

Turkish army chief calls on Jamal Uddin

The visiting Turkish Armed Forces Commander General Huseyin Kivrikoglu called on the Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed at the Air Headquarters, Dhaka Cantonment yesterday morning, says a press release.

He stayed with the Air Chief for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest.

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Gangsters force four families to flee their homes in Dohar

Victims seek security of their lives at press conference in the city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of four families of Lakkhiprashed village under Dohar thana have been forced to flee village homes and are in hiding following threats by a local gang of the area.

The victims alleged that the gang comprising some local youths has been unleashing various terrorist activities in the thana for long, mostly asking different families to pay large amount of tolls. They threaten to kill mem-

bers of the families if their demands are not met.

The allegations were brought at a press conference held at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium yesterday by the victims and their families. They also alleged that the gang has been involved in manifold crimes, but no action has so far taken against him even after filing of different cases in Dohar thana against them.

The victims sought security of life of their family members and

appealed to the relevant authorities to look into the matter on an urgent basis.

Sattar Munshi, a businessman, claimed that he was the worst victim of the recent chain of crime. He said that the gang demanded Tk five lakh from him as toll before the Eid-ul-Azha.

"They threatened to kill my son if I fail to pay," he said adding, "We were compelled to flee our home and have taken refuge in Dhaka following repeated death threats, ransacking of our house and looting incidents."

Sattar said that the gang in association with some local criminals in Dhaka were still threatening him, once encircling the house in Dhaka where he has sought shelter, with microbuses, warning him of dire consequences.

He expressed strong resentment over the apparent silence of Dohar police over the matter and said that the gang could make a fatal attack any moment now.

Sattar filed a case in Dohar

thana on March 13 accusing 14 persons, Barck, Ahsan, Bogdad, Shaheen, Paltu, Masud, Bashar, Uzzal, Zentu, Montu, Anwar, Kalam, Mobarak and Masun, of attacking and looting his house. He also alleged that police had forced them to drop several names during filing of the case.

Mustak Ahmed, a businessman by profession and another victim of the gang said that the gang was more ferocious since he filed a case against them. "The situation has become so bad that I have stopped sending my children to school," he said.

The gang is still threatening him over phone and has also sent him several letters demanding money.

He also condemned the local police for not taking any action against the miscreants who move around in the area with firearms in broad day light.

He said that all the villagers were virtually hostages to the terrorism unleashed by the gang in their area.

Both Mustak and Sattar have filed separate general diaries in Ramna and Sutrapur thanas in the city following the gang's attack on their present city residences.

Mohammad Mozzel Bepari, another resident of Dohar, has also filed a case under the Public Safety Act (PSA), in this regard.

Some other residents of Lakkhiprashed village were also present at the press conference.



Sharjil new envoy to Moscow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed S K Sharjil Hasan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the country's ambassador to Moscow.

He joined the foreign service in 1969 and served in several missions across the world. He served as Consul General of Bangladesh at Dubai, UAE, Charge d'Affaires in Kabul, Consul General at Jeddah, Consular General in Los Angeles. He was also ambassador to Uzbekistan from 1996 to 1998. He also held important positions in missions in Lebanon, Iraq and Sweden.

Sharjil Hasan was Director General of America Desk and played an instrumental role in organising President Clinton's Dhaka visit.

He is married with two children.

Belonging to the Nawab family of Dhaka his father was Khawja Shamsul Hasan and mother Shariyia Hasan.

Govt urged to implement 5-point demand of BGEDIC

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Government Employees Demand Implementation Council (BGEDIC) yesterday urged the government to implement its five-point charter of demands including payment of 30 per cent dearness allowance and formation of wage commission by March 31.

Convener of the Council Harun-ur-Rashid and Member Secretary Mohammad Shahabuddin while addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club said that they would announce next programme through holding a representatives conference in Dhaka in April if the demands were not met by March 31.

Chief Adviser to the Council Syed Aatur Rahman also spoke at the function.

DRU, BISS seminar tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and Dhaka Reporters' Unity will jointly hold a day-long Independence Day commemorative seminar on 'Society, Economy and Security of Bangladesh in the new millennium' March 22 at the BISS auditorium.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, MP, will inaugurate the seminar as the chief guest, while Dr Anisuzzaman, Professor of the Department of Bengali, University of Dhaka, will preside the inaugural session.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, Dr Q K Ahmad, Chairman, Bangladesh Ummayan Parishad, and Farooq Sobhan, former foreign secretary will Chair the three Sessions respectively.

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