

SHIBIR ROOMS AT ANOTHER HALL RAIDED
Cocktails, 500 more jihadi books seized at RU



A RU CORRESPONDENT

Police along with university officials yesterday raided several rooms of Islami Chhatra Shibir men at Shah Makhdoom Hall and recovered five cocktails.

During the raid the law enforcers also found leaflets and photo album and seized over 500 jihadi books including one titled 'Juddhaporader Ovijog Banoat Mithya Uddeshha Pronodita (allegations of war crime against Jamaat and Jamaat leaders are false and motivated)'. The hall authorities said they also sealed off 10 Shibir-controlled rooms including that of hall unit Shibir president Ahad Ali Sarkar and secretary Anisur Rahman who are also the prime accused in Bangladesh Chhatra League worker Faruque Hossain killing case.

However, none was arrested in this connection during the five-hour raid till 2:30pm, the hall authorities said.

Shah Makhdoom Hall provost Prof Dulal Chandra Roy told reporters that they raided the rooms on receipt of allegation from the general students that Shibir men have kept weapons in their (Shibir) rooms during the campus violence on February 9.

Meanwhile, BCL leaders alleged that the hall authorities had a 'secret deal' with Shibir cadres who allegedly killed Faruque Hossain on February 9.

They said the hall authorities also keep regular link with the hall unit Shibir president and secretary who had led the Shibir attack on BCL activists at Shah Makhdoom Hall in the early hours of February 9.

Refuting the BCL allegations, provost Dulal Chandra Roy said the hall unit Shibir president Ahad Ali Sarkar contacted him over mobile phone once or twice after the February 9 incident.

"I have informed all about my talks with the Shibir leader to the high officials of law enforcers immediately", the provost told reporters.

Earlier on February 9 morning, a group of Shibir cadres allegedly hacked BCL activist Faruque Hossain, also a final year student of mathematics department, to death at Shah Makhdoom Hall. Motihar police recovered the body of Faruk from inside a manhole on the day.

According to the police, Faruk was hacked in the television room of Shah Makhdoom Hall around 2:00am and dumped into the manhole.

Around 100 others were wounded in overnight clashes between BCL and Shibir activists.

Rajshahi University authorities aided by police seize five cocktails and over 500 jihadi and pro-Jamaat books from Shah Makhdoom Hall yesterday.



Houses of settlers burning at Adarshapara in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila after those were set afire allegedly by indigenous people at about 5:00pm yesterday.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Extortion charge against BCL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Ten union parishad chairmen of Dimla upazila have filed complaint against three Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders of the upazila alleging extortion. Chairman of Balpara union parishad on behalf of all the ten chairmen submitted the complaint with Dimla police station on Monday night. The accused are secretary of the upazila committee Uttom Kumar Roy, former upazila unit secretary Maruf Hossain Khan Lohani and former upazila unit president Ferdous Jahan Parvez. Sources said the accused Chhatra League leaders demanded one lakh taka toll from each chairman. They also threatened to assault them physically if the chairmen failed to meet their demand.

DAHOGRAM-ANGARPOTA

Work for power supply begins at long last

BSS, Rangpur

Work on setting up underground electric cable lines through the Tinbigha Corridor began on Monday to supply electricity to Dahagram-Angarpota in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat district. Workers and technicians began the work in the morning as per an agreement India and Bangladesh reached at a district magistrate level meeting at the corridor on February 22, official sources said.

The two neighbouring countries decided to install underground electric cables through the corridor from March 1 for the enclave and signed an agreed minutes at that meeting.

District Magistrate (DM) of Lalmonirhat Md. Alauddin Fakir led a five-member Bangladesh delegation while DM of Coochbihar Sreemoti Mohapatra led a five-member Indian delegation in the meeting.

According to officials, the isolated people of Dahagram-Angarpota first started using the Tinbigha Corridor on every alternate hour for six hours a day from morning to evening from June 26 in 1992.

Later, the two governments agreed to keep the corridor open for 12 hours at a stretch from morning to evening daily when the Awami League (AL) government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina assumed power in 1996.

During the 1996-2001 period, the then AL government built various installations, health complex and provided ambulance, medicines, equipment and appointed physician and nurses for 15,000 people of Dahagram-Angarpota. The then government also extended electric lines up to the zero point of the Tinbigha Corridor, but the initiative faced a setback when the 4-party alliance government came to power in 2001.

The initiative got fresh momentum when the Indian government agreed on installation of underground electric cable lines after assumption of power by the present AL government.

Joys of the people of Dahagram-Angarpota knew no bounds when 30 Bangladeshi workers started preliminary earthworks for the purpose in the Corridor Monday morning in presence of BDR, BSF and officials concerned of both sides.

Chairman of Dahagram-Angarpota union Saiful Islam, businessman Abdul Jabbar, 65, and class seven student Marjina Khatun, 13, of Dahagram High School expressed happiness at the move to supply electricity there.

Officials said a private construction firm of Bangladesh will set up the cables by engaging 30 workers for two days and 21 workers daily for the remaining 14 days to complete the works by March 16 next.

18 villages flooded as embankment in Khulna collapses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Over 10,000 families of 18 villages in Sutarkhali and Kamarkhola unions under Dakope upazila of Khulna district have been rendered homeless due to flooding caused by embankment collapse on Monday and early yesterday.

Vast tracts of croplands have also gone under knee-deep water as two newly constructed embankments on both sides of Nalian River of Dakope upazila collapsed under the pressure of strong currents of Nalian and Shibsharivers.

Seventy to 80 ponds and shrimp enclosures have overflowed, said Dakope upazila parishad Chairman Sheikh Abul Hossain.

Water Development Board (WDB) authorities did not use materials properly as required for sustaining them, the upazila chairman said.

Lack of proper monitoring and maintenance by WDB also

made the newly constructed embankments vulnerable to collapse by high tides, said UNO Kazi Atiur Rahman. The homeless people are staying on open spaces of other embankments and high places.

The affected 18 villages of the unions are Nalian, Baintala, Gunari, Madhayam Gunari, Kalabogi, Uttarpara, Dakkhin Nalian, Purbo Gunari, Katabunia, Keorhatala, Majhipara, Golbunia, Jaliakhali, Bhitabhanga, Srinagar, Sutarkhali, Nalian Madhyapara and Telirkona.

Breaches developed in the embankments as furious tides rose up to 6 to 7 feet higher than normal levels, said Engineer Anwar Hossain of Water Development Board (WDB).

The government had allocated Tk 12 crore for reconstruction of 21-kilometre-long 34 embankments and ten closures in Kamarkhola and Sutarkhali unions that were badly hit by cyclonic storm Aila

on May 25 last year, he said.

Contractors who won the bid for reconstruction of embankments started their works on February 13 and it completed at the end of the month.

Expressing ignorance about whether contractors did their works properly as specified in the tender schedule, engineer Anwar Hossain said, "I cannot say right at this moment why embankments developed breaches so soon and collapsed afterwards."

"The government must give special attention to Aila-hit Dakope that largely contributes to shrimp production and revenue earnings from forest resources.

All possible steps must be taken on top priority basis to save the upazila from devastation by frequent natural calamities and vagaries of nature," Upazila Chairman Abul Hossain said.

Food Minister Abdur Razzak is scheduled to visit Dakope upazila today, officials said.

Milk Vita staff observe strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Milk Vita staff at Baghabari in Sirajganj yesterday observed strike protesting assault on company's deputy general manager (DGM) by the retrenched workers and employees in the morning.

During the tenure of the immediate past caretaker government, more than 400 workers and employees of Milk Vita were terminated. Since then they have been continuing their agitation for reinstatement.

As part of their agitation, the terminated workers and employees assaulted DGM Khandker Aminul Islam yesterday morning, ransacked his office room and confined him to the room for an hour demanding their reinstatement.

On information, Shahjadpur police rushed to the spot and rescued the DGM. Protesting the attack on the official, the Milk Vita staff observed strike from 12:00noon. They also stopped collecting milk from the milk sellers.

The sacked workers and employees also misbehaved with DGM Aminul Islam on the same issue the day before.

Additional police have been employed in and around the Milk Vita unit to avert any untoward incident.



Indigenous women display traditional pitcher dance at the Fagua festival at Rajbari field in Nachole upazila of Chapainawabganj district on Monday.

Eight guns recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive recovered eight locally made pipe guns, seven bullets and six axes from Pathorghata in Barguna Sunday evening. Acting on a tip-off, Rab personnel from Patuakhali camp raided the bank of the Bishkhali River and recovered the firearms, axes, bullets and cartridges. The firearms and ammunition were being used by Jahangir Bahini, a pirate gang.

Sit-in in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Nagorik Samaj observed a one-hour sit-in programme from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon on Monday at picture palace cinema hall intersection demanding reintroduction of Section 307 of the Labour Act, 2006. The programme followed by a rally at the same place was participated by leaders of different political parties, labour organisations, civil societies and workers of shrimp processing factories, private-owned jute mills and Dada match factory. Speakers at the rally said Section 307 of the Labour Act provides conviction for its violation. The last caretaker government by an amendment kept only Tk 25,000 fine for violation while the present government again amended it with a provision for Tk 5,000 fine for the same offence. The latest amendment will provoke the offenders, they said.

Fake DB man held

UNB, Jhalakati

DB police arrested a fake DB official from the court premises in the town Sunday. The arrestee is identified as Khalilur Rahman, 40. DB sources said Khalil identified himself as a DB officer and took away Tk 3,000 from Kalam Majhi of Nalchhiti upazila about four months ago. Khalil was arrested two months ago on forgery charge. He was later released on bail. Khalil came to the court Sunday for appearing before the court in connection with a case. Being informed by Kalam, plainclothes police arrested the fraud.

Cop commits 'suicide'

UNB, Bandarban

A police constable of Tarasa police camp in Roangchhari upazila allegedly committed suicide at the camp on Monday. The deceased was identified as Jahangir Alam, 25. He hailed from DC Hill area of Rangamati Sadar upazila. Police Super Mohammad Kamrul Ahsan said Jahangir shot himself to death with his rifle at the camp, 25 km away from the town, at about 2:00am. However, the reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

Apollo Hospitals info centre

PRESS RELEASE

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka will open its Khulna Information Centre at 2B, KDA Avenue, Khulna on Friday, March 5. Khulna City Corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque will inaugurate the centre in the morning. Consultant of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka Dr Mrinal Kumar Sarker and Dr Md. Sadiqul Islam will attend patients at a health clinic after the inauguration. Khulna Information Centre will act as one-stop info provider for doctors and patients of Khulna who want to avail facilities of Apollo Hospital Dhaka.



Locals bring out a procession with brooms and sticks at Fatikkhali in Asasuni upazila in Satkhira district protesting setting up of shrimp enclosure on a farmland by Mozaffar Rahman Montu, a prominent shrimp trader of Satkhira town. Montu's men left the area to escape wrath of people.



Setting up of electricity poles and cables continues as authorities started work on Monday to supply power to Dahagram-Angarpota enclave.