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Firearms and ammunition recovered by police are on display in Narayanganj's Rupganj yesterday. Two rocket launchers and 61 Chinese submachine guns are among the arms.

Huge cache of arms recovered

2 rocket launchers, 61 SMGs found in canal

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday claimed to have recovered a huge cache of firearms and ammunition, including two rocket launchers and 61 Chinese submachine guns (SMGs), from Narayanganj's Rupganj.

Although police did not name the group who belonged to those arms, they claimed to have found similarities with the arms and bags recovered from Diabari in the capital's Uttara on June 18 last year.

Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit, said they were suspecting that the group who had been behind keeping arms in Diabari was responsible for the Rupganj incident.

Asked whether there was any militant group involved in the Rupganj incident, he said they had recovered arms from different militant hideouts, but there were no similarities with the recovered arms of Rupganj. They would also look into the matter, said Monirul while speaking to reporters on the spot.

Police first recovered an SMG from the house of alleged drug dealer Sharif Mia in Bagla area of Rupganj on Tuesday, but Sharif, an accused of three drug cases, was not at home at that time.

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Hefajat now threatens agitation

Demands permanent removal of Lady Justice statue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qawmi madrasa based Islamist organisation Hefajat-e-Islam yesterday threatened mass demonstrations after Ramadan unless the government removed the statue of Lady Justice from the Annex Building premises of the Supreme Court.

Its leaders made the demands from a rally held in front of Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the capital following Jumma prayers.

Amid growing demands by several Islamist outfits for removal of the statue, the SC authorities took it down from in front of the apex court's main building on the early hours of May 26.

The removal sparked protests on the streets and social media with many terming it "surrender to radical Islamists".

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Reconsider VAT rate

FBCCI urges govt; DCCI for reducing corporate tax; FICCI worried at lower allocation for social security, agriculture sector

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday demanded the government reconsider the uniform 15 percent VAT rate as many small enterprises might be affected by it.

The business community is most worried about the VAT issue, as the new VAT law will be in force from July 1," said Shafiq Islam Mohiuddin, president of the country's apex trade body.

In his initial reaction to the proposed national budget for the FY 2017-18, the FBCCI chief said excessive bank

borrowing by the government might hinder the normal flow of money to productive sectors.

On Thursday, the finance minister in his budget speech proposed borrowing Tk 28,203 crore from commercial banks to plug budget deficit.

The trade body in a statement also said collection of revenue would be difficult for the government due to falling income from two important sources -- remittances and export earnings.

Moreover, the production of agricultural crops was badly damaged in some districts due to flashfloods, Mohiuddin said.

He suggested the government cut corporate tax paid by companies and withdraw corporate tax on e-commerce businesses.

He also recommended that the government should not hike the excise duty on bank accounts.

According to the proposed budget, bank accounts with a balance between Tk 1 lakh and Tk 10 lakh would be slapped with Tk 800 excise duty a year, up from Tk 500.

Mohiuddin said if the higher excise duty was slapped, it would discourage depositors and money might end up

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N'ganj teacher feels insecure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Narayanganj schoolteacher Shyamal Kanti Bhakta yesterday said he and his family members could be attacked anytime.

"I am living in fear, because that family can annihilate me anytime," he said, without naming anyone.

The teacher, who was forced to do squats holding ears in presence of local Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Salim Osman on May 13 last year, said these at a press conference at Crime Reporters Association of

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Fastest toddler of Lithuania



AFP, Vilnius

Ten-month-old Mykolas Pociunas crawled to victory Thursday to be crowned Lithuania's fastest toddler, lured across the finish line by a box of Lego plastic bricks.

Proud father Vytautas told AFP the last half metre of the race, held annually in the capital Vilnius on

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37 dead in Manila casino attack

Lone gunman commits suicide after torching gambling venue; IS claims responsibility

AFP, Manila

A masked gunman set fire to a gaming room at a casino in the Philippine capital yesterday, igniting a toxic blaze that killed 37 people, authorities said.

The Islamic State group said its "fighters" carried out the attack, although Manila has repeatedly insisted the incident was not terror related.

The dead suffocated inside one of the main gambling venues of the upscale Resorts World Manila, while dozens of

other people were injured in a panicked crush to escape, police said.

The gunman committed suicide inside a hotel room by burning himself about five hours after storming the casino with an M4 assault rifle and a bottle of petrol that he used to start the fire, police chief Ronald Dela Rosa said.

Dela Rosa and other police chiefs insisted the assailant was not carrying out a terrorist attack, pointing out he did not shoot anyone, and said it appeared to be a bizarre

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PER AGENTS



An injured hotel guest is seen outside of a hotel after a shooting incident inside Resorts World Manila in Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Month	Day	Sehri	Iftar
July	3	6-46	6-46
July	4	3-39	6-47
July	5	3-39	6-47

SIBL
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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 3
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 3-45 12-45 5-00 6-46 8-15
JAMAT 3-55 1-15 5-15 6-56 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION