

Main accused in Gazipur police attack case arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Rab has arrested Jahangir, the main accused in a case over attacking police, vandalising government vehicles, and snatching an accused during a drug recovery operation in Gazipur's Sreepur.

Rab-1 arrested him in the Ansar Road area of the upazila early yesterday.

Confirming the development, Lt Md Nafiz Bin Jamal, company commander of Rab-1, said on December 31, when three people were arrested with 30 pieces of yaba during a drive in the Maona area of Sreepur, miscreants attacked the police. Several policemen were injured and two government vehicles were vandalised.

"During the attack, Jahangir seriously injured a policeman with a sharp weapon and helped snatch the accused," he added.

Sub-Inspector Arup Kumar Biswas of Sreepur Police Station filed a case in this connection on January 1. After the arrest, Jahangir was handed over to Sreepur Police Station for interrogation and legal action, added the Rab official.

Rab recovers weapons snatched from police outpost

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Rab has recovered weapons that were snatched from a highway police outpost during a recent incident in Muradnagar, Cumilla.

The recovery was confirmed by Maj Sadman Ibne Alam, company commander of Rab-11, CPC-2, adding that they conducted the operation based on confidential information.

A specialised team from Rab-11 carried out a raid late Thursday night near the Bhuiya Bari Bridge area in Lajair village under Babutipara union, where the weapons were found abandoned.

According to Rab sources, the recovered arms include a Chinese rifle and a locally made firearm resembling a rifle, both of which had been taken from the highway police outpost.

Rab suspects the criminals fled, leaving the weapons behind after sensing the presence of the force. Legal procedures regarding the recovered weapons are underway, Rab said, adding that efforts continue to identify and arrest those involved.

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STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(ORIGINAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 23 OF 2026
IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.
AND
IN THE MATTER OF: Md. Ruhul Amin, shareholder and Managing Director of **Safe Heaven Limited**. Having his Office:- 280, East Vashantak, Dhaka Cantonment, Kafrul Dhaka.
---Petitioner
-VERSUS-
Register, Joint Stock Companies and Firms. Having his Office:- TCB Bhawan, (6th Floor), 1 Karowan Bazar, Tejgaon, Dhaka represented by its Register and another's.
---Respondents
Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Respondents Companies Act, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for condoning the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the company name & style as "**Safe Heaven Limited**." The Hon'ble Company Judge Mrs. Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque has admitted the said application on 11.01.2026 and Hon'ble court directed the petitioner to publish the notices within 3 (three) weeks and also to submit affidavit-in-compliance on or before 09 February 2026 from the date of publication. Any person interested in the said application may appear before this Hon'ble Court.
A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.
(**Mohammad Balayet Hossain**), Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Room No.104, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhawan, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01726-127434



Vice Chancellor Prof Abdur Rab inaugurates the 35th founding anniversary of the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) at its Uttara campus yesterday. Pro-VC Prof Mohammad Mahmudur Rahman, Treasurer Prof Selina Nargis, Registrar Prof Md Momtazur Rahman, Controller of Examinations Brig Gen (ret'd) Dr Md Zahid Hossain, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Prof Md Monirul Islam, and Dean of the Faculty of Business Prof Mozaffar Alam Chowdhury were, among others, present.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Parts of Lalar Dighi being filled up

DoE asked to intervene

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

The National Housing Authority's Rupatali unit in Barishal has been filling up a portion of Lalar Dighi, the largest natural waterbody in the city, raising serious environmental and legal concerns.

Locals said sand filling using pipes from a neighbouring river has been underway along the Lalar Dighi embankment adjacent to the Rupatali Housing Estate under Barishal City Corporation for the past 15 days.

The nearly six acre waterbody is largely owned by the district administration. It is bordered by the Rupatali Housing Estate on three sides and a 12-foot-wide road on the western side.

The housing estate, one of Barishal's most upscale areas, was developed in 1977-78 and now covers more than 40 acres.

According to SA land records, Lalar Dighi has around four acres of waterbody, with the remaining area comprising land surrounding it.

NHA authorities, however, claimed ownership of 50 decimals of land along the embankment on the western side of the dighi and said they were filling only that portion.

Officials argued that records identify the land as pond embankment rather than waterbody and that erosion over time caused it to submerge. They said the land is now being reclaimed and that no permission was required, as it is not classified as a waterbody.

However, an on-the-spot visit found that the portion being filled -- around 300 feet long and 80 feet wide -- appears to fall

within the waterbody rather than on the embankment.

"This more than century old waterbody has faced repeated attempts at illegal encroachment through forgery. No one could occupy or fill it earlier as the city corporation intervened. Now NHA is filling up part of it to prepare plots for sale," alleged

officer of the Rupatali Housing Estate, said the authority is reclaiming 50 decimals of land acquired in 1977-78 that later eroded into the dighi.

"As this is embankment land and not part of the dighi itself, we did not seek permission from the Department of Environment," he said.

divisional coordinator of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association in Barishal, said the Department of Environment has been informed and legal notices have been served on nine entities, including the NHA, BCC and the DoE.

Under the Waterbody Conservation Act, 2000, and the



PHOTO: STAR

local resident Jahangir Molla.

Following the allegations, Dipak Lal Chatterjee, deputy assistant land commissioner in Barishal, visited the site recently. He said a portion of the land belongs to the district administration and that the issue has been brought under official notice.

Rafiqul Islam, administrative

Environmentalists disagreed with the claim.

Rafiqul Alam, Barishal divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said, "Whether marked as pond or embankment, it is part of a major waterbody. Filling it and selling plots is not acceptable for a government institution."

Echoing him, Lincoln Biyen,

Bangladesh Water Act, 2013, filling or altering waterbodies without environmental clearance from the DoE is a punishable offence.

Contacted, Kazi Saifuddin, assistant director of the DoE in Barishal district, said they have already asked NHA authorities to stop filling the waterbody and submit all documents related to land ownership.

Couple arrested over Narsingdi JCD activist murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has arrested a couple in a case filed over the murder of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist Jahidul Islam in Narsingdi.

The arrestees are Rajan Mia, 37, and his wife Zara Akter, 30, the first and second accused respectively according to the case documents. They had been on the run.

Narsingdi Additional Superintendent of Police and also Camp Commander of Rab-11 Md Ariful Islam confirmed the arrests at a press briefing yesterday noon.

The accused were arrested during a raid conducted jointly by Rab-11 and Rab-12 based on confidential intelligence in Battaill Bhadalia area of Kushtia Sadar upazila on Thursday afternoon, he said.

On December 29, Jahidul, 25, was waylaid and stabbed to death with sharp weapons by miscreants in Nawpara area under Madhabdi Police Station in Narsingdi.

The Rab official said Rajan was the main planner of the killing while Zara assisted him. During preliminary interrogation, both confessed to their direct involvement in the killing.

Upon completion of legal formalities, the arrestees were handed over to Madhabdi Police Station. Rab is conducting operations to arrest the remaining suspects in the murder.

Contacted, Md Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Madhabdi Police Station, said, "The victim, Jahidul Islam, had an extramarital relationship with Rajan's wife Zara. Following a dispute with him over the matter, Rajan and his wife murdered Jahidul."

'Interim govt not favouring anyone' Says press secy, terms Rumeen Farhana's allegations baseless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam yesterday said the interim government is not favouring any candidate contesting for the upcoming national elections.

He made the remark in response to Brahmanbaria-2 constituency's independent candidate Barrister Rumeen Farhana's allegation that her rival candidate may carry out vote rigging on the election day.

"Her allegations are baseless. There is no possibility of vote rigging. The government is not working in favour of anyone," he said.

The election will be held in a free, fair and peaceful manner, he expressed hope while talking to journalists after visiting the shrine of Hazrat Shahpir Kalla Shaheed (R) at Kharnapur area of Brahmanbaria's Akhaura upazila yesterday.

He also said unlike previous elections, practices like intimidating oppositions and arrests during campaigning will not recur during the upcoming polls.

Talking about the referendum, Shafiqul Alam said it is essentially a vote in favour of reforms aimed at ending misrule and ensuring that authoritarian governments do not return in the future.

Voting "Yes" in the referendum is necessary to put an end to large-scale plundering of public resources that took place in previous regime, he added.

Regarding the implementation of the Wage Earners' Welfare Board for journalists, he said media owners should answer such questions, as journalists are often deprived of their rights despite working under risky conditions.

Earlier, during a stopover at the Brahmanbaria Circuit House, Shafiqul Alam told journalists that there is no discussion about reconciliation with killers.

Govt failed to ensure

FROM PAGE 3

Presenting the keynote paper, IPD Executive Director Dr Adil Mohammed Khan said the interim government had formulated several laws and regulations on planning, building construction, and urbanisation over the past year, but failed to resolve citizens' everyday urban problems.

He said the occupation of playgrounds and parks continued, with public access to many urban fields still restricted.

He criticised the formation of development authorities in Mymensingh, Barishal, and Rangpur, saying these would increase bureaucratic dependency, while the government remained silent on forming elected urban governments.

He also said the government ignored citizen movements opposing the destruction of Panthakunja Park for a car-dependent expressway link road and cancelled the bus rapid transit (BRT) project from Gazipur to the airport, which was based on public transport.

IPD Director Dr Muhammad Ariful Islam

said even after 55 years of independence, Bangladesh has failed to prepare a comprehensive national spatial plan.

Existing fragmented plans have seen little progress in implementation, leaving the country without a single properly planned city, he added.

Dr Forhadur Reza, associate professor of Urban and Regional Planning at Jahangirnagar University, warned that revisions to the DAP would increase population density in Dhaka and further paralyse the city.

State University of Bangladesh teacher KM Asif Iqbal Akash said existing policies have failed to curb unregulated industrialisation and environmental pollution.

Weak enforcement allows violators to avoid accountability through minimal compensation, encouraging business groups to disregard environmental laws, he added.

IPD member Tofayel Ahmed Sajib, planner Sajid Iqbal, and IPD research associates Jinias Jannat and Kazi Tasnia Tabassum also spoke, among others.

Prolonged cold wave

FROM PAGE 3

prospective candidate for the Dhaka-8 constituency, was shot in the head on December 12 while traveling in a rickshaw on Culvert

organisations have been distributing blankets and warm clothes, though the supply remains inadequate compared to demand.

Contacted, Afroz Shaheen Qhosru, upazila nirbahi officer of Tentulia, said 3,500 blankets have been distributed among people, with around 400 more in the pipeline.

Meanwhile, hospitals across the region have reported an influx of patients suffering from cold-related ailments, particularly children and elderly people.

Agriculture officials advised farmers to take precautionary measures to protect crops, especially Boro seedbeds, which have already been affected in some areas.

Ensure justice for Hadi

FROM PAGE 3

the two persons dead on the spot, said Arifur Rahman, officer in-charge of Nangalkot Police Station.

Additional law enforcers were deployed to avoid further violence, he added.

No case was filled till last evening, said the OC.

Local sources said the same groups clashed earlier on August 3, 2025, when former UP member Alauddin was killed.

Following that incident, both the groups carried out vandalism and arson

Road in Puratan Paltan.

He was later airlifted to Singapore for advanced treatment, where he succumbed to his injuries on the night of December 18.

Two killed, three hurt

FROM PAGE 3

attacks on houses of one-another, forcing several families to leave the area. Recently, those families returned to their homes following intervention of joint forces.

PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 17
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:40 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:44 7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION