

NEWSIN brief

ACC files another case against Rana plaza owner

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed another case against Rana plaza owner Sohel Rana for illegally accumulating wealth.

ACC Deputy Director Mahobubul Alam filed the case with Savar Model Police Station yesterday, said Mohshinul Kadir, officer in-charge of Savar Police Station.

Earlier on May 21, 2015, ACC had lodged a case against Sohel Rana on charge of accumulating wealth illegally.

Western Marine recommends 12pc stocks, 3pc dividends for shareholders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Western Marine Shipyard Limited (WMS Ltd) recommended 12 percent stock and three percent cash dividends for its shareholders for the year 2016-2017.

WMS board of directors made the recommendation on the 17th annual general meeting (AGM) held at the Boat Club in Chittagong on Sunday, said a press release.

WMS Chairman Md Saiful Islam and Managing Director Md Sakhawat Hossain were present at the AGM.

Later the 6th Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was also held at the same venue.

"Neo JMB" leader held

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Mamun provided bombs to militant Saiful Islam, who holed up in a Panthapath hotel, which is around half a kilometre off Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, to carry out the attack on August 15.

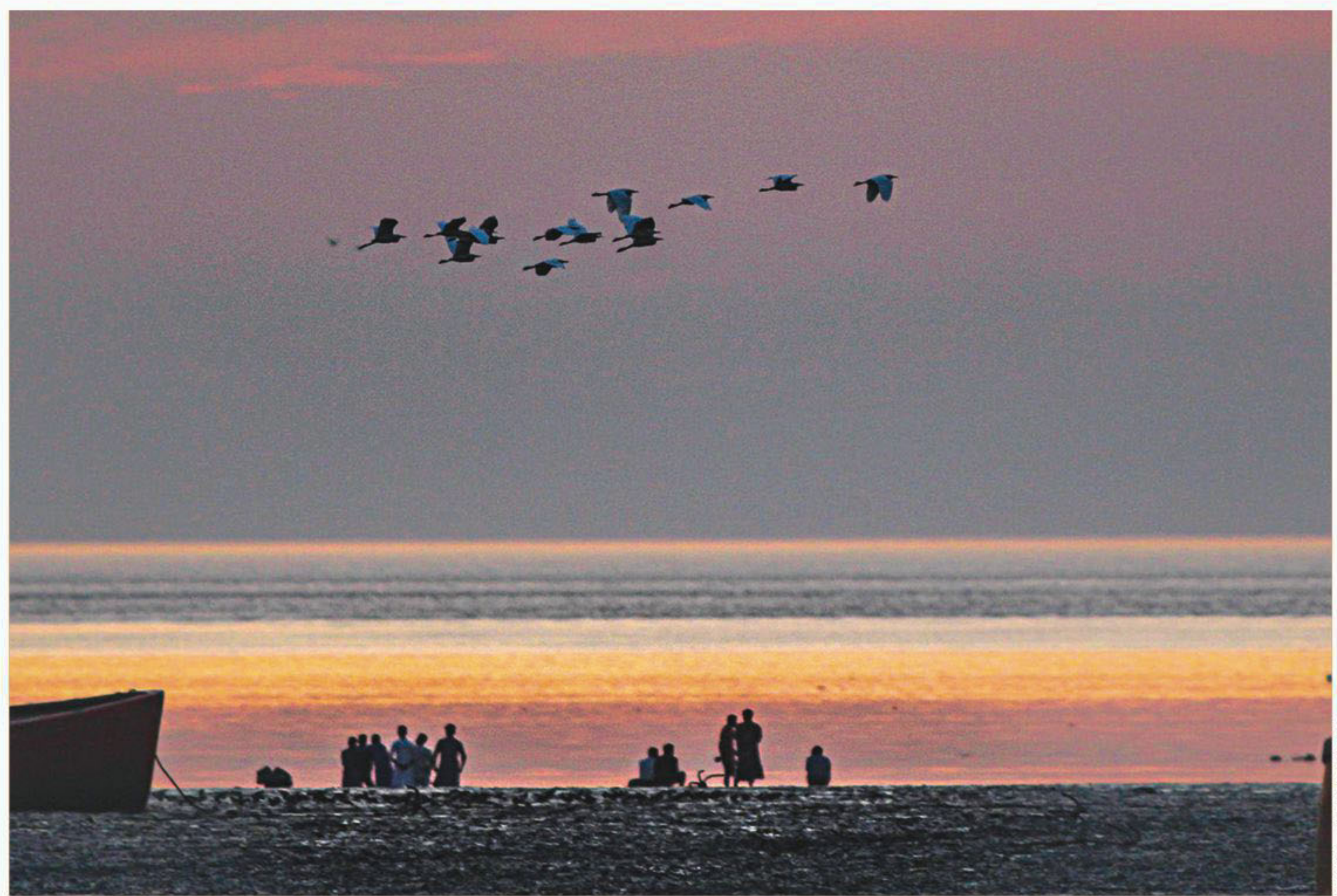
The plot was, however, foiled by Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of police. During a drive in the hotel the same day, Saiful blew himself up by exploding two "powerful" bombs.

Mamun, born and brought up in a middle class family, was motivated and then recruited to "Neo-JMB" in August-September, 2016, said CTTC Additional Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan.

The outfit's bomb-making expert Sakhawat, an ex-member of a security force, trained him (Mamun) on manufacturing bombs, said CTTC officials. Sakhawat was killed in a drive in Moulvibazar in March last year.

Mamun was involved in making bombs and providing training to its operatives, the officials said, adding that he had become a top leader of the outfit following the killing and arrest of his predecessors in different raids.

Apart from Mamun, four more were earlier arrested for financing the terror attack attempt. Three of them -- Abu Torab Khan, 56; his wife Sadia Hossain Lucy, 46; and their daughter Tajreen Khanam, 29 -- were arrested on November 10 while book importer Tanvir Yeasin Karim was claimed to have been arrested on November 19.



A flock of birds flies across Rani Rashmoni Ghat, popularly known as Kattali beach, while twilight reflects on serene water. Every day tourists in droves throng the beach to see the sunset in full splendour. The photo was taken in Uttar Kattali area of the port city on Sunday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Alternative to polythene a must: Experts

BJMC to launch jute made 'sonali poly bags' in DITF

UNB, Dhaka

The production and use of polythene bags keep growing across the country defying all bans, as authorities are yet to find a suitable alternative over the last 15 years, experts say.

They said that non-enforcement of law and adequate efforts to create awareness among the masses about the risk factors of polythene bags on humans and the environment, have contributed to its increased use.

Under the Bangladesh Environment Protect (Amendment 2002) Act 1995, the government in 2007 allowed the production of 55-micron thick polythene for packaging of garment products, medicine and some other products which gradually contributed to the rise in production.

A number of shopkeepers and customers at different kitchen markets in the capital said they use polythene bags to carry essentials for unavailability of low-cost and eco-friendly alternatives.

However, the good news is that Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) is introducing jute-made biodegradable poly bags to replace

polythene.

Contacted, urban expert and former chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof Nazrul Islam said, "People earlier used to go to markets with reusable jute or cloth bags to buy essential items. Due to easy availability of polythene bags, people, in urban and rural areas, hardly exercise this old habit."

Nobody from sellers to customers feels the use of polythene bag is illegal and harmful for lack of enforcement of law and awareness, he observed.

"The government must persuade both the customers and shopkeepers to use environment-friendly bags discarding such harmful ones. We'll have to cut our dependency on polythene bags and go to the market with reusable jute or cloth bags as we did in the past," he said.

The manufacture, marketing and use of polythene bags were banned in the country in 2002 amid growing concerns about its harmful effect on environment.

Chairman of Poribesh Banchao Andolon Abu Naser Khan said since polythene bags are not biodegradable, it causes serious harm to the envi-

ronment, reduces fertility of soil and harms the biodiversity and human health in many ways.

"One polythene bag takes over 400 years to decompose in soil," he said.

DoE should take initiatives to conduct regular drives against polythene manufacturing factories alongside making cheaper alternative eco-friendly bags, he added.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon General Secretary Abdul Matin urged the government to stop the use of polythene bags within next six months by taking strict measures.

"People will surely change their habit when polythene bags are forced out of the market," he added.

Bangladesh Jute Mill Corporation (BJMC) chief scientific adviser Dr Mobarak Ahmed said they are launching eco-friendly jute made 'sonali poly bags' at the Dhaka International Trade Fair 2018 as an alternative to polythene bags.

These bags will initially be supplied to chain shops and garment factories and gradually will make its way into the market to replace the polythene bags, he added.

RU teachers

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geography department claimed that the finance department students were supported by their teachers in that clash.

But Assistant Professor M Ashikul Islam of finance department denied the allegation and made a counter allegation on same grounds against the geography department. He said no teachers of his department were present on the spot during the scuffle.

In the evening, students of finance department submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan seeking investigation into the incident.

On Sunday, students of finance department allegedly attacked the teachers of geography department following a dispute over a cricket match held at the university stadium.

Three teachers of geography department were also assaulted by the students, when they went there to settle the matter, claimed the teachers.

The prime accused Refat, a master's student of finance department denied all the allegations.

Meanwhile, the authorities postponed the final match of the cricket tournament which was scheduled to be held today.

BNP plans Jan 5

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Nayapaltan office in the capital.

Responding to a query, Rizvi said, "We sent a letter to the authorities concerned on Saturday, seeking permission for the rally and procession."

But, they did not get any permission yet, he added.

BNP boycotted the immediate past general election held on January 5, 2014, demanding restoration of the caretaker government provision.

8,000 babies born on New Year's Day in Bangladesh

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past their first day," some will not make it past their first day."

In 2016, an estimated 2,600 children died within the first 24 hours every day of the year. For almost two million newborns, their first week was also their last. In all, 2.6 million children died before the end of their first month.

Among the children, more than 80 percent of all newborn deaths are due to preventable and treatable causes such as premature birth, complications during delivery and infections like sepsis and pneumonia.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

"This new year, Unicef's resolution is to help give every child more than an hour,

more than a day, more than a month -- more than survival," said Edouard Beigbeder, Unicef representative in Bangladesh.

He called on governments and development partners to join the fight to save millions of children's lives by providing proven and low-cost solutions.

Over the past two decades, the world has seen an unprecedented progress in child survival, halving the number of children worldwide who died before their fifth birthday to 5.6 million in 2016. But despite these advances, there has been a slower progress for newborns. Babies dying in the first month account for 46 percent of all deaths among chil-

dren under five.

Next month, Unicef will launch, "Every Child Alive", a global campaign to demand and deliver affordable, quality health care solutions for every mother and newborn.

These include a steady supply of clean water and electricity at health facilities, presence of a skilled health attendant during birth, breastfeeding within the first hour after birth, and skin-to-skin contact between the mother and child.

"We are now entering the era when the entire world's newborns should have the opportunity to see the 22nd century," said Beigbeder.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Collecting household waste, sanitation workers dump those at a dumping spot right across Planners Tower in the capital's Bangla Motor. The open dumpster there not only occupies a significant portion of the road and adjoining footpath, but also spreads a foul smell, much to the disgust of passersby. The photo was taken recently.



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