

ALLEGATION OF GUNRUNNING, CREATING LAWLESSNESS

48 Sherpur AL leaders, activists chargesheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Police have chargesheet 48 leaders and activists of Awami League (AL) and its front organisations in Sherpur for allegedly using illegal firearms and creating a law and order situation during a party programme by rival factions in Novemner last year.

Sub-inspector (SI) Abdul Aziz of Sherpur Sadar police station submitted the charge sheet to the Cognizance Court in Sherpur on Tuesday after six months' investigation.

The chargesheeted persons

include Sherpur district AL secretary advocate Chandan Kumar Pal, labor secretary Humayun Kabir Roman, publication secretary Boshirul Islam Selu, district Jubo League president Habibur Rahman, secretary Nazrul Islam, and district BCL secretary Siddiqur Rahman Bindu.

Chandan Kumar Pal and Siddiqur Rahman Bindu were arrested recently and they are in jail now.

SI Aziz told this correspondent yesterday that arrest warrants will issued against the rest accused persons. Many of the accused are

on police list and are wanted for their alleged involvement in irregularities and crimes, the SI said.

On November 21 last year, rival factions of Awami League and its front organizations traded fire and staged a chase and counter-chase at a meeting of the 14-party alliance at New Market area in Sherpur town. At least 10 activists of factions were injured in the intra-party clash.

On December 11, SI Akkas Ali of Sherpur police station filed a case against some leaders and activists of AL and its front organisations regarding the incident.

PROF TAHER MURDER CASE Charge framing deferred again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Charge framing in Rajshahi University teacher Prof S Taher Ahmed murder case was deferred again for the fourth time yesterday.

Public Safety Tribunal and Special Sessions Judge's court in Rajshahi fixed June 18 for framing charges as the defense lawyers submitted a petition seeking time.

Meanwhile, the key mastermind-suspects -- Rajshahi University Islami Chhatra Shibir president

Mahbubul Alam Salehi and Rajshahi University teacher Dr Mia Mohammad Mohiuddin submitted prayers for dropping the murder charge against them.

The charge framing date was shifted four times since June 6.

Earlier on June 11, the court deferred the charge framing.

Prof Taher, a teacher geology and mining department, was killed on February 1 last year. His body was recovered from a sewer behind his RU campus residence.

JP leader held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Joint forces yesterday arrested Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) central agricultural secretary Anwar Hossain Shona, 45, from his Dak-Bungalow Road residence here and recovered an illegal revolver from his possession, police said.

There are various allegations against the JP leader who is also the general secretary of Khulna Baby Taxi Drivers' Union. But nobody dared to file any case against him fearing reprisal.

Police said that arrested JP leader used to transport drugs from Benapole to different places of Khulna city and elsewhere by his baby taxis.



PHOTO: STAR

An affected family at Fakirpara village in Kahalu upazila in Bogra taking goats to a safer place yesterday.

300 workers of Star Jute Mills join duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Over 300 workers of state-owned Star Jute Mills joined their work in the Sacking Section of the mills on Tuesday.

Star Jute Mills general manager (GM) Jahangir Alam said six tonnes of jute goods were produced in the mills from Tuesday till noon yesterday. The GM has expected more production with joining of more workers by Saturday.

Star Jute Mill was among three other state owned jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt which were laid off on April 19 in the wake violent agitation by workers demanding payment of arrear wages.

Workers did not join the Sacking Section complying with order of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) chairman issued on May 28. But 315 workers of Star Jute Mills decided to join the Sacking Section following fruitful discussion between the management and CBA leaders.

GM Jahangir Alam said that a decision would be taken to reinstate at least 75 per cent of 245 terminated workers on no work no wages basis.

BJMC zonal coordinator Shamim Ahmed said that workers of three other laid off jute mills were determined to stay away from work in the Sacking Section until they are paid arrear wages and lay off benefits.

'LAND GRABBING' Ex-minister Aminul acquitted of charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

The Third Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge yesterday acquitted former Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Haque and nine other accused of charges in a case of land grabbing in Godagari upazila.

Judge Abu Saleh Shiekh M Zahirul Islam delivered the judgement in absentia of all the accused but a BNP adherent Nazrul Islam who was arrested soon after filing of the case on April 3.

The judge said that the accused were acquitted as the state side failed to prove allegations against them.

Other accused are ex-minister's uncle and Godagari municipal BNP president Rafik Uddin, secretary and Godagari municipal chairman Anwarul Islam, ward commissioner Mofazzal Haq, BNP adherents Ashrafal Haq, Tarikul, Tofazzal Haq, Ahmed Ali, and Eltas Hossain.

Golam Mostafa, a homeopath doctor of Ramnagar village lodged the case with Godagari Police Station accusing the 10 persons.

He alleged that the accused in association with each other forcibly captured a piece of his land measuring 13-decimal at Dayingpara areas on April 13 last year.

The plaintiff also alleged that he was forced to sign an agreement of handing over the land to Godagari Banik Samity president Ashrafal Haq and that he was threatened with death by the accused.

Meanwhile, Barrister Aminul, is now absconding in five other cases including two for patronising militants of Jama'atul Mujahidin, Bangladesh (JMB).

2 lakh marooned in Netrakona

Flood situation improves in Sylhet region

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The flood situation deteriorated in Netrakona and Bogra, inundating more areas in 11 affected upazilas yesterday. The situation however improved in Sylhet and Moulvibazar.

Our Netrakona Correspondent reported that about two lakh people became marooned as more areas reeled under water in Durgapur, Kalmakanda, Atpara, Madan, Mohongonj and Khaliajuri upazilas.

Water Development Board (WDB) sources said water levels of Sumeshowary, Mogra, Kongsha and Dhanu rivers in the district recorded sharp rise in last 24 hours till yesterday noon.

The Dhanu river overflowed its bank in about one kilometre area in Nawtana in Khaliajuri upazila.

Most areas in Birishiri, Kakoyirgora, Gaokandia, Bakoljura unions in Durgapur upazila; Langura, Rangchatti, Karnai, Pogla and Koliati unions in Kalmakanda; Duaz, Sukari, Sunai unions in Atpara went under water.

About five kilometre of the Shibgonj-Ranikong road, the lone road link between Durgapur upazila headquarter and border villages have gone under water from Sumeshowary river.

Floodwater inundated Kalmakanda, Mohaongonj and Khaliajuri upazila headquarters.

Netrakona district town's road links with Durgapur, Kalmakanda and Kendua upazila headquarters have been snapped as portions of roads went under water.

Our Staff reporter reports from Bogra: More areas in about 50 villages in Kshalu, Dupchancha and Nandigram upazilas in Bogra were inundated yesterday.

Bogra-Shantahar railway link is threaten at flood water rose very close to tracks at Fakirpara and some other points in Kahalu upazila.

A large number of affected people have taken shelter at Durgapur Primary School and some other shelters.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent reports: The flood situation in Moulvibazar district improved

yesterday though at least 130 villages in low laying areas of Kamalganj, Kulaura and Rajnagar upazilas were still under water.

Monu and Dholai rivers were decreasing and flowing below their danger marks.

Playing of vehicles resumed on Kamalganj-Adamampur road, Kamalganj-Moulvibazar road and Kamalganj-Srimongal road yesterday as waters receded.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Sylhet: The flood improved in Sylhet region as all the rivers were receding.

The Surma which was flowing 7 centemetres above danger level in Sunamganj district headquarters Tuesday was flowing 11 centemetres below the red mark yesterday.

The Surma and Kushiara were also flowing below their danger marks at all the points, official sources said. There was no rain in Sylhet yesterday.

Adityapur mass killing memory still haunts Sylhet people

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, *Sylhet*

The horrifying memory of June 14 mass killing at Adityapur still haunts the people of Balaganj. On this day, 65 Hindu people were gathered on a false promise, lined up and shot dead by collaborators of Pakistani occupation troops during the Liberation War.

The bodies were dumped near the Tajpur-Balaganj road, about 10 kilometres from Balaganj upazila headquarters.

The mass grave was located just after the Liberation War but a memorial is yet to be erected there.

The people can not forget the way the innocent people were deceived and killed in a planned way. They paid for the trust with their lives.

On the morning of June 14, Rajakars announced that life of Hindu community people is fully secure and they should collect security cards from the army.

They were asked to gather on Adityapur Primary School premises to collect security cards. There was nothing to worry, the collaborators and their leaders assured the minority community people.

All Hindu community men gathered there with big hopes.

All of a sudden, Rajakars with firearms ordered them to line up, tied all of them with ropes and shot them. Only two survived miraculously. All 65 males in the village except Shib Proshad

Sen Chowdhury and Sukhomoy Chandra Dev were brutally killed.

The martyrs included Radhika Ranjan Sen, Shailen Chandra Dev, Dinesh Chandra Dev, Dharendra Chandra Dev, Suresh Chandra dev, Motilal Dev, Sudhir Chandra Dass, Bipul Chandra Dev, Sukhendu Sen, Dakshina Dev, Atul Acharya, Naresh Dass, Hridoy Sukla Baidya Sudhon Das, Dhonai Namosudra, Bihari Namosudra, Bashonta Namosudra, Probat Namosudra, Bolai Namosudra, Mohendra Namosudra, Isham Namosudra, Satish Dass, Dinesh Dev, Naresh Dhar, Digen Dev, Jatindra Dutta Purkayostha, Khokan, Amor Dev, Noni Dev Kolim Shabdokar and Paresh Shabdakar.

The then upazila administration in late 1980s took an initiative to preserve the mass grave. It constructed a boundary wall and a small gate and erected an arch. But those are being destroyed because there is none to take care of those, locals told this correspondent during a visit yesterday.

Court rejects Matin Mehdi's bail prayer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Extortion case

banned militant organization Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB).

His lawyers prayed for his bail. Magistrate Kiron Chandra Roy rejected the prayer.

One Jobed Ali, Imam of

Brahmatat mosque at Malibari village in Gaibandha Sader upazila and headmaster of Borhania Government Primary School, filed an extortion case on April 12, 2004 against 52 people including Matin Mehdi.

In the case, the complainant alleged that the accused persons demanded toll from him and on refusal, ransacked the mosque

and threatened him with dare consequence.

A Jhenaidh court on February 28 last year sentenced Matin Mehdi and 20 other militants to death in absentia in the August 17 bombing.

Matin Mehdi was arrested in Kurigram in April this year along with three associates-- Anwar, Biplob and Jubayer.

