

## Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Life of a Campus Terrorist

by Sharier Khan

The beginning of the day was very hectic for Babu who had to meet several fellow student leaders at 7 am. He usually woke up at 11 am. But since Babu was heading a student organisation of a college, he had more responsibility now than before as the election of the students' council was only a couple of days away.

The main task of the day for Babu was to make an arms deal. He and Moin would go to their senior leader Rakib Bhai to bring back a couple of cut rifles which he would use to keep the election under his control, in exchange for the pistols he had in his possession. Rakib Bhai lived some 10 kms away from the campus, so it was a bit risky for them to carry the guns - but Babu was used to taking risks.

Accompanied by Moin and the guns Babu, second year honours student of the college, Babu left for Rakib Bhai's place. It was 8.30 am. Rakib Bhai knew they would come. He was waiting outside his home in a microbus.

"Hello Babu-Moin," Rakib Bhai greeted them anxiously, "get up on the microbus, we shall finish the deal in the afternoon." "Where are going ... what's wrong now?" asked Moin. "Have you forgotten that our leader Mr X" (a national political figure) is arriving at the airport at 10 am," replied Rakib, "we should receive him."

Within an hour they were at the airport. There were also another microbus waiting for Mr X. The tough guys brought along floral wreaths and bouquets for Mr X who is coming to this city to address his student cadres on the eve of the students' council election. "The flight will be delayed by two hours," someone informed Rakib.

"Good, then I think I will rush to the court house and pick up someone before meeting Mr X," Rakib told Babu and Moin. Babu became impatient and said, "Then first give us the rifles."

"Come on what's the hurry," Rakib said and instructed the driver to start the microbus. The microbus was joined by the other micro. "Here is something interesting," Rakib began to draw Babu's attention, "I am going to kidnap someone and hold him for an hour," "What's the deal?" asked Babu.

"The guy I am going to pick up is going to submit papers for a tender floated by the court at 10.30..." Rakib revealed a peculiar plan. But Babu was less bothered. Rakib Bhai would not let someone drop his tender paper and have his bid accepted in the absence of competitions from other bidders. The same old story.

Rakib Bhai said, "The guy would be picked up on the other microbus as instructed earlier."

So they arrived at the court building premises at 10.15 am. Rakib Bhai climbed down from the vehicle and got lost in the crowd. Babu and Moin bought two newspapers and



almost forgot everything.

Suddenly the door of the vehicle opened and someone was hurled back into the seat. Three teen-agers within seconds got into the vehicle along with a man who almost broke his neck as the kids threw him inside the vehicles. "Driver, rush! move like the wind!" the driver started

driving crazily. "Whoa ... hey, who are you guys?" Babu and Moin asked the kids.

The man, who has just been thrown in started crying for help. One of the teenagers hit him on the head and the kidnapped man went silent. Babu got the picture. He was in the middle of a crime he had not committed before. True, he had injured several guys with guns and crackers, spent few days in police remand, but those cases were different from this. He muttered to himself.

Suddenly he discovered the path of the microbus was blocked by a number of police vehicles. The driver pressed hard the brake, pedaled and tried to turn back. Then stopped and jumped out of the vehicle to vanish into the thin air.

An icy feeling ran down the spine of Babu. Oh, no! I trouble again. Several times before, Babu was taken into the police custody.

Ultimately, the police let him out. Either top political leaders, who used Babu for their purpose, called the OC's and asked them to leave Babu or Babu himself would offer them a good bribe. In any case, it was unnerving.

The police did not let Babu get away this time. No bribe nor phone calls. Babu and his friends were in a real fix. The police filed a case under the Anti-terrorism Act for kidnapping and keeping illegal weapons. The court, upon finding them guilty, sentenced them seven years' imprisonment.

Now Babu was in total darkness. He had never expected this. He always considered himself an untouchable hero. He had plans to become a contractor in the future. The politicians were always giving him assurance that he would get all sorts of help.

Babu's parents, who were fed up with their son's activities, at first thought they would let the boy suffer in the jail for his misdeeds. Ultimately, Babu promised them to be reformed. He also impressed them by completing his second year subsidiary examinations from the jail.

In the first week of August after seven months, a writ petition in the High Court brought Babu good news. He was freed on bail.

"The case is going on," he told The Daily Star, "but I shall escape the jail." Then pausing for a moment he added, "The police case was lodged for kidnap charges mainly... not for terrorism on the campus," he said apologetically. "I did not kidnap anybody... did I?"

## Proper evaluation of BJMD hailed

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal (BJMD) hailed the fourth BNP council session and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for properly evaluating the BJMD.

In a recent discussion meeting of the BJMD, presided over by Md Isteaq Khan Lablu, the organisation praised Begum Zia for her strong leadership and expressed its hopes that all nationalistic parties and forces would be united.

The programme was addressed, among others, by Md Ahsanul Bashar, Abdur Rahman Asad, Mahbubul Alam Khan, Iqbal Mohan, Azharul Haque and others.

## Obituary

Noted writer, educationist and social worker Shamsunnahar Salek died of cancer at the Calcutta Cancer Hospital Sunday, family sources said, reports BSS.

She was 44. She left behind her husband, one son and one daughter.

The sun sets today at 6.11 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.42 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/towns

Temperature in degree

Max Min

28.7 25.5

31.7 24.2

31.8 26.3

29.7 26.5

29.2 25.8

31.6 27.3

33.5 23.8

32.5 26.5

9 am 6 pm

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