

ARREST OF SARWAR JAMAL NIZAM

Jamal Uddin's family sees hope for justice

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The traumatised family of Chittagong business magnate and BNP leader Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury sees a ray of hope for justice after the arrest of former lawmaker Sarwar Jamal Nizam on Thursday midnight from in front of Chittagong Club.

Former BNP lawmaker from Chittagong-12 (Anwara) constituency Sarwar Jamal reportedly played a major role in saving his brother Maruf Nizam, the alleged mastermind of sensational abduction and killing of Jamal Uddin.

Jamal Uddin's wife Nazma Akhtar and eldest son Chowdhury Forman Reza Liton always blamed both Sarwar and Maruf for the sensational and one of the most headlined incidents in the country.

"Arrest of Sarwar Jamal is a great news for us. We have long been tormented, mainly, because of the misdeeds done by this man and his brother Maruf. Now we can see a ray of hope for speedy trial and proper justice after his arrest," said Liton.

He urged the government to intensify the hunt for Maruf.

"The arrest of Sarwar is a testament to the present government's neutrality. We believe that they will soon be able to arrest the mastermind (Maruf) behind the abduction and murder of our father," he added.

Liton and his mother said they will file a case against Sarwar soon and seek an appointment of chief adviser and other top government officials in the capital in this regard.

"We will like to meet the chief adviser and others to tell them our agonies, grievances and how we were deprived of justice," they said.

Jamal Uddin's wife Nazma said we have been deprived of justice for long due to Sarwar Jamal. He delayed and disturbed the trial of the case using his influence, alleged Nazma.

Jamal Uddin was kidnapped in the evening of July 24, 2003 while he was returning to his residence at Chandgaon in the port city from his business firm at Chawk Bazar.

His body was recovered from a



Nazma Akter and her elder son Forman Reza Liton have a closer look at the skeleton of businessman Jamal Uddin at the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) office in Chittagong on August 24 in 2005.

remote and inaccessible hilly and forest area at South Kanchan Nagar under Fatikchhari upazila on August 24, 2005, two years and one month after his abduction.

It is alleged that fair investigation into the case has been dilly-

dallied or doctored at the behest of the former lawmaker.

The first charge sheet, submitted by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Anwar Hossain, excluded the name of Maruf. Then the court ordered for submission of a sup-

plementary charge sheet after re-investigation.

CID ASP Hamidul Haq then re-investigated into the case and submitted the supplementary charge sheet. But, the case had a High Court stay order issued on December 12, 2006.

LACK OF MODERN EQUIPMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Ctg Fire Service helpless

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Members of Fire Service and Civil Defence are to risk their lives during rescue operations for lack of modern equipment and human resources.

The need for modern equipment and human resources was strongly felt when the fire fighters rushed for rescue operation side by side with the members of joint forces during the June 11 rain-induced devastating landslides and inundation.

Equipped with spades, axes and hoes, the fire fighters looked simply helpless since the call for rescue operations started coming from different affected areas on the day.

Around 125 fire fighters from 12 fire stations in the port city and the districts were engaged in the round-the-clock rescue operation that continued until June 14 in the affected areas.

The fire fighters exhaust with limited manpower and equipment when they carry out operation to rescue landslide victims at Lalkhan Bazar, Kusumbagh and Pahartali Bazar area, waterlogged people at low-lying areas like Halishahar, Dewan Bazar, Hamzarbagh, Muradpur, Sulakbahar and many others who remained under waist-deep water until the next day.

Sirajul Islam Tarafder, Senior Station Officer (SSO) of Bayezid Fire Station, led a 20-member rescue team at Lebu Bagan, Kaichyaghona and Sekandar Colony in Chittagong Cantonment areas where landslides buried 71 people alive.

Sirajul said, "We could rescue 40 people alive and retrieve only several bodies from the debris until afternoon working side by side with the joint forces."

"We needed more human resources to dig out the bodies trapped in 10 to 20 feet deep debris with spades," he said.

"For lack of walky-talky we could not contact the higher officials to let them know the latest situation for necessary guidelines or instructions from them," he said.

"We had to come to our vehicle kept some 200 yards away from the spots to contact the control room and high officials in divisional headquarters," he added.

Shortage of bulldozers and mobile crane or wreckers delayed rescue operations at Pahartali and Agrabad Choumuhani where wall collapse caused casualties on the day, said fire fighter Manik.

The fire fighters were forced to carry out rescue operation wading through chest-deep water or swimming in the inundated areas at Hamzarbag, Muradpur and Sulakbahar on June 11 as they had no portable boat.

Besides, the life-guns (equipment used for throwing floating ropes to rescue people caught up in strong current or being carried away by water) procured before the War of Liberation have ropes that lost longevity long before and left unused for long, said the fire fighters.

The department lacks in sufficient equipment like turntable ladder, snorkel, foam-tender, lighting unit, emergency tender, fire proof uniform, rescue rope required for both



Fire fighters equipped with mere spade and axe are spraying water to get the earth loosen during a rescue operation in Lebu Bagan area adjacent to the Chittagong Cantonment after June 11 rain-induced landslide and inundation.

fire fighting and other rescue operation, they said.

It has only one snorkel at its Agrabad station in the port city against three required for the station.

There is no turntable ladder, which is indispensable for carrying out rescue operation in the high-rise buildings, for the department in the Chittagong division, said Subhash Chandra Devnath of Chandanpura Fire Station.

The only emergency tender, a vehicle equipped with around 350 different rescue equipment, was procured during Pakistan period for the Fire Service Headquarters at Agrabad, said Kamal Uddin Bhuiyan, Senior Station Officer of Agrabad Fire Station.

Of the rescue equipments of the Emergency Tender, around 300 have lost durability 10 to 12 years ago, he added,

There are 39 fire stations in greater Chittagong division. Of them, 14 are A-grade stations, 22 B-grade and three C-grade fire stations, sources said.

Some 596 fire fighters are working in these fire stations against the 698 approved posts.

Rashidul Islam Mazumder, deputy director of Fire Service, said it needs to double the number of human resources at the fire service stations to meet the present need.

"We could not sent sufficient number of fire fighters in many areas on June 11 to conduct rescue operation due to lack of human resources," he said.

He underscored the need for creating a reserve force of the fire fighters to respond instantly for rescue operation during natural calamities like that of June 11.

Contribution of Sufia Kamal recalled

Chittagong Social Development Forum (CSDF) observed the 96th birth anniversary of poet Begum Sufia Kamal on Thursday.

The CSDF organised the programme with its Chairperson SM Nazer Hossain in the chair. General Secretary Iqbal Bahar Saberi presented a paper on the poet.

Speakers recalled the contribution of Sufia Kamal to literature as well as the Language Movement and the War of Liberation.

"She played a vital role in all cultural and democratic movements as a poet and free thinker," they said.

They called upon all to come forward with similar spirit like her to stop repression on women and protect women's rights in the society.

Non-government organisation Elma Executive Director Jesmin Sultana, Nawjoan Executive Director Imam Hossain Chowdhury, Association of Development Agencies of Bangladesh (ADAB) Chittagong Chapter Coordinator Subrata Dutta, Mamata Project Director Swapna Talukdar, Drishti Executive Director Helal Uddin and CSDF Programme Officer Shampa Kamrun Nahar spoke at the function.

Unilever relief for landslide-hit people

Unilever Bangladesh handed over relief goods to army for the affected people of landslides and heavy downpour in Chittagong on Friday.

Company Supply Chain Director Imran Momin handed over the relief goods to Col Reza at MA Aziz Stadium Army Camp.

The relief goods included 1,000 pieces of shawls, 1,000 pieces of lungi and five tonnes of lentil.

Unilever General Factory Manager Rajib Barua, Factory Personnel Manager Mohammad Sanullah and Personnel Services Manager Mohammad Shahabuddin were present.

Seminar on homeopathy

held

A scientific seminar of Bangladesh Homeopathic Parishad Chittagong Metropolitan unit was held at Dewanhat Ashtma Complex on Friday.

The unit President Dr Mridul Kanti Dey presided over the seminar while Dr Nasim Ahmed was the main speaker.

Speakers said homeopathy is very effective in preventing the fatal disease pneumonia.

Parishad General Secretary Dr Jasim moderated the seminar while Dr Sultan Ahmed Bhuiyan, Dr Didarul Alam, Dr Nezam Uddin, Dr Anisur Rahman, Dr Sheikh Mostafa Kamal, Dr Tahmina Begum and Dr Faruk Ahmed took part in the discussion.

Salary, allowances get priority in CU budget

Chittagong University (CU) authorities allocated Tk 46.70 crore for salary and other allowances in its Tk 67.76 crore budget for the 2007-08 while education got Tk 4.31 crore.

Allocation for salary and allowances of the teachers and other staffs was Tk 44.20 crore in the last fiscal year, Tk 37.86 crore in 2005-2006 and Tk 31.08 crore in 2004-2005.

The amount allocated for education was Tk 4 crore 91 thousand in the last FY while it was Tk 3.91 crore in 2005-2006 and Tk 3.39 crore in 2004-2005.

For general expenditure Tk 6.47 crore was allocated for the next fiscal

year against Tk 6.61 crore in 2006-2007, Tk 3.07 crore in 2005-2006 and Tk 5.50 crore in 2004-2005.

Tk 2.97 crore was kept for repair and maintenance for the next year while Tk 2.90 crore was in 2006-2007, Tk 5.62 crore in 2005-2006 and Tk 3.12 crore in 2004-2005, said the sources.

CU Finance Committee (FC) and Syndicate on June 18 approved the budget of Tk 67,76,88,000 for 2007-08 with a deficit of Tk 2,65,88,000.

Academia English Club starts journey

Academia English Club started its journey aiming to make a platform for practising English language by the young generation in the port city on Friday.

Former Head of Chittagong Government College English Department Prof Ajit Kumar Das was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony with Prof Abdul Kalyum Nizami in the chair.

Speakers emphasised the necessity of English language for social and economic freedom in the ongoing global situation.

The Club Convener SM Mokaddes Ahmed Dipu, Prof Atikullah Chowdhury, Refayat Kabir Shaon and Rahima Begum Munni spoke at the function.

Later, an open discussion on 'Care-taker government and our expectation' was also held.

Amin Textiles

workers demand arrear salaries

Amin Textiles Limited and Extension Unit Workers and Employees Association on Friday demanded arrear salaries of at least two months

out of 12.

In a statement, members of the association said the workers and employees of the textile mill have been leading a miserable life as the mill remained closed for four months while they were not getting salaries for 12 months.

Earlier, tender was floated to reopen the mill, but it could not be

opened due to lack of approval from the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), said the statement.

The signatories of the statement included Jahirul Islam, Tapan Kumar Dey, Anwar Hossain, Abdus Sabur, Abul Kashem, Shahadat Hossain, Abdul Momin, Mezbahul Karim, Mohammad Selim, Abul Bashar and



Renowned social scientist Dr Anupam Sen addresses a discussion marking the 250th anniversary of the battle of Palashi that put this sub-continent under a 200 years of British colonial rule in 1757. Siraj Utsab Udjapan Parishad, a socio-cultural organisation, organised the function at Theatre Institute Chittagong on Saturday.



A butterfly sits on a flower at a plant showcased at a tree fair at Laldighi Maidan in the port city. Department of Forest (DoE) and Chittagong City Corporation jointly organised the 15-day tree fair that ended on Sunday.