

Bangla Bhai-style attack on Sechchhasebak League leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

BNP activists brutally tortured a Sechchhasebak League leader in Bagmara yesterday in the same style as Jagrata Muslim Janata of Bangla Bhaidd.

The BNP men beat up Aminul Islam Akash, 28, vice-president of Ganipur union Sechchhasebak League, after hanging him upside down from a tree in front of many people, said the police and witnesses.

The BNP cadres also assaulted

his wife Karima and several local people who tried to rescue him from their hands.

But when a huge number of locals attempted to resist the BNP cadres, they took Akash to Mohonganj Primary School and left him in a room, with his hand and legs tied. The police rescued him from the school at around 11:30am.

Sources said Akash was under pressure to join BNP or give up his share of money from the leaseholders of a local cattle market. As he refused to comply, local BNP cadres attacked him at Mohonganj cattle

market in the morning.

Protesting the attack, Awami League leaders and activists staged a demonstration in front of the Bagmara Police Station and demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

Officer-in-charge of the police station Mirza Golam Sarwar told reporters that he has instructed the policemen to arrest the persons involved.

Quoting the witnesses, Ganipur Union Parishad Chairman Hanunur Rashid said the attackers include BNP activists Badsha, Ratan, Matir, Taimur, Shamim, Palash, Uzzal and Rashu.

JEWELLER MURDER Prime accused confesses to kidnap, killing

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prime accused in the jewellery trader Turya Ghosh Roni murder case confessed to a magistrate yesterday that she, along with two others, kidnapped the victim to realise ransom and later killed him to avoid arrest.

Abu Sayeed, another arrestee of the same incident, also gave a confessional statement to another magistrate on Wednesday saying he, along with four others, took part in dumping of Turya's dismembered body.

Metropolitan Magistrate Selina Akhter recorded the statement of the prime accused Shamsunnahar Sheuli after investigation officer Inspector Nazrul Islam of the Detective Branch produced Sheuli before her at 11:00am.

On October 29, a group of criminals led by Shamsunnahar Sheuli first kidnapped Turya and later killed him. The other members include Sheuli's boyfriend Shahadat Hossain Liton alias 'Khora' Liton and Al Mamun.

In her statement, Sheuli told the magistrate that Turya came to her Rampura residence at 4:00pm on that day on her invitation. Liton and Mamun turned up the place earlier, she said.

Turya became senseless when they fed him intoxicated food, said Sheuli, also one of Turya's girl friends.

She said Turya tried to leave the scene after he came back to his sense at around 11:00pm but failed. Liton pressed Turya with a pillow and Mamun and myself pressed his hands and legs to ensure death, Sheuli said.

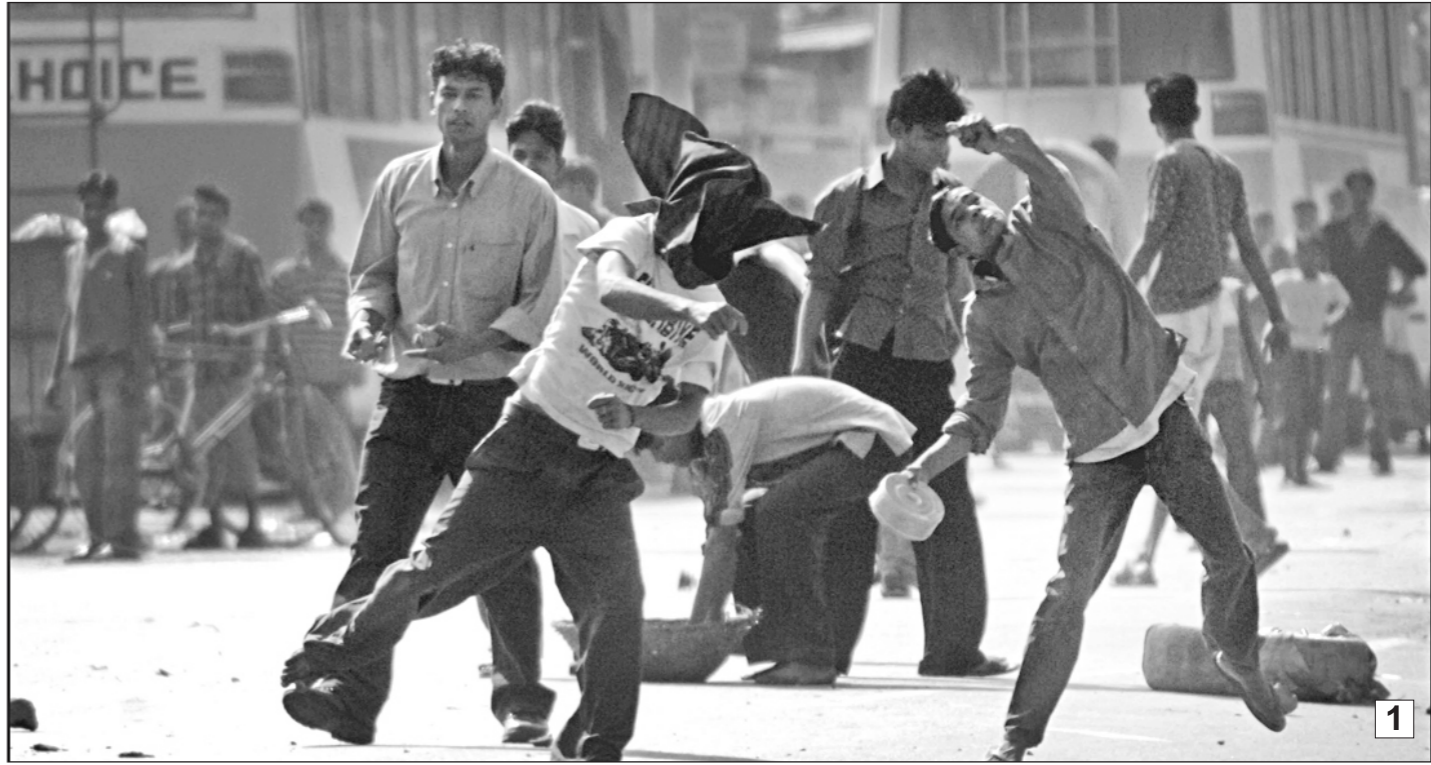
According to the prime accused, they cut Turya's body into three pieces and put in a gunnysack the same day.

The dismembered body was later dumped at West Rampura on October 31, which was recovered on Monday, 43 days after the abduction.

Sheuli said they also realised Tk 10 lakh and ten tola of gold as ransom from the victim's parent.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Sayeed on December 6 from his home village in Barguna.

After receiving information from Sayeed, the Rab arrested Sheuli, Liton and Mamun from different parts of the city.



The Awami League-led 14-party combine and the Jatiya Party (Ershad) enforced a dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country yesterday as part of their joint movement to resist any one-sided elections. 1) Pickets hurl pieces of bricks at the police at Adabar during hartal. 2) Police intercept a procession of Jubo League at Russell Square in the city. 3) Members of Mahila Jubo League shout slogans during a demonstration at Dhanmondi. 4) Pickets try to stop a vehicle carrying members of the armed forces near Shyamoli Cinema in the city. 5) Pickets damaged the windscreen of an autorickshaw carrying on-duty reporters of The Daily Star at Mirpur Section-10.

INFO ON LOAN DEFAULTERS BB instructions to CIB, banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) issued a circular yesterday asking its Central Information Bureau (CIB) to remain open from 5:00pm on December 24 to 5:00pm on December 26 with a view to furnishing the election officials with relevant information about loan defaulters.

It also instructed the banks to keep the departments, which maintain and store information about the loan defaulters, open during the period. The banks have also been asked to preserve and update the information and readily pass on those to deputy commissioners who act as the returning officers.

Earlier, the Bangladesh Bank had asked the CIB to remain open from 5:00pm on December 21 to 5:00pm on December 22 in line with the previous election schedule. It rescheduled the timetable yesterday in line with the fresh election schedule.

According to the fresh election schedule, the deadline for submission of nomination papers ends at 5:00pm on December 24. After that, the election officials will start scrutinising the papers.

RAPE OF 2 INDIGENOUS GIRLS IN KHAGRACHHARI 24-hour ultimatum to arrest culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Indigenous community organisations of Khagrachhari yesterday gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the administration and law enforcing agencies to arrest the two Bengali settlers who raped two native girls at Manikchhari upazila on Monday.

United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), Bangladesh Marmas Aikkah Parishad (BMAP) and Bangladesh Marmas Students Council (BMSC) separately held protest rallies and brought out processions in the district yesterday demanding arrest of the culprits and exemplary punishment for them. Demanding compensations for the victims, they also threatened to go on tougher movements if their demands were not met within 24 hours.

The rape victims are from Rajpara village of Manikchhari upazila in the district.

A case was lodged in this connection on Tuesday with Manikchhari Police Station accusing Mohammad Khorshed Alam, 26, son of Abdul Matin

and Mohammad Jahangir Alam, 25, son of Master Farid of Rajpara village.

Samari Chakma, the district UPDF coordinator, claimed the accused were able to flee from their homes due to the negligence of the law enforcers.

A rape victim told journalists that Jahangir invited her to Jahangir's birthday party around noon on December 18. As they went there, they found no other guests, only Jahangir and Khorshed. The two men shut the door and asked them to have sexual intercourse with them. Being refused, the two men raped them and left them there after tying them up.

The ravishers later returned and set the girls free threatening them with death if they told anyone about the incident.

Sub-inspector of Manikchhari Police Station Sanjit Das said they are trying their best to arrest the accused.

Meanwhile, magistrate Ahmad Kabir said, "I have taken the victims' statements and requested the superintendent of police to take actions according to law."

Spurious homeopathic drugs seized

A police team of Detective and Crime Intelligence Department yesterday arrested two people and seized different adulterated homeopathic drugs of six renowned companies from a city market, says a Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) press release.

The team arrested Bellal Hossain, 26, and Monir Hossain, 21, with the adulterated drugs from the fifth floor of S Ahmed Market at 47/D, Mitford Road under Kotwali Police Station.

They also seized adulterated homeopathic drugs of different other brands, machines for bottling medicines, labels, corks and 10 litres of spirit from the place.

One killed, 17 hurt in train accidents

CU CORRESPONDENT

One person was run over by a train at Sitakunda Railway Station in Chittagong yesterday when he was crossing the rail track.

The dead was identified as Nizam Uddin, 30, a peon of Jahangirnagar University (JU) Geology department, hailing from Chandpur district.

Nizam along with a 30-member team of JU Geology department came here on a three-day excursion.

Our Correspondent from Comilla adds: At least 17 people were injured, five of them critically, as a Chittagong-bound express train derailed near Rasulpur railway station in Comilla Wednesday evening.

The three tail end coaches of Kamafuli Express derailed at the southern end of Rasulpur station shortly after it left the station.

According to the train driver, the accident occurred due to absence of rocks and sleepers in the railways.

He said the train, carrying about 250 passengers, escaped a major accident, as it was moving only at 30km per hour.

Robbery at city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of robbers looted gold ornaments weighing 40 tolas, Tk 80,000 and other valuables from a house at North Badda in the city yesterday.

The gang of seven armed robbers broke into the house of Harunur Rashid at around 4:15am and held the family members hostage at gunpoint, police said.

The gang then ransacked the rooms and took away gold ornaments, money, two cameras, several mobile phones and wristwatches.

A case was filed with Badda Police Station in this connection last night.



Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, chief of European Union Election Observation Mission, meets Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad at his residence in the city yesterday.

Cuet postpones admission test after HC order

BSS, Chittagong

The Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) yesterday postponed the admission test for the B.Sc engineering course following a High Court (HC) order.

The HC order came following a writ petition filed by the 170 admission seekers who sought the court's decision to facilitate them to participate in the admission test-2006 scheduled to be held today, a Cuet press release said.

The HC on Tuesday directed the Cuet to issue admit cards to the 170 admission seekers and complete other necessary formalities so that the students could participate in the admission test.

Cuet sources said they received the court order yesterday morning and took the decision to postpone the today's admission test at an emergency meeting of the Academic Council.

The sources said the admission seekers brought the issue to the HC after failing to submit their admission forms within the stipulated time due to an unavoidable circumstances.

The detail information about the admission test will be available on the notice board of the Cuet and the Cuet website.

BNP vandalism at AL offices condemned

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday condemned the attack and vandalism at Louhajang AL and S wedchhasebak League offices by BNP's 'armed terrorists', says a press release.

He said BNP terrorists have created an anarchic situation by vandalising the offices in a planned way.

Woman's body found at N'ganj rail station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Body of a young woman was found at an abandoned toilet at city's Chashara Rail Station yesterday.

The victim, aged around 23, had allegedly been strangled after being raped. However, her identity could not be known immediately.

A street urchin first found the body while it went to collect scrap papers from the toilet adjacent to the Station Master's room at 12:00noon. Locals rushed to the spot hearing its scream.

Rab arrests 3 with firearms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

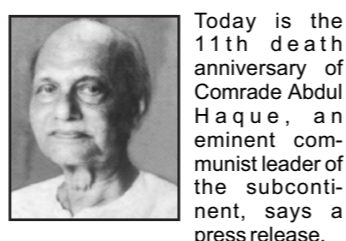
Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested three people for possessing illegal firearms in the city, says a Rab press release.

Acting on a tip off, the elite force captured the criminals named Sulaiman, 20, Shaheen, 19, and Babu, 22, from Uttar Ibrahimpur area and retrieved one revolver and six round of bullets from their possession.

According to their confessional statement, the detainees were planning to collect tolls with the seized arms by threatening the owner of an under construction building.

The same gang including Langra Momin, a top listed criminal, carried out an extortion mission on December 20 in the city by spraying bullets and threatening people for tolls, the release added.

Comrade Abdul Haque's death anniversary today



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Comrade Abdul Haque, an eminent communist leader of the subcontinent, says a press release.

On the occasion, Abdul Haque Death Anniversary Observance National Committee will place wreaths at his grave at Mirpur at 8:00am and hold discussion at Tajul auditorium at Moni Singh-Farhad Trust Bhaban at Paltan in the city at 4:00pm today.

JMB commander Nahid placed on five-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Gazipur court on Wednesday placed Tangail district commander of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Abdullah Taslim alias Nahid on a five-day remand in connection with August 17 series bomb blasts.

Nahid, 20, son of late Abdul Hamid of Swamakhali village in Dhamrai, was produced before the first class magistrate's court with a prayer for 10-day remand, but the court granted a five-day remand.

Joydepur police arrested Nahid from Chandana Chourasta area on Tuesday midnight.

On Tuesday morning, the police arrested an Eshar member of JMB Talimul Hossain, 30, when he came to Gazipur district jail with Nahid and Kalihati upazila commander Shoeb to give foods to his (Talimul) brother Hassan and two other prisoners Saidul Munshi Imon and Hosne Ara Swapna.

Nahid and Shoeb, however, managed to escape the arrest at that time.

Acting on information from Talimul, the police arrested Nahid on Tuesday midnight.

The police are now interrogating both the JMB cadres in their custody under tight security.

61 fake passports recovered, 2 held

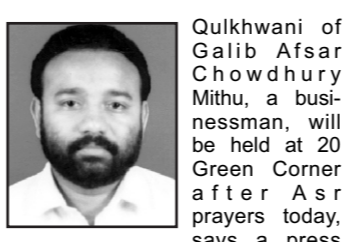
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered 61 fake passports, rubber stamps and other papers from a house at Shahjalal Upashahar in the city yesterday.

Acting on a tip off, the elite force also arrested 2 people in this connection.

They are Badrul Amin and Shahin Ahmed who hail from Julai village under Kanaighat upazila. Rab later handed them over to Sylhet Kotwali Police Station.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Galib Afsar Chowdhury Mithu, a businessman, will be held at 20 Green Corner after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Galib passed away due to a cardiac arrest on December 15 at the age of 44.

4 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and ten people, including four policemen, injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Gaibandha and Khulna yesterday.

Our CU Correspondent reports: Two people were killed and one was injured in a road accident at Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong early yesterday.

A speeding truck knocked three people on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Madambir Hat in Sitakunda upazila at around 2:30am, leaving two people dead on the spot.

The dead were identified as Abul Hossain, 45, of Rajshahi and Aiyub Ali, 26, of Comilla district while the injured was Makbul Hossain, 35, of Rajshahi.

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha says: Two people were killed and five others sustained injuries in two separate road accidents in Gaibandha yesterday.

A rickshaw van skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch when a passenger bus bound for Rajshahi hit the van from behind on Gaibandha-Palashbari high-

way, leaving one person dead on the spot and five others injured, police said. The dead was identified as Majibar Rahman, 60, of village Islampur under Balamjhar union. The injured were rushed to hospital.

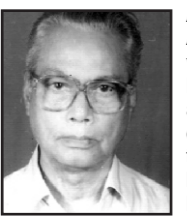
Meanwhile, one person was seriously injured when a bicycle and a motorcycle collided head-on on Gaibandha-Nakailhat road at Tingacher Tal. The injured was identified as bicycle rider Enamul Haq, 25, of village Gopalpur under Gaibandha Sadar. Enamul succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna adds: Four policemen were injured in a road accident at Mujgunni in the city yesterday morning.

The injured cops are Mahmud, Rawshan, Raihan and Aslam. They are undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH). According to police, the accident occurred at 6:45am when a jeep of Boyra Police Lines carrying the cops collided head on with a passenger bus of Eagle Paribahan. The jeep was badly damaged.

Obituary

RU CORRESPONDENT



Advocate Abdus Salam, a valiant Freedom fighter and one of the organisers of the War of Liberation in Rajshahi district, passed away at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 87.

He was buried at Hatemkhan graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at Rajshahi Madrasa maidan, family sources said.

Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu and Workers' Party pollburo member Fazley Hossain Badsha expressed deep shock at the death of Advocate Salam.

Nishikanta Bhowmik

Nishikanta Bhowmik, a former English teacher of NH Khan Academy, passed away at his home at village Padambasree in Madan, Netrakona, on December 10 at the age of 64, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, three daughters, a grandson and a host of relatives and admirers. His Shraddh will be held at his home today.



ISPAB executives

Mohammed Abdus Salam of Agni Systems Ltd and Azhar H Chowdhury of Grameen CyberNet Ltd were elected president and vice-president of Internet Service Providers' Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) for 2007-2008 on December 19, says a press release.

The election was held at BCS Secretariat at Sonartori Tower at Banglamotor in the city.

Other office-bearers are Secretary General: Russell T Ahmed of Global Online Services Ltd, Joint Secretary General: M A Hakim of DhakaCom Ltd, Treasurer: Khandoker AAI Azad of ConnectBD Ltd, Director: SM Iqbal of Information Services Network Ltd and Director: Sumon Ahmed Sabir of BDCOM Online Ltd.

The ISPAB Election Board headed by its Chairman Abdur Razzak and Members Mostafa Jabbar and Moinul Islam conducted the election. The Election Board Member Md Moinul Islam announced the result.

WEATHER TODAY No change in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka. Table with columns for City/Town, Temperature, Humidity in celsius, and percentage. Includes forecast for Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, and Cox's Bazar.

DHAKA TODAY Freshers' reception Millennium University organises Freshers' Reception 2006. Venue: Institution of Engineers. Time: 3:00pm. Discussion A discussion will be held to mark the 11th death anniversary of Comrade Abdul Haque. Venue: Moni Singh-Farhad Smriti Trust Bhaban. Time: 4:30pm. National convention Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) will hold its 10th National Convention. Venue: LGED auditorium. Time: 9:30am. Human chain Agamir Bangladesh will form a human chain demanding holding of the election within 90 days and participation of all political parties in the election. Venue: In front of National Eidgah. Time: 11:00am. Workshop A two-day workshop for election monitors of local organisations, organised by Brotee, will begin. Venue: Biam Foundation. Time: 10:00am. Debate contest 1st Stamford National Debate Competition, organised by Stamford Debate Forum, will begin. Venue: Siddheshwari campus, Stamford University. Time: 10:00am. Founding anniversary Rishij Shilpa Goshthi will hold a discussion and accord a reception to eminent personalities marking its 30th founding anniversary. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 4:00pm. Seminar Bangladesh Economic Association organises a national seminar on 'Political economy of agrarian and land reforms in