

## NILPHAMARI POSTAL SCAM

## Tk 2 cr bonds in names of wives, wards of accused

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Close relatives of persons involved in Nilphamari postal scam own savings certificates worth about Tk two crore, according to findings by the probe committee.

Of these, savings certificates worth Tk 53.50 lakh is owned by the son and daughters of accused Assistant Post Master Mir Nural Islam Munna, Tk 38.50 lakh certificates by two wives of Ledger Operator Ahmedul Islam Raju Ahmedul Islam Raju.

The probe body said their investigation suggests that savings certificates worth about Tk 70 lakh are owned by former DPMG Sushanto Kumar Mondal, his wife Anjali Rani Saha and his brother-in-laws. This will be confirmed after further investigation, they said.

"Payment against the savings certificates bought in the names of

Susanta is now suspended as per directive from higher authorities. These accounts may be frozen", said a member of the probe body.

Meanwhile higher postal authorities have sent letters to bank officials to know weather their local branches had granted any loan against savings certificates owned by relatives of the accused persons.

On May 2, the postal authorities suspended payments against three savings certificates worth Tk one lakh fifty thousand, owned by the daughter of accused Mir Nural Islam Munna. These savings certificates bore Nos SA-Jha 1496004, SA-Jha 1496005 and SA-Jha 1496006.

The postal probe body from Dhaka has detected defalcation of more Tk one crore 18 lakh in Nilphamari head post office.

Of the amount, Tk 76.36 lakh was detected in the fix deposit section and

Tk 41.66 lakh in the savings certificate section. With this, the total defalcated money from depositors' accounts now stands at Tk four crore 31 lakh.

A member of the probe body, Asrafur Alam, told this correspondent yesterday any fresh case will not be filed after the new detection. "Supplements will be added to the cases filed earlier", he said.

Earlier, Post Master of Nilphamari Head Post Office Torab Ali filed two cases on April 6 and April 13 after defalcation of Tk 3.13 crore was detected.

Assistant Post Master Mir Nural Islam Munna, Ledger Operator Ahmedul Islam Raju and postal operators Taslimuddin and Liaqat Ali were charged in the cases. Munna, Raju and Liaqat are in custody and Taslimuddin is absconding.

Accused Mir Nural Islam Munna and Ahmedul Islam Raju gave

confessional statements under Section 164 before a First Class Magistrate's court.

They told the court that two former DPMGs of Rangpur postal region, Sushanto Kumar Mondal and Mahabubar Rahman were involved in the scam. Both are under suspension now.

The five-member probe body headed by Additional Director General Mobasserur Rahman, which started the probe at Nilphamari Head Post Office on April 3, concluded its work yesterday.

Rajul Islam, DPMG of Dinajpur postal region, who is also in-charge of Rangpur postal region now, told this correspondent that the probe would continue by another team.

A senior lawyer here told this correspondent that the first case was filed under sections 409 and 34 and the second one under sections 409 and 467, which are bilateral.



The Tiger Pass road in Chittagong city during yesterday's Awami League called hartal to protest the murder of its leader Khorshed Alam in Dhaka.

PHOTO: STAR

## A school that rears talents

79 get scholarships from a Gaibandha school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Ahmeduddin Shah Shisu Niketon and High School is an exception in the district. Seventy-nine of its students got scholarship held last year, 60 of them in talent pool, setting a record.

It was a day for its teachers, students and their guardians to rejoice when the managing committee accorded a reception to the talents and gave them medals on

Thursday on the school premises. The lively function was attended by officials, professionals and the elite of the town.

The school not gives emphasis on education. It also provides good scope for extra-academic activities like sports, debate and cultural activities to build well-equipped and worthy citizens.

The institution was set up in 1982 as a kindergarten with only 28 students.

Within such a short time it was turned into a high school, which earned reputation in the district.

In the examinations held last year, 41 students got scholarship in talent pool in primary level and only four were placed in the ordinary group. Nineteen students got junior scholarship in talent pool and 11 in ordinary group.

"We hope to do better this year", said its Principal Ramjan Ali while talking to this correspondent at the

function. The students are also enthused at their success. "I studied eight hours a day for capturing scholarship and reached to the ultimate goal, said Ferhana Hossain Sanchita, a student of junior scholarship.

There is no alternative of hard working for a success, we continued to look after the study of our child for achieving a better result, said Moksedur Rahman a guardian.

"I want to be an engineer in future. My teachers and parents were behind by success", said Pallab Chakravarti, a student who got junior scholarship in talent pool.

"I could not do well this time. I will do better in future", said Shahreen Shahid Tanni, a primary student who got scholarship in ordinary grade.

Alongside care at home, good academic atmosphere and coaching is necessary at school, said housewife Sabina Karim, mother of a student.

Presided over by the school's principal, the function was also addressed by Deputy commissioner Mojibur Rahman as chief guest. The speakers included Trustee Board Chairman Shahjada Anowerul Kadir, Vice-principal Mazharul Mannan and its former principal Abdus Sobhan.

Appreciating the performance, the DC called upon all to extend co-operation to the school authorities so that it does still better and produce worthy citizens.

The scholarship recipients were given medals for their performance.



PHOTO: STAR

Some of the students of Ahmeduddin Shah Shisu Niketon and High School who got primary and junior scholarships.

## JAMUNA LAUNCH DISASTER

## 62 from Natore, Rajshahi still missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bodies of three more victims of Tuesday's launch tragedy on the Jamuna near Aricha were brought to their homes in Rajshahi and Natore yesterday evening.

Three more survivors returned while 62 people from the two districts are still missing.

The survivors are Sharif, 17, Minarul, 18, of Harirampur in Bagha of Rajshahi and Aslam, 30, of Champia village in Lalpur of Natore district.

Five persons— Moslem, Bissad, Star, Abdus Salam and Arman of Harirampur village in Bagha upazi confirmed over mobile phones that they were alive.

They were engaged in work as day labourers at Manikganj.

Bodies of Abdul Mannan, 18, Nasir, 25 of Sheikh Chilan village in Lalpur and Abdul Latif, 22, Bipul, 25 of Harirampur village in Bagha were buried at their village graveyard as their relatives brought the bodies back.

Thirty-one persons from Harirampur, Barshipara, Ghospara, Jotnashi and Kishore of Bagha, seven from Habibpur and Nandangachi villages in Chorghat of Rajshahi, 18 from Champia and Chilan villages in Lalpur and one each from Baraigram, Gurudaspur and Shingra upazila were missing.

Survivor Aslam of Natore said, he escaped death fighting

with others on a life buoy.

"The launch workers were consoling us that we will reach the shore within five minutes when it started sinking. I saw my friends Forman, Zamal and Rabiul to loose beneath the furniture and people".

Forman's wife Zarina was lamenting at Chamtia village in Natore while local journalists visited the scene. "The storm damaged my house here and Jamuna took my husband (on the same day)".

Sharif and Minarul of Bagha also had similar stories to tell. They jumped on the river when the launch started sinking and reached the shore floating.

## Five Indian nationals pushed back

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Bangladesh rifles (BDR) pushed back five Indian nationals after two months of their entry into Bangladesh.

BDR sources said five Indian citizens named Subhas Cakrabarti, Raju Das, Sumon Cakrabarti, Pratap Cakrabarti and Uttam Kumar entered into Bangladesh territory through Darshana border in Chuadanga on March 13.

Another sources said thelbdian border Security Forces BSF push in them into Bangladesh. BDR caught them and hand over to Chuadanga police. Chuadanga magistrate's court sent them to jail. They expressed their desire to go back to their country before the magistrate's court on Wednesday.

Then BDR pushed them back into the Indian territory.

## Seven of notorious Panna Bahini held in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police in a raid Tuesday night arrested seven 'listed criminals' from Daulatur Char area in the district.

Those arrested are Mazdar, Alam, Mati, Rashid, Hannan, Babu and Kalo belonging to a faction of outlawed Jashod Gono Bahini (JGB) loyal to Panna, a gang leader.

But they could not arrest another gang leader -Lalchad - who allegedly belonging to ruling BNP.

The rival gangs, locally known as Panna Bahini and Lalchad Bahini, unleashed a reign of terror in several areas of Maricha and

## RALLIES IN DISTRICTS PROTESTING AL LEADER MURDER

## Try killers of Khorshed

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Political parties including Awami League and lawyers in different districts continued protests against the murder of AL leader advocate Khorshed Alam in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Protests were held in Rajshahi and Patuakhali yesterday and in Tangail on the day before.

Our RU Correspondent reports: Rajshahi city Awami League yesterday held a protest meeting at Shaheb Bazar and brought out a procession protesting the killing of advocate Khorshed Alam.

Rajshahi Mahanagar AL General Secretary Kharuzzman Liton led the procession.

At a rally, the speakers said the four party alliance government led by BNP is hatching conspiracy to retain power. Murder of AL leaders one after another is part of that conspiracy.

The killing of Khorshed has proved again that none is safe in the country under the rule of the alliance government.

They demanded its resignation for failing to ensure security to people's life and property.

Killings are taking place one after another as murders are not being tried, they said demanding arrest and trail of the killers of Bachchu.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) also held a separate rally at the Shaheb Bazar point brought out a procession in the city protesting the murder of Khorshed.

Speakers in the rally called upon all the opposition political parties to unite with a common programme



Khorshed Alam

including reforms to the election commission and caretaker government system.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reports: Lawyers of Patuakhali boycotted courts yesterday in protest against the murder Advocate Khorshed Alam.

The boycott was staged at the call of Awami Aijnibi Parishad, a lawyers' body aligned to Awami League.

They also held a protest rally in front of district bar association. It was addressed by leaders of the bar association.

Patuakhali district Awami League also brought out a procession and held a rally in the town on Friday to protest the murder.

A Correspondent reports from Tangail: Tangail District Awami Aijnibi Parishad on Wednesday brought out a procession and held a meeting in the court area protesting the killing of Dhaka city Awami League (AL) Law Affairs Secretary Advocate Khorshed Alam.

The procession was led by Tangail Bar Association President KM Abdus Salam.

Speakers at the meeting condemned the killing and demanded punishment of the killers. They also expressed their anger over the delay in identifying and arresting the killers.

The BNP-Jamaat government must bear the responsibility of the killing, they said.

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## Vessels still defy rules

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Plying of unauthorised small launches and vessels in risky routes in the Meghna and its estuary could not be stopped even after repeated attempts by different government agencies including Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Owners of such vessels, most of whom belong to ruling or opposition parties, thumb a government restriction on plying of small vessels in the routes during the season of storms from April to September, risking life of passengers.

More so, most of the vessels have no trained manpower and life saving equipment. Muscle power and political influences are their only assets, it was gathered from different sources.

The vessels, built without approved designs, lack fitness certificates and many ply even without route permit. They have no life insurance or accident insurance

for passengers.

The vessels have no fire fighting equipment, life buoy, mechanised wheel, wireless sets, first aid box and other emergency items. So they can not help passengers in any disastrous situation, particularly natural calamity.

According to BIWTA and other official sources, about 14,500 vessels ply the river routes without registration and route permit.

They said about 8,200 vessels plying inland river routes and another about 1,800 plying routes in the sea coasts have route permits with registration.

Usually, the owners of unregistered vessels do not want to register their vessels as those not built as per approved designs.

Building of a vessel according to government approved design involves more cost, they said.



PHOTO: STAR

A road in BSCIC industrial area in Sylhet city's Gotakor area goes under ankle deep water after a moderate shower as all its drains have been choked.

## BOMB ATTACK

## Krishak League leader's leg amputated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A leg of a bomb-wounded Krishak League leader of Meherpur was amputated at orthopaedic hospital in Dhaka on Friday.

Bangladesh Krishak League general secretary Waesh Ali was injured when criminals hurled two powerful bombs at him in Mujibnagar upazila in Meherpur on Wednesday evening. Three people were injured in the incident.

Mob caught an alleged member of an outlawed party Kuasar, 38, and gouged out one of his eyes on the spot after a good beating.

According to police, the bomb was blasted at about 8:pm when a Halkhata (new year's programme) was progressing in his fertiliser shop.