

Cops, militants

FROM PAGE 1

tion from them. Deputy Commissioner of Joypurhat Md Abdul Mannan Patwary told The Daily Star by phone that the BDR was called in and the situation was under control.

The attempts are underway to recover the looted arms and ammunition, he added.

Md Abdul Jalil Mandal, superintendent of Joypurhat police, told the BBC radio last night that the attackers belonged to outlawed Jama'atul Mujahidin and an investigation was going on to confirm whether the arrestees were the operatives of the outfit.

The injured police personnel -- OC of the Joypurhat Sadar Police Station Iqbal Shafi and constables Abdus Sattar, Nazrul Islam, Shahidul Islam, Tipu Sultan and Anwar Hossain -- were admitted to Joypurhat Hospital.

The suspects arrested after the incident are Ataur Rahman, Yunus Mia, Joynal Abedin, Rafiqul Islam, Mamunur Rashid, Oaeedul Islam, Sarwar Jahan, Borhan Uddin, Salehin, Khorshed Alam, Shahidul Islam, Moinul Islam, Abdul Awal, Rasheen, Anwar Hossain, Golam Mustafa, Masudur Rahman, Delwar Hossain and Mizanur Rahman.

Locals said the arrestees were natives of Dinajpur, Naogaon, Panchagarh, Gaibandha, Bogra, Joypurhat and Chittagong districts.

Police later recovered a huge number of leaflets, books and 50 travel bags from the house of Montezar, an alleged boss of the outfit and former ameer of Borotra union Jamat-e-Islami.

Officials said the 24th BDR battalion reinforced security and a combing operation was launched in the morning.

Villagers of Mahespur lost their words at the grim gunbattle that unfolded the face of militancy in their area.

3 girls rescued while being trafficked to India

BSS, Satkhira

Police on Wednesday rescued three girls from border areas under Debbata upazila of the district while they were being trafficked to India.

They are Sharifa Khatun, 11, Rabeya Khatun, 9, and Marufa Khatun, 7, daughters of Abdul Mazid of Eidgahpara under Debbata Sadar upazila.

The traffickers abducted the three while they were asleep on the verandah of their house.

The abductors managed to escape. The girls were handed over to their family.

41 MP hostel rooms

FROM PAGE 1 bers who were re-elected to the eighth parliament need not apply again for allotment, they reasoned.

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain, also on the list, denied being in possession of any room. He told The Daily Star that he got a room at the Nakhalpara hostel after the previous election, but no room this time.

State Minister for LGRD Ziaul Haq Zia, another occupant, said, "I pay rents for my room. Had it not been allocated to me, how come they charge me?" He alleged that the Parliament Secretariat gave wrong information to the House sub-committee.

Goutam Chakraborty, state minister for water resources, said a room was allocated to him but, "as I don't need it anymore, I asked my staff to return the room to the Parliament Secretariat".

"Maybe the hand-over process has not yet been completed, which is why my name is still on the list," he said.

Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, whose assistant private secretary (APS) resides in a room at the Nakhalpara hostel, could not be contacted for comments. Parliament sources said the minister's APS is residing there on an instruction from the ruling party Whip Syed Wahidul Alam.

JP (E) lawmaker Dr Tim Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury reasoned that he did not need a fresh allotment as he got his room after he was re-elected.

Deputy Speaker Akther Hamid Siddiqui said he was to get a room at the Nakhalpara MP hostel but was not sure whether the authorities gave him any.

Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid said his party wrote to the Parliament Secretariat asking for rooms for three AL MPs. But they were not provided with any room, said Shahid, also a sub-committee member. "Those staying without approval were served with notices twice," he said.

Whip Fazlul Haq Aspia said he was given a room of the Nakhalpara MP hostel as a BNP lawmaker of the seventh parliament. Although he was not officially given any room after he was re-elected, he occupied one without approval this time.

The Parliament Secretariat list says: At the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar MP hostel, 13 rooms are in the name of Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain and State Minister for Environment Zafrul Islam Chowdhury; JP (E) MPs Dr Tim Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, Motiur Rahman, Shah Solaiman Alam,

Moulana Moklesur Rahman, the imam of a mosque at Uttar Mahespur, said some youths frequented the house of Montezar.

An eyewitness said a large number of bearded men with baggage in hand started pouring in the house on Thursday evening.

Official BSS news agency added local residents and police linked the incident to the slaughtering of five people, including the caretaker of a shrine of a Muslim saint in January this year.

They suspect extremists of the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahidin to be the killers of Astanae Christia in the nearby Begun Gram village.

"One of the six alleged militants arrested during after gunbattle is a suspect of the killing," police said.

India to send mission to moon by 2008, says Vajpayee

REUTERS, New Delhi

India will send an unmanned mission to the moon by 2008, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said yesterday, in what is seen as an effort to showcase the country's scientific capabilities.

"India is ready to take a big leap in science," Vajpayee said in his Independence Day anniversary address to the nation. "I am happy to announce that before 2008 India will send a mission to the moon."

"It will be called 'Chandrayan Pratham' (First Journey to the Moon)," he said. The mission is expected to cost New Delhi about \$80 million.

A proposal to send a spacecraft to the moon was first mooted by the state-run Indian Space Research Organisation three years ago and the agency began a feasibility study in 2001.

2 robbers held with arms in Raozan

UNB, Chittagong

Two robbers were arrested at Baruapara in Raozan early yesterday, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, Raozan police raided the area and nabbed Mafuzur Rahman and Azimuddin. Police also recovered one LG and some stolen goods from the robbers.

A case was filed with Raozan police station.

36 killed

FROM PAGE 12

women and children, in nearby Manipur state.

In a separate overnight attack, four paramilitary soldiers were shot and injured by unidentified guerrillas in Tripura's Khamlang region, PTI said.

A police patrol also came under heavy fire at Kaptali in southern Tripura district late Thursday but there were no casualties, police added.

Police in Manipur also reported a string of overnight bomb blasts in Manipur but said there were no casualties.

The militant-led boycott, however, crippled life in six of the seven northeastern states and residents chose to stay at home instead of venturing out, a police spokesman here said.

"Private and public transport in most parts of the region remained off the roads, while people preferred to stay indoors," he said as 70,000 security men patrolled the seven states.

Federal frontier guards have sealed the international border with neighbouring countries to prevent entry of militants into the northeast.

At least 68 people have been killed by suspected militants in the region since Monday in the run-up to the August 15 celebrations.

Some 50,000 people have lost their lives to insurgency in the seven regional states since India's independence in 1947.

Stiglitz

FROM PAGE 12

Corporate interest often dictates policies, he said. "If you spend money for people when they are in campaign, you expect returns for your money. Corruption is everywhere, but it is not in the same form as you see in developing countries."

Pointing to Singapore, he said, it raised the salary of its tax officials to reduce corruption. In many countries, tax officials are paid low that breeds corruption.

The government has an important role in making regulations, as unnecessary regulations are another source of corruption; the government should not regulate a matter if there is no need for it, he said.

Asked whether Bangladesh should accept the prescriptions of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Stiglitz said Bangladesh should put its views strongly.

"There are big differences between the IMF and the WB, though from outside it may be felt they are similar." The WB always provides scope for alternative policies, but the IMF often tries to impose unbalanced conditions, he said.

Police cameramen would be posted at strategic points including Russel Square, Bangabandhu Avenue and Mirpur areas to videotape any unruly incidents like damaging cars or pelting brickbats at law enforcers during the hartal hours.

Drake Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Ashraf Huda reportedly instructed his officers in this regard at a briefing at the police control room yesterday.

Sources said police would take action against activists involved in violent pickets after identifying them in the video films.

Top lawyers

FROM PAGE 1

rule of law but also a threat to the constitutional provisions that all are equal in the eye of law, he added.

"Uncertainty of hearing of the appeal in the case has given rise to lot of questions and fears in the public minds. It is not good for the nation," Amir Ul Islam noted.

An eyewitness said a large number of bearded men with bags in hand started pouring in the house on Thursday evening.

Amir Ul Islam said, "We will soon request the chief justice to take necessary measures in this regard."

The killing of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his family members is a black spot in the history of the nation and the people are still to overcome the shock, he said.

The case is now pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. A bench comprising three judges is needed to hear the case. But six of the seven judges at the Appellate Division are not in a position to hear it on different grounds.

Former law minister Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru said, "Killers of the father of the nation and his family members openly confessed to both at home and abroad, their involvement in the killing. Some judges felt embarrassed to try them. It is unfortunate."

He alleged the present government is prolonging the disposal of the case on the pretext that there are not adequate judges to hear it. The problem can be solved simply by appointing judges on ad-hoc basis in the Appellate Division.

The former law minister of the previous Awami League (AL) government said, the accused had killed the father of the nation and his family members in a planned way and in cold blood. The then government had protected the self-proclaimed killers making an indemnity ordinance against the spirit of human rights. After 21 years, the AL government repeated the black law paving the way for trial of the accused persons, he mentioned.

Commemorating the day, newspaper published special reports and brought out supplements on Bangabandhu.

Khasru said trial of the case was held properly and the accused had the opportunity of defending themselves.

A lower court sentenced the 15 accused to death and the High Court upheld most part of the judgement.

One of the petitioners of the case Advocate Anisul Haq said despite repeated requests over the last two years, the government is yet to appoint any ad-hoc judge in the Appellate Division. This is prolonging the delay in the hearing of the case, he pointed out.

Regional leader of outlawed party arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Munshi Shahjahan alias Jhantu, 38, a regional leader of outlawed Purbo Bangla Communist Party (PBPC), was arrested in Lohaghat of Narail district at midnight on Thursday.

Police said Jhantu is wanted in nine murder and 13 other criminal cases recorded against him with different police stations of southwestern region.

He will be sent to JIC in Dhaka, said Narail Police Super Mokhsur Rahman.

Another PBPC armed cadre, Tayebur Rahman, 30, was arrested in Khulna city yesterday.

37 AL men

FROM PAGE 12

about the investigation, refusing to disclose any information to lawyers, journalists or even to other police officers. Under the circumstances, the AL leaders have reportedly left Barisal for Dhaka on late Thursday night to seek bail from the High Court.

Due to the absence of AL leaders and workers in the field, no programme for August 15, the day of Bangabandhu's assassination, was observed in Barisal town at the party level.

Sources said three SUST students had joined their four friends from Dhaka to visit Zaflong. Faisal and Rajon drowned when they went for a bath in the river Piyaine.

The body of Faisal was recovered from the river with the help of local people. But Rajon's body could not be found till 7pm yesterday.

Stiglitz

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Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz presents a book titled 'Globalization and Its Discontents' written by him to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Ctg abductions

FROM PAGE 1 kidnapping of leading businessman Jamaluddin.

But as the allegation of police involvement has come to light, no policeman is mediating a settlement.

Jamaluddin was kidnapped 21 days ago with the demand for Tk 50 lakh in ransom. The police made a number of raids in different areas to rescue him, but failed.

A relative of Jamaluddin said, "A few days ago, we gathered specific information about his whereabouts and passed on the information to police."

"Police swept various rooms of the building excepting the one we tipped them off."

"Soon after we were informed about his abduction, we rushed to the Kotwali Police Station to file a case. But the police refused to take the case. We went to the Chandgaon Police Station where the case was accepted," he said.

"This is just one instance. In almost all cases, reluctance of the cops is clear."

When businessman Zakir was kidnapped on Monday, his family rushed to the Kulshi Police Station to file an abduction case. The police officials did not want to take the General Diary (GD) for a while, saying, "He must have gone into hiding to avoid lenders."

The bullet-riddled body of Zakir was found at Militaripore in Boalkhali upazila on Tuesday morning.

Earlier this year, millionaire Haji Monir was kidnapped. He was released on a ransom of Tk 70 lakh through police negotiation.

In Sakania, schoolboy Rajiv Bhattacharya was taken hostage and released on Wednesday after 11 days in captivity for Tk 50,000 in ransom.

A student of a private university of Dhaka who went to Chittagong on vacation was kidnapped in April. He was released on ransom.

UNB from Gazipur