



A police officer stands beside female protesters after they were restrained following an unauthorised demonstration in the northern section of Copenhagen on Sunday. Dozens of protesters were restrained and taken from the scene close to Osterport station.

Yet another 'heist' at govt office

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offices in Rajshahi and Natore, including Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner's office after tying up their night guards.

Police of the three districts could not ascertain the motives behind the robbers who hardly took away anything.

In Bogra, police said the officials came to know about the incident when they went to the office at about 9:00am. Some documents might have gone missing from the office but not for sure yet, they added.

The robbers might have killed Jamaluddin after being resisted by him, police said adding that they also made Taleb unconscious by giving some intoxicant.

Executive Engineer Md Abul Bashar of Bogra PWD filed a case in this connection with Bogra Sadar Police Station but police could nab none till filing of this report last evening.

State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haq Tuku held a pre-scheduled meeting on law and order of the district yesterday. Bogra Deputy Commissioner Md Iftekharul Islam brought the issue before the minister's notice and the later asked the law enforcers to be after the perpetrators.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday afternoon, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder said the motive behind these incidents might be to embarrass the government. He, however, expressed firm resolve that law enforcers would be able to nab the culprits soon.

The home secretary said 39 people have been picked up in Rajshahi in this connection while police are on the hunt to nab the criminals involved in Natore and Bogra incidents.

Meanwhile, following a directive from Home Minister Sahara Khatun, the police headquarters (PHQ) yesterday sent separate messages to its different units including seven divisional ranges, six metropolitans, criminal investigation department (CID), detective branch (DB) and special branch (SB) to look

into the incidents. Assistant Inspector General (AIG-Media) of Police Nazrul Islam said, "The police headquarters have sent separate written messages to all the units concerned, including the divisional range in Rajshahi and Chittagong and also the police superintendents (SPs) of Rajshahi, Natore, Bogra and Chittagong."

PHQ sources said messages have also been sent to all the divisions and SPs reminding of the mysterious break-ins of 56 rooms of Bangladesh Railway Headquarters in Dhaka and the Eastern Zone office in Chittagong on January 10 this year.

PHQ senior police personnel suspect members of a same group having inter-district link might have committed the burglaries.

Deputy Commissioner Mainul Hasan of DB-North, who supervised the Railway office break-in case, told The Daily Star, "We have recovered stolen laptop, mobile phones and money and arrested the persons involved. But we did not get anything mysterious behind the incident."

Our staff correspondent from Rajshahi adds: Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan sent letters to the deputy commissioners of all the districts of the division asking them to step up security measures.

The letter also ordered for forwarding the message to different Upazila Nirbahi Officers, said sources.

The divisional commissioner's office also sent a letter to Rajshahi metropolitan police commissioner to ensure security of the city by increasing patrol at nights.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police (Rajshahi range) Mokhesur Rahman who was in Bogra yesterday told The Daily Star over phone that all superintendents of police in the division were asked to take extra security measures.

The DIG said they would increase police patrol around government offices in particular at night.

EU seeks twin-track push for climate deal

AFP, Brussels

EU Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso urged Indonesia yesterday to join forces for a twin-track campaign to get developed and developing nations to do more to secure a vital climate deal in Copenhagen.

"I think if we work together, the European Union and Indonesia can make an important contribution to a positive outcome at Copenhagen," Barroso told a joint press conference after talks with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

"I think Indonesia can say to other developing countries, including big developing countries... that they should do something more," Barroso said, without naming China, India or others by name.

"We are going to say the same to developed countries." With the UN climate summit in Copenhagen hitting major turbulence, Barroso warned against the very real possibility of a failure to achieve a meaningful deal on tackling global warming.

"How are we going to look on Friday or Saturday if there are more than 100 heads of state and government from all over the world and that what we say to the world is that it was not possible to come to an agreement, I think it is unthinkable."

The solution, he said "is to ask everyone to make a supplemental effort to go to the outer limits of their possibilities."

Obama gives himself B+ for first months in office

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama, in remarks aired late Sunday, awarded himself a B plus for his first 11 months in office, stressing in an interview with talk show queen Oprah Winfrey that there was still much to be done.

"A good solid B plus," Obama said during an hour-long, intimate soft-focus ABC network Christmas at the White House special, when Oprah asked what grade he would give himself.

Explaining why he wouldn't give himself top marks, the president said his administration had "inherited the biggest set of challenges of any president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt" which they were still working on.

He had earned good points for helping to stabilize the economy, setting a path out of Iraq and restoring America's international image, but the job was not yet finished.

"B plus because of the things that are undone. Health care is not yet signed. If I get health care passed, we tip into A minus," Obama said, his hair visibly grayer than when he took office on January 20.

16 Afghan policemen killed in 2 attacks

AP, Kabul

Taliban fighters attacked checkpoints in northern and southern Afghanistan yesterday, killing a total of 16 members of the Afghan National police, officials said.

Officials said the eight policemen were killed before dawn when militants attacked a checkpoint in the northern province of Baghlan. At about the same time, Taliban fighters attacked another police checkpoint in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province in southern Afghanistan, killing another eight policemen, the Interior Ministry said.

Two militants were killed

and another was wounded in the Baghlan attack, deputy provincial police chief Zalmay Mangal. Baghlan Gov. Mohammad Akbar Barakzai said the policemen were providing security on the main road through the province.

In Lashkar Gah, provincial spokesman Daud Ahmadi said the attack occurred before dawn at a checkpoint on the northeast outskirts of the city, which is the capital of Helmand province.

He said one policeman who disappeared may have been linked to the attackers. He also said the Taliban made off with a police vehicle, six Kalashnikov rifles and a heavy

machinegun.

Separately on Monday, Nato said an Afghan international security force detained a weapons smuggler and a small group of other militants in Khost province in eastern Afghanistan. The suspect allegedly worked with the al-Qaeda linked Haqqani network of militants.

The Haqqani network of Afghan fighters directs the battle against US forces in eastern Afghanistan from the Waziristan tribal region in Pakistan. Nato said the suspect surrendered to the joint force at a compound in the Sabari district of Khost province.



US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama sing with Mary J Blige during the Christmas in Washington Celebration on Sunday at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

Catalans back independence in partial and symbolic vote

AFP, Barcelona

Parts of Catalonia backed independence for the wealthy Spanish region in a referendum held Sunday, but the vote was only symbolic and attracted a turnout of just 30 percent.

An overwhelming 94 percent of those who voted said 'yes' to the question: "Do you agree that Catalonia become a social, democratic and independent state, and member of the European Union?"

But only about 10 percent of the northeastern region's population of more than seven million were called on to cast ballots by the organisers, in 166 selected towns and villages.

VACANCY

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Treasurer

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Monthly Salary: Attractive salary package with other benefits (negotiable)

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Only short listed candidates will be called for interview

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