

Salehi's property at RU, home yet to be attached

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A court order for attachment of property of Rajshahi University Chhatra Shibir President Mahbul Alam Salehi has not reached Ulipur police in Kurigram district.

Police also did not attach Salehi's moveable property at RU, 10 days into the order.

Salehi, the key suspect in the murder of Rajshahi University teachers Prof S Taher Ahmed, hails from Thethrai village in Ulipur.

Officer-in-Charge of Ulipur police station AKM Khalkequz-zaman told out Rangpur Correspondent that he heard about a court order for attachment of Salehi's property.

"But we are yet to receive it", he said. We will start action as soon as we get the order.

Following an appeal by Rajshahi police on February 26, a Metropolitan Magistrate court on March 5 ordered attachment of Salehi's moveable property at Rajshahi University and his village home in Kurigram.

Some villagers in Thethrai said Salehi was not seen there since

news about Dr. Murder spread in the area.

Our Staff Correspondent in Rajshahi reported yesterday that police were yet to attach Salehi's property at Rajshahi University.

Salehi stayed at Dr. Shamsuzzoha Hall, a Shibir stronghold, though officially he was a resident of Moder Box Hall.

Police said they did not go to Dr. Shamsuzzoha Hall to attach Salehi's property there.

The home ministry in an order recently asked Rajshahi police to arrest Salehi following a police report that his arrest is necessary to understand the real motive behind the murder.

The police report also said Salehi's arrest is important to find out details about involvement of others. Besides, the revolver used in the murder belonged to Salehi, police said earlier.

Local police also believe that Salehi's arrest may help investigation into the earlier murder of Prof Muhammad Yunus of Rajshahi University as there were 'similarities between the two killings'.

However, local Bangla daily



Mahbul Alam Salehi

'Sunshine' in its March 10 issue published a joint statement of Salehi and RU Shibir general secretary Noor Muhammad, hailing the victory of Jamaat-backed White Panel in RU Teachers' Association election.

A large number of Jamaat-Shibir leaders and workers including Rajshahi city Jamaat Ameer Ataur Rahman and Salehi appeared at a public gathering at Sheheb Bazar on February 10 after Salehi was declared wanted by police.

At the gathering, they threw a

challenge to police to arrest Salehi if they dare.

"It is now clear that they (Jamaat-Shibir) are hiding him (Salehi). He was at the meeting and he is with them now and doing party activities", said a police official.

"We could not arrest him from the meeting as he fled with the help of a top political leader. We are frantically searching for him since then", the police official said in reply to a question.

Sources on RU campus said Jamaat-Shibir has created chaos at the university to save Salehi, forcing authorities to deploy a huge number of police.

Prof Taher was killed on February 1 and his body was recovered from a sewer behind his house on February 2. Three arrested killers -- Jahangir, Abdus Salam and Nazmul -- confessed during interrogation that they along with Taher's colleague Prof Mia Muhammad Mohiuddin and Salehi killed him.

Arrested Mohiuddin was denied bail on Tuesday.

Bring CHT under cell phone network

Journalists demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Journalists in Rangamati have demanded cell phone network to connect Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) with rest of the country.

The demand was made at a view exchange meeting between local journalists and officials of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), held at the latter's Bonorupa office in the town on Tuesday.

The journalists urged BLAST to file a writ petition with the High Court against the government decision not to provide CHT with cell phone network. The meeting was organised by BLAST to review the human rights situation in the CHT.

The journalists told the meeting that cell phone is now a basic necessity to promote development. Journalists need the facility more than any other professional, they said.

The government decision to keep the CHT out of cell phone network is discriminatory and self-contradictory as it says it is eager for development of the hill districts, they said.

Local coordinator of BLAST Jewel Dewan said that he would convey the proposal to its officials in Dhaka.

Among others, the meeting was addressed by Rangamati Press Club President Sunil Kanti Dey and Editor of local daily Giridarpan AKM Moksud Ahmad.

Convocation at KUET today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The first convocation of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) will be held today.

President Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, Chancellor of KUET, will be the chief guest at the ceremony. Education Minister Dr. Osman Faruk and Dr. Iqbal Mahmud, Professor Emeritus of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology will attend the function, sources in the convocation organising committee said.



Awami League Publicity Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor (inset) addressing a public meeting at at Nalta High School ground in Kaligonj, Satkhira yesterday.

Try men behind militants

Noor demands at Satkhira public meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Awami League central publicity secretary Asaduzzaman Noor MP yesterday said the BNP-led four-party alliance government would be forced to accept opposition's proposed reforms of the caretaker system and the Election Commission (EC).

"They (alliance government) may apply all kinds of tricks but ultimately they will have to accept our reforms proposals", he said addressing a public meeting at Nalta High School ground in Kaligonj upazila.

Noor said, the ruling alliance is reluctant to accept the proposals because they know they would not be able to retain power without rigging as people have already

rejected them for their misrule and widespread corruption in last four and a half years.

They want to perpetuate power by patronising anti-liberation forces and religious bigots. This has also tarnished country's image abroad.

He demanded immediate arrest of the ministers, MPs and financiers who harboured militant kingpins Abdur Rahman and Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhai.

He categorically accused some Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, ministers and MPs of patronising the two militants.

"They must be tried on the basis of neutral investigation and expelled from the ruling alliance", he said.

He said the government staged the drama of arrest of Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai to divert

people's attention from anti-government agitation, crises of power, fuel and fertilizers and price spiral of essentials.

He said, Islamist militants are still active in the country under different banners under the shelter of their protectors.

Presided over by Nalta Union Awami League president Shamsur Rahman, the meeting was addressed by, among others, district AL president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Dr. AFM Ruhul Haque, Monsur Ahmed, Nazrul Islam, Pankaj Debnath, A Ahmed, Sheikh Waheduzzaman, Golam Mostafa, Firoz Ahmed, Asadur Rahman, Saiful Karim Sabu and MA Khaleque.

POOR FLOW IN DINAJPUR CANAL

IRRI-Boro on 2000 hectares affected in Parbatipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

IRRI-Boro on about 2000 hectares in Parbatipur upazila is being seriously affected due to lack of irrigation as there is no water at many points in upstream portions of Dinajpur Canal of the Teesta Irrigation Project for about 15 days.

Sources in Saidpur divisional office of Water Development Board (WDB) said there is no flow in the upstream of Dinajpur Canal because of poor flow in the main canal of the irrigation project.

Withdrawal of water through a sluice gate at Chanderhat in the upstream is also responsible for this, they said.

Demanding water through the Dinajpur canal, about 5000 farmers from Sonapukur, Baghachhara, Tajnagar, Calksudam and Mondolpara villages in Parbatipur upazila of neighbouring Dinajpur district on Sunday held demonstrations and besieged Saidpur divisional office of Water Development Board (WDB), which is responsible for maintenance of the Dinajpur Canal.

The agitating farmers lifted the siege when Nilphamari Additional District Magistrate Nitaipado Das went to the spot with police and assured them of water supply.

During the siege, Executive Engineer of Saidpur WDB told farmers that supply of water through Dinajpur Canal would resume within two days. But the canal remained dry till yesterday.

During a visit to the affected villages yesterday, this correspondent saw parched fields with IRRI-Boro plants turning yellowish in some areas due to lack of water.

Dry croplands in northern districts need more water for irrigation this year as there was no rain in the last five and a half months.

Some farmers said they will launch tougher agitation if water is not supplied within 2-3 days.

FIRST COUNCIL OF DYF HELD

Indigenous youths in Khagrachhari place 16-pt demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The first council of Democratic Youth Forum (DYF), a newly formed organisation of indigenous youths, was held here yesterday with a vow to realise their 16-point demand including withdrawal of army from Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and removal of land disputes with Bangalee settlers.

It also demanded withdrawal of Bangalee settlers from what it called lands of indigenous people in Gamaridala, Mohalchhari, Matiranga, Laxnichhari, Dighinala, Panchhari, and Ramgarh.

Several thousand indigenous youths from Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban attended the council, held at Sanirbar Bazar in the district town.

Participants at the council carried banners reading slogans for withdrawal of army, settlement of land disputes and government steps for development of CHT.

DYF President Dipankar Chakma presided over the council. It was attended by, among others, UPDF

(United Peoples Democratic Front) Chittagong unit leader Animesh Chakma, its Khagrachhari convenor Ujjal Smriti Chakma, Hill Women Federation President Sonali Chakma, Jatiya Mukti Council for CHT Secretary Amir Abbas Tapu and Jumma Saranarhi Kallayan Samity President Pravakar Chakma.

The speakers criticised activities of army in CHT and said they are not friend of Jumma people.

After the council, the DYF brought out a procession in the town. Police intercepted it when the processionists reached Chenghi square.

At least 10 people were injured in a clash when DYF activists tried to break the police barricade.



PHOTO: STAR

Sylhet city Mayor Badar Uddin Ahman Kamran speaking at an open discussion on role of political leaders in development of Sylhet, held there recently. Prominent educationists, professionals and senior journalists also took part in the discussion, organised by Sylhet Bazar, a magazine published from Dhaka.

8x3

6x2

12x3