

Ex-Jamaat MP Nazrul sued for extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A case was filed on Monday night against two local Jamaat leaders including detained former Jamaat lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam for their alleged involvement in extortion.

Gazi Nazrul Islam has already been detained by joint forces. His name was included in the second list of graft suspects published by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on March 9.

The complainant, SM Abdur Rashid from Chakbara village in Shyamnagar upazila, filed the case with Shyamnagar Police Station (PS).

In his complaint, Rashid claimed that former Jamaat lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam and his uncle Gazi Abdus Sobhan extorted Tk 50,000 from him on May 7, 2005.

In 2005, Jamaat lawmaker Gazi

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ORIENTAL BANK

BB proposes to sell out sponsor shares

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has proposed to sell out sponsor shares of the Oriental Bank through open tender after increasing the existing paid up capital.

The central bank has drafted two alternative schemes for the problem bank where proposal has been made to distribute a portion of the shares among the depositors, sources said. The schemes were sent for the finance ministry's approval in last week.

The schemes proposed to pay out up to Tk 10 lakh to depositors in instalments within five years after the scheme activation and rest of

the amount will be paid out after five years. Under the scheme, only the principal amount (excluding profit) of the liabilities as recorded in the books of accounts of the bank on January 25, 2007 will be payable.

One of the schemes proposed to increase the bank's paid up capital to Tk 700 crore from the existing Tk 57 crore while another scheme proposed to raise it at Tk 450 crore.

The Tk 700 crore scheme says Tk 400 crore will be kept as sponsor shares and rest Tk 300 crore as general shares while the Tk 450 crore proposal says Tk 400 crore will be sponsor shares and rest Tk 50 crore as general shares.

Sponsor shares of the bank will

be sold at excess value when its face value of each share will be Tk 1,000.

The sponsor shares would be sold like those of Rupali Bank through open tender and it will bring huge capital for the bank, sources said, adding that investors from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and UK have already expressed interest to buy the sponsor shares.

The bank may earn Tk 700-1000 crore by selling sponsor shares and this will solve the liquidity crisis of the bank, said the sources.

According to the schemes, general shares will be sold through

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Alamgir Kabir sued for patronising JMB

UNB, Naogaon

A schoolteacher of Atrai, who was tortured by JMB activists three years ago, yesterday filed a case with the district court accusing former state minister Alamgir Kabir, former MP Shamsul Alam Pramanik and 34 others of patronising the militants.

After hearing, judge Fazlul Haq directed Atrai police to accept the case and submit report after investigation.

Anisur Rahman Master, headmaster of Borakuri Primary School and founder of Borakuri College in Atari upazila, stated in his petition that JMB militants, led by Bangla Bhai, picked him up on April 21, 2004 and tortured him at their camp at Hamir Kutsa.

He was set free after his son paid a ransom of Tk 5 lakh to JMB.

The petitioner refrained from

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Relatives of Dhaka Central Jail inmates crowd the jail gate yesterday to meet their loved ones. The prison is now crammed with convicts and under trial prisoners.



PHOTO: STAR

Army personnel guard a water reservoir at Fakirapul in the capital to help ensure smooth supply of water during the summer.

Criminal held with AK47 rifle, bullets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a criminal and recovered an AK47 rifle and 172 bullets from his possession in Fatikchaur upazila of the district yesterday.

The arrestee, Md Osman Gani, 35, son of Syed Jahurul Islam of Syedpara village under the upazila, is a member of a criminal gang named Baker Bahini.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-7 raided the house of Osman at Syedpara village at around 9:30am and arrested him.

On his confession, members of the elite force went to the house of Sharmin, reportedly a sister of Baker, chief of the gang, and recovered the AK47 rifle, 172 bullets and four magazines, digging the yard of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

33 die in worst US campus shooting

Korean student was the shooter

AFP, Blacksburg

A Virginia campus was rocked with grief yesterday after 33 people were killed in a shooting rampage that the university president said involved an Asian man.

A 23-year-old student from South Korea described as a "loner" was identified Tuesday as the gunman who carried out the deadliest school shooting in US history.

As anger and grief gripped the campus of Virginia Tech University, where 33 people died on Monday, police named the gunman as Cho Seung-Hui, a student at the school and resident alien in the United

States.

Steve Flaherty, superintendent of Virginia state police, told a press conference here that Cho was an English major at Virginia Tech in his senior year from Centerville, Virginia, and had been living in a campus dormitory.

No motive was given for the rampage.

University authorities have come under fire from some students and parents for their handling of the tragedy.

Larry Hincker, associate vice president for university relations, said officials had difficulty obtaining information about the gunman. "He

was a loner and we had difficulty finding information about him," he said.

Two people were shot dead in an initial attack in a campus dormitory on Monday around 7:15 am. Another 30 were killed in Norris Hall, an engineering building, two and one half hours later. Up to 30 others were wounded.

Cho shot himself in the head as police closed in on Norris Hall, where he had methodically gunned down dozens of students and faculty members after chaining the doors of the building from the inside.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Joint forces raid Bashundhara office, seize documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army-led joint forces seized files and documents raiding the corporate office of Bashundhara Group on Panthapath in the capital yesterday.

A team of around 100 security personnel took position at the main entrances to the Bashundhara City shopping mall and searched the group's corporate office, housed on 10th to 18th floor of Bashundhara City, for around seven hours from 11:30am.

During the raid, the crack forces quizzed a number of Bashundhara Group officials and barred everyone from going in or out of the office. They also asked all to leave

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

England in tatters

STAR SPORT MONITOR

England's hopes of a place in the World Cup semifinals were fading away quickly against an all-pace attack of South Africa at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Tuesday.

England, desperately needing a victory in their penultimate Super Eights match to stay alive in the showpiece event, were tottering at 136 for eight after 41 overs in the face of some inspired bowling from the South African pace battery that cruelly proved Michael Vaughan's decision to bat a costly one.

Ravi Bopara was batting on 13 with Monty Panesar at the other end and two.

England looked on course of a decent total when Andrew Strauss and Paul Collingwood produced 58 runs for fourth wicket after Charl Langeveldt had opener Ian Bell and a double blow by Andre Nel, leaving them at 53 for three.

But once left-handed Strauss was dismissed for 46, England fell apart completely, losing five wickets for 10 runs thanks to a four-wicket burst by Andrew Hall.

Earlier, Bell was the first man to go, caught by Ashwell Prince off Charl Langeveldt for seven off 23 balls as the England struggle began. Bell fell in the seventh over with the score on nine.

Skipper Michael Vaughan was the next man out, lbw to Nel for 17 in the 13th over with the total on 37. Nel then claimed the wicket they most desired when skipper Graeme Smith caught his bitter rival Kevin Pietersen at mid-off when the South African-born batsman had made just three.

A win for South Africa will guarantee they will fill the final last four place where they will join Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

South Africa made two changes from the team which lost to New

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Cop jailed for not producing case evidence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Asub-inspector (SI), Zahid Hossain, has been sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Taka 5,000 as he failed to produce required evidence in a case he filed against some Awami League (AL) leaders.

SI Zahid lodged an FIR (first information report) with Rupsha Police Station on January 7 accusing 22 leaders and activists of AL, BCL and Jubo League for damaging cars during a countrywide blockade at Kudir Battala area under Rupsha upazila.

On January 15, SI Sadhan Kumar Das of Rupsha Police Station, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet against 19.

Judge SM Masudul Huq of Speedy Trial Tribunal (STT) on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

13 JMB cadres held in Sherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police during raids early Tuesday arrested 13 active cadres of banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from different places in Sherpur Sadar upazila.

The arrestees are Masud Rana, 22, Mintu Miah, 20, Mobarak Ali, 21, Shohag Miah, 17, Selim Miah, 20, Sakhawat Hossain Sumon, 20, Swapan Miah, 19, Nasirul Islam Nahid, 19, Shamsul Arefin Shohel, 18, and Abdur Rouf of Purbashuri and Nazrul Islam, 19 and Saiful Islam, 21, of Nabinagar, and Abu Hanif, 20, of Boira Paranpur in Sadar upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Sherpur police led by Officer-in-charge (OC) Sajjad Hossain raided village Purbashuri around Monday midnight and arrested 10 JMB

cadres from there, police sources in Sherpur said. Later on, they arrested three more JMB cadres raiding Nabinagar and Boira Paranpur.

The arrestees told police during interrogation that they wanted to establish Allah's rule in the country under the leadership of Matin Mehdi of Gaibandha, sources said. Matin is an absconding JMB leader convicted in one of the August 17, 2005 serial bomb blasts case in Gaibandha and another bomb blast case in Jhenidah, they added.

The arrestees are being interrogated at Sherpur Police Station as of yesterday evening.

On contact, OC Sajjad Hossain of Sherpur Police Station told The Daily Star that the arrestees are active cadres of JMB and were regrouping under the banner of a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Daily Shamokal publisher sued for extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla daily Shamokal Publisher AK Azad was sued in a Tk 5 lakh extortion case on Monday.

Rokeya Chowdhury, a resident of Mohammadpur in the city, filed the case with Ashulia Police Station, sources said.

In the case statement, the complainant alleged that Azad, also owner of Hameem Group, along

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

3 govt officials held for bribery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested three government officials in two separate incidents of bribery yesterday.

A team of Rab-3 caught Mohammad Kamruzzaman, deputy assistant engineer of Desa (Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority) red-handed while he

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

The Rakhains in Cox's Bazar celebrate Pahela Baishakh in their traditional way by spraying water at each other. This symbolises washing away of last year's sorrows, ailments and sin, and a fresh beginning of the new year.

Rakhains water fest begins in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The three-day water festival of the indigenous communities in Cox's Bazar began yesterday with grand enthusiasm and festivities.

The Rakhains and other ethnic communities in Cox's Bazar celebrate the festival to welcome the Rakhain New Year.

The first day of the festival, 'Shangrai Poaye', was celebrated yesterday. On this day of new year, Rakhaine boys and girls spray water on each other.

The Rakhains wake up early in the morning on the day of Shangrai Poaye and bathe. They also clean up their houses and surroundings, decorate their houses with flowers and float flowers in rivers, canals

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

| Prayer Timing | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| April 18 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-35 | 5-10 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-45 | 5-00 |
| Maghrib | 6-24 | 6-28 |
| Esha | 7-45 | 8-15 |
| Source: Islamic Foundation | | |