

Eid day death threat to Kadianis

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

At least 70 members of Kadiani families at Uttarbahaniapur are languishing holed up in their at houses as village leaders have called for death to all Kadianis on the Eid-day if they do not embrace Islam by then.

"We feel totally insecure," they said when a group of journalists with former justice KM Sobhan and writer Sharier Kabir Sunday visited the village under Mirpur upazila, 35 kilometers from Kushtia district headquarters.

Earlier on October 24, at a meeting at Dharampur bazar, Union BNP leader Jalal Uddin urged the villagers

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RU teacher arrested for alleged rape of student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested a newly appointed teacher of Rajshahi University on charge of alleged rape of a student of anthropology department.

Kamal Pasha, lecturer of anthropology department and son of Ahmed Ali of Tarapur in Adamdighi, Bogra, was refused bail and sent to jail custody by a magistrate's court.

The court sent the 22-year honours final year student for medical tests at Rajshahi Medical College

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| Sehri, Iftar timings | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| Ramadan | Nov | Sehri | Iftar |
| 21 | 17 | | 5-15 |
| 22 | 18 | 4-52 | 5-15 |

| Prayer Timings | | |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| November 17 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-54 | 5-00 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-00 | 4-15 |
| Maghrib | 5-16 | 5-23 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 8-00 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Illegal toll collection at bus terminals goes unabated

Each bus pays Tk 50- Tk 300

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists continue collection of illegal toll from inter-district and city service buses both inside and outside the city ahead of the Eid.

They are collecting between Tk 50 and Tk 300 from each bus at Savar, Kanchpur, Gulistan and Mohakhali, bus owners and workers said.

Jatrabari intersection, Shanir Akhra, Chittagong road, Shyampur, Jurain, Janapath Crossing, Mugda, Khilgaon, Goran, Fulbaria, Victoria park at Sadarghat, Mirpur and Mohammadpur are also controlled by the criminals.

They said the situation has little chance to improve unless the ruling

BNP stops backing the extortionists.

The money is collected in the name of Eid celebration and Urs (religious programme).

To stop extortions, three terminals at Sayedabad, Mohakhali and Gabtoli were handed to private operators in October. But bus workers said the criminals still rule the terminals freely.

A driver of a city link Navana service who operates on the Gulistan-Mugda route said, "Every day, we have to pay Tk 180 as toll. We pay Tk 15 at Gulistan and Tk 165 at Mugda to the owners' association."

He said the association, in return, gives the bus workers no service at all. A driver of a Demra (Ranimahal)-

Gabtoli via Jatrabari bus service said, "Currently, we pay Tk 105 to toll collectors Tk 25 at Gabtoli, Tk 30 at Ranimahal and Tk 50 at Jatrabari, to a so-called workers' welfare fund."

A few days back, owners of south-bound buses went on a strike to protest collection of Tk 500 from each bus of Sundarban Paribahan by extortionists at Sayedabad terminal.

At Gabtoli, bus workers said traffic policemen are also making quick money ahead of the Eid in the name of checking papers.

Under the banner of Owners-Workers Unity Parishad, an influential quarter has been collecting illegal tolls.



PHOTO: STAR

Shopping spree is on just a week short of the Eid-ul-Fitr. Two sisters head back home by rickshaw yesterday after a shopping trip to Karnaphuli Garden City, one of the upscale markets in Dhaka.

Indian minister quits on bribe charge

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A federal Indian minister resigned yesterday, a day after allegations were made that he had accepted bribe from the representative of a foreign company in return for mining rights in the eastern Indian state of Orissa.

Dilip Singh Judeo, minister of state for environment and forests and a senior leader of India's ruling BJP, has sent his resignation letter to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

This was announced by BJP President M Venkaiah Naidu to reporters as he emerged from a meeting of top party leadership at the official residence of Vajpayee here yesterday afternoon.

Asked if the resignation of Judeo,

who hails from a royal family in the central Indian State of Chhattisgarh, would be accepted, Naidu said it was the prerogative of the prime minister.

Late Sunday night, Vajpayee, on his return from a foreign tour, had told reporters that a probe was underway into the allegations of bribe-taking against Judeo and if found guilty, the junior minister has to go.

The allegation against Judeo was contained in a VCD clipping published by the leading newspaper Indian Express in its lead story on Sunday. The clipping purportedly shows the minister allegedly accepting money.

Judeo has denied the charge and the BJP termed the video as 'doctored' and

accused the main opposition Congress led by Sonia Gandhi of 'hatching a conspiracy' against the saffron party ahead of December 1 crucial elections to legislatures in four states.

The controversy set off by the Indian Express story and the video clipping, which was also aired by all leading private news channels in India, have put BJP in a spot with less than a fortnight left to the assembly polls in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Mizoram states.

What must have been more galling to the BJP is that Judeo was being seen as the party's hopeful for the post of chief minister

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More minority representation to govt must for civil rights

Speakers at discussion say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A discussion yesterday urged the government to be proactive in maintaining communal harmony and ensuring civil rights of religious minorities.

Organised by Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad, the meeting was attended by several prominent political leaders and members of the civil society.

The speakers stressed ensuring due rights of minorities in all affairs of the state.

Awami League (AL) presidium member Suranjit Sengupta said communalism and fundamental

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Fiery reception in UK awaits Bush

AP, London

Children, peace activists, anarchists and at least one well-known American war veteran spent yesterday planning protests against US President Bush for his upcoming state visit to Britain.

The rallies scheduled during Bush's visit beginning Tuesday are expected to be loud, colourful and well-organised. One plans to pull down an effigy of Bush in central London's Trafalgar Square.

"This is the man who is in charge of the administration that's killed 8,000 Afghans and 10,000 Iraqis," said Ghada Razuki of the Stop the War Coalition. "He is adding insult to injury by coming to our country, and he's going to find out that he's not welcome."

Ron Kovic, the disabled US Vietnam

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veteran and anti-war campaigner whose life story was filmed as "Born on the Fourth of July," led a delegation to Prime Minister Tony Blair (news - web sites)'s office Monday to hand in a petition allegedly bearing more than 85,000 signatures asking that Bush's invitation be withdrawn.

"We're going to stop this war (in Iraq) and change both of our countries. We're going to change the world," Kovic said.

The coalition hopes 60,000 people will join Thursday's main anti-Bush march through London. More than 3,000 "Stop Bush" placards have been printed.

Several smaller rallies are planned throughout the country during Bush's stay, which ends Friday.

ETV equipment case HC verdict stayed for 3 months

SC CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed for three months a High Court verdict on the return of the seized equipment of Ekushey Television (ETV).

Responding to a government leave-to-appeal petition on the issue, a full bench of the Appellate Division composed of Chief Justice KM Hasan, Justice Fazlul Haque, Justice Hamidul Haque and Justice Md Tafazzul Islam gave the order.

The government in its petition explained its inability to return the equipment, as the chairmanship of the ETV is still unresolved.

"Public safety is involved with the equipment as those are used not only for broadcasting, but also for receiving news and confidential

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