

## Hazari's armed cadres

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on January 17, fearing reprisals from Hazari's men.

When contacted over telephone, sources in Feni said that Mustak is now the OC of Sadar police station for the fourth time. He hails from Sandwip and has now settled in Comilla where he owns a huge mansion and a market. During his last posting in the Detective Branch in Comilla, he was suspended following allegations of corruption. But due to his 'loyalty' to the ruling party legislator, he was acquitted of the charges and again posted as the OC of Sadar thana, they added.

Local people further said now that Tipu's abduction and attempted murder case is with the Sadar thana where Mustak is the OC, the victim would never get justice. In his initial complaint, Tipu accused Hazari and 14 others of abducting and beating him and then abandoning

## Deputy Jailor suspended

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Jatiya Party leaders and MPs from holding the meeting? They should have been stopped by the police earlier while they were on their way to the Incentive Care Unit."

He said, "But instead of taking

## Nasim

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home minister said, "I am astonished that the Imam of that mosque was the mastermind of the killing.

"It is very unfortunate. The way they killed him remind us the memory of atrocities done by Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War with the help of anti-liberation forces," the minister said.

Three persons have been arrested from the spot where constable Bashar was killed, he said.

"They confessed to police that the Imam of the mosque was involved in the killing". The Imam could not be arrested as he fled away from the spot immediately after the killing, he said.

Nasim expressed satisfaction over the peaceful holding of the 'citizens' rally' at the Parade Ground.

## Raushan

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ings in future.

The meeting also decided to serve a show-cause notice on JP International Affairs Secretary Golam Masih who helped her go abroad but did not inform the presidential members about it.

Raushan went to US via London on January 29.

him taking him to be dead.

All the accused are now moving freely with police, sources in Feni told this correspondent that Mustak and Hazari's armed cadres yesterday raided houses of Tipu's distant relatives. The OC insisted that Tipu's relatives issue a statement saying, "Tipu was beaten up as a sequel to a family problem".

Two police officials from Sadar thana SI Bipul Barua and ASI Abul Kashem yesterday came to the Orthopaedic Hospital (Pangu Hospital) in the city, where Tipu is under treatment, to record his statement. But he could not talk because of his critical condition.

Meanwhile, doctors at the hospital said yesterday Tipu would take more than a year to recover.

Mustak could not be contacted over telephone despite repeated attempts.

action against police, the government held the Jail authorities responsible and this has created grievances among the employees."

Ershad was sent back to the Central Jail as doctors found his health in good condition. "He does not need to stay in the hospital now," said a doctor.

A seven member medical board comprising senior doctors of the hospital discussed Ershad's health condition yesterday.

"We are confident that the chest pain Ershad had complained of is nothing serious. We connected Ershad on the 'monitor' but noticed nothing unusual in his heart functioning", said one member of the board seeking anonymity.

He also said that Ershad had a "mild" heart attack in 1997 and was admitted to the same hospital. "This time we were not shown any old document on his last heart attack".

He was released from the hospital at about 3 pm yesterday.

JP sources said senior leaders of the party who were attending a four-party alliance rally at Rangpur yesterday maintained contact with Dhaka throughout the day to know about Ershad. They were asking whether Ershad was back to jail or has gone abroad.

JP leaders and workers became worried when a rumour spread in the city on Thursday that Ershad had reached an "understanding" with the government and was flying abroad.

"Thank god that Ershad was sent back to jail," commented a senior JP leader who, like others, felt relieved to hear that he did not fly abroad.

## PM, ministers did not attend DU convocation

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Ministers, including the Education Minister ASHK Sadique were not present at the Convocation of the Dhaka University yesterday as the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not attend it.

Sources said Hasina was supposed to attend the convocation, but could not attend it due to her another programme at Gazipur yesterday.

A number of Ministers, Members of Parliament and ruling Awami League leaders were invited to the convocation.

But no minister, sans State Minister for Textile KM Jahangir and two other MPs were seen at the convocation yesterday.

A large number of ministers, MPs and AL leaders gathered at the 40th convocation of the Dhaka University in 1999 as the PM attended it, sources added.

Hundreds of ruling party-backed student activists thronged the campus and attended the 40th convocation. But they were not also seen yesterday.

## India

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He said, "we not only have exchange of abuse among MPs, but also used to have scuffle in our parliament." He said it is the right of the opposition to speak in parliament and assert the right in parliament.

About the neutrality of the Speaker, Sangma said it's a matter of interpretation of partisan or non-partisan role of the Speaker.

He thought that civil society or NGO representatives could mediate between the government and opposition parties to break the parliamentary stalemate in Bangladesh.

## Fertilisers

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The source said the price of a 50 kg bag of Russian MOP fertilizer is Tk 420 while that of the Indian brand is Tk 315.

Babul Aktar used to sell a bag of MOP at the rate of Tk 300 in local markets, the source alleged.

We are being financially crippled as our goods are yet to be sold at the price of Tk 415 per bag as fixed by Importers' Association," he said.

Some dishonest importers are taking this advantage very tactfully creating serious business problem for others who import it legally, borrowing money from banks, said a top leader of Jessore Fertilizer Traders' Association.

Science and technology should be allowed to be 'part of solution to the world's concerns', he observed.

## Execute HC verdict against fatwa

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The huge audience which included a large number of women, mostly beneficiaries of NGOs, frequently raised slogans against razakars and fatwabaz.

A well-decorated podium with colourful banners and festoons all around gave the occasion a festive look. Patriotic and folk songs rendered from a separate dais were added attractions for the participants.

They came in buses, trains and launches carrying banners and festoons inscribed with various demands, mainly to fight fundamentalism.

Chaired by poet Shamsur Rahman, the rally was addressed by Oikkyabaddha Nagorik Andolon (ONA) Secretary General Dr. Kazi Faruk Ahmad, ADAB Chairperson Khushi Kabir and ONA representatives from different parts of the country. President of ONA Prof Kabir Choudhury sent his recorded speech that was played at the rally.

State Minister for Textiles K M Jahangir, State Minister for Forest and Environment H N Ashiqur Rahman, Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Mukul Bose of the ruling Awami League, and Hasanul

Haq Inu and Moinuddin Khan Badal of JSD were among some political leaders present there.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, who was also the chief guest, told the rally that religious fanatics were again out to oppress the womenfolk through issuing fatwa against their rights. He said the fundamentalists have become active to stop progress and development in the society so that they can continue their domination.

The elderly poet urged all concerned to rise against such "evil forces" so that humanity prevails in the society.

Dr Kazi Faruk Ahmad vowed to establish a Bangladesh with the spirit of the Liberation War and free from razakars. He also urged political parties not to nominate razakars, bank loan defaulters and black money holders in the next general election.

Khushi Kabir urged political parties not to compromise with those who use religion in politics. She said the huge rally proves that fundamentalists have no place in the country.

Shirin Akhtar of Karmojibi Nari called upon the people to "defeat razakars once again" and also

warned their patrons.

During the nearly three-hour rally, other speakers also stressed the need for fighting razakars and fatwabaz.

Earlier, Poet Shamsur Rahman opened the rally by releasing balloons and pigeons at 11.30 a.m. He also hoisted the National Flag while the National Anthem was played.

The 10-point declaration was jointly presented by popular actor Asaduzzaman Noor and actress Afroza Banu.

The demands also include enactment of law to punish the fatwabaz, separation of the judiciary from the executive, legal action against those who declared the High Court judges and other noted citizens murtad, ban on politics by civil and military officers for five years after retirement, transparency in election expenditure of candidates, measures to stop sexual harassment of women at work places, repeal of the Vested Property Act, separate ministry for minority groups, direct election to 64 reserved seats of women in parliament and scrapping of the Official Secrecy Act.

## Dissociate student bodies

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lawyer, you must rededicate yourself to your duties with passion, commitment and vision. And, above all, honesty should guide you in all your action."

He said he was informed by the Vice Chancellor that despite limited financial resources, the university made great strides in different fields.

Referring to various initiatives taken over the last few years for academic and infrastructure development, the Chancellor thanked the faculty members and the university authorities for removing session jams through their joint efforts.

In his convocation speech, Sir David Harrison, an eminent educationist of UK, emphasised acquiring knowledge and its application for economic and sustainable development and solving the world's 'genuine concerns'.

He said, "The greatest challenge facing us, in my view, is how to pursue economic and sustainable development for all the world's peoples without destroying the natural environment."

Science and technology should be allowed to be 'part of solution to the world's concerns', he observed.

Harrison, former vice chancellor of the universities of Keele and Exeter, said, "Our problems can be tackled by the clear-headed application of knowledge, either that already available to us or that yet to be discovered by our children or grand children."

He also noted that over the last 50 years, the world has seen an astonishing range of scientific and technological breakthroughs in different areas. "These great achievements of the human mind exist and are celebrated. It is certainly not possible to go back and pretend they did not happen."

He congratulated the successful students.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury said higher education in the developing countries is under strain while the developed countries are constantly raising the stakes in education.

"Solution to the problem may be found by ensuring provisions for mixed funding, effective utilisation of physical and human capital, introduction of new technologies, updating of educational curricula and improvement of governance", he

## Business Awards 2000

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in the world of business and industry with hard work, honesty and ethics.

Samson H Chowdhury who received the Business Person of the Year award is the key person behind the rise of one of the biggest conglomerate of the country, the Square Group. Through his perseverance and professionalism, his Square Pharmaceutical is now the country's top drug company.

Salina Akther who won the Outstanding Woman of the Year award is an example how a business venture can grow from scratches to a respectable position and can export non-traditional items.

Concord Group, which shared the Enterprise of the Year award with Rahimafrooz Bangladesh Ltd, broke new grounds in the country's construction and real estate industry. Its innovations in low-cost building materials promise huge savings in environmental and construction costs.

On the other hand, Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Ltd is the first Bangladeshi private-sector company to consistently work in the energy sector and make exports of industrial and automotive batteries to the highly competitive global market.

After receiving the award, an emotion choked Samson H Chowdhury virtually lost words to express his feelings. However, he said it was the most surprising event in his life. "I love work. I believe that no one can sleep in business if he or she wants to be ahead of everybody."

Salina Akther, who in fact stole the show, said "I am very happy because the honour is not only mine but also of the whole women folk."

A delighted Feroz Rahim, Managing Director of Rahimafrooz (BD) Ltd, said, "Today's evening teaches us to attain business heights through integrity, excellence, commitment and new initiatives."

Expressing his feelings, Chairman of Concord Engineers and Construction Ltd SM Kamaluddin in an emotion choked voice said, "This kind of recognition will bring about a positive awareness about the country's business community."

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, Kibria said despite some weaknesses, the country has made good progress in the last four years and it helped achieve a steady and non-inflationary growth rate of above five per cent.

The minister however said there are people who only focus on weaknesses. "One must not be obsessed with the weaknesses. While pointing out the weaknesses, we have to focus more on positive trends so that we can move forward as a nation," he said asking all to shift from a negative mind set to a positive one.

In an oblique reference to yesterday's hartal called by a section of Islamic scholars and killing of a police personnel in a mosque in the

city during the hartal hours, Kibria asked the business community to stand firm against any such move by any quarter to create anarchy in the society.

"I have a demand to the business community. As you need peace and stability for business, you should come forward and stand firm against these heinous activities," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said that the country's business community were not given the credit they deserve. "For too long, business in Bangladesh has been recognised as an affair of bank-default, tax evasion and other unethical things," he said, adding there are people who are doing a splendid job in the tough world of business with dignity and ethics.

Reiterating his company's commitment to facilitate trade and business in the country, South East Asia Area Director of DHL Bryan Jamison hoped to have a continuing relationship with the country's business and industry in the years to come.

Stressing the role of business and industry in the country's development, Vice President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Tapan Chowdhury said these awards mark the beginning of the process of people friendly policies and practices in business.

President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Benazir Ahmed said the awards would inspire others in the business world to have similar recognition in the years ahead.

President of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Bangladesh chapter, Mahbubur Rahman said that honest business people would feel encouraged through such recognition.

Country Manager of DHL, Bangladesh, Desmond Quiah thanked the participants and said the awards would go a long way to set a business standard in the country.

Through these awards, The Daily Star and the DHL hope to create an environment of excellence and competitiveness which will drive the members of the business community to achieve greater heights of productivity, efficiency, financial discipline and modern management to make Bangladesh a worthy partner in the global economy.

The Daily Star and the DHL sought nominations from the members of the public to identify the deserving candidates for the awards. The Daily Star business team toiled to prepare background paper on the nominees and a panel of judges comprising top economists, businessmen, professionals and academicians finally analysed the contribution of the candidates and chose the winner in each category.