

Ashulia land grabbed at dead of night

Alleges victim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of land grabbers occupied a big plot in Ashulia at dead of night with blessings of two influential government officials while a civil case involving the plot is still pending with the High Court, said the evicted party at a press conference yesterday.

Several hundred hired men of Landmark Engineers and Real Estate Limited led by its owner Deepak Bhoumik along with local accomplices Wahab Sarkar, Raju and Molamdi occupied 4.5 bighas of land on April 8, Dr Anwarul Islam, former principal of Rajshahi Medical College, alleged at the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

The grabbers assaulted the security guards, demolished boundary wall and a semi-concrete house and plundered timber and fruit trees and bamboo bushes before erecting the

signboard of Landmark there, he said. Khodeza Shahana Akhtar, wife of Dr Islam, filed a case (No. 28) in this connection with the Ashulia Police Station on April 9.

Dr Islam said that Second Officer of the police station Monjur Morshed had refused to record the case in the early hours of April 9, as Wahab, Molamdi and Raju were relations of a high-ranking police official.

"Later, we had to drop their names just to record the case," he added.

In 1995, Shahana Akhtar, on behalf of her mother, sister and three brothers, filed a civil case (No. 142) with the High Court for correction of RS record of the said property.

She said that her family have been in possession of the property in Gouripur mouja under Ashulia Police Station for the past 40 years since 1970.

Dr Islam said that one Fazlul Karim

claimed the ownership of the property using false documents and sold it to one Sakhina Khatun, who sold it to Doel Group. Singapore-Bangladesh Properties bought the land from Doel Group and sold it to Landmark.

When contacted, Officer-in-Charge of Ashulia Police Station Md Sirajul Islam said, "We have asked the Landmark authorities to vacate the site."

Additional superintendent of police of Dhaka will sit with both the parties on April 19 to examine the ownership documents, he added.

Wahab Sarkar told The Daily Star over phone: "Previously I just brokered a land purchase deal of Landmark, but I am not involved in the present incident."

When contacted, Landmark director Md Haidar Hossain said, "We did not go to take the possession of the land at night, we took it in February."



Hired men of Landmark Engineers and Real Estate Limited put up a signboard after allegedly occupying a land at Ashulia at dead of night on April 8.

FM joins special CMAG meet

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni attended a special meeting of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London yesterday.

The CMAG is the custodian of Commonwealth care values and principle.

The meeting was designed to receive ministerial guidance to the further role and relevance of the body. Dipu Moni presented Bangladesh's views and suggestions on how to transform the CMAG from a reactive body to a usefully proactive body.

The suggestions were well taken and will be used as inputs for the Secretariat to draw up a paper for approval by ministers in the next CMAG meeting in New York in September, said a foreign ministry press release.

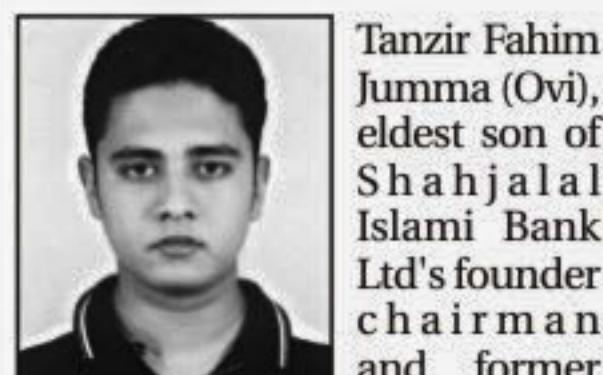
The current members of CMAG are Australia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Jamaica, Maldives, Namibia, New Zealand, Trinidad & Tobago and Vanuatu.

Two of the key agenda came across the table for discussion prominently were strengthening the role of the CMAG and the developments in the Fiji Islands.

Fiji was fully suspended from the Commonwealth on September 1, 2009 after Commodore Frank Bainimarama who had seized power in 2006 coup, failed to fulfil his commitment to rejoining negotiations with the opposition and holding credible elections in October 2010.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Tanzir Fahim Jumma (Ovi), eldest son of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd's founder chairman and former senior vice-president of DCCI Alhaj Sajjatz Jumma, died on April 13 after getting caught in a quicksand at Fort Lauderdale Sea Beach, Miami, USA at the age of 29.

Ovi, grandson of late national leader AHM Quamaruzzaman, was working as a senior executive at an investment company in the USA.

His body is likely to be flown in on April 21, family sources said.

Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd Chairman Engineer Md Touhidur Rahman and Managing Director Mohammad Ali expressed deep shock at the untimely demise of Ovi.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 1st death anniversary of freedom fighter Dr Manjula Anwar, wife of Dr Syed Anwar Ali, first organiser of Kalurghat Betar Kendra (radio centre), says a press release.

On the occasion, a do and milad mahfil will be held at her residence in Dhaka and Gopalganj.

Dr Manjula was the initiator of reprinting and distribution of leaflet of Declaration of the Independence by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 26 in 1971.

She also provided treatment to the injured freedom fighters and used her residence as an arsenal of freedom fighters.

Ajit Kumar Dutta

METRO DESK

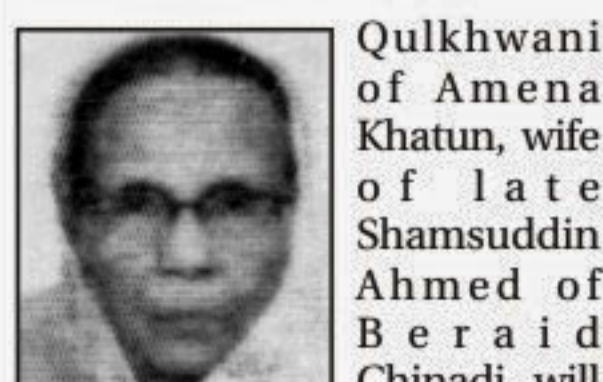


Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Ajit Kumar Dutta, former chief accountant of The Bangladesh Observer and a freedom fighter, says a press release.

Special prayers will be offered and recitation from the holy Geeta will be arranged for salvation of the departed soul at his residence at 23 Shirish Das Lane, Luxmibazar.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Amena Khatun, wife of late Shamsuddin Ahmed of Beraid Chinadi, will be held at 232/1/A South Goran in the city after South prayers today, says a press release.

News in Brief

Ban on Jamaat demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat Bangladesh at a memorial meeting yesterday demanded the government ban the Jamaat-Shibir politics on charges of 'giving wrong explanation' of Islam.

Speakers at the meeting said Jamaat-e-Islami leaders were involved in war crimes during the country's liberation war in 1971 and the government should ban the party immediately.

The meeting was organised in the city in memory of Hafez MA Jalil, an Islamic scholar.

Presided over by Nurul Islam Patwari, the meeting was addressed by Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, a ruling Awami League MP, among others.

Titas well repaired

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (Bapex) has successfully repaired a well of Titas gas field and restored gas production from there after around 45 days.

A top Bapex source said a crack had developed in the well, which was successfully sealed.

Well number 4 of the gas field owned by Bangladesh Gas Field Company Ltd resumed producing 32 million cubic feet of gas per day from yesterday evening.

Different gas fields of the country are producing a total of 2000 mmcf gas against a demand of 2500 mmcf. The country's oldest gas field Titas is producing around 400 mmcf gas.

The restoration of the well provides some relief to the sector that is under perennial energy crisis.

Hizb-ut Tahrir's protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hizb-ut Tahrir, a banned Islamist organisation, yesterday took out a procession in protest against the ongoing water, power and gas crises at Mohammadpur in the city, says a press release.

Mohammadpur police, however, could not confirm whether the people took part in the procession were the members of the banned Islamist outfit.

Hizb-ut Tahrir in its release claimed that they brought out the procession from in front of the office of local Awami League LAWMAKER Jahangir Kabir Nanak, also the state minister for LGRD and Cooperatives.

The Hizb-ut men chanted slogans against the government and demanded its removal," said the release, adding: "Only Khilafah state can address all the sufferings of the people."

Cuta worried over law, order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University Teachers' Association (Cuta) yesterday expressed concern over the deterioration of the law and order on the campus, saying that three CU students were killed only in three months, which is a total failure of the government.

In a statement, they demanded the government take immediate steps to investigate the killings and give exemplary punishment to the killers.

On April 16, Md Asaduzzaman, a BBA second year student was stabbed to death. Earlier two students were killed.

'Protect works of Nawab Ali'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday stressed the need for protecting the history and works of Nawab Bahadur Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury, one of the founders of Dhaka University (DU), to inspire the new generation for making contribution to society.

The then landlord Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury, who had first proposed to make Bangla as the state language in 1911, had spent a lot of his wealth to establish DU, they added.

The speakers said this at a discussion on the occasion of 81st death anniversary of Nawab Ali Chowdhury at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan with DU VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair.

Justice Md Joydul Abedin spoke at the programme, among others.



Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Director General Hassan Mahmood Khandkar, third from left, inaugurates a hi-tech firing simulator given to Rab Forces Training School by British High Commission in Dhaka at the school at Shimultoli in Gazipur recently. Duncan Brown of the British High Commission, extreme right, was present.

Action against attackers of Christians demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday demanded the government take legal action against those who attacked the indigenous Christians over a dispute of land belonging to a Christian church at Mithapukur in Rangpur on March 20.

At a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city, they also demanded that the attackers withdraw the criminal case filed against the Christians, and also that the government ensure security of the religious minority group there.

Bangladesh Christian Association (BCA) Mithapukur upazila unit in association with Dhaka University Christian Students' Association organised the rally, says a BCA press release.

Christian leader of Baldipukur Lalit Kuzur chaired the rally while BCA leaders Nirmal Rozario, Hubert Gomes, Deepak Perez, James Subrata Hazra, Prolloy Samaddar, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist Oikya Parishad leader Nirmal Chatterjee and Tribal Welfare Association Assistant Vice-President Nipun Sangma spoke.

Leaders of Santal Students' Union, Orao Students' Association, Garo Students' Association, Bangladesh Adivasi Students' Action Council, Bangladesh Minorities Sangram Parishad and Hill Students' Council expressed their solidarity.

The protest rally took place against the backdrop of a clash where around 20 people - 12 Santals and the rest Bangalees - were injured. The clash occurred, as the authorities of St Mary's Christian Missionary started constructing a boundary wall on a 53-decimal of land adjacent to Adivasi Primary School and Shah Abul Kashem High School in Baldipukur.

At this, a number of Bangalees attacked Santals with lethal weapons and the latter made a counter-attack with bows and arrows, Mithapukur police earlier said.

Leo Deshai, priest at St Mary's Church, alleged that president of the high school Habibur Rahman led the attack, though Mithapukur upazila on March 18 handed it over to them as per a court order.

But Habibur said the school authorities wanted the land to remain open as a playground of the school, he added.

The priest claimed that when construction of the boundary wall on the land started, local people opposed it and that enraged Santals, who attacked the locals with bows and arrows.

Later, Mithapukur Upazila Parishad asked both the sides to maintain status quo concerning the land.

Habibur Rahman, however, filed a criminal case against the Santals.



Deputy Leader of the House and Awami League Presidium Member Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury along with party leaders places wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday marking the Mujibnagar Day. (Story on Page 3)

Another Viqarunnisa girl takes her life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College committed suicide on Friday at her Mothertek residence in the city just two days after her schoolmate Anamika Bairagi Papri took her life by hanging herself from a ceiling fan.

Mania Sultana Prova, 18, daughter of retired banker Rafiqul Islam and a first year student of the college, hanged herself with a scarf from a ceiling fan at her bedroom between 3:00pm and 9:00pm.

Sub-inspector Proloye Kumar Saha of Sabujbagh Police Station said they rushed to the house following information and recovered the body. Later, they sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police quoting Prova's family said she might have committed suicide due to mental disorder.

Quoting her family, Proloye said Prova got married to an intermediate student, Fahad, while she was student of class nine but their families did not accept the marriage as they were teenagers.

They were forced to divorce each other in June 2009 and since then she had been mentally imbalanced, he said.

Prova's family, however, declined to talk to the reporter.

Earlier on Wednesday afternoon, Papri committed suicide at her Siddheswari residence in the city as her parents did not take her out to Pahela Baishakh programmes.

HSC EXAMINEE COMMITS SUICIDE

An HSC examinee committed suicide at her Hazaribagh residence in the city last night.

Shubhra Akhter, 18, a student of University Laboratory College, committed suicide by hanging herself with a scarf from a ceiling fan at her bedroom around 10:30pm.

Officer-in-charge Enamul Haque of Hazaribagh Police Station said they could not ascertain the cause behind the incident.

At this, a number of Bangalees attacked Santals with lethal weapons and the latter made a counter-attack with bows and arrows, Mithapukur police earlier said.

Leo Deshai, priest at St Mary's Church, alleged that president of the high school Habibur Rahman led the attack, though Mithapukur upazila on March 18 handed it over to them as per a court order.

But Habibur said the school authorities wanted the land to remain open as a playground of the school, he added.

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WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature remains nearly unchanged over the country, it said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:21pm today and rises at 5:34am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 22.3 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.5	26.6	74	60
Chittagong	31.8	27.3	65	75
Rajshahi	35.6	25.9	83	67
Khulna	35.0	25.4	71	63
Barisal	34.2	25.8	75	68
Sylhet	29.8	22.3	97	78
Cox's Bazar	34.4	27.5	63	71

Get ready for tougher movement against war crimes trial

Jamaat asks dist chiefs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami has instructed the chiefs of all its district units to get prepared for waging a tougher movement against the government bid to try war criminals since it is intended only to "destroy the party."

The instruction was given at a conference of Jamaat's district unit amers (chiefs) in the capital on Friday.

Speakers at the conference said the government move has thrown top leaders of Jamaat in a crisis. And the party has no alternative but to go for a movement since the government is not allowing it also to hold rallies and pursue political activities, they said.

About 78 district unit amers attended the day-long conference.

"We have told them [district amers] that trial of war criminals is simply intended to destroy Jamaat. Our party sided with Pakistan during the Liberation War on 1971 but none of the party leaders were involved in war crimes," a senior Jamaat leader told The Daily Star yesterday.

"In the present situation, we have our backs against the wall and the party's top leaders therefore called upon district amers to get prepared for a tougher movement," he said.

Jamaat high-ups told the conference the party welcomed liberation of the country, and since then it is working for welfare of the people, meeting sources said.

Huji leader Mostofa sent Tk 1cr to militants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained UK unit chief of banned militant outfit Harkatul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji) Golam Mostofa had sent around Tk 1 crore since 1995 till his arrest in 2007 to different local militant groups and most of the amount was sent through illegal channel.

He sent only Tk 8 to Tk 10 lakh through proper channel and the rest through hundis (informal ways) or by the people, who visited Bangladesh on different occasions during the period from the UK, carried the money.

Bangladesh-born British citizen Mostofa, who was arrested in Sylhet on Thursday, disclosed the facts to the detectives on the first day of his interrogation on a four-day remand, said a Detective Branch (DB) official yesterday.

Mostofa, who was convicted for 17 years in jail in an arms case filed in 2007, was trying to reorganise Huji activities after coming out of jail on a High Court bail around 14 months ago.

DB officials said they are now on a hunt for around 15 people whom Mostofa had contacted to reorganise the party activities after coming out of jail. They, however, refused to disclose the names for the sake of investigation.

London police filed a case against him under terrorist financing act of that country, police said.

Mostofa, an Afghan war veteran, also admitted to the interrogators that he used to maintain contact with Huji Bangladesh leaders and those of Hizb-ut Tahrir to inquire about the fund he sent for militancy purpose.