

Jhenidah Jubo Dal leader held for 'extortion'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Joint forces arrested Jhenidah Poura Jubo Dal secretary yesterday noon.

Arrestee Ahsan Habib,31, is also president of Red Crescent Society in Jhenidah town.

Police said, Ahsan Habib was arrested from his Red Crescent Society office on charge of extortion, doing violence and anarchy.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge (OC) Iqbal Ali of Jhenidah Sadar police station confirmed the arrest. Asked, the OC said there is no case againstAhsan.

He was being interrogated at the Sadar police station, the OC said.

Four bombs recovered in Belkuchi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Four bombs were recovered from Gopalpur Charkadaho in Belkuchi upazila in Sirajganj yesterday.

Police recovered the bombs wrapped with red tapes from the courtyard of Hazi Momen Ali.

Police said miscreants might have kept the bombs to create panic among people.

10 jute workers to go on hunger strike for arrears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Ten out of 2,500 retrenched workers of state-owned Crescent Jute Mills at Khalishpur have vowed to go on hunger strike until death from September 16 if Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) fails to pay arrear wages, gratuity, provident fund and all other dues by September 15.

They are Golam Mustafa, Abdus Sobhan, Md Moniruzzaman, Khandaker A Mohit, Md Joinal, Abdus Sattar, Abdul Mannan, Babul Howlader, Entajuddin and Mujibar Rahman.

BJMC, ministry of jute and management of Crescent Jute Mills will be held responsible for any untoward incident during their hunger strike, they said in a statement yesterday.

They said in the statement that some retrenched workers died without treatment since the jute mill was laid off in April. Many workers have already taken to begging, they claimed.

According to acting project Director Md Asaduzzaman, the mill needs over Tk 100 crore for payment of all arears of retrenched workers.

8 'outlaws' arrested in Meherpur, Rajbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in several raids in Meherpur and Rajbari arrested eight alleged outlaws along with arms.

Of them, four are cadres of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP), arrested in Rajbari and the rest four were held in Meherpur. Law enforcers also recovered three arms and eight bullets. The raids were conducted from Monday night till early yesterday, police said.

In Meherpur, a Rab team led by Flight Lieutenant Galib raided two areas in Gangni upazila Monday night and arrested three alleged cadres of Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). The arrestees are Sahin, Zahidrul and Haseem Ali.

Rab said they arrested Sahin from Mathpara village at about 5:30am Tuesday. Acting on his

information, they arrested Zahirul from Ramnagar and Hasem from Bazrapur villages and recovered a gun and four bullets.

In another raid, Gangni police arrested Abdur Rashid, a cadre of Lal Pataka (red flag) faction of PBCP from Harirampur village in the Meherpur Sadar upazila early yesterday (Wednesday).

Police raided the house of one Rashid at about 5:30am and arrested him. Acting on his confession, they recovered a country made pistol and four bullets, hidden in his house.

Police said the arrested people were accused in different cases including rape, abduction and extortion, filed with different police stations in the district.

All were being interrogated at Rab and police offices when the report was filed at yesterday afternoon.

In Rajbari, Pangsha police raided the house of one Chikon Ali at

Subornakola village at about 6:30pm Tuesday and arrested Ebadat Ali.

Ebadat was a top cadre of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP), police said.

Police recovered a gun and two bullets from his possession.

Later police arrested Lakhan and Gonesh, two accomplices of Ebadat.

Police said Ebadat is accused in at least 12 cases including four for murder.

Police yesterday produced them before a magistrate court, which sent them to jail.

In another raid, Rajbari Sadar police arrested Lutfor Rahman Bachhu from Rohinpur village at about 4:30am yesterday.

Bachhu was accused in a case for murder of a policeman last year.

Police was interrogating Bachhu when the report was filed in the afternoon.

Save people of Kabodak basin

Speakers demand at Tala meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at meeting yesterday urged the government to take immediate steps to resolve the persisting water-logging problem in 221 villages in Tala and Kalaroa upazilas in Kabodak river basin.

Over 75,000 people are marooned and their 25000- hectare croplands are uncultivable due to water logging caused by flooding from silted Kabodak.

As the river is silted, it can not retain water, which overflows its banks, they said.

The problem has destroyed the livelihood of the people, who are in great miseries for long.

Most of areas in the villages are

inundated by ankle to knee-deep water.

The villagers have little access to safe drinking water and sanitation, which have made them vulnerable to diseases, they said. Most the tube wells have gone under water.

Scores of houses have been damaged as the homesteads are under water since June, they said.

Over 227 families who lost their houses in the area have taken shelter on high lands, the speakers said.

Re-excavation of silted Kabodak is the only solution to the problem but no step has yet been taken in this regard, they said.

The meeting was organized by Oxfam and local NGO Uttaran who are working to mitigate the suffer-

ings of the affected people. Held at Uttaran office at Patkelghata in Tala upazila, the meeting was also attended by local journalists of national dailies and the electronic media and NGO officials.

Earlier, the two NGOs organised a tour of the area by journalists.

The water-logging problem persists in the area since 1987-88 as the Kabodak riverbed was silted. The flood water from the river can not be drained out as all its natural outlets are now clogged due to deposit of silt and encroachment, the speakers said.

The water-logging poses threat also to the ecology as vegetation, wildlife and livestock are affected, they said.



An inundated homestead in Putiakhal village in Tala upazila due to persistent water-logging in the area.

PHOTO: STAR

Verdict in Sylhet JMB explosives case Sept 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Verdict in the explosives recovery case filed after arrest of JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman will be delivered on September 12.

Judge of Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, Diproman Sarker, fixed the date after argument in the case yesterday.

The explosives were recovered from a house in Sylhet city during arrest of Abdur Rahman.

However, the prime accused in the case--JMB's Sylhet regional chief Moulana Saidur Rahman, former (expelled) chief of Habiganj district Jamat, is absconding since the arrest of Abdur Rahman, his family and some other JMB men on March 2 last year.

Rapid Action battalion (Rab) recovered the explosives from a house in Hatimbagh area of the town following confession of Abdur rahman's body guard Abdul Aziz alias Hanif, one of the JMB activists arrested on March 2.

These included seven packets of resistance wire, 1000 pressure switch, 1000 capacitors, 600 integrated circuits (IC), one volt meter, one high voltage battery, one pack of emitter diode. A belt (used for strapping bombs), knives, daggers, light bulbs etc were also recovered from the house.

The houses was rented to JMB activists by Saidur Rahman.

The house was raided several hours after the surrender and arrest of Shaikh Rahman, his family men and others in the morning of March 2.

A case was recorded with Sylhet Kotwali police station under the Explosives Act.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Three Rajshahi University teachers (from left) Prof Dulal Chadra Biswas, Prof Abdullah Al Mamun and Prof Syed Selim Reza Newton being taken to jail after surrender to court in Rajshahi yesterday.

5.5x3

SUST reopens on Sep 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Classes in all departments of the Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) will resume on September 10.

The decision was taken at a meeting of SUST Syndicate yesterday. All dormitories will open at 10 am on September 8.

The university was closed *sine die* on August 23 in the face of students' demonstration following incidents in Dhaka University.

Police foil early marriage bid

OUR Ccorrespondent, Gaibandha

Police foiled an early marriage attempt at Bhagabanpur village under Palashbari upazila on Tuesday.

A marriage was arranged between Monjura Khatun, 14 and Rubel Mia, 24, son of Parchu Sheikh of Bhagabanpur village under Plashbari upazila.

On getting information police stopped the marriage. A case was filed against marriage registrar, father of bridegroom and guardians of bride.

TRIAL OF 9 ALLAHAR DAL ACTIVISTS

3 witnesses testify before court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three witnesses testified before the court of First Class Magistrate Jalal Saifur Rahman in Kushtia yesterday in the case against nine arrested activists of Allahar Dal.

The witnesses were Badsha, Hafizur Rahman and Alamgir Hossain of Pyiaratala area in Kushtia town.

The court fixed September 13 for deposition by the investigation officer (IO) of the case. Sub-Inspector (SI) Islamil Hossain of Kushtia Sadar police station is the IO of the case.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-12 in Kushtia in a nightlong drive arrested them from different areas of the district on June 5.

They are Nazmul hassan, Tipu Sultan, Jahir Uddin, Tasnim-al-Alam, Ranak Mohammad Rakib

Mondol, Shafiqul Islam Sumon, Lokman Hossain, all hailing from different areas of Kushtia, bappi Shahriar of Manikganj and Murad Sharif of Faridpur.

Tasnim is the son of Abdul Wahed, Kushtia district Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami. Tasnim was treasurer of Kushtia district unit of Allar Dal.

Earlier, the arrested persons told police and court that they were members of Allar Dal.

Trial of the case began in Kushtia Speedy Trial Tribunal on August 20. They were arrested under the Special Powers Act.

According to sources, the court yesterday asked the witnesses about Jihadi books during the arrest of Ranak Mohammad Rakib Mondol on June 5. He was Kushtia district 'Nayak' (district chief) of Allahr Dal.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Acting on a tip off, BDR intercepted a truck at Ranihat on the road to Sona Moajid land port in Chapainawabganj and seized 60 gas cylinders Tuesday night. The driver escaped, BDR said.

8x3

10x3