

Rab arrests 4 'JMB men'

Says they are members of 'Sarwar-Tamim group'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanj
Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-11) claimed to have arrested four members of banned militant outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in separate raids.

The raids took place in Narayanj, Munshiganj and Dhaka from 10:00pm Wednesday to 3:30am yesterday.

The arrestees, who belong to JMB's "Sarwar-Tamim group", were planning to carry out subversive activities around the country, claimed Rab.

They were identified as Shaikh Yusa Mohammad Abdullah Imon, 28, of Bagerhat, Anwar Hossain of Rajshahi, Mahbubur Rahman Nazmul alias Ukil Reshan of Barguna, and Kausar Shikder alias Kausar Bin Abdul Alim Masud Shuva, 25, of Barisal.

A foreign made pistol, huge amount of explosives and books and leaflets on militancy were recovered from their possessions.

RAB claimed that the arrestees had been carrying out militant activities for long.

Camp Commander Lt Col Kamrul Hasan informed this to reporters at a press conference at RAB-11 office at Adamjee in Narayanj yesterday noon.

Shaikh Yusa and Anwar Hossain were arrested from Rugganj in Narayanj. Mahbub was arrested from Mawa in Munshiganj and

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Winners at prize giving ceremony of a mother's day campaign organised by The Daily Star and CBL Munchee at the Daily Star Centre yesterday. CBL Munchee's Global Group Manager Theja Peiris and Country Manager Shri Somanathan Sridharan were present at the event, among others.

PHOTO: STAR

Invest more in research

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed urges govt at inauguration of ground station for Brac University's nanosatellite

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed yesterday said the government should invest more in research for the country's development.

"In our country, investment in research is very poor," he told journalists, while inaugurating a ground station for Brac University's nanosatellite "Brac Onnesha" at its campus in the capital's Mohakhali.

"I don't know whether investment in research is 0.1 percent [of the GDP]...The country will be benefited if the government spends at least one percent of its economic growth in research," he added.

With inauguration of the ground station, the university authorities are now expecting to launch the nanosatellite, first of its kind in the country, into the orbit sometime next month.

The satellite, a cube measuring 10cm along its edge and



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No friend in need

Migrants tell nat'l dialogue that govt is not taking proper care of them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite their significant contribution to the country's economy, migrant workers feel neglected and not being properly taken care of when they are in need of help.

They said a large number of them face abuse and financial loss while many suffer injuries and deaths, but there are no adequate measures taken by the government for their protection.

They ventilated their frustrations at a national dialogue titled "Migrants' Budget" organised by Ovbashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP), a grassroots NGO, in the capital's Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

"I was in Jordan for a year and seven months. For excessive workload and tortures, I got sick. I was then deported home unpaid for 11 months," said Mosammat Shefali, 35, of Fatullah.

Since returning home over a year back, she has

been struggling with her worsening health condition. In February this year, she appealed to the Wage Earners' Welfare Board for financial help for uterus surgery that would require at least Tk 2 lakh.

"I am yet to receive any response," said a crying Shefali at the dialogue attended by over 300 migrant workers, and representatives of NGOs and government officials.

Mashiul Alam of Sonargaon in Narayanj, who worked in Saudi Arabia for 22 years, said after returning home recently he tried to get a loan from the Probashi Kalyan Bank for setting up a small business.

"But I failed, because it [process] is heavily complicated," he said.

Labour migration experts say high migration cost, which is Tk 3 lakh to Tk 12 lakh based on countries, and low wages for Bangladeshi migrants, are major factors why they face so many troubles in the migration cycle.

It takes three to four years for many to recover the cost, while many return home injured and penniless, and they find it difficult to start a new life back home, they said.

The government too does not have any reintegration programme to help the returnees start new income-generating ventures, experts said.

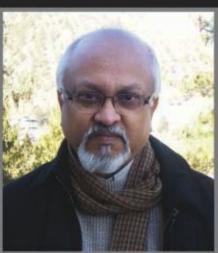
"Family of a dead migrant gets a compensation of only Tk 3 lakh, which is negligible," said Sumayia Islam, director of Bangladesh Ovbashi Mohila Sramik Association (Bomsa).

Shakirul Islam, executive director of OKUP, in a keynote presentation said around one crore Bangladeshi migrants work abroad and send home annually \$ 15 billion a year, which is about eight percent of the country's GDP.

Interestingly, the budgetary allocation for the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry is 0.17 percent, he said.

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REMEMBRANCE



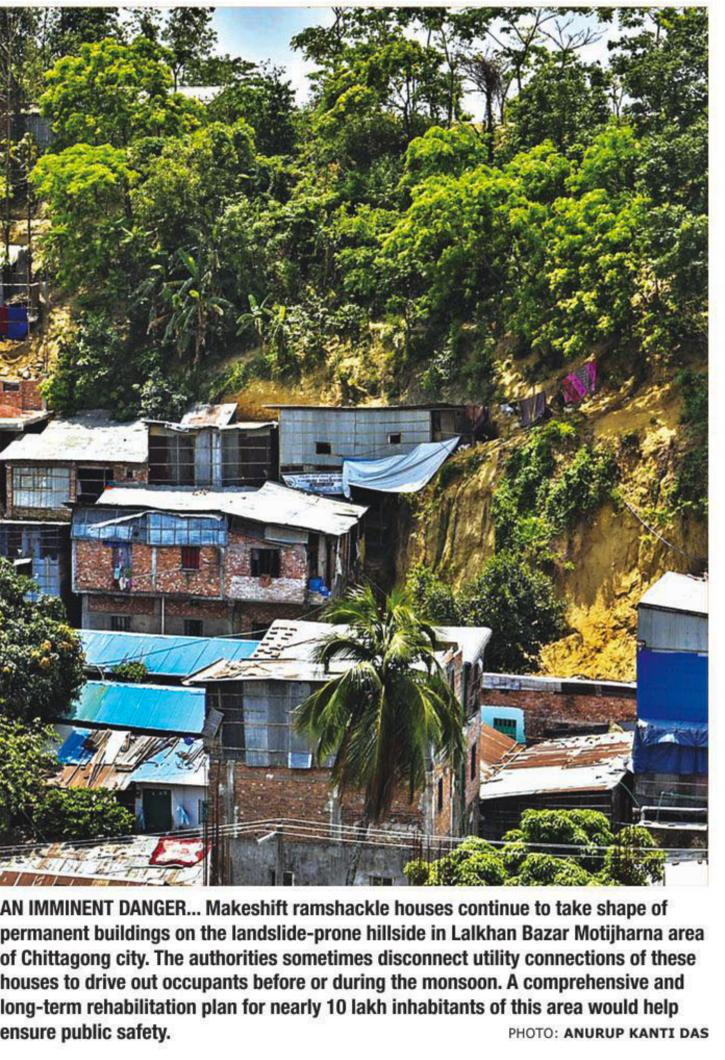
Dr. Mirza M Huq

Today, on the occasion of his third death anniversary, we remember with immense love and respect, a person whose sincerity, compassion and wisdom touched so many lives.

"He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much".

We request all his friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for his eternal peace.

Shako, Shondhi, Tamima, Alina and Yasmin



AN IMMINENT DANGER... Makeshift ramshackle houses continue to take shape of permanent buildings on the landslide-prone hillside in Lalkhan Bazar Motijharna area of Chittagong city. The authorities sometimes disconnect utility connections of these houses to drive out occupants before or during the monsoon. A comprehensive and long-term rehabilitation plan for nearly 10 lakh inhabitants of this area would help ensure public safety.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

EC roadmap won't be effective without neutral polls-time govt

Says Mosharraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said the Election Commission's roadmap for the next parliamentary election will not be effective if it ignores the demand of an election-time neutral government.

"The Election Commission has announced a roadmap. But first, you (CEC) have to create a level-playing field for all. Otherwise, it will not be possible to make the roadmap functional," he said.

He was speaking at a discussion organised by Ducus and Sarbadolio Chhatra Oikya at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Mosharraf said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will unveil a formula for the election-time government after Ramadan.

Regarding the chief justice's comment that the government has controlled the lower court and wants to control the higher court, the BNP leader said, "This statement is not good for the country."

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NO END TO BLOODSPILL ON ROADS

Accidents take 16 lives

Three of a family among six die in Gopalganj

CITY DESK

Six people including a police officer and three members of a family were killed as a microbus collided head-on with a three-wheeler on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Chaychania area of Gopalganj Sadar yesterday.

The deceased are passengers of the microbus Delwar Hossain, 32, assistant sub-inspector of Gopalganj Sadar Police Station; three-wheeler driver Azad Shiekh, 26; its passengers Jasmin Begum, 40, of Purnobordi village her daughters Kulsum Khanom, 25, and Sumaya Khanom, 17; and Mojahid Mollah, 35, of Char Gobra village.

Delwar, Azad and Jasmin died on the spot while others died at Gopalganj Sadar Hospital.

Locals said the incident occurred as one of the front tyres of the microbus burst.

In Chittagong, four persons including a woman and a child were killed and six others injured as a bus collided head-on with a pickup on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar

highway in Kasaipara area of Chandanaish upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Md Farid, 45, of Kaliaish, Al Amin, 35, of Chandanaish, Noyantara, 9, and Hazera Khatun, 60, both hailed from Khagoria.

Being hit, the pick-up later hit a four-wheeler parked beside the road.

The injured were taken to Dohazari Health Complex.

In Chittagong city, two persons were killed and eight others injured as a human-hauler turned turtle after the driver lost his control over the vehicle near Customs Moor yesterday.

The deceased are Rakib Hossain, 17, helper of the vehicle, and Amjad Hossain, 48, a passenger. They died on the spot.

The injured were taken to different hospitals.

In Natore, a man was killed as a human-hauler collided head-on with his motorcycle in kanchikata area of Gurudaspur upazila yesterday.

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