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Police hunt for Bangla Bhai aide fails

2 cadres held in Nilphamari remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The two Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMJB) cadres, arrested on Monday noon from the local Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) office on charge of extortion, divulged some 'important' information to police on the second day yesterday of their 3-day remand.

But police refused to disclose those to newsmen for the sake of investigation and nabbing the entire gang.

A local police source quoting the arrested JMJB cadres, Rezaul, 22, and Azad, 23, however, said a close aid to JMJB chief Bangla Bhai and also a leading member of the outfit, Jahangir Hossain, were staying with his people in Nilphamari with a

mission'.

The cadres told police that they had come to the local LGED office for extortion at the instruction of Jahangir, the source said.

In the face of intensive police interrogation the cadres also disclosed that their team leader was directing them through cell phone.

Police tactfully made the two arrested cadres to phone their leader.

In reply the gang leader said he would come in time, the source further informed.

Meanwhile, police raided different parts of the town with the two arrested cadres in the last two days to nab their accomplices. But none was arrested.

Superintendent of Police Shoeb Ahmed earlier told newsmen that six

teams of police launched the drive to arrest the criminals.

Sohrab Hossain, the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Tuesday produced Rezaul and Azad before the court of first class magistrate. He sought three days' remand of the two cadres but the magistrate granted for two days.

Eyewitnesses said at the time of arrest on Monday JMJB cadre Rezaul

warned the Executive Engineer of local LGED, who later filed the case, of 'dire consequences.' Rezaul also asked him to keep the money ready so that their men can collect it any moment.

The other cadre, Azad, warned the police not to touch him. He also refused to be handcuffed but police overpowered him.

JMJB cadres Rezaul and Azad were arrested on Monday when they came to the LGED office to collect Tk one lakh extortion money. They said that they need the money for treatment of one of their ailing cadres.

Earlier, one person claiming to be Siddiquar Rahman alias Bangla Bhai contacted LGED Executive Engineer. He told the official that his men with a letter and code number would come to LGED office to collect the extortion money.

But engineer Mostafa Kamal informed the matter to police following which plainclothes policemen arrested the two persons re-handled from the spot.

Rezaul identified himself as the son of Abdul Haque Patowari of Sreerampur village in Moheshpur upazila in Jessore. His accomplice Azad hails from Ramganj upazila of Luxmipur district.



PHOTO: STAR

Durgapur upazila correspondent of Amar Desh Rafiqul Islam, injured in severe attack yesterday, being treated at hospital.

Journalist attacked for reporting extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Alleged cadres of BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) stormed into press club and beat up a journalist at Durgapur upazila here yesterday evening.

Rafiqul Islam, upazila correspondent of Amar Desh and local press Club president was admitted to Durgapur Hospital.

A group of 10 JCD men who were allegedly threatening Rafiq for over a week went to the press club where some journalists were preparing reports at around 5pm.

Driving out others, they started beating Rafiq mercilessly. At a stage, Rafiq fell down on the floor.

Local people rushed to the spot hearing cries of the journalists and rescued Rafiq, said the press club

secretary Nurul Islam.

He identified some attackers as Rokon, Polash, Mokhlesur Rahman, Jonab-1, Jonab-2, Alauddin and Barik of Gorkhaye areas in the upazila.

The attackers allegedly threatened on Friday to kill Rafiq for publishing a report on their extortion and other criminal activities. On Tuesday, they again went to the press club to warn Rafiq.

Rafiq filed a general diary with local police after Tuesday's threat, but the police allegedly did not go into action.

The attackers, allegedly blessed by a local lawmaker, were moving freely around the police station even after the attack on Rafiq.

None was arrested till filing of this report yesterday evening.

FLAG MEETING IN AGARTALA

BDR, BSF to start coordinated patrol

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

BDR and BSF on Monday decided to go for coordinated patrol along borders from greater Comilla to Habiganj.

The coordinated patrol is likely to start this month, BDR sources said, referring to the outcome of the day-long sector commander level flag meeting held in Agartala of Tripura state of India.

The meeting that continued for about 5 hours was held in order to resolve the recent disputes over barbed-wire fencing by BSF at different border points here.

The Bangladeshi team included BDR-1 Battalion commander Lt Col Syed Qumruzzaman, 31 Battalion commanding officer Lt Col Jakir Hossain, 11 Battalion commanding officer AKM Nesar and 1 Battalion officer Major Sheikh Mahmudul

Haque.

Lt Col Syed Qumruzzaman led the BDR team on behalf of sector commander Jahangir Alam of Comilla Sector.

On the other hand, Indian team included BSF 131 Battalion commandant M Kumar, 74 Battalion commandant VS Rawal and 21 battalion commandant AK Sharma.

VS Rawal led the Indian team. The meeting also decided that the Indian side would avoid erecting barbed-wire fence on no-man's land while both side will work to stop border smuggling.

It also decided to hold at least one company-level meeting every month.

While contacted, Lt Col Syed Qumruzzaman termed the meeting fruitful and hoped that the coordinated patrol is likely to start by this month.



PHOTO: STAR

Azad, left, and Rezaul, the alleged cadres of Bangla Bhai, after arrest in Nilphamari Monday.

4 of a family jailed for acid throwing in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A Nilphamari court Tuesday sentenced four of a family to seven years rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer additional six months in jail for throwing acid on three persons last year.

District and Sessions Judge Rabiul Hasan pronounced the verdict in a crowded court.

The prosecution story in brief is that Naloni Kanta of Singria Shoulmari village of Jaldhaka upazila after returning home from a local market at 11 pm on August 17,

2004 found that his wife Hema Rani, 22, son Milton, 10, and mother Noli Rani, 50, were beaten mercilessly and attacked with acid. They were seriously injured in the incident.

On August 19 Nolini Kanta filed a case with Jaldhaka Police Station accusing Binod Bihari Roy, Norendra Roy, Subash Chandra and Ranjit Kumar of the same village for the attack.

Police submitted charge-sheet in the case against all the four accused. After examining 19 witnesses, the judge found all the four accused guilty and pronounced the verdict.

3 get life for murder

BSS, Faridpur

District and Sessions Judge of Faridpur Azizul Haque in a judgement yesterday sentenced three persons for life in a murder case.

Accused Hafez Sheikh, his wife Goley Begum and Lilia Begum killed their neighbour Shaheb Ali on May 19, 1999 in village Kamargram under Boalmari upazila of the district.

According to court sources, the wife of the deceased, Khadeza, had a quarrel over plucking of a pumpkin with accused Goley. At one stage Goley and two others attacked Khadeza and her husband Shaheb Ali with sticks. Shaheb Ali received serious injuries and died the next day.

The judge in his verdict ordered life-term and to pay a fine of Tk 5,000 each, in default to suffer simple imprisonment for another one year each. Hafez Sheikh and Goley Begum are absconding while Lilia Begum is on bail.

RDA plans to develop tourist spot in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) plans to develop a tourist spot on the bank of the Padma in the city.

A project proposal in this regard was submitted to the Ministry of Planning recently.

The tourist spot is expected to draw a large number of tourists from home and abroad as well as create job opportunities for many people, hope RDA officials.

Earlier, a plan was submitted to the ministry to create a tourist centre in the city but it was rejected on the plea that it might pose a threat to town protection embankment.

The authorities submitted the fresh plan styled 'Women's Estate' in May saying it would be run by women and sought Tk 9 crore for acquisition of land. The RDA will bear the remaining cost of the project.

If everything goes well, more than 200 women are expected to get jobs in the project.

The project design includes 80 housing plots, a children's park, a garden, journey-by-boat facilities, accommodation for foreign visitors and a training centre for women.

Rajshahi town protection embankment is now said to be the only spot for amusement for the city dwellers.

More than 2,000 people, mainly children and women, visit the river-bank every afternoon.

But the spot lacks proper sitting arrangement, security or any quality restaurant, said some visitors.



PHOTO: STAR

Students organisations brought out processions yesterday to mark the 52nd founding anniversary of Rajshahi University.

RU celebrates founding anniversary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday celebrated its 52nd founding anniversary.

The day's programme started with hoisting of national and university flags.

Wreaths were placed at the central Shaheed Minar in the morning to mark the occasion.

It was followed by tree plantation and friendly cricket and handball matches at the university playground.

Prayers were offered at the university central mosque after Zohar prayer. Then several processions were brought out separately by various student organisations.

In the evening, different RU

cultural organisations and theater groups put up cultural shows and street dramas at the Shaheed Minar and on the premises of the Folklore Department to mark the day.

Association for Cultural and Education, Tirthok drama group, Rajshahi University Drama Association (RUDA), RU Debate Club and Anushilon drama group jointly took out a large procession on the campus. Later cultural shows and dramas were held.

Samajtrantik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out processions and held separate meetings in front of the university central library.

SCF leaders remarked that the university authorities celebrated the founding anniversary after 14 years

in a very poor way. On the other hand, the authorities did not hesitate to spend a good amount of money by appointing some controversial employees, they said.

Progressive Teachers' Association (PTA) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) boycotted the founding anniversary programme. At a meeting held on the campus, they alleged that the university authorities deprived the teachers and students of a memorable event.

Among others, the meeting was addressed by its university unit president Ibrahim Hossain, general secretary Ayeen Uddin, central member Rashidul Islam, joint secretary Abdus Shobhan and organising secretary Tuhiin.

Fresh cracks in crop lands in Kalaroa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Fresh cracks have developed in the crop lands of two villages in Kalaroa upazila.

Ten days ago, similar cracks occurred in Putuni village in the same upazila.

In Kalaroa, several cracks, stretching about 250 feet developed in the crop lands of Ramzan Ali, Shawkat Ali, Abu Taleb and others of village Elishpur on Tuesday.

Ramzan Ali received injuries as he fell into a crack after he went to plough the land.

A similar crack has been noticed near the house of Kawsar Ali of the same village. There was another big crack, stretching about an acre in the crop lands in village Goira in the same upazila.

Sources in Kalaroa said panicked farmers are not going to their fields for ploughing or planting aman fearing accidents.

The Agricultural Extension Department sources could not give satisfactory reason for the cracks immediately but said, indiscriminate use of underground water for irrigation might have caused the cracks.

Children's drama festival ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A two-day children's drama festival jointly organised by the district administration and Bangladesh Shishu Academy concluded here yesterday.

Held at the Sadar upazila auditorium, the festival was aimed at creating awareness about child rights.

Eight teams such as Dipalok Academy, Pantran Child Theatre, Satkhira Government High School, Karima High School, Police Line High School, Fatema Sangskritik Parishad, Fulkari Asar and Satkhira Sangskritik Academy participated in the festival.