

LOOTING PARTY MAN'S HOUSE Ex-BNP MP among 11 charge-sheeted in Ullapara

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Former BNP lawmaker M Akbar Ali and ten other party men in Ullapara were charged yesterday in a case for attacking and looting the house of another partyman.

The officer-in-charge of Ullapara police station submitted the charge sheet to Chief Judicial Magistrate Court yesterday. The rest of the 11 BNP men include Ullapara Science College principal Hamidul Huq Munshi, former commissioner of Ullapara Municipality Shahidul Islam and Golam Ambia.

The name of Akbar Ali's wife Momena Ali was dropped from the charge sheet, sources said.

BNP activist Shahidul Islam Dula of Jhikira village in Ullapara filed the case with Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in Sirajganj on September 2 last year against the 11 persons for attacking and looting his house during four-party alliance rule.

The court asked the officer-in-charge of Ullapara police station to investigate the allegation.

'Raise voice against opponents of women policy'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a discussion meeting here yesterday vowed to raise their voices against those who are opposing implementation of the National Women Development Policy 2008, calling it anti-Islamic.

They also urged all sections of people to create awareness about the policy and false propaganda by a section of clerics.

The meeting organised by Satkhira district unit of Mahila Parishad was held at Satkhira Bar Association auditorium with Shikha Haldar in the chair.

It was addressed by representatives of professional groups.

They hailed the government for announcing the policy and said it does go against Islam. Rather, Islam has given rights and honour to women, which is denied by a section of people.

They said women are repressed at home and at work places. Social development is not possible without women's empowerment and establishing their equal rights.

They also criticised the government for its soft stance against those who opposed the policy.

They urged the government to cancel the review committee formed to recommend amendment to the policy.

Combing operation against outlaws soon in Rajshahi

High level meeting today to review
situation and strategy

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

A massive combing operation will be launched in outlaw infested areas in Rajshahi 'within days' to nab the criminals.

The special operation is being launched against the backdrop of the May 2 attack on Tahirpur police outpost and killing of a policeman and aimed at dismantling their organisations ahead of the planned parliamentary and local body elections, high police officials said.

The apprehension of outlaws' activity during polls surfaced following investigation into the Tahirpur attack and analysis of previous killings by outlaws, they said.

Outlaws were used by political leaders in previous elections. A section of dishonest politicians maintain secret relation with outlaws and use them against opponents during election.

Home Affairs Adviser Maj. Gen (Retd) MA Matin is likely to review the situation at a divisional meet-

ing of top officials of law enforcing agencies today in Rajshahi, the sources said.

"Outlaws or any other criminals will not be allowed to influence polls. We must achieve some good results (in action against outlaws) ahead of the elections", said Rajshahi divisional DIG Mokhesur Rahman.

"Our forces are working to neutralise the strength of outlaws", he said.

The divisional police chief admitted that outlaws have built a 'strong network' in Rajshahi region and they were getting funds.

Alongside the operation, campaign will be launched in outlaw-infested areas to allay fear from minds of people and to motivate them to help law enforcers to flush out the criminals.

Strength at police stations and outposts will be increased and vigilance strengthened, the sources said.

Security at jails have been

tightened so that the arrested top outlaws can not contact their cadres outside.

The steps will also include engaging special intelligence units to identify outlaws, their patrons, shelter providers and sources of funding. Political leaders suspected of patronising outlaws in the past and beneficiaries of previous murders of politicians will also be under watch, they said.

However, talking to this correspondent, some senior police officials said it is difficult to gather information about outlaws as party workers belonging to different tiers do not know activities of other groups. "When one of them is caught, he can not give information about cadres in other tiers", said an official.

In Tahirpur incident, one group planned the attack and the other group made the attack. The attackers only carried out the order but did not know the planners, he said.

4 'outlaws' held in three districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Four alleged outlaws were arrested from Rajshahi, Kushtia and Rajbari districts yesterday and the day before.

Our Rajshahi Staff Correspondent reports: Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two alleged outlaws from Durgapur Bazar in connection with the May 2 attack on Tahirpur police outpost and killing of a policeman.

The arrestees are Faisal Chowdhury, 25, of Tilipara and Abdus Salam, 38, of Aujunpara in Bagmara upazila.

A Rab press release said, acting on a tip-off, a Rab team from Rajshahi Railway Colony camp caught the two persons.

Our Kushtia Correspondent reports: Police arrested two alleged cadres of the outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) from Kushtia and Rajbari districts Thursday night.

Police also recovered arms and ammunition from their possession.

In Kushtia district, Kumarkhali

police arrested alleged NBCP cadre Sahidul Islam from Chapra village in Kumarkhali upazila at about 12.30 pm.

Police recovered one LG gun and two bullets from his possession.

Police said Sahidul was an accused in an arms case filed with Kumarkhali police station.

In Rajbari district, police raided Pirali para village in Kumarkhali upazila and arrested Tofazzal Hossain, 46, at about 11.30 pm.

Tofazzal was allegedly one of the close associates of NBCP chief Akdil Hossain who had been killed in 'crossfire' with police on April 1.

Police recovered a shutter gun and six bullets from his possession.

Hailing from Matla village in Saikupa upazila in Jhenidah district, Tofazzal was an accused in several extortion cases filed with different police stations in Rajbari and Kushtia districts.

After interrogation, both the criminals were produced before courts from where they were sent to jail, court sources said.

110MW Khulna power plant silent again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The 110MW power plant of Khulna Power Station (KPS) went out of order as the tape of control slab of ID fan tore off on Thursday afternoon.

The incident in 24-year old power plant is second of its kind in seven days and 24th in last 14 months.

When asked, KPS chief engineer could not say when the power plant will resume power generation.

Installed in 1984, the power plant made in Czechoslovakia underwent major overhauling for the first time in 1989.

A reliable source of KPS said the overhauling works were inadequate and the power plant goes out of order due to technical glitches mainly caused by leakages in boiler tubes and unusual vibration of ID fan, said engineer Rezaul Karim of KPS.

The power plant was supposed to undergo second overhauling in 1995 and third overhauling last year. But it could not be done as the 60MW power plant was out of order.

Saline water of Bhairab River was been a major problems for the plant to continue generation without disturbance.

When asked, Chief Engineer Abdul Khaleque stressed urgent setting up of a desalination plant at the KPS.

With worsening power outage problem in south-western region comprising ten districts in Khulna division, six in Barisal division and five in greater Faridpur, only 240 MW was supplied there against the need of 630 MW on Thursday.

The duration of load shedding of electricity has increased, adding to sufferings of people and disturbing production in mills and factories.

RU newsmen protest new rules set by authorities

RU CORRESPONDENT

The working journalists of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of the new rules and regulations imposed by the university authorities for doing journalism on the campus.

The university authorities sent a letter headlined 'Primary concept of news and some rules of journalism' on Thursday to the university press club executives.

The university authorities set 22 rules to do journalism on the campus.

Journalists were asked to mention the news sources while writing reports for their authenticity. Journalists should have a clear idea before writing corruption stories, the rule said. Newspapers should not have conflicts with each other, the rule said adding newsmen should not hurt the religious sensitivity while writing news.

On receipt of the letter, the working journalists on the campus met the vice chancellor (VC), Prof Altaf Hossain at his office the same day.

The VC asked them to strictly abide by the rules.

Local body polls before national election

Anwarul Iqbal says

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) advisor Md Anwarul Iqbal yesterday said the government is seriously considering to hold Upazila and Zila Parishad elections before parliamentary election.

Iqbal said this while addressing two opinion-sharing meetings with the administration officials and civil society members in Kumarkhali upazila.

The present caretaker government is working to ensure democracy at all levels. A meaningful and functional local government is very much essential to establish democracy at higher level, the LGRD advisor said.

He said the government allocated Tk 900 crore to establish local markets across the country to boost rural economy where rural farmers can sell their produces directly to villagers.

The first meeting was held at Upazila Parishad auditorium with upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Nuruzzaman in the chair and the second meeting was held at the Pourasabha Bhaban with its chairman Ansar Pramanik in the chair.

Among others, the meeting was addressed by the superintendent (SP) of police of Kushtia Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, Union Parishad (UP) chairman Lutfar Rahman and school teacher Subhaschandra Biswas.

'Robber' beaten dead in Madaripur

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Villagers beat to death an alleged robber at Bachamara in Shibchar upazila in the district early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Saidur Rahman Bepari, 35, of nearby Beparikandi village.

When a gang of four robbers stormed the house of Chandu Matabbar at Bachamara village at about 2:00am, the villagers caught one of them, Saidur, locals said.

They gouged out his eyes, stabbed him and beat him to death.

Three other robbers, however, managed to escape.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Livelihood crisis in CHT forces jhum farming on 3 lakh acres

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

At least three lakh acres of hilly lands is used for *jhum* cultivation every year, adding to massive soil erosion, depletion of forests including reserved ones and extinction of wildlife in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Revealing the fact, sources at forest department and Agriculture Extension Department (AED) said over 40 thousand acres of different reserve forests have also been burnt for the same purpose.

Environmentalists have warned of natural disaster in the hilly region if such ecology damaging work goes on year after year.

On the other hand, the output of *jhum* cultivation is not satisfactory. A *jhum* farmer gets about one tonne of rice from each acre.

Attempt to make farmers aware of the problems proved futile as *jhum* farmers are yet to be provided with alternative means of farming or livelihood, forest officials, *jhum* Control Department and AED sources said.

Most of the *jumiya* farmers have no permanent residence or legal documents as they are engaged in cultivation at different places in different years. It is a

serious problem in Rangamati. Khagrachhari Bandarban hill districts, said officials of forest department and AED.

Considering the vital issue, the government formed CHT *jhum* Control Department in 1983-1984 to check continuous *jhum* cultivation.

Under a project, the department rehabilitated 2,000 families by giving five acres of land each. Those settled families did not engage in further environment-damaging activities, sources said.

But the project was declared closed in 2000.

Over two lakh *jumiya* families, who often face uncertainty about livelihood, are involved in environment-damaging activities, officials said.

Pradip Chowdhury, programme supervisor of Centre for Sustainable Development, said *jhum* cultivation causes much harm to our natural environment by destroying forests and harming wild lives and birds.

Besides, no crops grow well for next five years if the land is used for *jhum* cultivation, he said.

Usually *jhum* cultivation washes away the upper part micronutrients of soil, which caused massive

soil erosion, Mahalchhari upazila Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer Pranab Barua said.

The serious floods that occurred about six month ago caused huge losses to lives and properties in hill district Bandarban and Khagrachhari. People of CHT did not see such kind of flood in last 50 years. Massive soil erosion is an important cause of that flood, he said.

As this correspondent asked several farmers whether they know that soil erosion, destruction of forests including reserved ones and extinctions of birds and animals are caused due to *jhum* cultivation on hill slopes, they said they never thought about it.

Divisional Forest Officer of Khagrachhari, Ali Kabir said most of the unclassified forests have been destroyed due to *jhum* cultivation. It is also damaging birds and animals' natural habitat in the forests, he said.

TM Monjurul Islam, deputy director of Khagrachhari AED, said they have scientific plan for cultivating on hill slopes that will not cause soil erosion.

But before that *jhum* farmers need to be made aware, he said.



Jhum farming at a cleared forestland in Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari.



Fishing boats anchored on the bank of Andhar Manik River in Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali awaiting distribution among Sidr victim fishermen. Arranged by the Army, a boat will be given to a group of 20 fishermen.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

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Managing Director, Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Polish, Narshingdi, Bangladesh invites sealed quotation (Single Envelope System) for Import of Materials mentioned against the following tenders on CFR(C) Cig Sea Port delivery basis.

Sl No.	Tender No. & Date	Description of Materials	Cost of tender Doc (non-refundable) per set	Tender security	Last date for submission of tender
01.	Com/3. 352/07-08 Dt. 07-05-08	Three Phase Induction Motor (550 Kw)	Tk. 350/-	Tk. 96,600/-	25-06-2008
02.	Com/2. 345/07-08 Dt. 07-05-08	Ammonia Condenser for Seamless Carbon Steel Tube	Tk. 150/-	Tk. 25,000/-	25-06-2008
03.	Com/5. 350/07-08 Dt. 07-05-08	Vanadium Pentoxide (V ₂ O ₅)	Tk. 200/-	Tk. 52,000/-	25-06-2008
04.	Com/3. 190/06-07 Dt. 07-05-08	Electrical Spare Parts (31 items)	Tk. 100/-	Tk. 11,500/-	25-06-2008
05.	Com/2. 353/07-08 Dt. 07-05-08	Process Gas Cooler (Reforming Gas Waste Heat Boiler)	Tk. 500/-	Tk. 650,000/-	25-06-2008

Tenders will be received in the Tender Box, kept in the office of General Manager (Commercial), Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Polish, Narshingdi, Bangladesh & will be opened immediately thereafter closing at 11.00am on the date mentioned above in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representative (if any). The tender documents will be available from (1) Accounts Division, BCIC Head Office, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong & (3) PUFFL's Accounts Dept.

Due to unavoidable circumstances if the tender is not received/opened on the date & time mentioned above, the same will be received/opened on the next working days. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Kazi Shahadat Hossain
General Manager (Commercial)
For Managing Director