

High alert in Khulna divn jails

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

All jails in Khulna division were put on high alert from yesterday on order from the Inspector General of Prisons.

The official order signed by AIG Prisons Md Mizanur Rahman was sent to jail superintendents in ten districts under Khulna division. The letters asked the superintendents to take 'extra cautionary measures and keep sharp watch on movement of detained extremists'.

The jail authorities have also been asked to watch movement of detained cadres of JMB and VIP prisoners.

Besides, authorities of jails have also been directed to strictly enforce the jail code and take stern action against violators.

If necessary, anti-riot team may be called inside jails, the letters said.

Jail superintendents would be held responsible for any undesirable situation due to non-compliance of the order, the letters said.

6 looted rifles recovered in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police in the early hours of yesterday recovered six rifles looted from an ansar camp in Bhaluka upazila after about one and a half hours of their loot.

A gang of criminals numbering about 12 stormed into the ansar camp situated near Safa Steel Mills in Bhaluka at deep night and looted the rifles and 118 bullets from the on-duty ansars. Before looting the arms and ammunition, criminals fastened the ansars with rope, police said.

Being informed, a police team rushed to the spot and started searching the rifles. Following search for about one and a half hours, police found the rifles in an abandoned state near the spot. But they could 'nbt' recover the looted bullets.

Police held nine ansars of the camp for interrogation, Bhaluka Police Station officer-in-charge said. They were being interrogated till filing of the report yesterday evening.

Two high police officials visited the spot.

Bombs, Indian fertiliser seized

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in separate drives in last two days in six northern districts seized 47 bombs, and Indian fertiliser, currency and vaccine.

Rab arrested seven persons including arms and drug traders.

Rajshahi Rab in a drive at D e v p r i v a l l e g e in Chapainawabganj yesterday recovered 47 bombs from the house of one Ranju and arrested two arms traders.

They are Nasir Uddin and Lalu Mia.

Rab also seized 165 bags of Indian potash fertiliser worth about Tk 25,800 from Shibgang in Bogra and Kandia in Gaibandha.

BNP BIGWIGS OUT OF SCENE IN RAJSHAHI, NATURE, NAOGAON

Jamaat wants tickets in JS seats of Aminul, Dulu, Nadim

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

As some BNP bigwigs may not be able to run the polls race, the party is in great problem in selecting candidates in five constituencies in Rajshahi, Naogaon and Natore.

Taking this opportunity, Jamaat-e-Islam is lobbying hard to field candidates in at least three of the seats.

As a possible way out, Rajshahi BNP has invited party chief Khaleda Zia to contest from one of the six seats in Rajshahi.

"We have candidates from within the party, yet we invited Khaleda Zia run in any Rajshahi seat. We want to retain the seats we held for three terms", said district BNP president Azizur Rahman.

According to disclosure made by JMB chief Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai and police investigation, the then telecommunication minister Barrister Aminul Haque patronised Islamist militants by using police and administration during BNP-Jamaat government and barred authorities in Rajshahi to take action against militants in 2004-05. Aminul was elected from Rajshahi-1 in 2001 polls.

Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, Rajshahi Mayor and former lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Minu and former MPs Nadim Mostafa (Rajshahi-4) and Alamgir Kabir (Naogaon-6) also patronised JMB.

Rajshahi-1 (Godagari-Tanore)

Aminul Haque, who won from Rajshahi-1 three times since 1991 went into hiding after 1/11. He was jailed for 31

years in a case for abetting militancy. Haque, now abroad, is unwilling to contest in the changed scenario.

"Instead, he (Aminul) has requested for selecting one of his brothers", said Godagari BNP general secretary Anwarul Islam.

Jamaat central assistant secretary general Mujibur Rahman announced that he would seek alliance ticket from Rajshahi-1.

Natore-2 (Natore Sadar)

Dulu who allegedly held a meeting with JMB leader Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai in March 2004 is sentenced to 18 years imprisonment in two cases for abetting arson prior to militant activities.

"We are yet to finalise..." said Natore BNP general secretary Shahidul Islam Bachchu. If Dulu can not contest, his wife Sabina Yasmin Chhobhi or he would seek nomination, said Bachchu.

BNP national executive committee member Sirajul Islam and district Jamaat Ameer M Yunus Ali are also lobbying for nomination.

Naogaon-6 (Raninagar-Atrai)

Alamgir Kabir won this seat three times since 1991. He was sued in two cases for abetting militancy, but his name was dropped from charge sheet. He left BNP to join the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in late 2006.

District BNP president Zalal Ahmed

Bokul, vice-president Anwar Hossain Bulu, law secretary AZM Rafikul Alam and Col (retd) Abdul Latif Khan are also lobbying for ticket.

Rajshahi-2 (city)

In absence of former BNP lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Minu,

former lawmaker Kabir Hossain is seeking nomination in this seat, but a section of party leaders want Khaleda Zia or anyone else to vie from this seat.

"Kabir has become disputed as he did not back us during the city corporation polls... We are waiting for central decision", said Rajshahi BNP organising secretary Alauddin Ahmed.

City Jamaat Ameer Ataur Rahman is lobbying for nomination. He is joint convenor of Rajshahi city unit of four-party alliance in absence of Minu.

Rajshahi-5 (Putia-Durgapur, previous Rajshahi-4)

Former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa, elected from the seat, is serving ten years imprisonment in two cases for extortion and criminal activities. He was also named in three cases for abetting militancy.

He went into hiding since 1/11 and is now staying in Malaysia and Singapore, said his close aides.

Nadim Mostafa is now willing to return to our country till he is cleared of charges, the sides said.

"Some local leaders are showing up. We will sit to decide about them", said Alauddin.

20 vessels stranded in Jamuna

Fertiliser supply to northern districts affected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

ting stranded.

Poor navigability in 25 kilometres area of Jamuna River from Kazirhat to Baghabari port has been hampering movement of vessels in Jamuna during the last two weeks, said sources at Baghabari port.

The navigability crisis is acute at Nakalia, Pachakola, Harirampur, Raxsha, Mohonganj, and Nagarbari points of Jamuna River in Bera upazila under Pabna district.

At least 9/10 metre water is needed for smooth movement of vessels but now the depth of water is below 6/7 feet at different points, Baghabari port sources said.

"MV Asar, a fuel laden vessel, came to the depot on Sunday after remaining stranded in the river for a few

days. Such incidents have become a common affair at different points in Jamuna during this period due to the navigability crisis," said a Meghna oil depot official seeking anonymity.

"We requested the vessel owners to carry not more than 6/6.5 feet draft load in this time. But the suggestion is often ignored. An official team has been sent to the spot for survey," Md Abdur Razzak, an officer at Baghabari port, told The Daily Star yesterday.

There are allegations that insufficient and faulty dredging is responsible for worsening of the navigability crisis.

BIWTA officials, however, claimed that their specialists and engineers are conducting dredging work in the proper way.

BIWTA officials suggested that vessels carry a minimum load to avoid getting stranded.

Now light vessels have been employed to carry fertiliser and other goods from the stranded vessels to Baghabari port while BIWTA officials

suggested that vessels carry a

minimum load to avoid getting stranded.

Photo: STAR

Fertiliser being unloaded from a stranded vessel at Nakalia in Jamuna River yesterday as 13 fertiliser laden ships got stuck in the area following drastic fall of water level.

Kamanna shaheed day today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

Today is Kamanna shaheed day.

On this day in 1971, the occupation Pakistan army in collaboration with 'Rajakars' killed 21 freedom fighters at Kamanna village in Shailkupa upazila.

The martyrs are Momirul Rahman, Abdul Kader, Shaidul Islam, Salaiman Ali, Abdur Razzaq, Wahid Ali, Riaz Uddin, Alamgir Hossain, Motaleb Ali, Ali Hossain, Abdul Malek, Azizur Rahman, Akbar Ali, Salim Uddin, Hossain Ali, Rashedul Islam, Golfer Ali, Adhir Kumar, Goura Pada, Fanibhusan Kundu and Rongobibi.

Freedom fighters have chalked out programmes to pay tributes to the golden sons of the soil. They will place wreath at their graves in the morning which will be followed by a milad mahfil and a discussion at Shailkupa town.

KILLING OF BANGLADESHIS

3 BSF men sued in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Three members of Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) were sued yesterday for killing three Bangladeshis including a minor boy and wounding another one at Maynukuri village near Majipara border of Tetulia upazila in Panchagarh on November 16.

Slain Golam Mostafa's brother Abdus Salam filed the case with Panchagarh Judicial Magistrate's Court-4 with the help of Bangladesh Manabdhikar Commission.

Photo: STAR

and a discussion meeting.

The campus and all residential buildings were illuminated.

At the discussion meeting, the vice-chancellor urged students, teachers, officials and employees to work with honesty and dedication.

The university began academic activities on November 25 in 1991 with 90 students in four departments, which has now 16 departments.

A total of 1,453 students were given degrees at three convocations.

18th KU day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna University observed its 18th founding day yesterday with pomp and grandeur.

A colourful rally led by Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammad Saifuddin Shah was brought out at 11 am.

Students, teachers, officials and employees of the university paraded the street from the campus to Garamkhali in Khulna City.

The day's programmes

included Milad Mehfil after Zohr Prayer at the university mosque, a cleanliness drive

MARTYRED TEACHERS

RU authorities ignore death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The 37th death anniversary of martyred Rajshahi University teacher Mir Abdul Quayyum passed off yesterday without any programme by the university authorities.

Several senior teachers said the authorities did not do anything in the recent past in memory of university teachers Prof Habibur Rahman, Prof Sukharanjan Samaddar and Mir Abdul Quayyum who borrowed martyrdom during the 1971 Liberation War.

Even the Department of Psychology, where Quayyum worked, took no initiatives to observe the day and let students know of his supreme sacrifice.

Despite the tradition of remembering martyred Quayyum at all events, the department observed its two-day Golden Jubilee in October without remembering him.

When Quayyum's daughter Dr Mahbuba Kaniz Keya, a teacher of the department, complained about it to the departmental academic committee (DAC), it was revealed that department Chairman Prof Nurullah had ordered scrapping the event of remembering Quayyum from programme schedule.

Nurullah, also general secretary of Rajshahi city unit Bangabandhu Parishad and former convenor of pro-liberation Progressive Teachers Association at RU, apologised to DAC claiming it a 'lapse'.

But he did not mention martyred Quayyum's name in the apology resolution.



Abdul Quayyum



Sukharanjan Samaddar

Habibur Rahman

Several teachers said Nurullah is ambitious for the post of vice chancellor and is trying to get support of anti-liberation teachers who are dominant in RU administration.

"It [the deletion] was a mistake," Prof Nurullah told The Daily Star.

But the event was observed at the end of programme, he said referring to the one-minute silence that was observed in memory of the martyred intellectual.

RU Registrar Prof Muhammad Shafi said RU administration could not observe the Quayyum's martyrdom day due to its business in the ongoing admission procedure.

On November 25 in 1971, Pakistan occupation forces with the help of their local collaborators abducted 17 persons including Quayyum from their homes and later buried them alive on the bank of Padma River.

Rajshahi Mukhtijuddho Itihas Sangrakhan Parishad observed the day in a small scale at a city community centre.

Saifur's last desire in politics

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

BNP stalwart M Saifur Rahman will contest from Moulvibazar-3 (Sadar and Rajnagar) constituency as the last polls race of his life.

He has dismissed the possibility of his candidature from Sylhet-1 (Sylhet city and Sylhet upazila).

Saifur expressed his desire at a meeting of party men at his Baharmorden village home in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila Sunday evening. A Milad Mahfil was also held on the occasion.

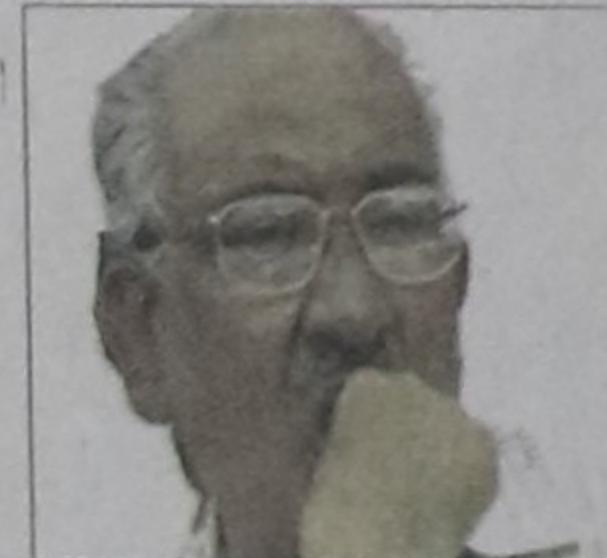
He told his party men that the last desire of his life, he wants to contest from his birthplace Moulvibazar.

He said, he requested 'Madam' (BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia) to contest from Sylhet-1. If she is unwilling, the party would field another candidate there, he told party men.

The former minister said, sovereignty of the country is now under threat. Myanmar wants to snatch away our sea wealth. The caretaker government has no ability to protect this. Only a people's government can do it.

So, the upcoming election is very important for the nation. The country's economy is also in trouble due to absence of an elected government, he mentioned.

Saifur said, "I was the senior most finance minister in Asia. I submitted the highest number of national budgets. During my period, there was more development work in Bangladesh than in India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan".



About his elder son Naser Rahman, former lawmaker from Moulvibazar-3, Saifur said,

"He (Naser