

All my hopes are buried here

Says weeping Nur Jahan at the grave of her son, Mamun, demanding trial of his killers at Ramna Batamul in 2001

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

"Why have you come here? Can you tell me why my son was killed? I buried here (showing Mamun's grave) all my hopes eight years back. Journalists from different areas come here to know how we are doing this day (Baishakh 1). But such questions only add to our sorrows."



Mamun

Wailing Nur Jahan, mother of Al-Mamun, a victim of Ramna Batamul bomb blast in Dhaka on Pahela Baishakh in 1408 (April 14, 2001), said when this correspondent met her at their Kachipara home under Baufal upazila in Patuakhali district.

"We would be happy if the culprits get exemplary punishment by the court. We want to know the names of the masterminds behind the cowardly act," said Mamun's father Kashem Gazi, sitting

beside his wife.

Mamun, 23, his cousins Reazul, 22, and Shilpi, 20, were among the 10 people killed in the Ramna Batamul bomb attack that also left over 100 others injured.

The three cousins, all of them college students, went to Dhaka to visit their relative's house from where they went to Ramna Batamul to attend Pahela Baishakh function.

"I rushed to the spot hearing the news after the blasts. Rescuers found them unconscious. Shrapnel smashed their legs. Several grenade splinters pierced through their ribs, some might have hit their brain,"

said Shilpi's sister-in-law (brother's wife) Parvin. Shilpi had gone to her house in Dhaka.

"As I hurried with them to PG Hospital, doctors declared them dead," Parvin said.

Shilpi's mother Suja Begum died on February 12 this year, without seeing the culprits punished for the heinous crime.

"I told him not to join any procession or meeting of any political party, but he didn't listen," said Shamsul Haq Gazi, father of another victim Reazul.

Every year on the day the three families arrange milad mahfil and special prayers for salvation of the departed souls.

MOULVIBAZAR WILDLIFE THREATENED Mindless road construction damaging hills, forests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has constructed a one kilometre-long road through hillocks from Teljuri village to Ita tea garden under Rajnagar upazila, ignoring the law on forest and environment.

Construction of the road joining Fenchganj-Moulvibazar road at Musuria village caused massive damage to Ita hillock and forest on it.

The road construction has followed setting up of human habitations in the hilly forest area, posing threat to environment and bio-diversity there.

A few decades ago, the deep forests in the nearby hillocks abounded with wild animals including tigers and different kinds of birds, said a few residents of nearby Teljuri village.

Locals said they are against the 'development work' that would cause harm to local environment.

"The one kilometre-long new road from Teljuri to Ita tea garden has been constructed under Rural Infrastructure Development Project with a cost of Tk 30 lakh. Final round of the work is now going on," Abdul Muhi, sub-assistant engineer of Rajnagar upazila office of LGED, said.

Under the same project, there are plans for construction of more roads through hillocks, LGED sources said.

Rajnagar upazila LGED Engineer Sirajul Islam, however, said, "It was an old kutchra (non-metalled) road and the LGED is developing it only. This scheme has

been approved from Dhaka."

He however declined to make any comment about the impact of cutting hillocks for road construction.

Rajnagar UNO Shafayat Mahub Chowdhury said he will take steps to prevent further hill cutting.

Terminating damage to hills and forests as threat for bio-

diversity and environment. Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) General Secretary Jamil Sharif said law on environment protection should be strictly enforced.



Constructed by the LGRD, this road from Teljuri village to Ita tea garden in Raniganj upazila in Moulvibazar district has caused much damage to hillocks and forests in the area.

PANCHAGARH 20 including 9 cops hurt in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Thakurgaon

At least 20 people including nine policemen were injured in a clash over a raffle draw at a school under sadar upazila in Panchagarh early Monday.

Police fired 7 rubber bullets to bring the situation under control and arrested 6 people from the spot and adjoining areas.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Panchagarh Police Station Jamir Uddin told this correspondent over cell phone that Tunir Hat High School authority arranged a raffle draw in their annual sports and cultural programme.

The draw was scheduled to take place at 12:01am on Monday. In the mean time a section of participants picked up a quarrel with the arrangers alleging irregularities.

At one stage of hot exchange they attacked the organisers. Some unruly men also attacked Habibur Rahaman, headmaster of the school, in his office room with sticks.

As police came to his rescue the agitated people also attacked them and their pick-up van. They also ransacked rooms damaging chairs and benches.

During the clash, Sub-inspector (SI) of Panchagarh Police Station Mizanur Rahaman Khan, SI Fazler Rahaman, SI Mizanur Rahaman and constable Mukter Hossain were injured in brickbats.

When police started to charge baton 20 people were injured during chase and counter chase for about 30 minute.

Police then fired 7 rounds of rubber bullets to tackle the situation.

The other injured include assistant teacher of the school Nasiruddin Prodhan, union BNP leader and president of school managing committee Inul Haque and UP member Oziful Haque.

Ex-mayor Minu, wife apply for review of 'false' cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Former mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mizanur Rahman Minu and his wife Salma Shahadat have applied to the government for withdrawing "false political" cases filed against them.

Minu, also the organising secretary of BNP, applied for withdrawing eight cases, while his wife for one case.

In the applications, they claimed that the cases were filed by the immediate past caretaker government to harass them and tarnish their image.

Minu along with his lawyers submitted the applications to Shefaul Karim, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi, on Sunday for forwarding those to the authorities concerned.

"The former mayor and his wife submitted the applications taking opportunity of a government circular for reviewing false political cases filed during the tenure of the caretaker government", said Minu's lawyer Ankur Sen.

Minu was arrested on June 6, 2007 in connection with an extortion case and sentenced

to 13 years' imprisonment. Later, the High Court acquitted Minu of the charge.

Minu and his six aides were sued for misappropriating CI sheets worth Tk 60 lakh and rice from government relief fund. Four cases were filed against them.

Assistant Commissioner of Taxes Moshtaque Ahmed filed a case against Minu for hiding income of over Tk 39 lakh and evading tax of Tk 9 lakh.

In another case, Anti-Corruption Commission sued Minu for accumulating wealth worth around Tk 2.27 crore and hiding information of wealth worth around Tk 1.92 crore in the statement.

ACC filed another case against Minu for alleged irregularities in allocating land for construction of shops and markets.

Minu's wife was sued for amassed wealth worth around Tk 71 lakh and concealing information of assets worth around Tk 5.1 lakh in the statement submitted to the ACC.

Minu is now on bail in all the eight cases.

2 suspected JMB men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested two suspected Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) activists from Boiragibagh in Dullah union of Muktagachha Upazila Sunday night.

Police also recovered two pistols along with five rounds of bullets from their possession.

The arrestees were identified as Russel, 28, son of Nurul Islam of village Dhaliman in Trishal of Mymensingh and Fazlur Rahman, 30, son of Aftab Uddin of village Mir Kumini of Tangail.

Being informed, police raided the spot and with the help of locals caught the two suspected JMB men and recovered the arms at around 10:30pm.



Students of Medical Assistant Training School in Sirajganj form a human chain in front of DC's office yesterday to press home their 4-point demand including upgradation of medical assistant post.

AL MEN'S INTERFERENCE UP chairman, 7 members resign in protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Chairman and seven members of Naruamala Union Parishad (UP) under Gabtoli upazila of the district yesterday resigned alleging extortion and obstruction in development work by some ruling party men.

Chairman Jorjis Hossain Fattah and the seven UP members submitted resignation letters to Gabtoli upazila Chairman Zahedul Islam Helal.

When contacted, the upazila charman said he did not accept the resignation letters, as procedures were not followed.

Sources said 1,875 tonnes of rice was allotted for Naruamala union under VGF programme and distribution of rice started on April 4. But the chairman and members of the union had to stop it

as local AL men demanded a portion of the allotted rice.

Chairman Fattah informed the UNO of the matter. With the intervention of the UNO, distribution of rice started again on April 8 in presence of four police personnel. Later, the AL men looted 330 empty sacks of VGF rice from the union parishad.

The AL men also demanded tolls from the union parishad chairman and members against Food For Works programme and TR projects. They stopped earth-lifting work at Prothomarcheo village under Naruamala union, as the chairman and members declined to give them Tk 30,000 as per their demand.

UP Chairman Fattah confirmed the incidents.

RU PRESS CLUB ISSUE Pro-Shibir journos abuse proctor

RU CORRESPONDENT

A group of pro-Shibir journalists of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday verbally abused university Proctor Prof Zakaria and threatened to paralyse the institution if he takes any initiative for reform in the RU Press Club.

A tense situation followed as the pro-Shibir journalists staged a big showdown along with outsider Shibir cadres on the campus.

Prof Zakaria at a press conference at his office said a group of pro-Shibir journalists led by Mahfuzur Rahman Munsif forcibly met him at his office and asked him not to take any initiative for reform in the RU Press Club.

Earlier on March 1, working journalists at RU submitted separate memoranda to the university vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and proctor demanding immediate steps to free RU Press Club from the grip of Jamaat-Shibir men.

Following directive from the RU vice chancellor, Prof Zakaria took initiative for identifying real and fake journalists on the campus. "Shibir journalists asked

me to immediately postpone the initiative and not to interfere in the matters concerning the university press club," Prof Zakaria said at the press conference.

The Shibir journalists hurled abuses at him and threatened to paralyse the university if he proceeds with any initiative for reform in the press club, he said.

The Shibir men also criticised the proctor and his different activities, he added.

At a meeting at the proctor's office, university proctorial body members condemned the incident and they later informed RU vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and other high officials of the matter.

Prof Zakaria told newsmen that legal action will be taken against the culprits.

When contacted, Mahfuzur Rahman said they involved in an altercation with the proctor for their personal demands.

Following BNP-Jamaat government's coming to the power in 2001, a group of journalists loyal to Shibir captured the RU Press Club.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (Ph-III) regarding a course on 'Strengthening of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (Ph-III)'. Includes details about the course, fees, and contact information.

Advertisement for Pubali Bank Limited celebrating 50 years (1959-2009). Includes the bank's logo, name in Bengali and English, and website information.

Advertisement for Prof. Dr. Shamim Ahmed, awarded the first Bangladesh Health Award 2008-09. Includes a portrait and details of his achievements and awards.