

### 3 cops bullet-hit in drive to nab drug dealers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three policemen of Gendaria Police Station were left with gunshot wounds in an attack during a raid to catch suspected drug dealers yesterday afternoon.

Assistant sub-inspectors Mohsin Ali and Mosharruf Hossain and Constable Bashir Ahmed are being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a bullet wound in the leg. Mohsin and Bashir were shot in the arm while Mosharruf was shot in the leg.

Police detained two suspects named Jewel, 19, and Sonia, 27 from the scene. Jewel is being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a bullet wound in the leg. It was not clear whether he was shot by police.

Quoting doctors, Van Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said the injured policemen were out of danger.

The incident took place during a police raid to catch suspected bay peddlers in Dhupchokla Ghontoria area around 4:30pm, Nurul Amin, additional deputy commissioner of DMP Van Division, said.

The team of police, acting in a tip-off, raided the area. As the team approached a house, the suspects began shooting at them from inside.

The suspects then fled the scene on a motorcycle as policemen began to retaliate.

Police teams are looking for the suspects, the officer added.

On August 12 last year, a senior assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch of DMP and two others were left with bullet wounds during an operation in the capital's Mirpur.

On March 19 this year, DB Inspector Jalal Uddin was shot dead by armed gangs during a raid in Mirpur.

### Ctg hit by sudden gas crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dwellers of different areas of Chittagong city have been facing sudden gas crisis after a gas-piping was ruptured in Halishahar area on yesterday evening causing night-long blackout-wide supply cuts, said officials.

As of filing of this report, the gas connection, which was severed while constructing a road, was yet to be restored in Halishahar, double Mooring and Goshaldanga areas, said locals.

Abul Kalam Dutta, manager, customer maintenance of Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Ltd, told The Daily Star that their team had been working to restore the gas connection.

Many could not cook dinner at all. Lawyer Tahmina Ferdous told the Daily Star, "I could not cook any food due to the sudden gas crisis. I had to pay extra just to buy biryani from a restaurant."

"It is tough to get food from restaurants as people are queuing to buy food," she said.

Debraj Roy Deb of Gosaigandhi said, "We did not cook any food as we have no alternative arrangements."

"There was long queues at restaurants as everybody rushed there to buy food," he said.

### 12 abducted hill woman leaders freed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two abducted leaders of Hill Women's Federation (HWF) were freed at Modhubur in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila yesterday, a month after their kidnaping.

On 18 March, Chittagong, general secretary of HWF Chakma, and Doya Sona Chakma, general secretary of the organisation's Rangamati unit.

The HWF is an associate organisation of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF).

The two respondents tried several times to reach Rony over phone but he did not pick up the calls.

In his statement found on Facebook, Rony denied the allegations. He said he directed to someone in the city's Sanguha area and took his passport along with Tk 35,000 in cash, making he would get it back once he made the full payment, according to the respondents.

Rashed told the police that he was late in filing the complaint as he was admitted to a hospital and could not come out of home amid threats from the accused.

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Rashed said these were not true.

"There are no business relations

### BNP leaders not allowed to meet Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders were "denied permission" to meet party Chairperson Khaleda Zia in jail yesterday.

Party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir along with standing committee members Mirza Abbas and Nazrul Islam Khan went to the AG Central Jail on Nazimuddin Road around 10:30pm to meet Khaleda, but could not.

"We have a prior permission to meet Khaleda Zia, but the jail authorities did not allow us today," Fakhrul told reporters in front of the jail gate.

The authorities did not give them permission, saying that Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftakhar (Hidin went to Kashimpur jail in Gazipur, he said.

After the BNP leaders left the jail gate, the authorities told journalists that the BNP leaders could meet Khaleda on Sunday and no permission would be needed for that.

On Feb 29, Fakhrul met Khaleda inside the jail.

In January 8, the BNP chief landed in Dhaka after a special court in Dhaka sentenced her to five years' rigorous imprisonment in Sha Orphanage Trust court order.

Earlier at a programme yesterday, Fakhrul again underscored the need for a national consensus to hold the next general election under a non-party neutral administration.

"As of now, the next general election to be held under a neutral government. We want restoration of democracy. We will have to reach a national consensus for this purpose."

Fakhrul was addressing a

programme organised by the Association of Engineers' Bangladesh at the National Press Club demanding immediate release of Khaleda and holding of the next general election under a non-party caretaker government.

He said the next general election would not be acceptable and impartial if it was not held under a non-partisan caretaker government.

About the quota reform movement, the BNP leader said protest of students and jobseekers would go in vain if they failed to wage an organised movement for the sake of democracy.

On the prime minister's announcement of abolishing the quota system in the public service, Fakhrul said, "It is a constitutional matter. The prime minister cannot say like this as it is not within her jurisdiction."

He also blasted the ruling Awami League, alleging that it destroyed the country's democratic and financial institutions by indulging in ill-considered occupation.

In the current political situation, BNP leaders and activists would have to get people for mobilising their support against the misdeed and misuse of the AL-led government, he said.

"We must wage a mass upsurge in a democratic and peaceful manner to free the country from the grip of the government for establishing a pro-people administration," said the BNP leader.

Alleging that Khaleda is not getting proper treatment, Fakhrul voiced concern over her condition.

"We are sure that the government had sent the BNP chief to prison by convicting her in a false and fabricated case as part of its evil design. We must launch a movement to free her from jail," he said.

### Family members charged with assault

PROK PAGE 1

Noakhali's Senbagh upazila, the family found out that the body was of a boy. This was not Rokhsana's daughter.

As the family rushed back to Chittagong, the hospital authorities admitted what they said was a mistake and returned the baby girl, who was alive and undergoing treatment at the ICU of Rokhsana's hospital.

Meanwhile, AM Mujibul Huq, director (Health) of the Directorate General of Health Services in Chittagong yesterday to three-member committee formed to investigate into the incident.

Headed by superintendent of Chittagong General Hospital Asim Kumar Nath, the probe body was asked to submit its report within the next 24 hours, Mujibul said.

"No one will be spared if found guilty of investigation," he told The Daily Star.

Asked for comment, Abdul Warish, deputy commissioner (north) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said what the hospital authorities had done was negligent and mistake was a crime, but it was not a cognisable offence under the existing law of the country.

However, lawyers have a different opinion.

The former Saimul Chowdhury, president of Chittagong District Bar Association, said a case could definitely be filed accusing the hospital of negligence.

"A civil or criminal case can be filed against a healthcare official, who is found negligent in their duty and affecting others, he said.

The baby is now undergoing treatment at ICU of Royal Hospital in the city.

Ajoy Kumar Dey, in-charge of neonatology at the hospital, said that the condition of the baby improved but she was not out of risk.

### Tongi station

PROK PAGE 2

The station master is largely responsible for the accident, there were problems in the signalling system a day before the accident. As per the railway rules, the station master was given a memo on how to run the station in the changed situation.

"But he did not follow the due procedure," the DG said.

The station master had altered the set of points (railroad switch) when the train was passing in it. This locomotive carried baggage from the locomotive, he said.

The station master had also failed to lock the set of points, Amzad said.

Asked about travelling on roofs, he said, "Our mobile coats have already started driving against travelling on roofs and we won't allow any to travel that way."

### Saudi cinema

PROK PAGE 2

On a 45-foot screen at a converted symphony concert hall in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, a man yesterday gave the first public viewings today, according to Adam Aron, chief executive of operator AMC Entertainment Holdings.

" Saudis now are going to be able to watch the beautiful theatre and watch movies the way they're supposed to be watched: on a big screen," he told Reuters ahead of the screening.

The smell of pottery popcorn filled the air as confetti rained down through the beautiful theatre and watch movies the way they're supposed to be watched: on a big screen," he told Reuters ahead of the screening.

The opening marks another milestone for the country, as it was opened by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to open the country culturally and diversify the economy of the world's top oil exporter.

The prince, 32, has already eased restrictions on the country, including on public concerts, women driving and gender mixing. The kingdom held its first-ever fashion show last week with a women-only audience.

Many Saudis have rejoiced at the end of the cinema ban, sharing praise and pictures of Prince Mohammed on social media.

Others expressed confusion at what they considered a government film. The movie was shown on Wednesday: "Remember you will stand in front of God... and you will bear the sins of all those who watched the movies."

Some religious conservatives view cinema as acting as inconsistent with Islam.

There has been little apparent resistance to the social reforms, which seemed unthinkable just a few years ago, though the space for criticism remains limited. Two government critics were arrested last year in an apparent bid to silence dissent.

**BUILDING A FILM INDUSTRY**

Among Wednesday's movie-goers was Princess Reema bint Bandar, a second daughter of King Mohammed, who brought her 16-year-old son to experience what she called "an historical moment".

### China for peaceful

PROK PAGE 2

November 5-10.

"We are of course concerned as so many Chinese people and Chinese companies are engaged in trade and business, and also have their investment in Bangladesh, and thus we are concerned about that," the diplomat said.

From the year, the import expo would be held annually to promote export of its priority countries to the China, said Guo Guang, adding that the upcoming expo would create a platform for countries to engage in international trade and share business opportunities with each other.

He said the Chinese government has invited Bangladesh, and the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) has already showed its interest in joining the event. This is very unique because it focuses on import although most countries focus on export, Guo Guang added.

"I suggested that Bangladesh should sign a Free Trade Agreement with China to give its export a boost. Apart from trade, the FTA would cover investments. Chinese investment would help Bangladesh diversify its export products which would ultimately increase Bangladesh's exports, he said.

Guo Guang said China now has investments worth \$300 million in Bangladesh. With the latest investments in the power sector, the figure will go up manifold. For example, China investing \$2 billion in Payra of Patuakhali.

Bangladesh would soon sign a \$2.6 billion loan deal with China's EXIM Bank to finance the rail link on the Padma Bridge. The loan would be paid back in 20 years at an interest rate of two per cent. The loan would be repaid over a period of 5 to 7 years, said the diplomat.

and Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor, the diplomat said connectivity is very important for economic development and China is hopeful about implementing the project in full.

He said discussion on connectivity was underway.

Deputy Chief of Mission Chen Wei, former political counsellor at the Chinese Embassy, was present at the press conference.

### Woman

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Chiapas, wearing the school uniform of a white polo shirt with a black skirt and her own personal touch: a pink sweatshirt.

"Dona Lupita," as she is affectionately known, was welcomed with applause from her fellow students at High School Number 2 in the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, the state capital.

She diligently took notes in her chemistry and mathematics classes and excelled in her school, married twice and had six children. Along the way, she picked up arithmetic, but never learned to read and write.

When she turned 92, she said, she decided it was time, and she enrolled in a literacy program.

"Now I can write letters to my boyfriends," she said with a laugh. But she did not stop there: In 2015, she enrolled in a primary school program for adult learners.

In the past four years, she completed both primary and middle school.

But there was no adult learning program for high school — so she decided to enrol in a regular public school, with classmates eight decades younger.

Today, she is looking beyond high school. She would like to be a kindergarten teacher someday.

### Four students

PROK PAGE 1

midnight while the others walked out at 10:30pm yesterday, according to witnesses.

The students were "divided out" at night by the security forces "in view that was not known. The hall provost Prof Shabira Rizwana did not answer her phone despite repeated attempts by The Daily Star.

The students' parents are Farhin and Sharmin Akhter Shuvo Kamrun Nahar Liza of mathematics department and Kamrun Nahar Liza of theatre and performance studies department.

Identity of a fourth student, who came out of the hall around 12:15am, could not be known.

Wishing anonymity, several students of the hall said they were intimidated and threatened by the authorities during the evening.

"The incident had happened, a man who received Sharmin from the hall authorities around 12:00am, said the provost had forbidden him to say anything.

Several students of the dormitory told reporters that the authorities had summoned eight students to the hall office around 5:30pm and seized their mobile phones.

The authorities then told the students that they should leave the dormitory and contact their local guardians to pick them up.

Faruq Hassan, father of physics student Rimi, who was entering the hall around 12:30am to receive his daughter, said, "The provost had called me around 8:00pm and said she will not be allowed to stay in the hall and asked me to pick my daughter up."

"Then I started from Dharmal amid rain. I do not know why she is being driven out," he told reporters at gate of the hall.

The employee of the hall requesting anonymity said he had seen many students leaving the dormitory yesterday afternoon.

Contacted, DU Proctor AKM Golam Rabbani told The Daily Star: "The hall authorities have driven out the students without any investigations or discussion. It is an audacity. We deeply condemned the incident and demand resignation of the provost." Hasan AI Mamun, convener of the Parshad told reporters.

The 10 students' photos of a female student at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall viral on the social media. The victim alleged that she was tortured by some female BCL leaders for

### taking part in the demonstrations for quota reforms.

According to records at the hall, Ifat, BCL president in the three halls, allegedly assaulted several students on the roof around 12:30am for joining the protests.

Hearing screams of the students, Mosheda Akhter, a fourth-year student of botany and also vice president of the BCL hall unit, rushed to Ifat's room and found her sobbing and angry. She kicked a window of the room and cut her foot, she said.

Some photos of her wounded leg were doing the rounds on Facebook with captions that Ifat had cut tendons of her leg.

Ifat was suspended by the university soon afterwards, but the authorities took her back later.

It was a historic, though under-stated moment for the university as Castro got into the air in view, prompting another wave of applause from the delegates — some of whom were in civilian attire, while others wore military fatigues.

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### End of an era

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The chamber erupted into applause as the delegates read out, with many of the delegates smiling and shaking hands warmly with Chamber and Diaz-Canel.

As the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of the Castro, he high-fived the front row of delegates and embraced Castro as he took the stage, images broadcast on state television showed.

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