

# Khulna grenade cases put in cold storage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police could not make any headway in investigation who brought the 14 grenades recovered in last 18 months from different areas in Khulna district and city.

Investigation on four grenade attack cases, filed with different police stations during the period, are also reported to have been shelved.

According to police records, six grenades were recovered from Kismat Phultala village in Batiaghata upazila on February 17. Another grenade was recovered from the

compound of Khulna thana staff quarters on February 24.

On February 29 last year, a grenade thrown at Khulna city Mayor's Pajero jeep, allegedly by extremists, did not explode. The grenade recovered by police from near the city corporation office was later detonated by army experts.

On March 5 last year, police recovered a grenade from in front of hotel De Luxe at Lower Jessore Road under Khulna thana. It was also detonated by army experts.

Police recovered a grenade on April 17 last year from Arhonghata

Bazar under Daulatpur thana. On April 21 in the same year, another grenade was recovered from a brick field at Alka village under Phultala upazila.

A grenade was hurled on the Joint Forces camp at Itegati village in Rupsha upazila on May 23 last year, allegedly by some extremists. But it did not explode.

On November 28 last year, alleged extremist Haridas Pal was arrested from Jalma union under Batiaghata upazila.

On December 10 in 2003, four operatives of New Biplobi

Communist Party (NBCP) were arrested with a grenade.

Khulna Police Superintendent Habibur Rahman told this correspondent yesterday that six grenades recovered on February 17 this year from Kismat Phultala village were brought by cadres of outlawed New Biplobi Communist party. But they could not be arrested, he said.

Intelligence agencies are working to find out sources of the grenades, said a senior official of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

## COPS ALERTED AGAINST RISING EXTREMIST ATTACKS Security for Khulna leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Top local leaders of major political have become panicked in the wake of sudden rise in terrorist activities in South-Western districts.

The leaders, belonging to BNP, Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami, have been provided with security, with instruction by police administration not to move without prior intimation.

"The recent murder of a BNP leader in Chuadanga and claim of its responsibility by an underground party has scared me. I am afraid of

moving out fearing attempt on life by extremists", said a top leader of Khulna BNP seeking anonymity.

Talking to this correspondent, a top leader of Awami League also expressed similar fear.

Meanwhile, security measures have been stepped up in the metropolitan city with special attention to houses of members of parliament and some political leaders.

Key installations in the city are under surveillance by intelligence agencies since last one month following an information that a group of extremists entered the city for sabo-

tage, the sources said.

All vehicles are being checked by law enforcers and members of Rapid Action Battalion at all key points in the city.

When asked, a senior officer of Khulna Metropolitan Police however said there is nothing to be worried as law enforcers are on high alert against any sort of terrorist activities.

"We have strengthened security in and around all political party offices", he said.

## 'Transfer Balu murder case to speedy trial tribunal'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Journalist leaders here on Thursday have urged the government to transfer the Humayun Kabir Balu Murder Case to Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal as per resolution of the 42nd meeting of monitoring cell of the Ministry of Home Affairs held on March 30.

Khulna Press Club executives, leaders of Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ) and Metropolitan Union of Journalists (MUJ) demanded this on the occasion of the first anniversary of death of Dainik Janmabumi editor Humayun Kabir Balu.

A discussion was also held at Khulna Press Club as part of a three-day programme chalked out by Humayun Kabir Balu Smirity Parishad to mark the day.

Jatiya Party leader and former member of parliament (MP) SM Babar Ali was in the chair. Among others, it was addressed by Khulna city Awami League (AL) president Talukder Abdul Khaleque MP, city AL Secretary Alhaj Mizanur rahman, former superintendent of police (SP) Ataul Gani Badsha and secretary general of Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman.

Other programmes included mourning rally, 'milad mahfil', offering of prayer at his grave and mass feeding.

Meanwhile, Khulna City Corporation has named Islampur Road as Sheheed Humayun Kabir Babu Road.



With rise in water level, major portion of the cross dam on Teesta at Dhampur in Gangachara has been washed away in three days, inundating several villages. The vulnerable dam was not repaired by Water Development Board this year despite demand by local people.

PHOTO: STAR

## Ershad's quest for footing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad yesterday said his party will form a separate alliance excepting Awami League and BNP.

He said, both Awami League and BNP want to make alliance with Jatiya Party because they knew they would not be able to form the next government without it.

These two parties (Awami League and BNP) are now hatching conspiracy to tarnish the image of his party.

"So I have decided to form a separate alliance with Kader Siddiqui-led Krishok Shramik Janata Dal, Rob-led Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and other 'like minded political parties'.

Addressing a press conference at his Rangpur residence yesterday, Ershad said he divorced Bidisha as she lied about her former husband and deceived him (Ershad).

He said Bidisha wanted to destroy the image of Jatiya Party, but her motive was detected at the appropriate time.

Asked, he said he was not aware of the source of money that Bidisha allegedly laundered through banks. The government lodged the money laundering case against her and they can explain it well, he said.

"She (Bidisha) kept me aloof from my family members."

## Ferry service on Brahmaputra to continue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The railway authorities have revised an earlier to withdraw ferry service between Teestamukh Ghat and Bahadurabad Ghat.

The ferry service will continue as before till further order, according to railway sources here yesterday. The century old service was scheduled to be stopped from yesterday.

The earlier decision has been scrapped in view of demonstrations by people for continuation of the ferry service, they said.



Detective branch of police in Dinajpur on Wednesday recovered fake notes worth about Tk one lakh from Ranipurkur village in Bilaichandi union in Parbartipur upazila and arrested 4 persons including a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader of Sayedpur Degree College.

PHOTO: STAR

## Caretaker laws were framed as per AL demand: Milon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon yesterday said, Awami League, sensing a bleak performance in the next parliamentary election due to government's massive developing work, is now spearheading chaos in the country.

It is now trying to destabilise the government and tarnish the country's image abroad, he said while addressing a conference of Jatyotabadi Sechchasebok Dal, a front of ruling BNP, held at the municipal auditorium here.

Milon said the caretaker government issue is a settled one. Laws on caretaker government were framed as per AL demand and it had accepted it. It is now trying to befool the people by demanding reforms in the caretaker government, he said.

Turning to law and order, he said Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) is doing an 'excellent job', and its performance is appreciated by

people.

"We believe criminals have no political ideology. Whenever a criminal dies in crossfire with RAB, Awami League leaders start a chorus of human rights.

"Why they should do so if they do not shelter criminals?"

Milon said Bangladesh got foreign investment offers involving about twelve billion US dollars in three and a half years since take-over by the present government, which was only three and a half billion in last thirty years. This is a great achievement by the present government, he said.

The conference, held after more than a decade, was inaugurated earlier by Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, central president of the front.

Presided over by its Nilphamari district unit president Razzakul Islam Raza, it was addressed by, among others, its central vice-president Delwar Hossen and district BNP secretary Anisul Arefin Chowdhury.

9x3

5x3



Glyn Evana, Plant Manager of Lafarge Surma Cement, planting a guava sapling near the plant site in Chhatak recently, launching the company's tree plantation drive.

6.5x3