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Sramik League man held with 19 firearms

Says Rab
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar
 Rapid Action Battalion arrested a district-level Sramik League leader and claimed to have recovered 19 illegal firearms and over 600 bullets from his house in Cox's Bazar's Kutubdia yesterday.

Mowdard Islam Chowdhury Mukul, 52, is the joint general secretary of Cox's Bazar district unit of Sramik League, an affiliated body of the ruling Awami League.

Shafiqul Ansari, general secretary of Sramik League's Cox's Bazar district unit, confirmed Mukul's political identity.

Mukul is also a former president of Kutubdia upazila unit Sramik League, Shafiqul added. The seized firearms and bullets include six single-barrel breech-loading (SBL) guns, 13 "one-shooter guns", 21 bullets of 0.12 bore and 600 bullets of 0.22 bore, said Major Ruhul Amin, company commander of Rab-7 in Cox's Bazar.

He said a team of Rab-7
 SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Workers install tactile paving on a footpath to facilitate smooth movement of blind pedestrians. Both the North and South city corporations are rebuilding footpaths with the yellow textured tiles in different areas of the capital. The photos were taken at Basabo recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Pavements with tactile track for the blind

City corporations laying yellow tiles

TUJIB SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Sarower Hossain still has some pain in his right leg. The visually impaired man badly hurt himself after he accidentally stepped into an open manhole while walking on a pavement. The mishap happened near his home in Mirpur's Pallabi area a couple of months ago.

"I was walking on a footpath which was in a poor shape. Suddenly, I lost my balance and slipped into a manhole," said Sarower, an assistant librarian at Dhaka University.

Every day, hundreds of people like Sarower face difficulties in walking on city pavements which do not have any textured ground surface indicator for pedestrians who are blind and visually impaired.

However, they may have a sigh of relief as the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) are rebuilding all the pavements in the city to ensure their easy movement.

There would be yellow tiles with textured surface right in the middle of the footpaths, and blister surface on the edges to alert blind people about approaching streets.

The city corporations, which began the initiative last year, have already set up the special pavements in many areas of the capital.

The initiative will also ease the movement of people with disabilities, say city corporation officials.

Visiting Shabbagh, Bangla Motel, Farmgate, Banani and Basabo areas, this correspondent saw that the special pavements were either being or already had been installed.

"This move is first of its kind in the country," Brig Gen Md Syed Anwarul Islam, chief engineer of DNCC, told The Daily Star on Sunday.

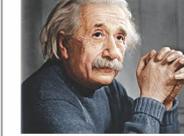
Pedestrians face hurdles as many of the footpaths do not have proper slopes. But now, they were constructing the slopes as well, he said.

"Considering the problems of the visually impaired, we have laid a

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

Being forgetful isn't stupid

Finds a new study



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The 'absent-minded professor' is a stereotype that dates back to Ancient Greece with the philosopher Thales of Miletus reportedly so focused on surveying the night sky that he fell down a well. Even one of the world's greatest minds, Albert Einstein, was considered an example by some.

This combination of intelligence and forgetfulness has long puzzled neuroscientists as a bad memory was seen as a failure of the brain's mechanism for storing and retrieving information.

But a new paper in the journal Neuro, based on a review of research into the subject, has concluded that forgetting is

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Taliban car bomb kills 34 outside Afghan bank

AFP, Lashkar Gah

At least 34 people were killed yesterday when a Taliban car bomb struck a bank in Afghanistan's Lashkar Gah city as people were queuing to withdraw salaries, the latest bloody attack during the holy month of Ramadan.

Dozens of wounded people were rushed to hospital on makeshift stretchers after the bombing at New Kabul Bank which upturned vehicles, left the area littered with charred debris, and sent a plume of smoke into the sky. The attack comes as the Taliban ramp up their nationwide spring offensive despite government calls for a ceasefire during Ramadan and as the US appears set to boost its troop presence in the country.

The bomb tore through a queue of civilians and government employees who had lined up outside the bank to collect their salaries ahead of the Eid holidays marking the end of Ramadan.

"At least 34 people were killed and 58 others wounded in today's bombing," the provincial government said in a statement.

This was the third attack on this bank since 2014, with the Taliban claiming their target was Afghan soldiers and police on their way to draw salaries. But the government said most of the victims were civilians, including women and children.

For years Helmand province, of which Lashkar Gah is the capital, was the centrepiece of the Western military intervention in Afghanistan, but it has recently slipped deeper into a quagmire of instability.

The Taliban effectively control or contest 10 of the 14 districts in Helmand, blighted by a huge opium harvest that helps fund the insurgency, and have repeatedly threatened to seize Lashkar Gah.

Intense fighting last year forced thousands of people to flee to Lashkar Gah from neighbouring districts. Since they launched their spring offensive in late April, the Taliban have been mounting lethal assaults on the Afghan army and police outposts in Helmand.

Washington is soon expected to announce an increase in the US military deployment to bolster Afghan forces as they struggle to contain the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	June	Sehri	Iftar
27	23	6-53	
28	24	3-39	6-53



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 23

Fazr	Juma	Azr	Maghrib	Esha	
3:45	12:30	5:00	6:53	8:15	
JAMAT	3-55	1-15	5-15	7-43	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

IS blows up Mosul's iconic leaning minaret

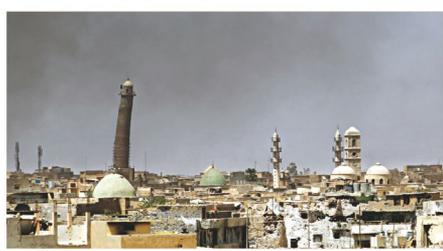
Iraq, allies sense victory as jihadists cornered

AFP, Mosul

Mosul's trademark leaning minaret was missing from its skyline for the first time in centuries yesterday after desperate jihadists destroyed it as Iraqi forces advanced on an ancient mosque compound.

Explosions on Wednesday evening levelled the Nuri mosque where Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi gave his first sermon as leader of the Islamic State group and its ancient leaning minaret, known as the "Hudba" (Hunchback).

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



A file photo shows a general view of the Hadba leaning minaret near the al-Nuri Mosque in the Old City of Mosul.

PHOTO: AFP

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