

Housing chief hides after 'embezzling' Tk 5 crore

Affected clients also allege threat by swindler's accomplices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Thirty persons in a press conference yesterday demanded immediate arrest of the managing director of a housing company who went into hiding after swindling about Tk 5 crore that was taken from people in the name of giving plots in a suburb in the city.

Accomplices of the accused, Abdul Batin Faisal, managing director of Shahjalal Valley Housing and Shahjalal Fair Tower, are now trying to harass the investors by implicating them in false cases, they said at a press conference held at Sylhet Press Club yesterday afternoon.

In a written statement placed at the conference, by the investors alleged, "Swindling at least Tk 5 crore, the company's Managing Director Abdul Batin Faisal has now gone into hiding for months.

"Faisal collected huge amount of money from several people including the non-resident Bangladeshis, who on good faith paid lakhs of taka on advance for plots in the proposed housing project at Khadimnagar suburb in the city. A few people were given directorships and shareholdings in exchange of bigger amounts," the investors said in a written statement at the press conference.

"Through showing colourful leaflets, brochure, memorandum, calendar etc Faisal allured people in the name of giving plots in his proposed housing project.

"According to the terms and conditions mentioned on the contract papers, Faisal was supposed to hand over our plots while the shareholders were to get their shares by 2007. But the man started killing time showing different excuses. Faisal failed to meet all his commitments," goes the complainants' statement.

"As we failed to manage things from Abdul Batin Faisal and came to know that he was planning to leave the country secretly, we laid a siege to him at his house at the city's Shahjalal Upashahar on November 6 of 2008.

"When police reached there, he in presence of a good number of newsmen and law enforcers admitted swindling Tk 5 crore in the name of Shahjalal Valley Housing and Shahjalal Fair Tower.

"In the presence of a few local honourable persons, Faisal on that day made commitment to return Tk 1,62,43,000 back to 30 persons through his father-in-law Haji Bashir Ahmed. Haji also agreed to pay the amount by January 31 this year.

"But ahead of the end of the deadline, Faisal shifted his stance and signed on fresh commitments for paying the said amount through his brother-in-law Moulana Emad Uddin. Accordingly, Emad gave

30 cheques on Dutch-Bangla Bank with dates from January 15 to February 8 this year but all the cheques were dishonoured," goes the allegation.

"Meantime, Faisal's brothers Abdul Awal Helal and Abdur Rab Belal, also accomplices of Faisal, came to the country from the UK and assured us of giving our money back, but to no effect yet. They are also just buying time tactfully.

"Recently, Faisal's wife Nasima Faisal and Zillur Rahman, a director of the company, filed several fake cases just to harass us as we had claimed our money back," said the complainants.

Md Abdul Mujib read out the statement at the press conference.

ASM Anwarul Islam, Main Uddin Jalalabadi, Abdul Wahid Shahim, Azizur Rahman, Md Moinul Haque, Md Zainul Islam Munim, Dr Hamiduzzaman and Abul Kalam were present, among others.

INDEPENDENCE DAY No student rally on CU campus today

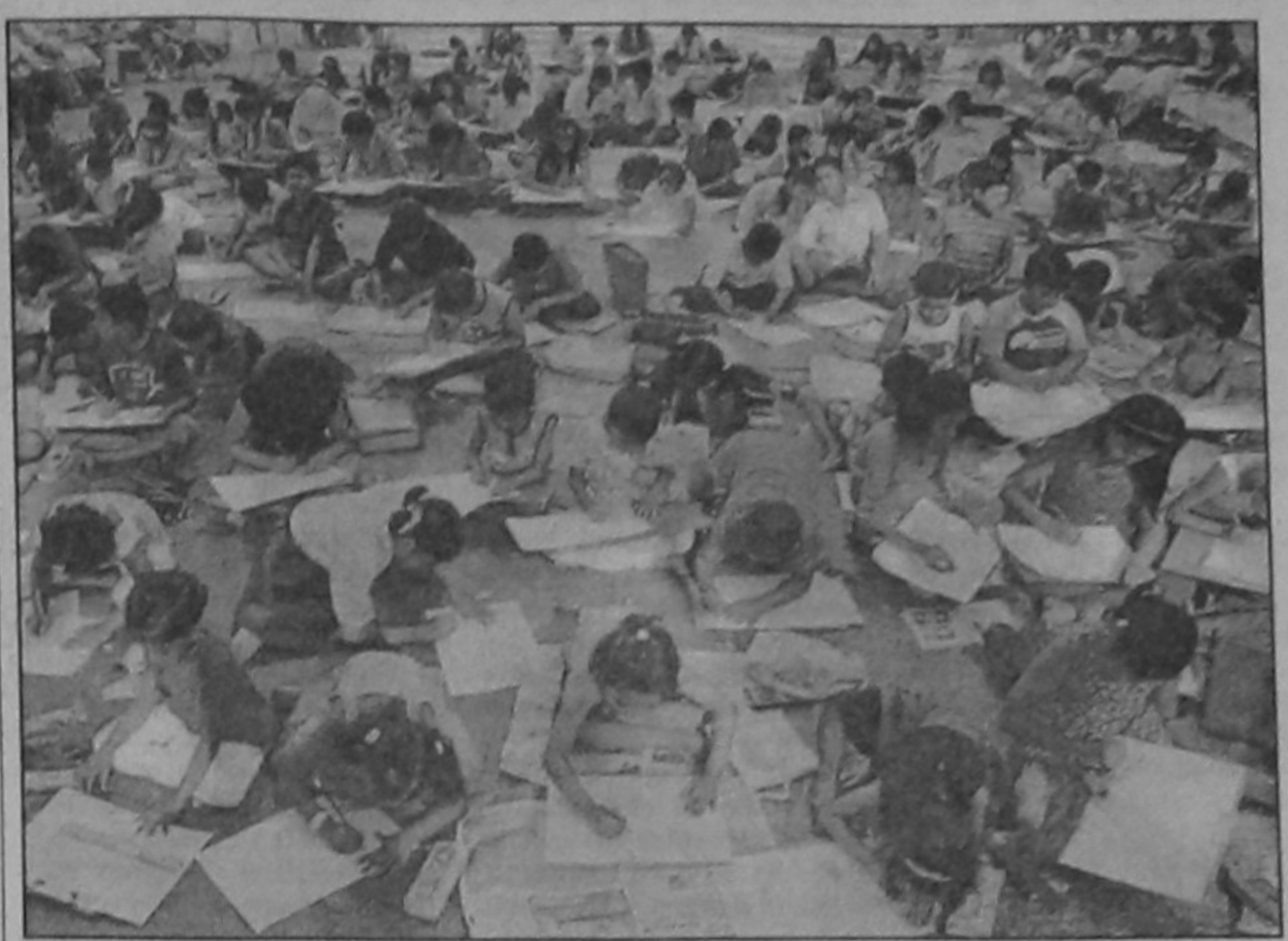
CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University (CU) authorities have banned all kinds of rallies, meetings and processions by students and socio-cultural organisations on the campus on the occasion of the Independence Day today, campus sources said.

Earlier on March 14, the authorities imposed the restriction on rallies, meetings and processions on the campus for one month to avoid any untoward incidents. However, the Independence Day programmes were out of the purview of the restrictions.

CU Proctor Prof Jasim Uddin said the university authorities have organised daylong programmes including procession, discussion, painting competition and cultural programme to mark the day where all students of the university can take part.

Leaders of four left leaning students' organisations met the proctor and protested the decision, said Kolin Chakma, general secretary of the university unit of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF). It is an attempt to deprive students of their rights, he said.



Comilla Reporters Unity arranges a painting competition for children at municipal park in the town yesterday on the eve of the Independence Day.

CASE FOR '71 KILLING Complainant faces threat by accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Abdullah Golder, complainant of a case for killing his father against nine 'rajakars', is feeling insecure following threat by prime accused Rafiqul Morol alias Abu Taleb Morol and his younger brother Belayet Morol.

"The accused have threatened me to withdraw the case or face dire consequences. I am staying outside my village home fearing attempt on my life," Abdullah Golder told this correspondent yesterday.

On March 11, Abdullah Golder filed a case with the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Abu Ibrahim accusing nine rajakars of killing his freedom fighter father Moslem Golder on the premises of Phulbaria rajakar camp in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district. Rafiqul Morol alias Abu Taleb Morol, Belayet Morol of Batiaghata village, Mostafa Molla, Mohor Sheikh, Ashraf Ali, Gaffar Golder and Abdul Hakim of Phulbari village under the same upazila, Rajab Ali Sarder and Karbala Sarder of Rampal upazila of Bagerhat district.

The prime accused Rafiqul Morol alias Abu Taleb Morol, who renamed himself as ATM Rafique after liberation, was arrested by Rapid Action Battalion-6 while receiving Tk 20,000 as bribe from a deputy ranger of Sundarbans Forest Division last year.

against the accused. Batiaghata Police Station OC Abdus Salek yesterday said he is yet to receive the court order to record the case and go into action accordingly.

The nine people sued for killing freedom fighter Moslem Golder on the premises of Phulbaria rajakar camp in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district are Rafiqul Morol alias Abu Taleb Morol, Belayet Morol of Batiaghata village, Mostafa Molla, Mohor Sheikh, Ashraf Ali, Gaffar Golder and Abdul Hakim of Phulbari village under the same upazila, Rajab Ali Sarder and Karbala Sarder of Rampal upazila of Bagerhat district.

The prime accused Rafiqul Morol alias Abu Taleb Morol, who renamed himself as ATM Rafique after liberation, was arrested by Rapid Action Battalion-6 while receiving Tk 20,000 as bribe from a deputy ranger of Sundarbans Forest Division last year.

Bangabandhu's portrait to be hung at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities will hang a big portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of the main gate of Bangabandhu Hall on the occasion of the Independence Day today.

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton will formally hang the portrait at a function to be chaired by RU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Abdus Sobhan.

This will be followed by a discussion and a cultural programme at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium where the mayor will be present as chief guest.

Former vice president (VP) of Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (RUCSU) Fazle Hossain Badsha, also a lawmaker elected from Rajshahi-2 constituency, former VCs Prof Abdul Khalek and Prof Saidur Rahman Khan will present as special guests.

University teachers, officers, employees, civil society members and media representatives will also be present on the occasion.

Schoolteacher assaulted in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A primary schoolteacher has been assaulted allegedly by the cadres of ruling Awami League (AL) at Zafarpara under Matiranga upazila.

AL cadres, led by Ramchhira ward AL president Ali Akbar, assaulted Zafarpara Primary School teacher Shamsul Haque Akand, also a local BNP leader, on Tuesday noon as a sequel to previous enmity with the teacher, police said.

Matiranga upazila unit secretary of Bangladesh Graduate Primary School Teachers' Association Mohammad Abdul Malek, on behalf of all primary school teachers of the upazila, submitted memorandums to Matiranga Upazila Nirbahi Officer and the local upazila chairman separately demanding immediate arrest and punishment to the persons involved in assaulting the teacher.

Power-hungry men beat up Palli Bidyut staff

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Power-hungry people of Durgapur village under Bholahat upazila of Chapainawabganj district beat up two Palli Bidyut staff on Tuesday night.

Sources said the agitated farmers attacked a sub-centre of Palli Bidyut Samity at around 10:00 pm and beat up Hasan and Bari alleging they are not supplying power to their pump to keep it operative.

Teachers demand removal of 'corrupt' principal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Teachers and students of BLP Degree College under Patuakhali Sadar upazila yesterday formed a human chain in front of the deputy commissioner's (DC) office demanding removal of college Principal Abdul Maleq Akon who faces allegation of corruption.

Over 50 teachers and 100 students joined the human chain and later submitted a memorandum to the education minister through the deputy commissioner demanding removal of the principal and legal action

against him for his alleged corruption.

On March 15, all 64 teachers of the college filed a written complaint with the deputy commissioner, also the chairman of college governing body, alleging corruption like cash looting and other irregularities against the principal.

In retaliation for teachers' complaint, the principal stopped payment of salary to 18 teachers and allegedly hired some goons who assaulted 10 teachers at the college the following day.

As the teachers filed a case with Sadar Police Station against Principal Abdul Maleq the same day, he went

into hiding, putting the office and classrooms under lock and key.

After receiving teachers' complaint on March 15, the DC formed a one-member body headed by Abdul Mannan, ADC (General) of Patuakhali to probe the allegations against the principal.

The DC also asked the probe body to submit its report within seven days, but the body did not submit the reports as of yesterday.

When contacted, ADC Abdul Mannan said the principal sought extension of time until April 5 to give his statement and he had given time extension as prayed for.



Teachers and students of BLP Degree College form a human chain in front of Patuakhali deputy commissioner's office yesterday demanding removal of 'corrupt' Principal Abdul Maleq.

Ajax Jute Mills workers on strike for weekly wages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Production at Ajax Jute Mills in Phunbarigate area under Khanjahan Ali Police Station came to a halt yesterday as workers began an indefinite strike demanding payment of their weekly wages.

The angry workers also confined seven officials, including DGM Hedayatul Islam, AGM Azizuddin, Accounts Officer Lutfor Rahman, Cashier Abdur Rahman and sales Officer Md Mamun, in a room of the administrative building for five hours from 8:00am. Police rescued the officials.

They beat up security office Pintu Barua and also confined him in a room. He was later rescued by the law enforcers and admitted to a local clinic with severe injuries.

Sheikh Giashuddin, general secretary of Ajax Jute Mills Workers Union, said production will remain stopped for an indefinite period if weekly wages of 1,750 workers are not paid by tomorrow.

When contacted, Deputy General Manager (DGM) Hedayatul Islam said it will not be possible for him to pay wages before Sunday.

Police have been deployed in the mill area as tension is running high there.

INDEPENDENCE DAY FFs to boycott functions if Jamaat-backed UZ chairmen attend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Muktijoddha Sangsad units in Zaintapur and Fenchuganj upazilas have announced boycotting the Independence Day programme, if the newly elected upazila chairmen, who are leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, remain present as chief guest or hoist the national flag at the functions.

Sangsad leaders said they cannot attend the Independence Day programme if anti-liberation people attend as chief guest or hoist the national flag.

Zaintapur upazila Muktijoddha Sangsad commander Sirajul Haque yesterday filed a general diary with the police station alleging threats by the Jamaat-Shibir men after he had announced boycotting the programme.

Upazila Chairman Zainal Abedin is a former leader Jamaat's student front Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Fenchuganj upazila Chairman former Shibir leader Saifullah Al Hossain

was set to hoist the national flag as chief guest at the Independence Day programme and Muktijoddha Sangsad commander Akram Hossain has threatened to boycott it.

In Dakshin Surma upazila, AL lawmaker Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury 'managed things' by agreeing to attend the Independence Day programme as chief guest after Muktijoddha Sangsad threatened to boycott it if Jamaat leader and upazila chairman Moulana Lokman Ahmed hoists the national flag at the programme.

Gowainghat upazila Muktijoddha Sangsad also threatened to boycott the Independence Day function if upazila Chairman Abdul Hakim Chowdhury, hoists the national flag.

The Sangsad leaders said Hakim is a BNP leader but his father was a collaborator.

However, Hakim has asked the upazila nirbahi officer to hoist the national flag in place of him.

Advertisement for 'আনসার-ভিডিপি উন্নয়ন ব্যাংক' (Ansar-VIDEPI Development Bank) with details about its services and branches.

Advertisement for 'বিটিএমসি' (BITIEMSI) featuring a lightbulb logo and text about electricity services and power cuts.