

25 out of 79 UP chairmen on the run in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 25 out of 79 Union Parishad (UP) chairmen belonging to BNP, Awami League (AL) and Workers Party (WP) are on the run to evade arrest by law enforcers.

Activities of these UPs are virtually paralysed as they are absent from offices and are also not attending meetings of upazila co-ordination committees, sources in the administration said.

They are absconding after arrest of four UP chairmen in the district since promulgation of emergency last month.

Houses of many of them were raided by law enforcers to arrest them for their alleged involvement in land grabbing, extortion and other crimes including sheltering miscreants, sources in law enforcing agencies said.

Farmers in areas under the UPs, mainly in bordering areas, are facing a lot of problems to get fertiliser and diesel from dealers and petrol pumps for lack of chairmen's 'slip' required to take delivery of the items, which is also hampering Irrigation cultivation.

The four UP chairmen held so far are Asadul Haque of Kulia and Rezaul Karim of Noapara in Debhata upazila, Ashraf Hossain

of Keragachi in Kalaroa and Ruhul Quddus of Anulia in Assassuni upazila. They were arrested on charge of corruption and patronising extortions, criminals and musclemen. They are in jail and are now facing several cases each, law enforcers said.

Sources said joint forces raided houses of Abdur Rouf of Alipur, Golam Mostofa of Kumira, Pranab Ghosh Babu of Khalilnagar, Rabiu Islam of Jalalabad and some others.

The administration has already vacated the post of Khalilnagar UP and appointed Mostafizur Rahman Titu as its acting chairman.

Most of the UP chairmen are also not available on their previous cellphone numbers.

However, talking to this correspondent over cellphone Shhakil, Shafiqul Azam Lenin, Abdul Alim, Rabiu Islam and Modaserul Haque Huda said they are in Dhaka for personal engagement and would return Satkhira soon.

Some civil society members, talking to this correspondent, have raised voices for declaring their posts vacant as public functions are being affected in their absence.

If the UP leaders are honest men why they should be hiding, they posed the question.



Pipes (left) of worth about Tk 30 lakh and a jeep of Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution Systems were recovered from a house in Sylhet city Tuesday night following interrogation of arrested CBA leader Mashuque Ahmed.



PHOTO: STAR

JALALABAD GAS COMPANY

Pipes, jeep, seized after CBA leader's arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Acting on statements of arrested CBA leader Mashuque Ahmed of Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution Systems, joint forces Tuesday night recovered about 1000 pieces of pipes worth over Tk 30 lakh, other equipment a jeep of the gas company from a house in the city's Hosnabad area.

Mashuque Ahmed, also labour affairs secretary of Sylhet city BNP, surrendered to joint forces Monday afternoon. He was handed over to Sylhet Kotwali police on Tuesday.

Mashuque had rented the house

to keep the materials, police said after interrogating him.

Police also said there are other allegations including tender manipulation, corruption in appointments and abuse of power using political influence against him.

Mashuque was a powerful man in the Jalalabad Gas Transmission and distribution Systems during last 5 years of BNP-led alliance government.

He also ran a private firm in the name of his wife. Contracts were given to that firm illegally by the gas company, they said.

Khulna BNP leaders warn newsmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Former general secretary of Khulna city BNP Nazrul Islam Manju came down heavily on journalists for what he called writing reports against him and other leaders of his party.

The BNP leader was addressing a press conference yesterday at Khulna Press Club to express his reaction against a report on his alleged corruption, published in by Dainik Manabjami on February 26.

Sounding a note of warning to media men, the BNP leader said Khulna city BNP has chalked out a three-day programme to protest what he termed 'false and fabricated reports' against him published in the daily.

The programme includes submission of memorandum to the Police Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Khulna, view-exchange meetings with local journalists, a meeting with Editor of Dainik Manabjami.

Manju said journalists are now involved in a 'dirty practice of character assassination of political leaders'. He advised journalists to 'give up this practice'.

He did not reply to a question asked by a journalist about his

Fake spices factory sealed in Tangail, two held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail:

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday unearthed a fake spices factory in Tangail municipal area and seized 50 sacks of adulterated spices.

The Rab personnel also recovered huge quantities of husk, wood-dust, brick-dust, dye, and rotten chili and arrested two persons.

The arrestees are factory owners Hassan Talukdar Liton and his younger brother Iqbal Talukdar, sons of Farhad Hossain of Bazidpur area in Tangail town.

Acting on a tip off, a team from Rab-12 led by ASP Saifuzzaman Faruqi raided the fake factory named Banglar Moshla at Bazidpur in the town at around 10:30am and caught the owners when they were mixing husks, wood-dust, brick-dust and dye with rotten chili, Rab sources said.

ASP Saifuzzaman Faruqi told The Daily Star over phone that they handed over the arrestees to Tangail Sadar police.

"We have sealed the factory and a case will be filed against them," he added.

BHASANI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Agitation for VC's removal continues

Students demonstrate on campus while teachers hold emergency meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Students of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) continued agitation yesterday on the campus to press their 16-point demand including removal of Vice-chancellor Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman for alleged corruption and irregularities by the administration.

They held a rally and brought out a silent procession with black cloths tied on their faces.

Speakers at the rally blamed the VC for the present chaotic situation at the university, saying he ran the administration and did irregularities at his will as there is no pro-vice-chancellor, treasurer, resister and director (accounts).

They gave a 24-hour ultimatum to private secretary (PS) cum assistant resister of the university, Monir Hossain Mollah and chief engineer Sarowarul Islam to leave the campus, alleging that they were VC's accomplices in all the irregularities.

The VC is not on the campus though a virtual deadlock in prevailing for last five days due to agitation by students, teachers and employees, campus sources said. The VC is in Dhaka since Saturday.

The VC told some local journalists yesterday over cell phone that he is trying to resolve the problems with higher authorities in the capital.

Meanwhile, MBUST teachers association at an emergency meet-

ing yesterday decided to sent a team to Dhaka today (Thursday) for talks with the VC on the present campus situation.

Sources said results of admission tests for the new academic year could not be published due to absence of the VC.

The students have been demanding for about a year recruitment of adequate number of teachers and providing classrooms, students' hostels, laboratories and workshops.

They also held demonstrations on Saturday and Monday. They locked the administrative building for two hours on Monday and demolished all the foundation stones on the campus, laid by the VC, alleged to be a pro-BNP man.

The teachers at a press conference on Monday expressed solidarity with the students' demands. They also put forward a 6-point demand including promotion of deserving ones and urged the authorities to fulfill those immediately in the interest of bringing back a congenial academic atmosphere.

On Saturday, the students burnt an effigy of VC Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman.

Admission scam alleged against headmaster

Documents seized from Barisal Zila School

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Headmaster of Barisal Zila School is on the run as gross irregularities in admission to the school allegedly in exchange of money triggered protests guardians.

The headmaster--Syed Md. Mansur--used the name of the Deputy Commissioner to hide the scam. As the news reached the Deputy Commissioner, he ordered the headmaster to appear before him and seizure of documents from the school.

Sources said the headmaster, in collusion with two other teachers, admitted 117 students in classes three, four and six though they failed in admission tests, allegedly in exchange of money.

The headmaster was due to go on leave preparatory to retirement on Tuesday.

A farewell reception was arranged for him at the school on Monday.

All of a sudden, several hundred agitated guardians of students deprived of admission swooped on the reception venue at about noon

and tried to assault the headmaster, alleging that he admitted students who failed in tests in exchange of money.

The headmaster hurriedly left the school, telling the agitated guardians that he admitted some students on recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner.

Some of the agitating guardians contacted the Deputy Commissioner, who told them he did not make any such recommendation.

The mob came back to the school and cordoned the headmaster's residence Monday night.

But the headmaster along with his family had left the house before that, sources said. His whereabouts were not known when the report was filed yesterday afternoon.

When contacted Deputy Commissioner Manzur-e-Elahi said he sent two magistrates to the school and found the allegation correct during primary investigation. All documents have been seized from the school, he said.

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8x3