

Fake freedom fighter held in Savar

JU CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a fake freedom fighter and two of his bodyguards in Savar.

Acting on an information, a Rab team arrested Abdul Karim, former president of Savar Sramik Union, from Tangail Saw Mills along with Kabil and Hasmot, two of his bodyguards, from Shimultola at 9:30am.

Rab took them to Nabinagar camp for interrogation.

Karim founded Muktiyodhya Bahumukhi Samobay Samity on his own in 1994 to grab five acres of khas land in Nawab estate at Chapain in Savar.

Introducing himself as president of the samity, Karim planned a project to encroach the land.

He also prepared a list comprising 162 freedom fighters and labourers to allocate the land.

Each listed person gave him money ranging from Tk 50,000 to Tk 60,000 to have a plot on that land.

In 2004, Karim prepared a fresh list of 162 people and realised different amount of money in the name of allocating the same land, excluding most of the people enlisted earlier.

"Posing as assistant commander of Savar Muktiyodha Command, Karim took Tk 53,000 from me in 1994 in the name of implementing a residential project for freedom fighters," said Abul Bashar, a war-maimed freedom fighter, who came under attack by his associates for demanding the refund of money.

There are also allegations against Karim of renting houses built on the khas land.

He owns five houses at different places in Savar, Chapain, Dogomora, Bonpukur and Majidpur.

Karim was removed from the post of the president of Sramik Union in 2002 for embezzling Tk 47 lakh.

Eleven cases including eight were filed by deceived victims against Karim with Savar Police Station.

He was also convicted in embezzling Tk 13 lakh from Agrani Bank in 1992.

Monir and Jewel, two sons of Karim, were caught red handed several times by Savar police while mugging.

As the news of Karim's arrest spread, the deceived victims thronged Rab office demanding the return of their money.

"Karim has been arrested as he deceived people posing as a freedom fighter," said Masud Al Ferdous, a Rab-11 official.

Sundarbans fire: 2 forest officers suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Station Officer Golam Mostafa and Assistant Station Officer Abdus Salam of Chandpai range under east wing of Sundarbans Forest Division were suspended yesterday on charges of negligence.

The action has been taken as the two forest officers failed to quickly take necessary steps to bring a forest fire under control. The fire first broke out at Pachakorolia under Chandpai range on March 19.

DFO Mohammad Shahidullah of Sundarbans Forest Division issued

the suspension order, said Conservator of Forests Shaikh Mizanur Rahman.

The conservator yesterday received a report on the fire submitted by the probe committee formed on March 30. In the report, the committee said the fire was caused by

burning cigarettes butts.

DFO Md Shahidullah said three vigilance teams have been formed to check any fire incidents. Members of the teams will patrol different areas of the forest round-the-clock to take quick action in case of fire incidents, he added.