



Huge columns of goods-laden trucks waiting for ferries at Shimulia near Mawa Ferry Terminal in Munshiganj yesterday. The ferry service there is being seriously disrupted because of heavy current in the Padma.

PHOTO: STAR

## Help rebuild Iraq

Envoy urges int'l community including Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As the troops started restoring control from Islamic State (IS) militants, Iraq has sought support from the international community including Bangladesh, in rebuilding the country from destruction.

Talking to a group of journalists at the Embassy of Iraq in Dhaka yesterday, Charge d' Affairs Mohammed Salman Hamad Al-Janabi said Iraq has historical relations with Bangladesh and expect that Bangladesh and Iraq would gradually restore its trade, people-to-people contact and entire bilat-

eral relations.

Lauding the role of Bangladesh's expertise in various sectors, including disaster management, construction and engineering, he hoped that Bangladesh might help Iraq in multiple areas.

He said the Mosul reconstruction plan will also open an opportunity for Bangladeshis to work in the reconstruction works. He said he has got response from a local NGO interested in working in Mosul.

In reply to a question, he said according to official estimate some 4,400 Bangladeshis, including engi-

neers, were working in Iraq in 2016 in different sectors with reputation.

"We are happy to say that Bangladeshis had never engaged in any fighting in Iraq. No Bangladeshi has been found engaging with IS in Iraq. The Bangladeshis are very hard working and peace loving," said Al-Janabi.

He said the IS militants in Iraq have destroyed thousands of houses, damaged properties, mosques, and educational institutions, killed some 100,000 innocent persons, raped hundreds of girls and women, and displaced one million people since they occupied the city.

## Can do nothing now

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international agencies ... we will be able to keep it free of any influence," he said.

The agenda of the roadmap are talks with political parties and other stakeholders, reforming the electoral law, demarcation of constituencies, updating voter lists, preparing a list of possible polling stations, taking application from new political parties willing to be registered with the EC, and building the capacity of officials to hold national election.

The EC formed a committee led by a commissioner to examine the existing laws and make necessary recommendations.

The Awami League termed the roadmap realistic while the BNP said it would not resolve the prevailing crisis as the decision on a polls-time government was yet to be finalised.

Soon after the announcement of the roadmap, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed told reporters that the upcoming election would be held on time and no anti-constitutional proposal would be accepted.

One the other hand, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir

said the party would hold a meeting of its senior leaders today to discuss the issue and come up with a formal reaction.

Talking about their course of action, the CEC said the Commission would proceed with the roadmap, and if it faced any obstacle after the announcement of election schedule, it would take legal action.

Asked about the format of the polls-time government, he said it was a political decision of the government.

On the Electronic Voting Machine

(EVM), Huda said, "We did not close the door to using EVM in the 11th parliamentary election. We will talk with political parties. We will discuss the political parties' preparation and we will tell them about our preparation in this regard."

At present, there are around 700-800 EVMs and those are five to six year-old, he said, adding, "Around two and a half lakh EVMs would be required ... we will decide about it considering all aspects."

As per the roadmap, the EC will start dialogue with political parties and other stakeholders on July 31. The dialogue will begin with talks with civil society members.

Talks with journalists will be held in August and with 40 registered political parties from August to September.

Besides, the EC will hold separate dialogues with election observers, women leaders and election management experts in October.

Demarcation of parliamentary constituencies would be held by December 2017.

## 4 of 'Sarwar-Tamim' group

FROM PAGE 1  
Ashulia on October 8 last year, and Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury, allegedly the chief coordinator of Gulshan café attack, who was killed in a police operation in Narayanganj on August 27 last year.

The four arrested yesterday -- Mozammel Huq, Rashedul Nabi, Ifranul Islam and Alamgir Hossain -- are loyal to Tamim Dhari, a militant who had close contacts with Tamim Ahmed.

Dhari, 32, a former engineer of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, was arrested from a bus on Jhikha-Gabtoli route in Savar on April 28 this year.

Nothing else could be known about the four arrestees. Mufti said Rab will have to interrogate them to know more about their involvement in militancy.

During the operation that saw a Rab helicopter hover in the sky, the elite force allegedly barred police members from entering the cordoned off area.

Rab men, however, said policemen could go in when the operation would end. But police refrained from visiting the spot, a top police official of Dhaka told this newspaper.

Saidur Rahman, additional police superintendent of Dhaka, said it was not like that Rab did not allow police in. "They [Rab officials] said they were conducting an operation, and all including police would be allowed in at some point."

Replying to a query, Mufti said, "It was Rab which was conducting the operation. If needed, Rab would have called police

personnel. Similarly, when police conduct an operation, Rab men stay nearby and participate [in the drive] if their assistance is sought .... This is the procedure."

The operation beginning at 1:00am Saturday ended around 3:00pm yesterday with the bomb disposal unit defusing three bombs found there. The area around the den was then made open to all.

Two pistols, a laptop, some books and papers were recovered from the house, according to Rab.

Mufti said they had got information from Tamim Dhari that several terror groups were hiding outside the capital.

Rab members started keeping a watch on the Ashulia house after the owner contacted the force and expressed his suspicion about his tenants who hired the Ashulia house on the outskirts of the city for Tk 2,500 per month but were dilly-dallying in providing their details.

Mufti also said the militants responded by firing shots when Rab men came to our house and asked us to leave, saying they would carry out an operation.

"We left the house at dead of night and took shelter at the nearby house of our relatives. We got panicked knowing that we were living near a militant den."

Asaduzzaman, a shopkeeper who was watching the operation sitting some 400 metres away, said the first militant surrendered just before noon. The three others took around one hour to surrender.

A Rab man on duty at the south side of the house said no militant came out through the gate until they surrendered. "They might have fired shots and hurled bombs through windows," he said.

The house is around three kilometres south of Dhaka-Aricha highway. It is located in Chowrabari village by a link road and surrounded by water bodies and crop fields with a handful of houses nearby.

During the raid, smokes were seen coming out of the house. A Rab official, who visited the rooms after the operation, told The Daily Star that there were ashes inside and several mobile phones and SIM cards were destroyed there. There was no furniture at the house.

A local school student told our Savar correspondent, "We always saw the gate of the house closed and locked from outside."

Mohammad Manna, who lives with his family near the militant den, said, "Several Rab men came to our house and asked us to leave, saying they would carry out an operation."

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## Public places mostly unsafe

FROM PAGE 1  
proper steps are not taken even after such complaints, the NGO said.

City corporations lack basic facilities such as separate toilets for women, breastfeeding corners and even separate sitting arrangements for women, making it difficult for them to travel with young children for vaccination.

Similarly, markets and hospitals have no means to address violence against women and the worst sufferers of this situation belong to the poorest sections of the community, the NGO said.

At bus stations, women are harassed by service providers and general public, according to the survey's findings.

ensure good services, but those were not implemented properly.

"Besides, service providers are not cordial. They lack proper concept of gender issue. So, women are facing more problems."

Agar Ali Sabri, director of ActionAid Bangladesh, said more people would join the workforce if quality education and healthcare were ensured and so public services had to be improved.

ActionAid recommends spending more by the government on public services, preparing and implementing gender sensitive budgets and making the public service system accountable to improve the situation.

## GULSHAN CAFÉ ATTACK CTTC gets time to submit probe report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to submit by August 27 the probe report of the case filed over the Holey Artisan Bakery attack in Gulshan.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nurunnahar Yesmin passed the order after Humayun Kabir, an inspector of the CTTC and also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, failed to submit the report. With this, the CTTC got 10 time extensions for filing the report.

## Drop 'cadet'

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on the "illegal business of cadet madrasas".

Sources in the ministry said there was allegation that some madrasas were charging extra tuition and admission fees by adding "cadet" or "international" to their names. Many of those institutions did not follow the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and forced students to buy their books, they said.

The new order will stop the practices, they added.

In the circular, the ministry asked the authorities concerned to ensure that the madrasas followed the curriculum and textbooks set by the NCTB and the Madrasa Education Board.

It also asked the Directorate of Madrasa Education, Madrasa Education Board, deputy commissioners, district education officers, upazila nirbahi officers, and education officers to regularly monitor the activities of these institutions.

The madrasas must hoist national flag and the students must sing the national anthem during assembly, read the circular. It said the madrasas would have to observe national days.

The circular said the madrasas would have to register with the Madrasa Education Board, and take tuition fees like other secondary institutions do. Regular audits must be done in these institutions, it said.

A representative of the district or upazila education officer has to be included in the managing committees of these institutions, it added.

## Gazipur

FROM PAGE 16  
petition moved by Attorney General Mahbub Alam.

Mannan's lawyer barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon told The Daily Star that the HC's stay order on the suspension of his client would remain in force following the apex court order.

Therefore, there is no legal bar for Mannan to continue discharging his duties, he added.

On July 6, the Local Government Division suspended Mannan for the third time as a Gazipur court accepted the charge sheet in a corruption case filed against him by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Following a writ petition filed by Mannan challenging the suspension legality, the HC on July 9 stayed the government's suspension order for three months.

It also stayed the government order that Ashaduzzaman, a shopkeeper who was watching the operation sitting some 400 metres away, said the first militant surrendered just before noon. The three others took around one hour to surrender.

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## Water receding

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WDB Executive Engineer Hasan Mahmud said the low-lying areas were being inundated as a result.

The situation in Jamalpur saw improvement as the water level declined by 24cm in last 24 hours, said WDB sources.

Over 19,000 families of nine unions in Islampur and over 10,000 families of eight unions in Dewanganj were affected as of Saturday.

But the number of marooned people declined with the receding of floodwater, said locals.

Several thousand flood-hit families of the upazilas had yet to get relief, claimed Abdus Salam, chairman of Chinaduli Union Parishad.

"I have distributed 15 tonnes of rice among 1,500 affected families till Sunday afternoon, but 1,500-2,000 more families were in need of relief, he said.

The water level in all 16 rivers including the Brahmaputra, Dharla, Teesta and Duddhukumar were declining slowly, while the major rivers were flowing under the danger marker.

Railway Minister Mojibul Huq yesterday said although rail tracks were not affected by the flood, his ministry was prepared to tackle any such situations.

"We have taken all necessary steps for uninterrupted rail services even amid flood or other natural calamities," the minister told a press conference at Railway Bhaban in the capital.

Rudd's announcement comes at a time where the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) suggests that more than 400 acid or corrosive substance attacks were carried out in the six months up to April 2017, based on figures provided by 39 forces in England and Wales.

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that sentences reflect the seriousness of the offenses and victims are given the immediate support they need."

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## Dead in police report

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Kalam informed Azad over mobile phone that the police report must be submitted for registration of Hajj. SI Kalam asked Azad for a bribe to expedite the process.

"There are many cases against you, so you have to meet me in the police station with some pocket-money," Azad Hossain Bhuiyan quoted SI Abul Kalam as saying.

According to Azad, when he requested SI Abul Kalam to provide him with police clearance as he had received bail on his pending cases, SI Kalam became angry and said that the

police clearance cannot be given if the bribe was not paid.

Later, to his shock, Azad came to know that he was shown dead in the police report.

When contacted, Sub-Inspector Abul Kalam said this was actually a computer error. He added that a corrected version was sent.

Superintendent of Police (SP) of Brahmanbaria Md Mizanur Rahman said a Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police has been appointed to investigate the matter. After the investigation, necessary measures will be taken in this regard.

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, পৰ্যায়পূর্ব

(শহীদী সরকারী শাখা)

তারিখ ১৩-০৭-২০১৭স্থি

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