, and women, persons with disability, children, elderly people and indigenous people living below the poverty line are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change," the UN official added.

Yokosuka said an estimated 400,000 people relocate to Dhaka every year from elsewhere in the country, while 70 percent of the capital's slum dwellers moved there to flee some sorts of environmental shocks.

"With increasing urban poverty, there are increased inequalities," she said.

The UN report voiced concern that

international resources to support climate change resilience were insufficient.

At the Paris climate conference last year, countries committed to setting a target of mobilising at least \$100 billion per year for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in developing countries.

Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change says adaptation costs will range from \$70 billion to \$100 billion per year by 2050 in the developing countries alone.

Climate change discussions focusing on mitigation through adaptation is more important for countries like Bangladesh, said Nazrul Islam of UNDESA.

While the world goes through an "emergency situation" due to climate change, there is an opportunity for the international community to come together to address the challenges, he added.

The UN report recommended immediate assistance to fight climate-related hazards, interventions for disaster risk reduction and taking up adaptation policies, including introduction of new crop varieties and water management techniques.

It also suggested ecosystem management and income diversification of people and policies to reduce inequalities, which in turn would help address climate change impacts.

These specific measures would be most effective when they are part of long-term transformative strategies aligned to economic, social and environmental dimensions of SDGs, the report said.

SC won't accept

FROM PAGE 1

in September 2014, empowered parliament to remove SC judges for incapacity or misconduct.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday fixed February 8 for hearing the government appeal.

The SC said in the past it scrapped the fifth, eighth and 13th amendments to the constitution, as those were in conflict with the basic structures of the charter.

Independence of the judiciary is a pillar of the constitution and it cannot be changed, but the government has done this anyway, it added.

The apex court also noted that the person responsible for bridging the judiciary and the executive branch "says one thing here and another thing at the cabinet meeting and in parliament."

The court did not mention any name, but it is the law minister who normally acts as the "bridge" the SC referred to.

The attorney general told the court that the government needed time for moving an appeal against the HC verdict.

But he admitted that opinions of the SC judges should have been sought before drafting the law, as they are also stakeholders in the matter.

The cabinet approved the draft on April 18 last year.

On May 5 last year, the HC declared the 16th amendment to the constitution illegal, but allowed the government to appeal against it before the SC.

The government filed the appeal on January 4 this year.

The attorney general said that while dealing with this appeal, the SC would be judging its judges, as the appeal is related with the judges.

The top court can examine the law, but not the Jatiya Sangsad, he told the court.

Two Biman

FROM PAGE 20

emergency landing in Turkmenistan on November 27 last year.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sazzadur Rahman passed the order after Mahbul Alam, inspector of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit, produced the two suspended officials -- engineer Rokonzaman and junior technician Siddiqur Rahman -- before it with a prayer for a 10-day remand for each of them.

They were produced before the court on completion of their seven-day remand.

On December 22, the two were sent to jail after they surrendered before another court seeking bail in the case.

Nine employees of Biman Bangladesh Airlines were made accused in the case filed under the Special Powers Act with Airport Police Station on December 21. Wing Commander (ret'd) MM Asaduzzaman, director of engineering and material management of Biman, filed the case.

All the nine Biman employees were suspended and seven of them were arrested hours after the case was filed.

The same day, the seven were placed on seven-day police remand each when they were produced before the court.

They are now on an eight-day remand in a second phase.

On November 27, a Biman flight carrying the prime minister made an emergency landing at Ashgabat International Airport in Turkmenistan on her way to Budapest in Hungary as engine-1 of the aircraft was losing oil pressure.

After the landing, engineers identified that a loose nut was causing the loss of oil pressure.

The Biman authorities formed a technical probe committee the following day to find the reason behind the incident. Based on the findings of the probe committee, Biman first suspended six employees and later three more and filed the case against them.

MP Liton

FROM PAGE 2

Police also suspect Sundarganj upazila Jamaat ameer Mowlana Younus Ali's involvement in the murder. He went into hiding soon after the killing. Younus was the prime accused in four cops killing and others violence cases. He is now on bail.

"Lawmaker Liton planned to go to Dhaka on December 31. Accordingly, I went to Saidpur airport to buy tickets, but could not manage those and bought tickets for the next day [January 1]," said Ayub Ali, manager of Liton's cold storage.

Jamaat-Shibir men had attempted to kill the lawmaker at his Masterpara house three times but failed, alleged Shams Uddin, president of Bamondanga union unit AL.

They were involved in killing the lawmaker, he also alleged.

Meanwhile, Jubo League yesterday brought out a procession in Gaibandha district town, protesting the killing of Liton, demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers.

New York train crash injures more than 100 commuters

REUTERS, New York

A New York City train derailed at a downtown Brooklyn terminal during Wednesday's morning rush hour, injuring more than 100 commuters in the metropolitan area's second major rail accident since late September.

Emergency crews swarmed Atlantic Terminal after the Long Island Rail Road train went off the tracks inside the busy transportation hub at 8:20 a.m. local time (1320 GMT), the New York City Fire Department said.

While none of the injuries were life-threatening, at least 11 people were sent to the hospital, Deputy Assistant Chief Dan Donoghue said at a briefing at the crash site.

The train, arriving from the Queens neighborhood of Far Rockaway, failed to stop on time. Traveling at a fairly slow speed, it derailed after striking a bumping block, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said at the briefing.

A National Transportation Safety Board investigator told reporters that about 430 passengers and three crew members were on board the train at the time of the collision and that 104 people were injured.

The front two cars of the six-carriage train were severely damaged. The station's partitions and bumping block, which prevents railway vehicles from going past the end of a section of track, were also damaged.

Passengers said the blood and chaos following the derailment were frightening.

"There were people crying," said Aaron Neufeld, a 26-year-old paralegal who commutes on the rail line daily. "I saw some bloody faces."

Neufeld, who was riding in the

second car, said the train appeared to be approaching normally until it crashed, knocking passengers on top of one another and shattering glass windows.

"Bags went flying," he said. "People were thrown to the ground."

The engineer was probably responsible for failing to stop the train before it hit the bumper, said Tom Prendergast, chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the agency that runs the railroad.

The train was traveling between 10 and 15 miles per hour (16 to 24 km per hour) as it approached the bumper, he said, which is standard.

"At that speed, it's pretty much the locomotive engineer's responsibility to stop the train," Prendergast said as he stood beside Cuomo at the briefing. Investigators will interview the engineer, the conductor and brakeman to determine the cause of the accident, he said.

There were no major service disruptions for other Long Island Rail Road lines at the terminal, an MTA official said.

In late September, a New Jersey Transit train crashed into a terminal in Hoboken, New Jersey, killing one woman and injuring 114 people, including the engineer.

Cuomo, who has made infrastructure improvements a centerpiece of his agenda, said Wednesday's incident was minor in comparison. The most serious injury in the crash was a broken leg, he said.

"There was extensive damage in Hoboken," Cuomo said. "That train was coming in much faster, did much more damage."

US to transfer

FROM PAGE 2

The Obama administration notified Congress last month of its intention to make the additional transfers, Reuters has reported. Those being transferred make up the bulk of the 23 prisoners declared in parole-style hearings to be safe for repatriation or resettlement in other countries.

Trump on Tuesday signalled his view that all of those held at Guantanamo should remain, despite lengthy inter-agency reviews that deemed many of them eligible to leave.

"There should be no further releases from Gitmo," he tweeted. "These are extremely dangerous people and should not be allowed back onto the battlefield."

The White House dismissed Trump's objections and said transfers from Guantanamo, opened by former President George W. Bush to hold terrorism suspects rounded up overseas following the Sept 11, 2001 attacks, would continue until Trump takes office.

"We expect that there will be more transfers," said White House spokeswoman Emily Horne. "We do not comment on the progress of individual detainee transfers until they are completed."

The two US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, were unable to provide the nationalities of the

prisoners who were headed to Saudi Arabia. Last April, the desert kingdom - one of the top US allies in the region - accepted nine Yemenis under a long-negotiated deal between Washington and Riyadh.

Of the 59 prisoners remaining at Guantanamo before the latest transfer, 10 face charges in military commissions, including alleged plotters of the Sept 11 attacks, while about two dozen have not been charged but have been deemed too dangerous to release.

Obama, who inherited 242 detainees at Guantanamo Bay when he took office in 2009 and has called it a "recruiting tool" for terrorists, has slowly whittled the number downward.

Under Bush, the prison came to symbolize aggressive detention practices that opened the United States to accusations of torture.

Obama's efforts to close the prison have been blocked by mostly Republican opposition in Congress, which has barred him from moving any prisoners to the US mainland. Foot-dragging by Pentagon officials has also been blamed for slowing transfers.

Administration officials have also made clear that Obama has no intention of resorting to the legally risky option of using executive action to close the prison before leaving office.

Major changes

FROM PAGE 1

Anwar was replaced a year before the expiry of his tenure, sources said.

Khan, a former additional secretary at the Economic Relations Division, became a director of the bank as the representative of Armada Spinning Mills Ltd.

Until November 2015, Khan served as a member at the Planning Commission. From 2001 to 2014, he worked in the finance ministry as deputy secretary, joint secretary and additional secretary.

Khan sat on the boards of IFIC Bank Ltd, Karmasangsthan Bank and Agrani Bank Ltd. After retiring from government job, he became chairman of Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd, from which he resigned on Tuesday.

The Islami Bank appointed Khan as a director on December 15 last year. The central bank later approved the appointment.

The bank said major changes were brought in the executive committee, audit committee and risk management committee, with Abdul Matin, Md Zillur Rahman and Md Abdul Mabud becoming the new chairmen of those committees respectively.

The bank's managing director may also be changed.

A director of the bank board, seeking anonymity, said Mohammad Abdul Mannan, the current MD, earlier submitted his resignation.

Yesterday, the board read out the resignation letter and accepted it.

Mannan may be replaced by one of the managing directors of the nine newly established banks, said a source.

Tigers' chance to get even

FROM PAGE 20

average performance in the last four games including the first T20I at the Mclean Park, which the visitors lost by six wickets and two overs to spare.

One-down Sabbir Rahman also got a start in every game but is yet to make a substantial contribution. If the attacking right-hander can play to his potential, Bangladesh will get the chance of scoring anything beyond 180, which is a good score to defend on this kind of surface.

The game will also mark one last hurrah from the non-performing Soumya Sarker as the team management has decided to stick to the same eleven that featured in the first game. Out for a first-ball duck in the previous game, the left-hander can only think of extending his stay in the side by contributing heavily with the bat. His return to form will be of added importance in the absence of experienced middle-order batsman Mushfiqur Rahim.

Mahmudullah Riyad has hit some sort of form in the last game with a fantastic fifty, but the right-hander needs to build on that solid platform. The bowling has so far been good,

apart from the last ten overs in the first two ODIs, but the fielding leaves a lot to be desired. The ground fielding has been ordinary and the catching very disappointing, save one stunner from Shakib Al Hassan in the deep.

In the shortest format of the game ground fielding is very important and on this type of wicket it is more challenging because if you are fielding in the deep you need to attack the ball to prevent an additional run.

This is also applicable if you are batting because you have got the chance to turn a single into a two and a two into a three and it is an area where Bangladesh's top-order batsmen did not fare well. Opener Imrul is perhaps the worst of them all, playing numerous dot balls in between an odd boundary.

Bangladesh have got a few brilliant fielders, but at the same time they have got a few the captain needs to hide. Unfortunately they are the pace bowlers in the team.

So far the Tigers have not contributed as a unit. They need to do that if they are to turn an opportunity into a victory and stay alive in the three-match series.

Cops discouraged

FROM PAGE 1

Khan have already "found evidence" of his involvement in 1971 war crimes, including murder and rape, she added.

Important witnesses and victims are discouraged from giving testimonies in different ways. Birangana Safura Khatun is an important witness in the case against Khaleq who is now in jail, the investigation agency said in the letter.

Detectives, on instructions from Hashmi, conducted a "staged drive" on January 1 afternoon against Phensedy and detained Safura's son Rafiqul Islam.

When IO Razzak requested Hashmi to "deal the matter softly" Hashmi responded with satire and turned down the request, according to the letter.

The IO did not get any solution to the matter even after talking to KM Ariful Haque, Satkhira additional superintendent of police.

He then, with approval of Sanaul, requested Md Jahangir, a member of Boikari Union Parishad, to address the issue. After talks with the member, the detectives released Rafiqul for Tk 20,000.

The ongoing war crimes trial is a political pledge of the incumbent government, and the local administrations and police have been cooperating in the investigation of the cases.

But Hashmi and ASI Rafiqul, instead of extending their support, showed utter non-cooperation by detaining son of a witness and keeping him confined for around 22 hours "illegally" and received Tk 20,000 bribe, the agency said in the letter.

The behaviour of KM Ariful also does not go with the portfolio he holds, as per the letter.

'Rohingyas'

FROM PAGE 20

When the forest officials were returning around noon, after demolishing some illegal structures, the Rohingyas hurled brick chips at the officials and also fired into the air, they added.

At least 10 forest officials were wounded being hit by brick chips.

The injured took first aid at Ukhia Upazila Health Complex.

Myanmar

FROM PAGE 5

Besides, a team of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of the United Nations is also expected to arrive in Dhaka next week to evaluate the Rohingya situation in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has been requesting the Myanmar government to urgently address the root cause of the problem in the Rakhine State so that Rakhine Muslims are not required to desperately seek shelter across the border.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on December 29, 2016 summoned Myanmar Ambassador in Dhaka Myo Myint Than and demanded early repatriation of all Myanmar nationals staying in the country.

Though expressed deep concern at the continued influx of Muslims from the Rakhine, Bangladesh offered its readiness to engage with Myanmar to discuss process and modalities of repatriation with Myanmar.

Accused bites

FROM PAGE 1

Shahabuddin bit the hands of a police constable and fled the scene.

Police detained Shahabuddin's wife and father Siddique but other members of the family escaped, said police.

SI Alimuzzaman, constables Sujon Miah, Ruhul Amin, and Monjurul Islam were given first aid at Nandail Upazila Health Complex.

A case was lodged with the police station in connection with assaulting police, said the OC.