

"It's all rumour. None of the incidents was linked to child kidnapping."

IGP MOHAMMAD JAVED PATWARY AT A PRESS BRIEFING



"The most surprising thing is that I didn't know about it. It never happened before."

BCB PRESIDENT NAZMUL HASSAN ON GIVING A 5-DAY BREAK TO THE TIGERS IN CWC. (PAGE 14)



"The president [Donald Trump] was not exonerated for the acts he allegedly committed."

MUELLER TESTIFIES BEFORE US CONGRESS OVER RUSSIA PROBE. (PAGE 8)



Big thugs of a small town

The two brothers, accused of Rifat murder, ruled Barguna's crime world, got off the hook after arrest on several occasions

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and
M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, from Barguna

Long before their alleged involvement in the killing of Rifat Sharif, brothers Rifat Farazi and Rishan Farazi were already known as two terrorising figures in the small town of Barguna.

Their involvement in narcotics trade, extortion and hooliganism were all public knowledge and in police records, but the two brothers roamed the locality with almost total impunity, police and locals said.

Even the family of a police officer and an elected councillor faced their wrath when they tried to stand against their "criminal activities," they added.

Since 2015, the two brothers, aged 26 and 20, were named in at least six cases over attempted murders, extortion, illegal gathering and causing injuries. They were detained on several occasions over these charges, but every time they walked out of the police station within a couple of days or even hours.

This is for the first time they have been



Rishan Farazi

Rifat Farazi

behind bars this long since their arrests over the murder of Rifat, 25.

Rifat, himself an accused in several cases, was hacked to death in broad daylight on June 26 in Barguna town. A video footage of the incident shows Aysha Siddika Minni trying in vain to save her husband from the attackers. Police are now treating Minni as a suspect.

In that footage, Rifat Farazi was seen making the first strike with a machete with Rishan holding the victim from behind. Police said the two brothers admitted their involvement in the killing.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



People, including school children, wait at the exit ramp of the Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover where buses are not supposed to stop. Such risk taking often ends in tragedy. The photo was taken near Moghbazar Wireless area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Minni wants to withdraw statement
Says her lawyer
STAFF REPORT

Aysha Siddika Minni, who was allegedly forced to confess her involvement in the murder of her husband Rifat Sharif, wants to withdraw her previous statement and submit a new one.

Minni's lawyer Mahbubul Bari Aslam, also general secretary of Barguna District Lawyers' Association, made the disclosure after meeting her at Barguna jail yesterday.

"I said what police asked me to say. I did not say anything in the confessional statement on my own and not a single word of it was true."

Police forced and
SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

BOMBS AT PALTAN, FARMGATE Police suspect militants' hand

Say the explosives were very powerful and planted to wreak destruction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two bombs that police found and detonated in the capital's Paltan and Khamar Bari areas early yesterday were powerful enough to kill people and destroy properties in the surrounding areas, police said.

Law enforcers believe the improvised explosive devices were placed there by a local militant group.

The bombs, found by chance, near traffic police boxes at the Paltan and Khamar Bari intersections were similar to each other. Seven cans of butane gas were attached to each of the devices to amplify the explosion and fire, said officials of the Bomb Disposal Unit of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit.

The bombs could have killed people within 10 to 15 meters, said a CTTC official who examined them. Splinters were found even 150 meters away from where the devices were detonated.

"The use of gas in IEDs had not been seen in Bangladesh before," said an official preferring anonymity.

The bomb disposal team detonated the IED found in Khamar Bari at 2:52am. The blast caused a 20-25 feet wide fire.

IEDs had been used to hurt policemen in the capital's Gulistan and Malibagh.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

10 firms sued over harmful substances in milk

Food safety authority files case with spl court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) yesterday filed cases against 10 companies after finding harmful heavy metals in their pasteurised milk.

The move came following a High Court order on July 16, which instructed both the BFSA and Bangladesh Standards Testing Institution to report back to the court on their actions taken against adulteration of milk, curd and cattle feed by July 28.

BSFA inspector Kamrul Hasan filed 10 cases with the Pure Food Court in Nagar Bhaban in the capital. The court of Magistrate Mehedi

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

TACKLING SPREAD OF DENGUE

Hospitals outside Dhaka not ready

HELEMUL ALAM

After Antor Dutta, a 17-year-old college student, woke up with a fever on Tuesday morning, he was taken to Narsingdi Medical College Hospital. Doctors there gave him some medicines and advised him to take proper rest.

The fever, however, did not show any sign of decreasing throughout the day.

Later that night, Antor's mother Runa Rani Dutta took him to the hospital again. This time, physicians referred the teenage boy to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was admitted there early yesterday.

"Although the doctors [in Narsingdi] could not diagnose dengue, they suspected that my son had the disease. That's why they sent him here," the woman told The Daily Star at the DMCH last night.

Talking to The Daily Star, physicians and government health officials said doctors outside the capital were struggling to diagnose dengue at the initial stage as they were not given proper training in "dengue management".

Also, they don't have the kit that detects dengue instantly, they said.

The Director General of Health Service (DGHS) has provided the training to some 2,000 doctors, but all of them are in government hospitals in the capital.

This year, dengue, spread by Aedes mosquitoes, has taken an alarming turn in Dhaka. The picture outside the city, however, is still not that grim.

DGHS data show 8,565 people have so far been infected with dengue

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

ROOPPUR PLANT
16 officials suspended over graft

UNB, Dhaka

Sixteen officials of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works have been suspended for their involvement in graft while purchasing furniture and other household items for Green City housing project under Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project.

The ministry issued an order on Wednesday in this regard.

The action came hours after Housing and Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim told a press conference that two probe committees have found the involvement of 34 government officials in irregularities in purchasing the goods.

Thirty of the officials
SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



The pictures show the village of Maw in Rakhine in 2017, left, and 2018, right. The scale of the destruction of the village can be clearly seen in the photos.

PHOTO: GOOGLE EARTH/ASPI

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

Myanmar's intentions under question

REUTERS, Yangon

Satellite images have captured continued destruction of residential buildings in Rakhine state since 2017, raising serious questions about Myanmar's willingness to repatriate tens of thousands of Rohingyas, who fled to Bangladesh following a brutal military-led crackdown.

More than 700,000 Rohingya were forced to flee northern Rakhine state in

Ensure supply of safe water
HC tells Dhaka Wasa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority would get appreciations if it could solve all its issues and supply safe drinking water to citizens.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam made the remarks while hearing a writ petition filed by lawyer Tanvir Ahmed.

"We need water, safe water. If Dhaka Wasa can fix the problems and ensure safe water supply, it will be appreciated," the court said.

The bench also adjourned the hearing of the writ petition until July 30 as barrister AM Masum, lawyer for Wasa, sought time for submitting a test report.

During yesterday's proceedings, barrister Masum said Wasa tested samples of its Patla Khan Zone and Mirpur Zone at laboratories in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

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