



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanges greetings with Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman, left, and eminent educationist Prof Rafiqul Islam at an iftar party at the Gono Bhavan yesterday.

Dutch arrest 18-year-old terror suspect

Dutch police are holding an 18-year-old terror suspect who may have tried to reach others how to make explosives, prosecutors revealed yesterday.

The teenager was arrested in the central city of Utrecht last Thursday and is also suspected of "spreading ISIS propaganda including violent videos," Utrecht prosecutors said in a statement.

"Police are also investigating indications that he may have instructed others how to make explosives," the statement added, referring to the Islamic State jihadist group, also known as ISIS.

Police opened their probe after receiving information from the Dutch intelligence service (AVD), which was remaining tight-lipped Wednesday.

The teenager "was arrested last week for distributing ISIS propaganda online," an AVD official told AFP.

Reopens partly

district would improve since road communication had been restored.

The district administration has meanwhile included in more persons in the death toll. Rubi Akhter, 37, and Md Shahjahan, 9, of West Muslim Para were missing and there was no possibility of recovering their bodies.

As of yesterday, the death toll in the district stood at 120.

Currently, 2,900 people have been living in 19 shelter centres since the landslide hit the district on June 13.

In a press briefing at his office yesterday, the DC said rehabilitation would not be done immediately due to weather condition and possibility of further landslide. He however added the overall situation was improving and was within their control.

Stops suddenly

an investigation by the finance ministry also found it to be true. But no

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Israel boasts of 'unimaginable' power in future Lebanon war

The head of Israel's air force yesterday said that in any future conflict with Lebanon the Jewish state will have "unimaginable" military power at its disposal.

Major General Amir Eshel told a security conference that Israel's armed forces now have far more punch than they did in the 2006 war against Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah.

"What the air force was able to do quantitatively in the Lebanon war over the course of 34 days we can do today in 48-60 hours," he told the conference at Herzliya, near Tel Aviv.

"This is potential power unimaginable in its scope and different to what we have seen in the past and far greater than people estimate."

Israel troops poured into southern Lebanon after the Shiite militia seized two soldiers in a deadly cross-border raid on July 12, 2006, in a war that killed more than 1,200 Lebanese, mostly civilians, and more than 160 Israeli, mostly soldiers.

Hezbollah fired thousands of rockets from neighbouring Lebanon during the conflict, with one million rockets in the north of the country coming under heavy fire for more than a month.

Since then Israel has built up a sophisticated defence system, including the Iron Dome short-range interceptor which has successfully brought

Muhith now scapegoat

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Muhith cannot deny that he has a responsibility to bring discipline in the banking sector. But he cannot be solely liable for the job. The will of the government as a whole has been, and still is, a big factor as to why action cannot be taken against such scammers.

Similarly, it was the government's decision to offer recapitalisation to the scam-riddled banks. Every year, the cabinet approved the budgetary proposals and parliament endorsed them. But all of a sudden, some MPs changed their mind forgetting what they did in the past years.

It was surprising that two ministers also blasted Muhith earlier for proposing a tax hike on bank savings. The ministers are part of the cabinet that approved the budgetary proposals. But when they opposed the proposal in parliament, they contradicted themselves. This goes against norms and practice of the parliamentary democracy and against the collective responsibility of the cabinet.

MPs should not put all the blame on Muhith for all the bad things in the banking sector. Without launching a personal attack, MPs should question the government's role in taking action against the people who plundered the banks. They should also examine the Anti-Corruption Commission's failure to act against the scammers.

It is rational to scapegoat Muhith alone?

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The tags drug traffickers use for transporting contrabands by train.

Lailatul Qadr

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Supplements highlighting the significance of the night.

Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia have greeted people on the occasion.

In separate messages, they prayed for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country and Muslim Ummah.

Indian judge

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India for any interim relief.

As the Supreme Court is in summer recess, the former judge can approach the Chief Justice only after vacating in July, reported TNN.

The Supreme Court had created history on May 9 by holding sitting Calcutta HC Judge Karnan guilty of contempt of court and punishing him with six months jail.

A seven-judge bench headed by CJI JS Khehar said Justice Karnan is guilty of contempt of SC, judiciary and judicial process.

The Supreme Court had ordered Justice Karnan to take into custody the disgraced judge who had passed unconscionable orders against the seven judges who had intimated contempt proceeding against him from making wild allegations against his colleagues in Madras HC, for which he was transferred to Calcutta HC.

A gesture

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Arafat said they have already collected 43,000 to 45,000 lakh.

On the Eid day, the administration staff will spend time with the homeless people and take lunch with them.

Keeping this in mind, Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Manzurul Mannan has cancelled the day's routine programme of meeting eminent citizens, high government officials and political leaders at his residence.

Visiting the Bangladesh Betar shelter centre on Tuesday night, this correspondent found that people were elated at the district administration's decision.

"Will they really come and celebrate Eid with us? We will feel good if it happens," said Shamim.

Sitting next to him, Mehedy Hasan said: "People are living here like a family. If the officers come here, they would be our guests."

DC Mannan said the administration took the initiatives on humanitarian grounds.

"Seeing the sufferings of people, I told my officials that I won't buy any clothes for myself and my family members on the occasion of Eid. I requested them to follow suit. I said our families' Eid shopping money would be spent for buying new dresses for the landslide victims."

The administration staff would take lunch with the landslide victims at the shelter on the Eid day, he told The Daily Star.

He expressed satisfaction at the unanimous response from the staff.

Executive Magistrate Syed Mahbulul Haque said they happily accepted the DC's gesture.

"We will feel good to celebrate Eid with the landslide victims as they lost their homes and beloved ones in the disaster."

Asteroid strike

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International Space Station astronaut Nicole Stott will answer questions from people on social media.

Fitzsimmons said an unexpected strike today by an asteroid similar in size to the one that exploded over Siberia could easily destroy a major city, and a larger asteroid could be more dangerous.

"It is important to know that scientists and engineers have made great strides in detecting near-Earth asteroids and understanding their properties by them," Fitzsimmons said.

"Over 1,800 potentially hazardous objects have been discovered so far, but there are many more waiting to be found," he said.

"Astronomers find near-Earth asteroids every day and most are harmless. But it is still possible the next Tunguska will take place by surprise, and although we are much better at finding larger asteroids, that does us no good if we are not prepared to do something about them," he added.

The risk of a sizeable asteroid hitting the Earth is significantly growing every few years. Czech scientists who analysed 144 fireballs from a recent meteor shower had warned.

The Taurid meteor shower showed significantly enhanced activity in 2015. Researchers found that this was due to a well-defined orbital structure.

Researchers from the Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences recently showed that a "new branch" of Taurids contains at least two asteroids of the size 200-300 metres.

Breaking the drug cycle

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forced to abandon studies after addiction caused the boy to become ill.

Shaiful also knew that proceeds of drugs can be used to finance terrorism, and that Rajshahi has a history of militancy. He was determined to attack the drug problem.

"Rajshahi had for long been troubled by drugs," said the police chief in an interview. "The city suffers for its location beside the Indian frontier and for the many potential users in its crowded areas."

He pursued the usual approach: intensified police drives.

After three months it achieved preferable results: a great number of arrests, court cases and drug seizures; but the overall situation, Shaiful was forced to admit, was unchanged. There had to be a better way.

"When engaging in drug dealings," Shaiful explains, "a person must cover criminal cases. Along with covering family expenses they need extra money to pay lawyers and some corrupt police officers. Often the dealer will land in jail for some months; but when they get out they jump right back into dealings to recover their losses."

"A dealer's life runs in a cycle of jail, release, reengaging in the drug trade and going back to jail," he continues. "They can't escape that cycle even if they wish. That's why police drives don't work."

"In order to break the cycle," says Shaiful, "I needed to develop confidence among the dealers that police would help if they stopped."

From September 2016 Shaiful began to implement his innovative approach, starting by motivating police officers. He held awareness meetings in drug-infested parts of the city, and on November 14, 2016 at Char Mahadiar, he made the first call for dealers to surrender.

"Only 41 dealers responded; another 43 surrendered a month later in Panchabati. Shaiful greeted them with sweets and flowers. "Many needed

immediate rehabilitation," he recalls.

The police commissioner didn't stop there. He met with lawyers to secure an agreement that their cases would be dealt with almost for free; and with doctors who would prioritise arranging treatment.

Several government and non-government organisations became involved offering everything from sewing machines to rickshaw vans, providing training in electrical skills, weaving and handicrafts, giving jobs and even cash to aid rehabilitation.

By March 22 this year, out of 600 arrested dealers from across the city, 307 surrendered.

Sohagi surrendered in January. Police arranged treatment for Motuar and helped her secure an NGO loan. She built a shop for her husband to sell chickens. She enrolled her son in school. Police provided her with a sewing machine, and she is completing weaving training. In every respect the family's future has turned from bleak to bright.

"The police commissioner has done so much for us," says Sohagi. "We are obliged to refrain from drug dealing forever."

Shaiful says he will never forget the smile on Sohagi's face after her husband resumed work.

Solving Rajshahi's drug problem is far from complete. "We have to consider resources," says Shaiful, who notes that only 72 of the dealers who have surrendered have been fully rehabilitated. He is now working on establishing a cottage industry cooperative for former dealers to better help themselves.

Nonetheless, his innovative strategy shows promise. "Of those rehabilitated," he says, "only five returned to the illegal business. When they do, they face tougher legal sanctions."

Shaiful's good work has been noticed. The police headquarters in Dhaka have instructed police across the country to follow his example. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a video conference expressed her appreciation.

Commissioner Md Shaiful Islam of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police giving Sogah a sewing machine in Guripara of Rajshahi city earlier this year.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF RMP



ASP found murdered

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and left and right cheeks. There was also a red mark around his neck.

Mizanur's body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Police said Mizanur lived his residence in Sector-5 of Uttara and was on official vehicle. He used to go to office by a personal car.

Yesterday his car was found in his office garage. His two cell phones were found beside his body; one was switched off. Mizanur was clad in a check shirt, trouser of the police's uniform and shoes.

A black colour side-bag was lying beside the body. The victim's uniform shirt and car keys were found inside that bag.

While visiting the spot, this correspondent saw no shop or house within half a kilometre.

The police officer's body was found inside a bush near the Binalua Bridge highway, said Md Imran, a teastall owner near the bridge.

Shaiful Islam, superintendent of Highway Police, Gazipur Region, told

Mosquito may be breeding

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According to the control room of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 378 dengue cases have been reported between January 1 and June 15.

During the period, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research has found about 400 cases of chikungunya, a viral disease which is transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes.

The DGHS, which began recording chikungunya cases from June 1, received reports of 228 cases until June 15.

Uttara-9, Modhdo Badda, Gulshan-1, Lalmita, Pallabi, Moghbaraz Chowdhurypara, Rampura, Teigan and Barani have higher presence of the Aedes mosquitoes that carry chikungunya and dengue diseases.

Replying to a query, Brig Gen SMM Saich Bhuiyan, DGCC chief health officer, said they bought sufficient pesticides, larvicide and machines to fight mosquitoes.

Including Sagar there were some areas, announced Bashundhara Residential Area, where the city corporation could not spray pesticide and larvicide. For this reason, their initiatives could not be effective, he added.

Asked about the solution, the mayor said they would buy more machines but did not mention any concrete plan.

Like previous year, the DNCC gave the highest allocation of Tk 278 crore for maintenance of roads and traffic infrastructure.

It would spend Tk 60 crore on waste management and Tk 20 crore on land development.

DNCC's Chief Executive Officer Meshahul Islam and councillors, among others, were present at the programme.