

Police hunt for Subhan, other Pabna Jamaat leaders

All their institutions under watch

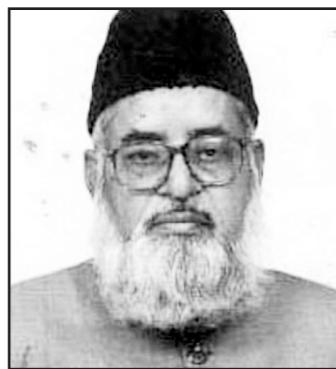
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Most of the institutions controlled by Jamaat-e-Islami in Pabna are under watch after Wednesday's recovery of 160 relief CI sheets from Al-Amana Hospital owned by front ranking Jamaat leader Maulana Abdus Subhan, a former lawmaker from Pabna-5 constituency.

After the recovery drive, police raided the house of Subhan and some other Jamaat leaders in Pabna to nab them but all went into hiding, police sources said yesterday.

There are a number of educational institutions, NGOs and social organisations in Pabna set up and controlled by Jamaat. These include Darul Aman Trust, Muslim Aid—an NGO, Imam Gazzali School and College, Islamia College. More government relief materials might be recovered from the Jamaat-run institutions, sources said.

"Our intelligence branch is watching Jamaat-run establishments after Wednesday's recovery of CI sheets. Muslim Aid, Pabna Darul Aman Trust and Imam Gazzali Institution have been mentioned specially on the watch list",



Abdus Subhan

Officer-in-Charge of Pabna Sadar police station Iqbal Shafi told this correspondent.

Police seized 160 CI sheets from Al-Amana Hospital, an establishment of Jamaat controlled Al-Amana Foundation at Pathertala in Pabna town, owned by Maulana Abdus Subhan.

It followed filing of a case against Abdus Subhan, chairman of Al-Amana Foundation; its vice-president Alhaj Abul Kashem, secretary Moslam Uddin and director of Al-Amana Hospital Nurul

Islam for alleged misappropriation of government relief materials.

Sub-Inspector of Pabna Sadar police station Md. Kamruzzaman filed the case Thursday afternoon. Of the accused, police could arrest only arrested Nurul Islam. He is now in jail after being produced before court. Rest of the accused including Maulana Sobhan are being hunted down, police sources said.

"Pabna police raided residences of Maulana Subhan and the other accused several times but they are absconding", OC Iqbal Shafi said.

Police have submitted application to court to transfer the case to Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

"We have submitted application to Pabna Cognizance Court-1 to transfer the case to Anti-corruption Commission. We talked to the Assistant Director of Pabna Anti-Corruption Commission office," the OC said.

The alleged misappropriation of government CI sheets by Jamaat men has become a talk of the town.

"They (Jamaat men) claimed themselves to be clean. Corruption by them is now coming out. These should be probed and persons

responsible punished," said advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku, secretary of Pabna district Awami League while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

Pabna BNP secretary Habibur Rahman Tota said, "Though Jamaat was a component of 4-Party alliance, we will not own their (Jamaat) misdeeds. We also want probe into the misappropriation of government CI sheets".

Al-Amana Foundation has refuted the allegation of misappropriation of government relief CI sheets. These were sanctioned under legal procedure, said a press release issued by Tariqul Islam on behalf of the Foundation.

"We got sanction of 20 bundles of CI sheets on April 8 last year, made by former lawmaker Maulana Abdus Subhan.

The CI sheets had been sanctioned for Al-Amana Foundation. We applied to Pabna Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer on June 2 this year for permission to use the CI sheets, the press release said.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Lighterage vessel MV Bulu MT-4 was badly damaged (inset) when hit by MV Borshon-3 in front of Kafco jetty at Karnaphuli river confluence on Friday.



Students leaving dormitories yesterday as authorities declared Noakhali Science and Technology closed *sine die* in the face of demonstration to press demands including easing session jam.

An 'open budget session' in remote Kalaroa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a unique day for people at remote Khalishkhali village in Tala upazila.

Over 2000 enthusiastic people took part in a day long 'open budget session' yesterday.

They discussed the budget of Khalishkhali Union Parishad in Kalaroa upazila for 2007-08 financial year.

UP chairman Prof Sabbir Ahmed

'budget session', held on Shibmandir premises near at Khalishkhali Bazar.

The unique programme, first of its kind in the area, was organised by two NGOs - Manusher Jonno Foundation and Agragati Sangstha - to ensure transparency and accountability of local government body.

The local people attended the session with great enthusiasm.

UP chairman Prof. Sabbir Ahmed

presented a budget of over Tk

18,58,950 and urged the people to cooperate with local government leaders to implement various development programmes.

The villagers asked how the money would be spent and also gave suggestions. The session was attended by local elite also.

A gragati Sangstha a director Abdus Sabur was the chief guest while Khalishkhali police camp in-charge Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) Nurul Amin was the

special guest.

Lauding the local government body leaders to face people by holding open budget session, the chief guest said it will help ensure accountability of local government body and transparency in its activities.

They said transparency and accountability is vital for implementing development programs at grassroots level. Besides, such programs will make the people aware of their rights, they said.

Tuition, other fees higher in Barisal public schools

TIB survey reveals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Students of public schools pay more than those of private schools as annual fees and other dues.

They also have to give special amounts to teachers for selection for junior scholarship examination while female students pay for getting sub-scholarship (upobritti).

These were revealed during investigation in Barisal by the Conscious Citizens' Committee (CCC) of Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB).

The findings were presented by CCC member and advocate Manabendra Batabyal at a press conference here yesterday.

The organisers said although district and divisional officials of the administration, education board and education directorate and leaders of teachers organisations were invited but none attend the program, the organisers said.

Barisal CCC members Nurjahan Begum, Mujtaba Mahbub Moshed, Mafuz-Ul-Alam and TIB Programme Officer Khairul Bari

explained the findings at the press conference.

The TIB survey covered students and secondary schools in 198 mahallas in 30 wards of Barisal city and 90 wards and 137 villages in 10 unions in 307.59 square kilometer area of Barisal Sadar upazila.

A total of 382 households in the city and 181 in 30 villages were interviewed.

Among the surveyed students, 58 per cent were female and 42 per cent male. Of them 14 per cent study in public and 86 per cent in private schools.

They acknowledged that National Flag is not hoisted and National Anthem is not sung regularly in their schools.

Frame water policy to avoid eco-disaster

Speakers tell Kushtia dialogue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Karim Khan of Islamic University, Dr. Sahidur Rahman of Rajshahi University and Nazibul Haque of Islamic University.

Government officials, civil society members, NGO representatives, local body leaders and media men attended the dialogue.

Dr. Ainun Nishat presented the keynote paper.

Prof Nasim Banu and Dr. Rabeya Begum of Islamic University moderated the dialogue.

The speakers said flow of Padma has decreased alarmingly due to withdrawal of water at Farakka point in India, leading to drying up of at least 15 tributaries including Gorai.

The Gorai is the most important tributary of the Ganges and serves the need of people of entire south-western region of Bangladesh.

More than 30 million people and 27 rivers in the region depend on the flow of Gorai. At least 27 rivers are drying up as the Gorai is being silted but no government took any effective step to dredge it, they said.

On the other hand, use of underground water for irrigation has increased in the region due to decrease in flow of surface water, which is damaging soil structure and posing a threat to ecology.

This situation will be disastrous if not checked right now, they said.

They suggested construction of Ganges Barrage immediately and creating awareness on various water-related issues.

1x2

2.5x2

3x3



Students at a rally in Kishoreganj town yesterday organised by the municipality marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Smuggling.

8X3

Bangla Bhai's aide held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested a close aide to JMB leader Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai from Hamirkuta in Bagmara upazila yesterday.

Abdul Jalil Sardar, known as Studio Jalil, was caught while he was holding a secret meeting at Hamirkuta.

His companions managed to flee, said police adding that Jalil is a suspect in the murder of Union Parishad chairman Zahangir in the area.

Jalil was a member of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). He joined the anti-outlaw operations led by Bangla Bhai and took part in many killing missions, police said.

Wild elephants trample two brothers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two indigenous brothers were trampled by wild elephants at Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur district early yesterday (Saturday).

The victims were identified as Faruque Sangma, 7, and Sangma, 3, sons of Ilias Sangma of Panihati village at Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur.

Witnesses said 6 to 8 wild elephants attacked Panihati village in border area in Nalitabari upazila at around 4am and trampled Faruque and Bipul.