

4 'gunmen' of Dhaka hotel held for carrying illegal firearms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday claimed to have detained four "gunmen" of a Dhaka hotel in Baridhara on Sunday for carrying illegal firearms.

The detainees are Selim Reza, 37, Rabindra Nath Mandal, 42, Raju Mia, 36, and Shariful Islam, 30, said a Rab press release.

Rab found six "gunmen" in front of the hotel's reception and each of them was carrying a firearm.

Two of them were able to produce required documents in support of possessing the firearms.

Rab, however, did not disclose the hotel's name.

The law enforcers found the papers of the four "gunmen" to be "suspicious". At one stage of quizzing, they "admitted" that they collected the firearms and papers from a "broker", said the release.

Later, in primary interrogation, Rab found that the documents of the shotguns were fake.

The detainees confessed to collecting the illegal firearms and fake licences to make higher salaries.

They do not have any firearms training. They used fake seals of Rangpur District Administration and also forged signatures to obtain the fake documents, the release added.

Lt Col Sarwar Bin Quasem, commanding officer of Rab-1, said the detainees admitted that they bought the firearms at Tk 4 lakh each.

The Rab official said they suspect that the firearms might have been smuggled into the country from abroad.

He added that they were investigating the incident while legal actions against the detainees were underway.



People pay tributes to the victims of the August 21 grenade attack at a temporary memorial in front of the Krishibid Institution in the capital yesterday. On this day in 2004, the grenade attack on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue left 24 of the party leaders and workers killed and more than 300 people injured.

PHOTO: STAR

Abused, she returns home

MUNTAKIM SAAD

In June this year, she boarded a plane all the way to Saudi Arabia with a dream -- a dream to bring solvency to her family back home.

While flying high above the clouds for the first time in her life, the 30-year-old fortune seeker was trying to visualise the faces of her day labourer husband and three children, for whose future she was leaving the country.

But little did she imagine what was awaiting her in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). After going through the horrifying experiences of torture over a couple of months, she finally returned home on Thursday -- frustrated and traumatised.

Salma (not her real name), hailing from Bhola, was sharing the ordeal with The Daily Star correspondent on Sunday.

She said she went to KSA through a recruiting agency following all the government procedures -- took training and got a job seeker card from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET). After reaching the KSA, she was sent to work for a Saudi family consisting 12 members in Al Kasib city.

"It was okay for a week. Then, on one night, my employer crept into my room and tried to rape me. The next day, his son also tried to do the same. I resisted. Every time I resisted, they used to beat me mercilessly."

Salma also informed the employer's wife about the abuse, but to no avail. However, having convinced the employer's wife that she needed to talk to her children back home, Salma somehow managed to talk to her husband over phone and informed him of the torture.

As she was continuously resisting, one Taslima, a Bangladeshi woman based in Tabuk city of KSA, also connected to the recruiting agency, told the employer to mount

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

DHAKA-DELHI JOINT WORKING GROUP Gear up activities to protect Sundarbans

Bangladesh envoy tells event in India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali yesterday stressed on gearing up activities of Dhaka-New Delhi Joint Working Group (JWG) for conservation of the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest shared by the two neighbouring countries.

"It is critical... for both the countries that we put our efforts together to protect the overall ecosystems of the Sundarbans," Muazzem Ali said at the launch of "Vision Document" of the Bangladesh-India Sundarbans Region Cooperative Initiative at a meeting organised by Observer Research Foundation (ORF), a New Delhi-based think-tank.

The envoy said regular interactions at the JWG level hold the key to make the whole mechanism effective.

He said Bangladesh is determined to strive to double the number of wild tigers in the Sundarbans by 2022, says a press release from Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

Alternative methods cheaper than Rampal

Bapa says in 13 papers submitted to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The coal-fired Rampal power plant will not be profitable for the country because there are alternative ways of generating electricity at a cheaper cost, said Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) after submitting a proposal and relevant documents to the government.

Talking to journalists at the Power Division office after submitting the documents yesterday, Bapa leaders said there were 13 papers on how the government could produce electricity through environment-friendly and less expensive methods.

A team of the National Committee for Saving the Sundarbans, led by Bapa vice president Syed Abul Maksud, handed over the papers to Mohammad Hossain, director

general of the Power Division's Power Cell.

Member secretary of National Committee for Saving the Sundarbans Abdul Matin said 11 of the papers were scientific assessment of the Rampal plant, one was a financial analysis, and the other was a proposal on electricity generation without the use of coal and nuclear power. All the papers are prepared by international experts, except for one authored by a local expert, he said, adding they submitted the documents because the government had asked for those.

"We've given three months' time to the government to study the papers. If they find anything wrong, they will mark those and discuss those with us," he said. If necessary, the foreign experts will be brought to the country for discussions, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Piles, Fistula, Constipation, Dysentery, Colonoscopy, Polyp, Colon & Rectum Cancer

Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque
To Know about most modern treatment of diseases involving Colon, Rectum and Anus like, Piles (bleeding in toilet), Longo operation (Piles operation without cutting anus), Cause of failure of operation around anus, pain after passing stool (Fissure), Swelling, Discharge around anus (Fistula), Constipation, Chronic dysentery (IBS), Blood dysentery (Ulcerative Colitis), for incomplete evacuation (Obstructed Defecation) STARR operation, Colonoscopy, Bowel (Colon & Rectum) Cancer, most modern stapling rectum cancer operation without artificial stool collecting bag (Colostomy), Childrens bleeding in toilet (Polyp), you may read the book written by : **Pioneer Colorectal Surgeon of Bangladesh & the Sub-Continent Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque**
International Scholar (USA) ; Fellow, Colorectal Surgery (Singapore) Founder Chairman (Retd.), Dept. of Colorectal Surgery Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka
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A motorcyclist drives through knee-deep water in Agrabad CDA area, the epitome of Chittagong city's chronic waterlogging problem, yesterday as tidal water enters the city. For years, people have been going through this sufferings, but the city corporation administration failed over and over again to find a suitable solution, or take effective measures to mitigate its intensity.

GATCO CORRUPTION CASE

SC okays trial proceedings against Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court to run the trial proceedings against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in Gatco corruption case.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha dismissed two leave-to appeal petitions filed by Khaleda seeking stay on the trial proceeding.

Khaleda filed the petitions on May 10 last year, also challenging a High Court verdict that rejected her two writ petitions against the initiation and continuation of the case.

Yesterday, the apex court said the leave-to appeal petitions filed by Khaleda are not acceptable as she had filed the petitions with the High Court instead of filing them under the code of criminal procedure.

Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that trial proceeding against Khaleda in the Gatco graft case will run in the Special Judges' Court-3 of Dhaka. The ACC lawyer, however, said Khaleda will remain on bail in the case.

On August 5, 2015, the HC rejected the writ petitions filed by Khaleda challenging continuation of the case.

On September 2, 2007, the ACC lodged the Gatco case against Khaleda, her youngest son late Arafat Rahman Koko, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and 10 others.

According to the case statement, there was corruption in the awarding of a contract to Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Company Ltd (Gatco) for container management at inland depots in Dhaka and Chittagong. The graft allegedly cost the state exchequer over Tk 1,000 crore.

Ctg customs to auction off undelivered apples

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

The Chittagong Customs House will auction off today around 1.49 lakh kg of fresh apples as the importer did not take delivery of the consignment from the port in due time.

An open bidding will start at Customs Auction Hall at 2:00pm. Bidders will be able to buy the fruit at a cheaper rate. The apples arrived in six containers at Chittagong Port in May and all were unloaded by May 14.

According to rules, importers need to take delivery of their consignment within 30 days after the goods are unloaded from ships at the port jetty. If the importer fails to receive the consignment during the period, the customs authorities issue notice to the importer, and if the importer does not take delivery within 15 days into issuing the notice, the goods can be auctioned off.

According to the auction department of Chittagong Customs House, Chittagong-based fruit importer and trader Azizia Trade International Ltd imported the apples from China.

Proprietor of the importing firm, Jashim Uddin, told The Daily Star that they did not take delivery as the quality of the fruit was found to be below standard.

"We took time as we contacted the exporter and requested for giving discount as the fruit was of substandard quality. After several contacts, the exporter agreed to offer us about a 90 percent discount on the original value," said Jashim. The total value of the imported fruit was \$35,580, he said.

Jashim said they were taking steps with the help of the clearing and forwarding agent to receive the consignment.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

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