

## Bid to grab Mannan's Ctg plot: Case filed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A case was filed with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Chittagong on Thursday in connection with a reported bid to grab a plot of land leased by Bilkpal Dhara Bangladesh Secretary General Abdul Mannan.

A senior manager of Major (retired) Mannan's Sunman Corporation filed the case against Abu Masud Azad, Shamim Ahmad and some others.

CMM Mobarak Hossain has issued a show cause notice to the defendants and directed the concerned officer-in-charge of Panchalish Police Station to submit a report after an enquiry into the allegations, sources said.

The plaintiff alleged that a group of criminals belonging to local Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) had occupied the plot reportedly aided by a close relative of a local minister. And during the Eid vacation they have started construction work on the commercial plot situated at Nasirabad Housing Society, sources in Sunman Corporation said.

A general diary had been lodged with Panchalish Police Station.

## Flyover yet to be made off-limits to pedestrians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

immediately after the incident. But alleged inactivity of police prompted Sunman Corporation to file the lawsuit on Thursday, they said.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) leased the plot to Mannan. It was handed over on October 17, 2001, but construction on it could not be started, sources said.

Taking advantage of the situation, local 'hoodlums' with a close relative of a local minister on their side are trying to grab the plot, sources added.

After erecting temporary structures on the plot, the alleged occupiers have appealed for cancellation of the lease, sources added.

## Cops in Barisal

FROM PAGE 12

he added. The arrestees are drug addicts and were sent to jail after giving medication, he said.

Mehdi's family condemned the Rab-police joint move and rejected their claim.

They said the meeting was not at all political but law enforcers foiled it without any provocation.

## Rab action in Tongi

FROM PAGE 1

Rab-4 allegedly shot Billal Ullah, brother-in-law of listed criminal Kala Jahangir and a man with criminal records, to death after locals beat him up for firing at a teacher of Dhaka College yesterday.

In the Rab operation at Gutia, Najib Ali, 55, his son Shamslu Haq, 25, and brother-in-law Delwar, 35, were killed, while Najib's brothers Adam Ali, 40, and Ahmed Ali, 35, and Ahmed's son Kawser Ali, 22, were hit with bullets.

Rab-1 rushed all of them to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared Najib, Shamslu and Delwar dead. Doctors said Adam, who received a bullet in the chest, and Kawser, in both legs and abdomen, are in critical conditions. The wounded are being treated at the hospital in Rab custody.

The Rab termed all of them criminals, but some locals and family members claimed them to be innocent.

All the four bodies were at the DMCH morgue until filing of this report at 10:30pm last night.

### RAB VERSION

A Rab press release said, tipped off that a gang of 10 to 12 armed criminals were holding a meeting in Delwar's house at Gutia in preparations for a robbery, a team of Rab-1 started from Uttara, Dhaka, at 11:05pm Thursday night and surrounded the house at about 12:15am yesterday.

When Rab members encircled the house, the gangsters started to fire away at them through a window," the release said, adding the Rab members then retaliated and entered the house breaking through a door.

However, during a spot visit all the doors of the house were found intact.

The Rab release said the gangsters, besides continuing to shoot at the Rab members, also attacked them with sharp weapons when they tried to break in the house critically injuring three people including Rab Nayek Nasir. Nasir is undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka, with stab wounds.

According to the release, two or three armed robbers managed to escape.

The Rab team seized two 22-bore revolvers and six bullets, two long knives and a machete from the spot. They also arrested 13 villagers, triggering a panic that made almost all the young villagers to flee.

### DELWAR'S FATHERSAYS

Delwar's father Fatik Matbor claimed a local gang of robbers including Haq, Sadu, Subed Ali, Abu Taleb, Mester, Ibrahim, Khokan, Sohel, Azad and Yousuf launched an armed robbery on some houses at Gutia Purbapara at around 11:30pm Thursday.

According to Fatik, the robbers wearing black clothes raided the houses of Gafur, Khorsheed, Bachhu, Jahangir and Litton.

Frightened by the blank shots fired during the robbery, Najib along with his two sons and two brothers went to the house of Delwar, who is a village arbitrator, to discuss how to resist the robbers, Fatik said.

Soon after they entered Delwar's house, the robbers knocked at its door. As the people inside refused to let them in for about half an hour, the robbers identified themselves as Rab members and persuaded them to open the door, Fatik went on.

He claimed the robbers entered the house and caused the casualties.

According to his story, "After the robbery, the gangsters phoned the Rab and after about an hour some 80 Rab members came to the spot, fired blank shots and ordered all of us to stay indoors over a loudspeaker."

"Rab members came and knocked at my door. And I opened it. They then forced me to sign a paper and left the village," claimed the 65-year-old man.

Fatik, whose four other sons work in Saudi Arabia, said unknown

## Human chain spells

FROM PAGE 1  
local leaders and workers as well as the masses for the programme," said AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil.

But, a rift is there within the left alliance over joining the AL-led antigovernment movement, while the main opposition suffers at the moment from poor organisational strength at district and upazila levels.

Though the major components of the 11-party alliance have agreed with the common nine-point charter of demands announced Thursday, two members -- Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) led by Khalequzzaman and Krishn Samajbadi Dal led by Nirmol Sen -- have kept themselves aloof.

RIFT WITHIN 11-PARTY

BSD (Khalequzzaman) leader Bazlur Rashid told The Daily Star that like others they too are fighting against the present 'misrule'. But, "building any unified political alliance with Awami League is not on our agenda."

He said the BSD would work to strengthen the platform of left leaning parties against both the ruling coalition and the AL.

The 11-party alliance turned into a combine of 10 parties long ago when Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) led by AFM Mahbubul Haq broke away from it.

AL sources said the party plans to use the human chain as a spring-board for consolidating its local units across the country. In other words, central leaders of the party will utilise the occasion to shake off its organisational weakness and lethargy by motivating local leaders and workers during their field visits.

"We need programmes to revive the morale of party leaders and workers, especially at the grassroots, and the human chain might prove to be such a one," said a senior AL leader.

He said the party's antigovernment programmes in the past failed to get enough momentum due to a lack of strong organisational presence at the grassroots. So, "the hartals and other programmes usually remained confined to the areas adjacent to the party headquarters and a few other places," he added.

The AL high command will also call its local leaders to Dhaka to brief them and give some guideline ahead of the programme.

The AL leaders believe the December 11 programme will gener-

ate an all-out uprising that eventually would force the present government to resign.

This time the main opposition and its allies will remain alert to any government drive of mass arrest to foil the programme, they added.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu said the opposition leaders will meet tomorrow (Sunday) to finalise the strategies and tour schedule ahead of the human chain.

RIFT WITHIN 11-PARTY

BSD (Khalequzzaman) leader Bazlur Rashid told The Daily Star that like others they too are fighting against the present 'misrule'. But, "building any unified political alliance with Awami League is not on our agenda."

He said the BSD would work to strengthen the platform of left leaning parties against both the ruling coalition and the AL.

The 11-party alliance turned into a combine of 10 parties long ago when Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) led by AFM Mahbubul Haq broke away from it.

AL sources said the party plans to use the human chain as a spring-board for consolidating its local units across the country. In other words, central leaders of the party will utilise the occasion to shake off its organisational weakness and lethargy by motivating local leaders and workers during their field visits.

"We need programmes to revive the morale of party leaders and workers, especially at the grassroots, and the human chain might prove to be such a one," said a senior AL leader.

He said the party's antigovernment programmes in the past failed to get enough momentum due to a lack of strong organisational presence at the grassroots. So, "the hartals and other programmes usually remained confined to the areas adjacent to the party headquarters and a few other places," he added.

The AL high command will also call its local leaders to Dhaka to brief them and give some guideline ahead of the programme.

The AL leaders believe the December 11 programme will gener-

## Jagrata Muslim Janata reorganising BCL leader killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Cadres of Bangla Bhai, commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), have killed a BCL leader as they are reorganising the Islamist outfit in the northwestern region, sources said.

Several witnesses claimed Bangla Bhai was present during the killing.

The JMJB cadres killed Ziaul Haq Zia, 30, a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), in Chittagong Bazar of Raninagar in Naogaon in broad daylight on November 13.

Some 20 cadres led by Sariatullah alias Simar, Samad Babu Babu and Mostafizur Rahman Khaza abducted Zia from his Abadpukur house.

Zia's wife Farisa Bakul alleged police did not stop or arrest the killers although they left the scene brandishing firearms from near Chittagong police camp. Sub-inspector Masud, the camp in-charge, was asked to explain his alleged neglect of duty, police sources said.

Zia's father Jasim Uddin said JMJB activists demanded tolls from him before the Eid and threatened to kill his son if they were not paid.

Sources said Bangla Bhai had a secret meeting with about 25 followers at the house of JMJB leader Kadir Sheikh in Basbari of Raninagar on November 17.

The nightlong meeting with local leaders Akther, Habibur, Mukul, Rahman, Dulal and Ismail Sheikh discussed reorganisation of the party, the sources added.

Locals said Bangla Bhai, dressed as before, went to Raninagar with over 10 associates in two microbuses and was also seen on November 18.

Top police officials said they are unaware of reappearance of Bangla Bhai.

We will only leave (the plebiscite demand) if India is prepared to show flexibility. At the moment, no sir, we don't see that,"

Musharraf, who has ruled Pakistan with a firm hand since overthrowing an elected government in October 1999, said his reasons for resisting calls to give up his army post to become a civilian were tied in with the peace process with India, plus Pakistan's front-line role in the war on terror and his campaign to eradicate Islamic extremism.

"We have set the country on a certain course...our diplomatic relations, our foreign policy, we have set it on a certain course of fighting terrorism in the region. We want that to be sustained," he said.

"We have set a course towards bringing a societal reformation in Pakistan, where I believe that the extremists are holding sway. We want to make sure that they are sup-

## Signals on Kashmir

FROM PAGE 12  
Musharraf was lukewarm on the retreat of an Indian battalion from a northern Kashmir town on Wednesday.

"These are good optics, but they are not striking at the strategic issue of moving forward on a resolution.

"If out of 600 or 700,000 troops, 40,000 troops are removed, well we welcome it, it's a step forward, but however it is a tactical step forward."

Musharraf, 61, said he held out hope for something positive from next week's talks between Singh and Pakistani prime minister Shaukat Aziz.

"Kashmir obviously will feature very importantly (in the talks), because we seek clarification on what is this happening? I proposed something else. I'm saying that there's light at the end of the tunnel. Should we put that light off?"

Musharraf in recent months has indicated Islamabad could roll back its lifelong demand for a plebiscite for Kashmiris to choose between rule by Pakistan or India. But he felt India had failed to reciprocate in climbing down from its own traditional stance, such as not changing the de-facto border separating the Pakistani and Indian portions.

"Why leave the plebiscite (demand) when the vibe on the other side is they don't want to move an inch beyond their stated position?"

Meanwhile, State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed is trying to convince the government high-ups for setting up the port at Moreshkhali channel which is near the Chittagong seaport.

He said the port is necessary there because Chittagong Port is becoming unable to cope with the increasing volume of exports and imports.

"The government can float open international tender for conducting the feasibility study," he said, adding that many foreign donors and international agencies would come up to conduct such feasibility study free of cost.

The government can also go for establishing the port on turn key basis allowing foreign agencies to set up the port and run it for a certain period in which no government fund will be required, he said.

## Bodies of Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 1

The arrestees in yesterday's joint operation are Abu Sayed, Md Alam, Ali Ahmad, Badshah Mia, Ali Ahmad, Noor Ayesha, Mushtaq Begum, Halima, Khatun, Mejidah, Nurul Alam and Mir Ahmad.

The 11 Rohingyas caught by villagers are Nurul Haque, Idris, Abu Shama, Abu Taher, Hashu Mia, Noor Mohammad, Mohammad Selim, Noor Hossain, Mohammad Tayeb, Ayub Ali and Mia Ahmad.

## No confidence

FROM PAGE 1

But staffers said the trigger for the no-confidence measure was an announcement this week that Annan had pardoned the UN's top oversights official, who was facing allegations of favouritism and sexual harassment.

The union had requested a formal probe into the behaviour of the official, Dileep Nair, after employees accused him of harassing members of his staff and violating UN rules on the hiring and promotion of workers.

Top UN spokesman Fred Eckhard announced on Tuesday that Nair had been exonerated by Annan "after a thorough review" by the UN's senior official in charge of management, Catherine Bertini.

Annan underlined that he "had every confidence" in Nair, Eckhard said, but UN employees ridiculed the decision and claimed that investigators had not questioned the staff union, which first raised the complaints in April.

"This was a whitewash, pure and simple," Guy Canndus, a senior member of the staff union, told AFP.

Canndus noted that Eckhard's declaration to the press had said that "no further action was necessary in the matter."

But in a letter sent to the union, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, Annan's chief of staff Iqbal Riza said Nair had been "advised" that he should exercise caution" in future to "minimise the risk of negative perception."

In a resolution set to be adopted on Friday, the union said Riza's statement "substantiates the contention of the staff that there was improvidence" and that there exists "a lack of integrity, particularly at the higher levels of the organisation."

The draft resolution, also obtained exclusively by AFP, calls on the union president to "convey this vote of no confidence to the secretary general."

## Better late than never

AFP, Oslo

A Norwegian woman got a real surprise this week when she received a letter mailed 54 years ago, delivered by a mailman who brought along flowers for the occasion, a Norwegian paper reported on Thursday.

"It was really funny. It's fantastic to get a letter after so many years," Brita Loevaes told the Halden Arbeiderblad daily after opening the letter dated September 22, 1950.

The letter brought no 'news' of course. Brita Loevaes' parents-in-law inquired about the health of their grandson, who at the time was just two years old and is now nearing retirement.