

Police await high-ups

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died Sunday in a clash with dreaded 'Idul Group' at Motijheel in the capital.

Addressing a meeting at Rajarbagh Police Line, the state minister also agreed to provide all logistic supports for members of Cobra, a special dragnet-drive of 20 police teams now engaged in arresting criminals in the city.

Barab also promised to increase the Cobra members' daily allowance.

Inspector general of police, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and deputy commissioners of DMP divisions and intelligence agencies attended the meet.

Meanwhile, Motijheel police have raided the Tipu Sultan Road house of an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) in search of his son Lion, an accused in the Sunday's police murder case. The team led by senior assistant commissioner of Motijheel, Sabujbagh and Khilgaon Zone of the DMP searched the ASP's house but to no avail.

Police said Lion was introduced to Bhuiyan Ripon, a dreaded criminal of the area, when he joined a sporting club in the city after his secondary school certificate examinations. Through Bhuiyan Ripon, he became intimate with Idul, a dreaded criminal of Gopibagan, and

got involved in criminal activities.

Idul who received multiple bullet injuries during Sunday's 40-minute clash with police is now undergoing treatment at Suhravardhy hospital.

Of the eight people picked up in connection with the cops murder case, police have released Wasim and his brother Palash under prisoner release bonds, while Shima and Nasima, sisters of Bhuiyan Ripon, were shown arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

Motijheel police said they also have arrested Ripon, an officer of National Credit and Commerce Bank Ltd and younger brother of Kiron accused in the police murder and robbery cases, and three others -- Shahjahan, Mokhles and Monir -- who are implicated in several other robbery cases.

Khandaiker Towfiq Hossain alias Babu, whom police arrested on Monday for his suspicious movement around the money exchange shop at Motijheel, was taken on a five-day police remand, after being produced before the chief metropolitan magistrate's court with a petition for a seven-day remand.

All the three cases -- one for police murder, one under Arms Act and one for robbery -- were handed over to the Detective Branch (DB) of Police.

EVICTION DRIVE 4 cops, 16 others injured in Ctg clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 20 people including four policemen were injured in a clash between slum dwellers and a contingent of police at Pahartoli in the port city yesterday.

A Chittagong City Corporation eviction team and two platoons of police led by Magistrate Shamsul Huda went to New Monsurabad area at around 1:00pm to demolish some illegal structures opposite to Victory Jute Mill at Koibadam, sources said.

The piece of land, measuring 7.5 katha, belongs to the Department of Housing and Public Works, Chittagong, officials said.

Witnesses said locals attacked law enforcers after a rumour spread that Johnny, a 6-year-old boy, was electrocuted during the eviction drive.

Police shot four bullets and shelled teargas on the agitating crowd to disperse them. Local residents retaliated with brickbats and other weapons. About 20 people were wounded during the hour-long fighting, they added.

Of the injured, bullet-hit Iqbal Hossain, 18, and Joynal Abedin, 40, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital while Johnny was undergoing treatment at a local hospital, sources said.

Inspector Monwar, Havildar Motaleb, constables Iqbal and Rezaul were also injured during the clash, police said.

After the incident, police nabbed Nurul Amin, Nurul Alam, Rupam Kanti Das, Abu Ahmed and Khorshed Alam from the spot. A case was lodged.

Car bomb

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blast and American forces had surrounded the area, he added.

A US soldier was killed in a mortar attack in Baghdad on Monday, which left six other soldiers and one contractor wounded, the US military said.

The attack took place in the north-central part of the Iraqi capital at about 10:00am (0600 GMT), it said in the statement released overnight.

The wounded were taken to a nearby military medical treatment facility, the statement said.

The death raised to 621 the number of US troops killed in action since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, according to an AFP tally based on figures from the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, the dean of Mosul University law school and her husband were killed overnight in their suburban home and their throats slit, police said in this northern Iraqi city.

The bodies of Leila Abdullah Saad and her husband Munir al-Kieiro were discovered this morning; she had been shot and her throat cut, he had had his throat slit, police commander Falah Hassan told AFP.

Hassan said nothing had been stolen from their home in Mosul's southern Danadan neighbourhood. "A large sum of money and objects of value were found," he said.

The autopsy determined that the two were killed overnight and that Saad's throat was cut after she was shot dead.

S. KOREAN HOSTAGE

Militants threatening to behead a South Korean hostage in Iraq unless Seoul pulls troops out of the country have agreed to give more time for talks on his fate, an Iraqi mediator told Reuters.

The body of Abdul Wahid, who was killed in the blast was brought to the Derai AL office yesterday and that the remains and splinters retrieved from the spot suggested that it was a powerful grenade.

He, however, did not go into details saying that explosives experts after necessary tests would detect the nature of explosive used.

The body of Abdul Wahid, who was killed in the blast was brought to the Derai AL office yesterday and that the remains and splinters retrieved from the spot suggested that it was a powerful grenade.

Meanwhile, a three-member team of explosive experts headed by Lieutenant Colonel MA Maleque visited the site of the blast at Derai upazila headquarters yesterday afternoon. They gathered some evidence.

Besides, officials of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) also

showed police the HC order to send him to hospital. But police reportedly was indifferent to the HC order and kept him in their custody till 3:30am yesterday.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Ashraful Huda told The Daily Star Monday evening that they could not take him directly to hospital from the police station. They had to take him to the court (CMM court) first and act later according to the court's directive, he added.

On insistence of Faruque's relatives and lawyers at the police station, police at last admitted him to the BSMU at 4am yesterday. The Proshika chief was kept in a prison cell on the first floor of the hospital.

Faruque's co-accused of sedition are Proshika Director Sahnawaz and deputy directors Sirajul Haq, Mahbub Alam, Fazlul Huq, Sirajul Islam and Abdur Rab.

Police arrested Faruque on May 21 on charge of embezzlement of fund and fraud, after the Bureau of Anti-Corruption had filed 15 cases on May 15 against him and some of his colleagues.

AL calls 3-day agitation

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AL Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta MP while addressing the press conference dismissed the suggestion that the blast was a sequel to party feuds.

He said AL Presidium Member Abdu Samad Azad wanted to join the press conference, but he could not bear-borne to Sylhet in time.

The AL lawmaker said there was a similarity between the blasts at the shrine of Hajar Shahjal (RA) and at Derai, adding that bombs used on both occasions were not made locally.

Sylhet City Corporation Mayor and city AL chief Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, city unit General Secretary Advocate Misbahuddin Siraj, district unit President ANM Shafique and General Secretary Iftekhar Hossain Shamim also spoke at the press conference.

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visited the blast site yesterday.

Meanwhile, a daylong hartal enforced by the upazila AL was observed peacefully while police and BDR members patrolled along the upazila headquarters.

A sub inspector of Derai Police Station has filed a case in connection with the Monday's blast under sections 324/326/307 and clause 3 of section 302.

While talking to newsmen, Superintendent of Police in Sunamganj Mir Shahidul Islam said the remains and splinters retrieved from the spot suggested that it was a powerful grenade.

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US staff visit Bangla Bhai

FROM PAGE 1

The Islamist outfit is blamed for a series of killings in vigilante action in the northwest since April 1 when it launched an outlaw-cleansing drive, prompting protest from the mainstream political parties.

Instead of showing scenes of vigilante violence by JMB operatives, police took the embassy officials to the houses of Union Parishad chairman Golam Rabbani and Bagmara BNP President Abdul Hamid Moru, killed allegedly by the team.

The JMB adherents told an embassy official that there was no one called Bangla Bhai and locals united against the outlaws that grouped under the banned Purbo Bangladeshi Communist Party.

Bagmara Municipal Chairman Khoda Bux informed the team that Bangla Bhai terrorised the region with his militant activities under police protection.

He also alerted the officials to threats to villagers. Police repeatedly asked Bux to stop, but he went on.

The team was not taken to the houses of Mukul and Abu Taleb who were killed and hundreds of people maimed allegedly by JMB men between April 1 and May 31 before the operations slackened their operations.

The officials had lunch at Bagmara Police Station under beefed-up security and journalists were not allowed to talk to them. Some senior police officers asked reporters not to cover the visit.

Sources said Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Mozammel Haque of Rajshahi Sadar circle escorted the team to Rajshahi from Dhaka and the additional superintendent of police received them at Rajshahi Airport.

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Cop critically hurt

FROM PAGE 1

Later in the day, the team visited the families of Jatiya Party leader Dulal in Hamirkuta, BNP leader Abdul Wahed in Palash and Awami League leader Alo Khondoker in Taherpur, who were killed in outlaw

actions in the northwest since April 1 when it launched an outlaw-cleansing drive, prompting protest from the mainstream political parties.

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