

## Bidisha arrested

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Ruhul Amin Hawlader near the police station when the arrest was made. Witnesses said he left the apartment at about 1:00pm and sent the party's International Affairs Secretary Golam Moshit to Gulshan Police Station to file the case.

Sources close to Ershad said he is now preparing to end the four-year marriage with his second wife. He was not available on the phone for comment yesterday.

Bidisha, who had been receiving treatment at ZH Sikdar Medical College and Hospital at Gulshan, fled the clinic Friday night dodging the police stationed in and around it and stayed at the Baridhara house.

Earlier, both uniformed and plainclothes policemen were deployed in front of the house, which the law-enforcers entered around 3:30pm, just 30 minutes after the case was filed.

Sources, however, said Ershad sued Bidisha under pressure from the government high-ups who earlier forced the JP chief to expel her from the party.

In the first information report (FIR) Ershad said Bidisha embezzled around Tk 7.5 lakh and stole a mobile phone set, according to a police source. He also alleged Bidisha threatened to kill him after the expulsion and damaged photographs and other valuables, the source said.

A policeman present at the scene said when Bidisha was shown the FIR, she shouted, "I don't believe this."

"As the police insisted on her going to Gulshan Police Station, she tried to jump out the window to the ground with her son Eric in a bid to commit suicide," he said.

She was eventually talked into

getting downstairs of the house where she replied to a few questions from waiting journalists. She was taken to heavily guarded Gulshan Police Station in a van at 5:32pm. Tears were rolling down her cheeks as Bidisha sat in the police van with Eric in her lap.

"Bidisha was brought to Gulshan Police Station after she was arrested in connection with a case filed by her husband," Obaidur Rahman, deputy commissioner of DMP (north), told The Daily Star.

She was confined until 10:30 last night to the police station and no journalists were allowed in. A physician from the private clinic removed a saline needle planted in one of her hands, through which blood was oozing.

Jatiya Party leaders Kazi Firoz Rashid, Shafiqul Alam Pradhan and Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu visited Bidisha at the police station.

Sources said JP leaders Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Ruhul Amin Hawlader have been working against Bidisha since she joined the party.

## SUMON KILLING Khilgaon police refuse to register case against Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khilgaon police yesterday refused to register a case in connection with the Tuesday's killing of Sumon in an 'encounter' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and criminals.

Sub-inspector Sattar of Khilgaon Police Station did not allow Sumon's parents to file a case against the Rab, family sources said.

Sumon's parents, however, will file a case with a court today, the sources added.

The killing of Sumon, acting joint convener of ward No. 25 ad hoc committee of Jubo League, sparked widespread agitation in Khilgaon.

The Rab arrested Sumon mistaking him with an alleged criminal with the same name, and said he was killed in an 'encounter'.

## Galib faces murder charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Gaibandha

Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab) chief Dr Muhammad Asadullah Al Galib is now in Naogaon jail awaiting appearance in court today in connection with the Khajir Ali murder case, in which he is shown as the prime accused.

Galib was taken to Gaibandha from Naogaon on May 21 in connection with a bomb blast incident at a Takiar bazar open stage drama under Palashbari apazila. The court ordered charges to be framed against him on June 26.

Meanwhile, Gobindaganj police submitted a charge sheet in the Mohimaganj BRAC office bomb blast case with the Judge's court on May 26. Galib and 18 others were exempted from the charge, and only two persons, namely Habibur Rahman alias Jubayer and Abdus Samad Raju, were charged. Both are active leaders of Jubo Sangha, a front organisation of Ahab.

Police sources said Gobindaganj police forwarded a charge sheet to the central monitoring cell of the Home Ministry accusing 21 persons, including Galib, on charges in the BRAC office bomb blast case. After close monitoring, the cell asked that the charges be submitted exempting 19 persons, including Galib, considering deficiencies in the probe during trial.

Earlier, Galib was produced before the court of Sirajganj and Bogra in connection with a different bomb blast incident and murder case.

Porsha thana in Naogaon is waiting for confirmation of another charge sheet against Galib in connection with a BRAC office bomb blast at Porsha apazila. The court fixed the next date of the case on June 28.

## Stop land grabbers

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Hamid, a former speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, alleged that the state, instead of taking punitive actions against the land grabbers, is in fact promoting them.

"I have heard that a lawmaker has to pay a hefty amount in order to be a minister. When such is the case then how would the state function," the deputy leader of the opposition observed.

Speaking at the round-table, Deputy Minister for Land Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu said the existing land laws need reforms in order to take actions against the land grabbers.

"Whenever we go for action against the land grabbers, they file cases and get stay orders against the government move," the deputy minister said adding that this is one of the problems the government faces while taking measures to retrieve the grabbed land.

Unless the land laws are updated, the ministry just cannot take effective actions against the land-grabbing, Dulu observed.

Referring to country's complicated land management system, he said, "I wonder how my predecessors had managed to run the ministry."

Samyabadi Dal leader Dilip Barua told the discussion that political parties should not allow the land grabbers nominations to contest the parliamentary election.

He called on the people to unite in opposition to the illegal appropriation of land.

## 28 more fly

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landed at the airport empty-handed.

He is staying at the residence of a friend in the capital. Gone deep in debt for the overseas job, he cannot go back home. "I am unable to return home as I borrowed money from my neighbours and relatives to go abroad and they are waiting for their money back," said the young man.

Babul Miah quoted the first secretary at the Bangladesh embassy in Jordan as having told the workers before leaving Jordan that 'all your payments will be made from the ministry'.

Another returnee, Delwar Hossain of Barisal, said Kazi Asif Ahmed, the first secretary, had asked for 200 dinars equivalent to Tk 16,000 each for arranging 'Akama' or work permit which allows a legal worker to stay, work or live in Jordan.

Ministry sources said the embassy was given \$25,500 equivalent to Tk 15,30,000, which was collected from the manpower agency at fault, Golden View International, to bring back the workers.

The expatriates alleged that Abu Soyeb, the owner of Al Shahed Apparels, burnt down the national flag of Bangladesh while the expatriates were observing 21st February by hosting the flag at their dormitory in Jordan.

When the workers informed the

first secretary about the disrespect to the national flag, he didn't take any action about the outrageous act, said the returnees.

The issue of torture on workers came to light when Kabir Hossain and seven others were sent back by the employer on March 21. They were deported as they had pressed for their wages. They held a press conference at the Crime Reporters Association office here on May 4 along with some family members of the 115 imperiled expatriates.

After learning about the matter, the Ministry for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employees notified Wahidul Islam alias Raju of the Golden View International and asked for an explanation from the embassy of Bangladesh.

The agency's licence was cancelled and an undertaking was taken that he would take all necessary measures to bring back the "oppressed" workers from Jordan.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) sources said they have not yet received any written objection against the Golden View International travel agency.

Wahidul Islam Raju of the Golden View International is now in Jordan to arrange a safe return of the workers with the help of Bangladesh embassy.

## JCD cadres chase BCL

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entrances to the campus from 7:00am to 2:00pm to fend off the BCL workers.

**PRESS CONFERENCE**  
The JCD leaders at a press conference at Madhu's Canteen demanded punishment of the BCL men who filed a case against DU teachers.

JCD General Secretary Shafiqul Bari Babu read out a written statement where he said the BCL has tainted the image of Dhaka University by filing the case against four teachers of the Institute of Fine Arts.

Asked if they would sit with the BCL for a dialogue to bring back normalcy to the country's premier university, Babu said, "If the authorities take initiatives for a dialogue, they would sit across the table to restore normalcy at the university."

On whether they would allow the BCL men in, he said, "If they (BCL) want to come on the campus, they must have to shun criminal activities and the 'bomb culture' on the campus and exclude outsiders."

President Azizul Bari Helal sought co-operation from all in resisting 'bomb attackers' on the campus. He claimed the BCL men are staying off the campus in fear of having to face the wrath of the general students, as they blasted a bomb on the campus.

The JCD also demanded compensation for the family of slain student Shammee Akhter Happy, and arrest and punishment of the bus driver and those who ransacked the proctor's office.

**BCL BLAME**  
BCL General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu, talking to The Daily Star, castigated the authorities for what they said was their mishandling the campus situation. He added the JCD has damaged the culture of student politics by creating unrest at the university.

Babu said they are not coming to the campus as there are no classes and examinations.

About the dialogue, he said, authorities have not contacted with them about the issue, adding they would sit with authorities only after the expulsion of the rampaging JCD men whose pictures were carried by the dailies.

**GOVT SLAMMED**  
Eighteen teachers' representatives in the DU senate, the highest policy-making body of the university, yesterday condemned the government's alleged bid to create a 'cadre state' on the campus through the JCD.

In a statement, they said the vice-chancellor has degraded his office by submitting himself to the

whims of the JCD.

Prof RIM Aminur Rashid, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof ABM Faruq, Prof Kazi Shahidullah, Prof Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan, Dr Sadeka Halim and Dr Rahmat Ullah are, among others, the signatories to the statement.

**MORE PROBE TIME**

The nine-member probe committee, from which three members have stood down, sat at its first meeting yesterday and asked of the authorities for 15 more days to wrap up the investigation. Its head and DU Treasurer Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan said he has directed the officials to get him video clippings, photos published in the newspaper and other materials for the enquiry.

"I have also asked the law advisor to the university if there are any barriers to investigating the recent campus incidents, as both the student organisations (JCD and BCL) have filed cases over the issue," he added.

## Power Division

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should be decided through negotiation since it is not an unsolicited proposal. Besides, the proposal should be approved by the government purchase committee before making any final agreement.

It said no additional power will be required until 2010 if the ongoing government projects are implemented in time. However, due to the poor pace of the implementation process of these projects, Tata's power could be useful, the division added.

It said Tata will construct the power generation line from Barapukaria to Ishwardi maintaining the standard of the Power Generation Company of Bangladesh and the construction should require a licence by bringing some changes in the transmission policy.

The government can give backup power to Tata by arranging separate agreement if necessary, the position paper said adding that appointment of a neutral consultant to assess any imminent danger caused by load fluctuation on the national grid will also be required.

The committee requested all stakeholders to submit the position paper on the set matrix before June 9 to prepare the second round negotiation scheduled for June 19.

The position paper will also be presented to the ministerial committee on June 12 to identify any major loopholes, sources added.

## Scorchers to linger

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strong in the system that the monsoon is unable to get set."

The delay underscores significant changes in weather patterns, sources said. In 1960, the system was totally the opposite of the current situation, with the monsoon setting in by May 14, 16 days earlier than usual.

Usually the monsoon sets in Kerala on June 1, taking one or two days to reach in the country. But it is yet to set in Kerala, and weather-men anticipate it will arrive in a day or two.

Met office sources said the rain occurring in some parts of the country is not due to the monsoon, but to westerly wind.

However, the met office forecasted that the temperature will come down and that rain may occur in different places of Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Khulna and Barisal and Chittagong divisions.

They also forecasted that the ongoing heat sweeping over Rajshahi, Faridpur, Pataukhali, Ishurdi and several other places of Khulna division will go down.

The highest temperature persisted yesterday in Satkhira, recorded at 38.8 degrees Celsius, while the temperature in the capital was recorded as 34 degrees Celsius.

Our Khulna Correspondent reports that the heat wave, accom-

## Schoolgirl raped, murdered Woman rescued from brothel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

An 11-year-old schoolgirl was raped and strangled at Laxminagar in Fatullah upazila, while Narayanganj police rescued a woman forced into prostitution yesterday.

Nipa, daughter of Akhter and a class VI student at Muslimnagar High School at Char Rajapur, went missing since Friday morning. She went to her aunt Feroja Begum's Laxminagar house on Thursday, family sources said.

Fatullah police yesterday recovered her body from a crop field in Purbapara in Laxminagar. "The killers raped her and strangled the victim with her torn clothes," a police official said.

The police have picked up four men including her two cousins for quizzing.

Meantime, police rescued a woman forced into prostitution from a house and arrested prostitutes Shanida, 23, and Sima, 18.

Police said the victim, a garment worker in Nitaiganj, eloped with her boyfriend from her Chitrasah house in Bandar upazila on Friday morning.

Abandoned by her boyfriend, she met the prostitutes, who lured her to the house in Sheharchar.

Hearing her cries when two 'customers' showed up, locals rushed to the spot and called in police.

## AL questions Tarique's authority to talk security issues with US

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday asked the prime minister to explain in which capacity her son and BNP's Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman had discussed national security issues with the high intelligence officials of the US.

"How a person having no portfolio in the government can discuss national security issues of Bangladesh with another country's intelligence officials," AL leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury posed a question at a press briefing.

Quoting newspaper reports on the recent visit of Tarique along with the director general of the National Security Intelligence (NSI) to the US, Saber said many secret security issues were discussed in their meetings with the US officials.

"The presence of a non-government person in such meetings is unbelievable," observed Saber, also political secretary to AL chief Sheikh Hasina. "This has also raised the question how secure our national security agency is."

The AL leader said, "The NSI chief should not maintain relations with a joint secretary general of a political party."

**KILLING OF HAZARIKA**  
Saber said the government has killed Gias Hazarika in the so-called crossfire to save those who had harboured the Chittagong-based notorious criminal and to halt investigation of the crimes Hazarika had committed.

"The killing of Hazarika will halt investigations of the crimes he was involved in that included a number of murders and arms trading, especially the much-talked-about 10 truck arms smuggling in Chittagong," he said.

He protested repeated killings in the name of crossfire by involving Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), and said, "Awami League, in principle, is against all extra-judicial killings whatever the victims' political identity."

The AL leader said Hazarika's criminal records are proof of Jamaat-e-Islami's huge network of notorious criminals. "Gias Hazarika used to train the armed cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat," he alleged.

The police could have interrogated Hazarika to dig out information about illegal arms trading in the country, Saber said.

## AL lawmaker

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allegiance to her leadership and announced his joining the BNP, founded by late president Ziaur Rahman.

Addressing the function, the prime minister said the BNP believes in peaceful politics. "People will accept those who will work for people," she said.

She said her party is working for people's welfare and development of the country. But the opposition is hindering development activities by calling issue less hartsals.

BNP Standing Committee Member KM Obaidur Rahman, MP, Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Faridpur District BNP President Shahjada and Gopalganj District BNP President MH Khan Monju also addressed the function.

Prime Minister's Political Secretary Hiris Chowdhury, BNP MPs from Faridpur and leaders of district BNP, and its front organisations were present.

## Foreign ministry

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A foreign ministry spokesman yesterday said it is unfortunate that the allegation came when Bangladesh is taking positive action on the frontier. The position of Bangladesh on the issue is well known, he added.

He said Bangladesh does not allow insurgent or extremist groups on its soil to conduct operation against any neighbouring or distant countries.

## Altaf made RU VC

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hours and assaulted the RU proctor, registrar, two assistant proctors, a syndicate member and four senior teachers demanding confirmation of their jobs and cancellation of 'secret recruitment' of another 150 teachers, officers and staff.

The demonstrators claimed that sensing his removal on Friday night, Faisal signed appointment letters of the 150 on back dates, all Jamaat loyalists or relatives of pro-Jamaat teachers.

The agitation forced Faisal Islam Faruki to issue a notice cancelling all ad hoc appointments since January 1 this year.

The assaulted include Registrar Abdus Salam, Proctor Shamsul Alam, assistant proctors Shafiqur Rahman and Mokhlesur Rahman, Syndicate member Prof Nurul Absar, RU Teachers Association (Ruta) President Nazrul Islam, Ruta General Secretary Abdul Hai Talukdar, Dean of social science faculty Sadekul Islam, Shamsuzzoha Hall Provost Belaluddin and Arabic department Chairman Abdul Haque.

The demonstrators led by Rafiqul Islam Sardar laid a siege to the VC's residence at 10:00am and demanded confirmation of their jobs

before he leaves his post.

They also demanded cancellation of the fresh recruitment.

They assaulted the RU officials and teachers during the siege as police took no action. They dragged the registrar around the VC's residence.

At one stage, they also scuffled with police.

Molihar thana BNP President Anwar Ali, General Secretary Mukhtar Hossain and some other party leaders were also mauled when they tried to rescue the registrar.

At around 3:00pm, on orders of the outgoing VC, the registrar issued an official letter cancelling all ad hoc recruitment. The employees then withdrew the siege.

The proctor later said recruitment of the 544 employees damaged the university's image.

The government had first rejected Aminul's candidature as the VC in the wake of intelligence reports that his brother finances Jamaat from its abroad, sources said.

The pro-VC also may be replaced.

Faruki is likely to be made a member of the University Grants Commission, the sources added.

## JP caught in knot game

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such alliance.

Ershad, however, cannot go against the government as 15 cases are pending against him. He was compelled to expel his wife from the party after a highly influential young BNP leader met him last week in a bid to keep the JP away from the opposition alliance.

Finally, the police yesterday arrested Bidisha after Ershad filed a case accusing her of vandalising their Gulshan house.

Sources said the policymakers of the four-party alliance want clear assurance from former president Ershad that his party will not join the AL-led alliance, if not support the four-party in the next parliamentary election.

The BNP policymakers have no faith in Ershad as he had quit the four-party alliance ahead of the last parliamentary election. On the other hand, the AL policymakers still believe the JP will join them before the next election.

**CALCULATION OF VOTES IN 2001 POLLS**  
In Rajshahi division, the ruling alliance won 49 seats, AL 9 and JP 14 in the 2001 polls. But the four-party secured about 66 lakh votes while the AL and JP in total got 76 lakh votes that shows a bright prospect of an AL-JP alliance.

The JP votes will be a major factor in Dhaka and Sylhet divisions also, if it joins AL as their combined strength can outplay the ruling alliance.

In Dhaka division, the AL obtained over 78 lakh votes and JP eight lakh, as against about 75 lakh votes bagged by the alliance candidates. The alliance, however, won 56 seats and AL 31. The JP failed to win any seat in this division.

In Sylhet division, the AL-JP combined strength was 16.50 lakh votes as against 13.51 lakh secured by the alliance candidates who won in 10 constituencies. The AL candidates polled 13.76 votes to win seven seats and JP 3.41 lakh without any victory.

The alliance apparently is in safer position in the Chittagong division. In Chittagong, the AL candidates got 34.71 lakh votes to win four seats and the JP returned empty-handed obtaining 1.41 lakh votes. On the other hand, the four-party candidates polled 52.84 lakh votes to bag 53 seats.

However, the voting calculation in southern Khulna and Barisal divisions shows a tough contest if AL forms an electoral alliance with the JP.

In Barisal division, the ruling

alliance obtained 15.61 lakh votes with 18 seats while the AL obtained 11.46 lakh votes winning three seats. The JP did not win any seat in this division but its candidates secured 2.21 lakh votes.

In Khulna division, the AL candidates obtained 31.62 lakh votes winning eight seats while the alliance nominees bagged 37.98 lakh votes securing 27 seats. The JP candidates polled 2.13 lakh votes but failed to win in any constituency.

**RANGPUR-DINAJPUR REGION IS THE FACTOR**  
The Ershad-led JP has strongholds in 33 parliamentary constituencies in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur districts, where the party won 14 seats in the 2001 elections.

The BNP bagged all seven seats in Bogra and the JP secured all six seats in Rangpur.

Ershad's party has a huge public support in almost all districts in Rajshahi division and the party candidates fought neck and neck against the BNP and AL candidates in all the elections since JP's fall in the 1990 mass upsurge.

The statistics of previous elections indicate that the BNP may face a serious trouble in the next election if the AL and JP join hands. On the other hand, the four-party alliance will win if they manage to earn JP's support.

## Woman

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heroin was hard to detect as the smugglers have mixed some other substance with it," DNC Assistant Director AAM Hafizur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Rabeya is a regular drug smuggler, who used to smuggle drugs from Pakistan and other neighbouring countries into Bangladesh, the customs officials said.

Security officials said she carries a Bangladeshi passport, which shows she hails from Munshipara under Kotwali Police Station in Rangpur.

But she does not have a house in Bangladesh and stays at city hotels, they added.

Rabeya visited Pakistan seven times in the last five months. "In the last 21 months, she visited Pakistan, India and Nepal 17 times," said a top customs officer. He suspects Rabeya carries several passports with her.

The customs officials were scheduled to turn her in to the Airport police last night.

## PM to visit Qatar

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Besides the summit, her visit will also mark official discussion on bilateral issues between Doha and Dhaka, according to sources.

An inter-ministerial meeting will take place at the foreign ministry this morning preparatory to the PM's visit to Qatar.

The agenda of discussion include increasing manpower export from Bangladesh to Qatar, Qatar Airways flights to Dhaka and Qatar investment in Bangladesh, agreements on cultural cooperation, preservation of bilateral investment as well as bilateral trade between the two countries, and avoiding double taxation.

Prior to the PM's visit the state minister for the foreign ministry of Qatar will pay a two-day (June 11-12) visit to Bangladesh, the sources said.

The Group of 77 (G-77) was established on 15 June 1964 by 77 developing countries. The Joint Declaration of the 77 countries issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva. Beginning with the first Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 in Algiers in 1967, a permanent institutional structure gradually developed. Although the membership of the G-77 has increased to 132 countries, the original name was retained because of its historic significance.

As the largest Third World coalition in the United Nations (UN), the G-77 provides the means for the developing world to articulate and promote its collective economic interests and enhance its joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues in the UN system, and promote economic and technical cooperation among

developing countries.

Apart from the multilateral two-day summit, the PM's visit is also being considered as a scope to progress on some issues discussed between the two countries during the official visit of the Emir of Qatar to Bangladesh in the second week of April this year.

Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani discussed a number of issues like increasing economic ties between the two countries and allowing more flights of the Qatar Airways between Doha and Dhaka.