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RAID ON RAJSHAHI MILITANT DEN

5 militants, a fireman killed

4 cops hurt, 2 kids rescued; 1 held; 11 bombs recovered

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi



Abdul Matin

Five suspected militants, including three from a family, were killed as they detonated two suicide belts and hacked a fireman to death during a 36-hour raid on a hideout in Rajshahi's Godagari on Thursday.

injuries in the incident. Around 1:00am on Thursday, Rajshahi district police cordoned off the house of Sazzad Ali in Machmara-Benipur village following information from Lawful Interception of Calls unit of the police headquarters. Ignoring the call to surrender, militants blasted two bombs -- at 4:00am and 6:00am -- from the 800 square feet tin-roofed mud house in the middle of a cropland, police said. Assured by police of foolproof security, fire-fighters joined in around 7:30am to help them "defuse explosives". Matin and



A female militant suspect wielding a sickle charge towards police and fire service officials during a raid on a house in Rajshahi's Godagari on Thursday.



Top right, an injured fireman is being carried to hospital. Bottom right; a baby and a minor boy, who were at the house, are being taken to safety.

PHOTO: VIDEO GRAB

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Rape accused Shafat, Sakif remanded

Banani rape allegation appears to be true, say police after quizzing the two accused arrested in Sylhet

STAR REPORT

The allegation of rape brought against Ahmed Shafat and Shadman Sakif appears to be true, police said yesterday after the primary interrogation of the two accused in the Banani double rape case. "What we've got in the interrogation is that the incident seems to be true," Krishna Pada Roy, joint commissioner (crime) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told reporters at a briefing at the DMP Media Centre. On Thursday night, a joint team of police

arrested the two accused raiding a house in Pathantula area of Sylhet city. They were brought to Dhaka yesterday morning. Later in the day, a Dhaka court placed Shafat on six-day remand and Sakif on five-day remand after police produced them before it and sought 10-day remand for each of them. Police are now hunting the three other accused -- Nayeem Ashraf alias Halim, Shafat's driver Billal and bodyguard Abul Kalam Azad.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Stop sectarian war among Muslims: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has put emphasis on stopping sectarian war among the Muslims, saying that it ultimately benefits the arms traders. "We're fighting among ourselves in different parts of the world, and the arms traders are ultimately benefiting from it ... this [war] must be halted and the problem will have to be solved through discussion," she said.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Executive magistrate-led mobile court illegal

HC declares unconstitutional 11 rules of mobile court law; says it's 'a frontal attack' on judiciary's independence

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has declared unconstitutional the rules under which executive magistrates run mobile courts. Delivering a verdict on three writ petitions, the HC has observed that empowering executive magistrates with judicial powers is "a frontal attack on the independence of the judiciary and is violative of the theory of separation of powers". The HC judgment means that executive magistrates now can't run mobile courts empowered to try a number of offences, including illegal assembly, public nuisance, illegal connection of electricity, water and gas, and cheating at examination centres. It, however, said mobile courts can be run by judicial or metropolitan magistrates. "The mobile court is a fast-track court. In the social context of Bangladesh and in

order to facilitate access to justice at the grassroots level, fast-track courts like mobile courts are an impressive necessity. This type of fast-track courts may prove to be an effective tool in curbing the rising wave of crime in the country," the court said in the verdict on Thursday. The HC declared unconstitutional 11 sections of the Mobile Court Act 2009 regarding empowerment of executive magistrates and the process of running mobile courts, their powers to convict and sentence offenders, district magistrates' powers to run mobile courts, the provision of appeal against mobile court orders and government powers to amend the schedule of the act. "It is hereby declared that sections 5, 6(1), 6(2), 6(4), 7, 8(1), 9, 10, 11, 13 and 15 of the [mobile court] Ain [act] No 59 of

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2



Tigers' opener washed out

STAR SPORT DESK

Bangladesh's tri-series opener against Ireland yesterday saw the Tigers recover from 70 for four through an 87-run fifth-wicket stand between Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad, but it all came to nothing as afternoon rain at the Malahide Cricket Club in Dublin caused the match to be abandoned and the points shared. Bangladesh had reached 157 for four in 31.1 overs with Tamim hitting his 35th ODI half-century.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



Influential traders pile up sand on the Shitalakkhya near the Sultana Kamal Bridge in the capital's Demra. This mindless act of traders is narrowing the river's channel as the authorities seem oblivious to the encroachment of the river. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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