

3 alleged accomplices of 'Kala' Jahangir held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police arrested three alleged accomplices of top criminal 'Kala' Jahangir from a passenger bus here Thursday night.

Kazi Aslam Shibli, 38, Afzal Hossain, 32, and Zafar Iqbal, 34, were arrested from a Dhaka-bound

passenger bus of Hanif Paribahan, and taken to the Khulna Police Station for further verification of their identity.

Police said the three had been hiding in Khulna for some time and kept in touch with the local criminal underworld. They stayed at Hotel

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'Pro-peace accord activists killed 87 UPDF men'

PCJSS rejects allegation

MONIRUL ALAM, back from Kutukchhari

The United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) yesterday came up with an allegation against a pro-peace accord body of killing its 87 members in the last four years.

The anti-peace accord outfit at a press conference also alleged that armed activists of the Parbartya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) damaged property of 15 UPDF men, torched and ransacked more than 100 houses and extorted Tk 13 lakh in the same period.

Shachib Chakma, convener of UPDF Rangamati district unit, said,

"No peace exists in the CHT (Chittagong Hill Tracts) as the PCJSS intensified crime and extortion."

Journalists attending the press conference in a forest at Kutukchhari, 25km off Rangamati district headquarters, were intercepted by the army on close patrol and the UPDF leaders were forced to change the venue several times.

The UPDF handed the newsmen a written statement describing how the PCJSS that signed the 1997 peace accord with the government has tortured its rivals since 1999.

The statement adds: Six UPDF men were abducted by the PCJSS men and released on ransom and

42 people left home being tortured and took shelter in the Ratnangkur Buddhist Temple in Naniarchar.

The UPDF leaders could not read out the written statement nor could any journalist ask any question at the press conference as the army men were close by.

The venue was then shifted to the nearby road to the temporary district office of the UPDF to Kutukchhari Union Parishad Office. The journalists left the area because of constant interception and faced a chase by the army up to Manikchhari on the outskirts of Rangamati town.

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Killing of child lifters: 3,000 villagers sued in Haluaghat

UNB, Mymensingh

Police have filed a murder case against 3,000 unnamed villagers following the killing of three alleged child lifters in a mob beating at village Purba Narail in Haluaghat Upazila on Thursday.

Residents of the village caught Billal, Hanif and Ramjan while they were after a 12-year-old child and beat them to death in the morning. The child, Apon, was rescued.

Police registered the murder case with Haluaghat Police Station on Thursday night charging the villagers with the killing of the child lifters.

Meanwhile, police are in a fix about burying the bodies of the three as none of their relations turned up to claim them till late afternoon yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

An Iraqi man walks past smoke rising from a blast at a key oil pipeline in the northern Iraqi town of Baiji yesterday. 'Saboteurs' exploded part of the pipeline which was still ablaze following a big blast overnight.

'Saboteurs' blow up key oil pipeline in Iraq

Four Iraqis killed, 3 US troops hurt as attacks mount

AFP, Baiji

Saboteurs exploded part of a key oil pipeline in northern Iraq which was still ablaze yesterday following a big blast overnight, a top oil official in the refinery town of Baiji said.

"It was a crude oil pipeline going from Kirkuk to Baiji," Majid Mamuni, general director in charge of pipelines at the Baiji refinery, told AFP.

"I think it was sabotage," he added.

Police and witnesses at the scene said a large explosion rocked Baiji Thursday night, while a fire along a section of pipeline was still raging Friday near the refinery town.

"It is an attack, a sabotage," said a high-ranking Baiji police officer who did not want to be identified. "It could be the Fedayeen (pro-Saddam Hussein militia), or supporters of the old regime, or criminals."

The police officer had earlier mistakenly identified the stricken line as a gas pipeline, Mamuni said.

Ayed Ayed Abdullah, a resident of Tal Abu Jarad village a few hundred metres from the scene, said he heard what "sounded like a bomb" as he was preparing for Thursday

night prayers.

Baiji is about 200 kilometres north of Baghdad and is a vital hub in the strategic network of oil pipelines which criss-cross Iraq.

Meanwhile, four Iraqi men were killed yesterday and three US troops were lightly wounded in separate attacks against American forces near the town of Fallujah, amid a rise in violence in the flashpoint region, the US military said.

The Iraqis died in a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) assault on a US convoy.

"Four Iraqis were killed and nobody from the American side was injured" in the morning attack, Sergeant Keith O'Donnell told AFP.

It was not immediately clear if the RPGs missed their mark or soldiers inside their vehicles were unhurt in the explosions.

US forces arrested nine people in the clash, seven of whom O'Donnell said were carrying grenades while two were found with suspect documents bearing photographs of ousted president Saddam Hussein.

He said eight attackers

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PHOTO: AFP

A grab from Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite TV yesterday shows what it said was a new message to the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein recorded four days ago.

New Saddam tape urges Iraqis Oust invaders

REUTERS, AP, Dubai

A new audiotape attributed to Saddam Hussein aired on Al Jazeera TV yesterday urges his supporters continue the uprising against US occupation forces and keep control of former state property to use in the rebellion. The voice said the tape was made Sunday.

"Some people lost their sense of balance during the war... and afterwards. The sense of balance will not be restored except with those who struggle in the name of the principles that will satisfy the nation, people and God.

"Only the actions of the faithful

who struggled and fought can evict the invaders," the audiotape message said. It was dated July 28.

In another audiotape broadcast on Tuesday, the ousted Iraqi leader purportedly said his two sons, Qusay and Uday, killed by U.S. forces last week, died as martyrs and vowed America would be defeated.

The CIA said it believed Tuesday's tape was almost certainly authentic.

Uday and Qusay were killed in a gunbattle in the northern city of Mosul along with a 14-year-old-boy

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DOWN TO EARTH

Brick kilns: Belching out hazard into environment

ASM NURUNNABI

The Dhaka City and its suburbs reportedly have some 5000 brick fields most of which are fuelled by materials that have serious environmental fallout. Some of these brick fields use gas and furnace oil, which causes less adverse effects on the environment. But most other brick fields use wood, bamboo stumps and even old tyres to fire their kilns that burn round the clock spewing black, poisonous smoke, and their adverse effects on the environment is much more pronounced.

The smoke spreads far and wide into the city and poses a potent threat to environment as well as public health. The city is already seriously suffering from serious environmental impact of water, air and noise pollution. And these unregulated brick fields represent the last nail in the coffin as far as the city's environment is concerned.

These ominous kilns are located in certain areas of the city and its outskirts. We find them on both sides of the river Buriganga, particularly near Pagla, at Mirpur, Mohammadpur

and other vast areas extending beyond Gabtoli. Earth, the ingredient for brick, is brought into many of these kilns from faraway places while few other brick fields use earth from designated sites. But this continuous removal of soil also breaks its share of havoc on the environment. Lands that supply the soil become less suitable for agriculture. Particularly, on the other side of the Buriganga where the land is low-lying, the ongoing excavation results in further depression of the land level.

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Saddam's two daughters take refuge in Jordan

AFP, Amman

Two daughters of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein arrived in Jordan accompanied by nine children Thursday and were granted official protection, a high-ranking official told the new agency.

A close relative said the daughters, Raghad and Rana, and their children fled in from Syria, where they had fled two weeks after the fall of Baghdad.

King Abdullah II has agreed to host them "for humanitarian reasons and because of the difficult situation in their country," the official from the royal palace said, requesting anonymity.

"We do not know how long they will stay in Jordan. The fact is that

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAO

Illegal shanties thrive in the jheel (water body), east of the Sonargaon Hotel. Although the government evicts such structures from government land by the roadside, the slum remains untouched for years.

HR abuse in Myanmar Judge rules Unocal can be tried in US

AFP, Los Angeles

US oil giant Unocal must stand trial here for alleged complicity in human rights abuses by Myanmar's military junta, including forced labour, rape and torture, court documents showed Thursday.

"Prior to its involvement in the pipeline project, Unocal had specific knowledge that the use of forced labour was likely, and nevertheless chose to proceed," said Los Angeles Superior Court judge Victoria Chaney in a ruling.

In the decision released Wednesday, Chaney rejected arguments by the California-based energy firm, which built a gas pipeline in Myanmar, that the case should be tried at least in part under Myanmar or Bermuda law.

Unocal had made a bid to have the long-running case shifted to the country formerly known as Burma as the alleged abuses took place there, or to Bermuda where a Unocal unit is registered.

But lawyers representing Myanmar villagers allegedly abused by the isolated Southeast Asian

nation's military regime contested the move and the judge agreed it would be offensive to allow Myanmar law to be applied.

But the judge said foreign laws such as Myanmar's "indeterminate" laws could not be given precedence if they were morally offensive to public policy.

The judge's move cleared the way

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 02	4-30	6-41 pm
Aug 03	5-28 am	

Prayer Timings		
August 02		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-48	6-53
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation