

Manpower broker pulls robbery trick to frame victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a manpower broker and his three associates from his Khilgaon residence in the capital yesterday as he tried to stage a drama of falling victim to robbery.

A Khilgaon police team led by Sub-Inspector Asaduzzaman arrested the broker, Saidul Islam alias Palash, 32, and the three associates, Rubel, 26, Sheikh Monirul Islam, 32, and Abzan, 28, around 11:00am from a flat on the fourth floor of an apartment in Khilgaon.

Police said Palash is the owner of an unauthorised travel agency, PM International, at 50 Naya Paltan in the capital. Si Tofazzal Hossain of the police station said around 10:30am he got a mobile phone call that informed him of a robbery at the flat.

Si Asaduzzaman said, on information he rushed to the place and found the main gate of the building locked from inside while Palash and his three acquaintances were on ground floor.

There was no sign of robbery. Other residents of the building did not hear anything about such incident.

Police took the four to police station.

Palash admitted to law enforcers that he had staged the

drama to implicate some persons who paid him for visas.

Officer-in-Charge Nazim Uddin of Khilgaon Police Station said over 50 brokers thronged the police station around noon. They claimed, they paid Palash around Tk 8 crore and gave him several hundred passports to manage visas for Middle Eastern countries.

Nazir Uddin Selim, one of the owners of Rabeya International Trading at Motijheel, said he gave Tk 12.94 lakh and 11 passports to Palash over a year ago to get 11 persons visas for Middle Eastern countries.

Nazir Uddin said he filed a general diary against Palash and his cousin Zia with Paltan Police Station on March 9.

Mohakhali resident Abdus Sattar, a broker, suffered a stroke and was hospitalised in March last year after his seven passengers, who were scheduled to go to Iraq and paid, returned from airport.

He gave Tk 12 lakh and 22 passports to Palash for a number of passengers including the seven.

Sattar filed a case with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in this connection and earlier lodged a general diary with Motijheel Police Station.

There are several cases filed against Palash, OC Nazim said.

Jubodal boss

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Bangladesh aircraft around 7:45 am to see his ailing wife. His wife went to London on April 29 to see their son studying there.

"I was on board the aircraft but members of National Security Intelligence, immigration and DGFII took me from it only saying this is order of the higher authorities," Alal said adding he will file a writ petition with the High Court today against this.

Meanwhile, Mir Kasem Ali who is on a list of alleged war criminals of Bangladesh Liberation War landed at the airport by a Qatar Airways aircraft around 5:45 am yesterday, the immigration sources said.

Kasem, executive committee member of Jamaat and chairman of Diganta Media Corporation, left the country for Saudi Arabia via Dubai on March 24, one day prior day of formation of war crimes tribunal and its investigation and prosecution agencies.

Later, the home ministry claimed that it had served the list of alleged war criminals to all airports and land ports so that they could not leave the country. But immigration officials said they received the list after Kasem left here for Saudi Arabia.

Kasem is also the country director of Rabeta Al-Islam, a Saudi Arabia based Islamic NGO, member of Ibne Sina Trust and chairman of Eden Shipping Lines and Keyari Housing.

UNB adds: BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain in a statement yesterday strongly protested and condemned the disembarkation of Alal from the aircraft.

Jubodal instantly held a protest rally in front of the BNP's Nayapaltan central office in the afternoon and brought out a procession protesting of the incident.

His second wife Shahinur Akhter said he was going to his poultry farm and fishery in Agargaon when he was killed.

Samad served 4-year sentence in jail earlier, Shahinur said.

Rafiqul Islam's body was recovered from Shamim Packaging Factory Ltd in Gouripur, Ashulia. A piece of cloth was wrapped around his neck.

Later factory workers handed the body to Ashulia police.

A murder case was filed with Ashulia Police Station. Rehena Parveen and her husband Billal sustained injuries when her nephew Ismail Hossain, 30, hit them with a sharp kitchen knife, Billal said.

Neighbours took Rehena to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with severe head injuries where doctors declared her dead around 9:15am.

They said there was a long feud between Billal and Ismail over land.

Billal was undergoing treatment in Gazipur Sadar Hospital while Ismail was on the run.

Joydevpur police recovered Sharif Hossain's body from a jungle at Kumar Khada near Bhawal National Museum yesterday morning.

He had been missing since April 23. He hails from Bhawal Mirzapur area in sadar upazila and used to work as a helper of a human hauler.

Sharif's mother Sharifa Begum filed a general diary with Joydevpur thana on May 5 in this connection.

Project watch

FROM PAGE 1
(Ecneec) has also been meeting every week since July 1 of last year.

In each of those meetings Ecneec has been discussing Annual Development Programme (ADP) implementation situation of at least one ministry in detail.

A planning ministry high official said a decision has been made, if any problem is detected in implementation of any project, that must be discussed in presence of the prime minister, so the premier may issue directives to remedy the problem right away.

The weekly meetings are usually held on Tuesdays, if in any week the prime minister is not available on that day, the schedule is shifted to the next day of the week she is available.

The official said the premier is very serious about improving development project implementation, and has been exerting a moral pressure on all concerned including ministers.

During successive past governments' tenure, Ecneec meetings were held only once a month, in some months even that would not happen.

A task force has also been formed with IMED Secretary Abdul Malek at its helm to monitor big projects closely.

In January this year another committee was formed with the planning minister as its chief, for curbing frequent transfers of project directors.

The committee is now the sole authority for transfers of project directors and other important project officials, except in cases of promotions or disciplinary actions.

Appointment of project directors and their frequent transfers has been a major problem in implementation of development projects.

Different reports of IMED showed, in some projects, directors were changed from 7 to 15 times, some of whom worked the equal number of months before being trans-

ferred. IMED repeatedly recommended formation of a panel of efficient persons for appointment as long term project directors.

The government is also set to introduce e-tender at the Local Government and Engineering Department, Roads and Highways Department, Bangladesh Water Development Board, and Rural Electrification Board next month. A major portion of ADP is procurement related, and its lion's share is done by the four government agencies.

The planning ministry high official said as a result of the steps already taken, ADP implementation in the current fiscal year improved compared to last year's.

In the first nine months of the current fiscal year, ADP implementation was about 44 per cent higher than the last FY's.

The rate of implementation in the first nine months of the current FY is the highest in four years.

In several pre-budget discussions Finance Minister AMA Muhith said in the next fiscal year the implementation rate will increase further.

Finance and planning adviser to a former caretaker government, M Hafizuddin Khan, however said the government should form a task force or a committee to identify in detail the problems that cause ADP failures, before coming up with remedies.

Khan, who was the chairman of the Public Expenditure Review Committee during the last four-party alliance government, said IMED recommends solutions to problems, but actions are not taken accordingly. IMED's authority should be increased, he said.

He also said politically powerful vested interest groups create obstacles to timely project implementation. The government should have the political will to fight these vested interest groups, he added.

People want

FROM PAGE 1
The former prime minister alleged that incompetent and controversial persons are being made judges, and separation of the judiciary still appears a farce.

"I hope judges will continue to perform their duties with honesty and sincerity, and without any fear, so that people get justice," Khaleda said. Lawyers also have to play a responsible role in court, she added.

Referring to withdrawal of cases against ruling party men she said it shows the government's lack of confidence in the judiciary. When BNP comes to power the cases will be restored.

On war crimes trial she said, "We are not opposed to it but the war criminals within the ruling Awami League must be tried first."

The BNP chief said then president Ziaur Rahman had restored people's right by bringing certain amendments to the constitution through parliament. And later people had supported those through referendum. "None has the power or jurisdiction to go against expectations of the people."

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court recently gave a verdict that meant the governments between August 15, 1975, and April 9, 1979, were without lawful authority. Khandker Mushtaque Ahmed, Abu Sadaat Mohammad Sayem and the then major general Ziaur Rahman headed those governments.

Besides, the High Court in a verdict confirmed that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed independence. But BNP claims that its founder Ziaur Rahman proclaimed it.

Khaleda demanded arrest and punishment of former army chief Moeen U Ahmed for what she said deceiving the nation prior to 1/11 imposition of emergency.

She said BNP will oppose implementation of all treaties that will harm the country's sovereignty. She hinted at treaties signed by Bangladesh and India.

The day-long rally was presided over by BNP chairperson's advisor Justice TH Khan. Speakers included eminent Jurist Rafique ul Haque, Supreme Court Bar Association President Khandaker Mahubb Hossain and General Secretary Badruddoza Badal, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam Mian, Jamiruddin Sircar, Nazmul Huda, Aminul Haque, Shahjahan Omar, Nasiruddin Asim, Ahmed Azam Khan, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Maububuddin Khokan, Sanaullah Mian and Mir Nasiruddin.

Hundreds of lawyers including representatives from all district bar associations attended the rally. Urging the opposition to play a responsible role in establishing rule of law and fundamental rights of the people, Rafique ul Haque proposed formation of a body on 1/11 so that 'victimised' persons can give their statements before it.

4 road tunnels

FROM PAGE 1
Traffic system expert Prof Moazzem Hossain of Buet's Civil Engineering department said, "The government should undertake several such projects immediately as this kind of underpasses are of low-cost type and can be implemented in year."

The experts suggested that the government extends the project covering Mohakhali intersection at one end and Bangabazar or Bangabandhu Avenue on the other to link the project with the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover.

"We can also get huge benefit out of the project by linking the project with the proposed Mirpur-Zia Colony flyover project," said Moazzem. He said the government primarily approved construction of underpasses in the four intersections.

Replying to query, the expert said the existing traffic movement on the avenue would not be hampered during the construction of the underpasses.

Gas station

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Earlier on April 12 announced the work abstention programme at a press conference in the city.

The strike will start from Sunday as per the announcement as nobody from the government side yet contacted them to consider the demands," Nazmul Haque, convener of the council, told UNB yesterday.

Earlier, the union council enforced a half-day strike on March 14 at the petrol pumps and depots across the country to realise the demands. They also gave an ultimatum to the government for implementing those by April 11.

Nazmul, also the president of Bangladesh Petrol Pump Owners' Association, said incidents of robbery and looting have increased sharply at the petrol pumps in recent days due to non-issuance of arms licenses to the pump owners.

"These incidents are taking place frequently... Only in last few months, over 100 incidents of robbery and looting took place at different petrol pumps, including one belonging to me," he said.

Now there are about 3,000 petrol pumps in Bangladesh, including 300 in Dhaka.

Partial strike

FROM PAGE 16
Sadarghat terminal till 10:00pm last night, while usually 45 to 50 launches leave the terminal for different routes across the country.

Presence of passengers at the terminal was very thin because everyone was confused whether the strike would be observed fully or partially.

The Bangladesh Noutjan Sramik Federation called the strike rejecting the new wage structure announced by the government on Friday for water transport workers.

As per the new structure, wages of the workers have been raised by 50 to 100 per cent, which makes the minimum salary of a worker Tk 2,850.

But the workers earlier demanded Tk 5,000 as the minimum wage. Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan on Friday announced the salary structure at Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority's (BIWTA) conference room.

Some workers of different launches at Sadarghat expressed dissatisfaction about the new wage structure and said they had to operate the launches under threat of owners and law enforcers.

Addressing a press briefing at Sadarghat yesterday, Shipping Secretary Abdul Mannan Hawlader termed the strike unlawful and illogical and urged the federation workers to sit for a negotiation to resolve the problem.

He criticised newspaper and broadcast media reports that said the strike was observed across the country. "No strike has been observed. The water traffic remains normal," he said.

Meanwhile, some 200-250 members of Bangladesh Noutjan Sramik Federation brought out a procession from Muktangan in the city around 11:00am. They demanded continuation of the strike and immediate release of eight people arrested on Friday.

Federation vice-president Shah Alam alleged Bangladesh Noutjan Sramik League activists beat up some of their members at Sadarghat in the morning and snatched cellphones and cash money, a charge that Bangladesh Noutjan Sramik League president Moinul Islam

Liberal democrats

FROM PAGE 16
Clegg will meet his party's governing body, the federal executive, later to discuss Cameron's proposals. He will need the support of a majority of MPs and the executive to enter into any deal.

Entering talks this morning, Clegg stressed his priorities, including "fundamental political reform", but said they would act in a "constructive spirit" in the "coming hours and days".

Electoral reform is likely to be a key battleground - the Lib Dems have long campaigned for the first-past-the-post system to be replaced with a form of proportional representation. The Conservatives oppose changing the voting system.

Clegg said the election result meant politicians had to talk to each other as "people deserve good, stable government".

He said the Lib Dems would enter into talks with other parties in a "constructive spirit" over the "coming hours and days", and the party would press its case for its four priorities - tax reform to make the system fairer, a "new approach" to education to give a "fair start" to all children and to the economy and "fundamental political reform to our political system".

The Conservative and Lib Dem negotiation teams will meet again at 1100 BST on Sunday and there will be a meeting of Conservative MPs at 1800 BST on Monday, the BBC understands.

'PROGRESSIVE COALITION'
The approach by the Conservatives has echoes of 1974, when Tory PM Ted Heath spent a weekend trying to agree a coalition with Jeremy Thorpe's Liberal Party. The deal collapsed on the Monday and Heath was forced to resign - leaving Harold Wilson to form a minority Labour government.

Labour frontbencher Peter Hain said it was "clear" that Clegg and Brown had "a lot in common" on the need for electoral reform - Labour has offered a referendum on changing the voting system.

And his colleague Ben Bradshaw told the BBC it was "not credible" that the Lib Dems would do a deal with the Conservatives without the promise of electoral reform.

He said Gordon Brown - who has gone to his family home in Scotland - could remain prime minister in a "progressive" coalition deal with the Liberal Democrats, if their talks with the Tories failed.

And Scotland's First Minister, SNP leader Alex Salmond, called on the Lib Dems to join a "progressive alliance" involving Labour, the SNP and Plaid Cymru - although a Labour source dismissed that as "a desperate attempt by Alex Salmond to make himself look relevant after a terrible general election result".

About 130 research papers on science, business, natural resources and society will be presented at the conference with participation of academics from 20 countries.

NSU Vice Chancellor Hafiz GA Siddiqi, Suffolk University Vice President Janice Griffith, Knowledge Globalization Institute President Mawdudur Rahman, its Vice President Dr Nargis Mahmud and Prof Dr Abdul Hannan Chowdhury of NSU also spoke.

denied. **STRIKE ELSEWHERE**
Around 350 lighter vessels were stranded at different jetties during the strike in Chittagong, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

Fourteen cargo vessels with imported goods including 60,000 tonnes of cement clinker, 14,000 tonnes of wheat, 1,300 tonnes of fertilisers, 10,000 tonnes of yellow peas and 4,000 tonnes of slat remained idle at the outer anchorage.

Five activists of Bangladesh Noutjan Sramik Federation were injured in two separate attacks on two lighter vessels launched by Jahaji Sramik Federation, an organisation backed by ruling party, in the early hours yesterday.

Two of them remained reportedly missing since the attack, claimed Khorsheed Alam, federation central joint secretary.

Two launches left terminal for Bhola and Patarhat in Mehendiganj upazila around 11:45pm yesterday, a correspondent from Barisal reports.

District Port Officer Kazi Wakil Newaz said six launches left the terminal and two others anchored there.

Around 40 launches ply regularly on different internal routes of Barisal and eight to 10 launches regularly on Dhaka-Barisal route.

The strike paralysed cargo-handling operation at the Mongla Port and stranded six foreign vessels there, writes a correspondent from Khulna.

Bangladesh Noutjan Sramik Federation central joint secretary Abul Kashem Master said over 2,000 workers of 162 vessels, which ply on different routes from Mongla port and Khulna IWTA terminal, joined the strike.

The Chandpur launch terminal faced no impact of the strike and water vessel movement was normal, reports our correspondent in the district.

Yunus sings

FROM PAGE 16
on knowledge globalisation at the NSU campus in the capital. "Poverty is not a question of money, it is a question of structure," Yunus said.

He said poverty is not created by the poor: it is the result of mistakes done by someone else and is imposed on them.

The trend of maximising profit led to many problems such as food and oil crises, and the recent financial meltdown, said the microcredit pioneer.

Social business practised by Grameen Bank is getting popular in countries like the USA where banks were on the verge of collapse during the global financial crisis, Yunus said.

The model of traditional banking is wrong because it denies service to the poor and women, who need it the most, according to Yunus, known as the banker to the poor.

"I started going to the poor and women as a protest to traditional banking."

The collateral-free banking of Grameen Bank is inclusive and the loan recovery rate is nearly 100 per cent, said Yunus, the managing director of the bank.

One of Grameen Bank's 16 mandates is to make sure that all children of its member families go to school, he said.

About 52,000 students of Grameen families are now studying in universities and medical colleges although their parents are illiterate.

Grameen Danone Foods Ltd produces and sells nutrition-rich yoghurt to the poor at a cheap price. Similar ventures under Grameen Group do not take interests.

"People criticise me, but I think that is the only way I can solve problems. You create a company to solve problems, not to own," he said.

Yunus said humans are not "moneymaking machines or robots". "They are also selfless." If social business coexists with traditional business, most problems could be solved easily, he said.

Crisis brings an opportunity to redesign the whole system to make it inclusive and allow all to play their roles instead of keeping them dependent on government, he said.

6 murdered

FROM PAGE 1
Monwara said she saw the one-storey tin-shed house was ransacked and Yasmin's step son Noor Alam Danny alias Babu, 17, who used to live in a room for the last one and a half months, fled the house.

Babu appeared in the SSC examinations from Barisal this year and was attending a computer course in Dhaka.

Officer-in-Charge of Kadamtoli Police Station Kazi Ayubur Rahman said Babu might be behind the killing due to family feud.

Babu's sister Shahnaz Begum said their father Shah Alam is an engineer and works in a cement factory in Chhatak. Shah Alam married thrice and divorced first two wives. Her mother was his second wife, she added.

Two tenants of the house said they do not have any clue about the incident.

Contractor Abdus Samad was killed when he was going to Agargaon on a motorcycle from his Pirerbag residence.

A group of six to seven miscreants fired on him on Shyamoli road no 2 around 9.45am yesterday, locals said. The miscreants chased Samad when he ran with bullet injuries. Then they hacked him to death on Shyamoli footbridge.

Officer-in-Charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station Reazuddin said Samad was a local miscreant and accused in seven to eight cases.

Police is investigating the matter, the OC said.

Samad's first wife Selina Begum filed a case with the

police station.

His second wife Shahinur Akhter said he was going to his poultry farm and fishery in Agargaon when he was killed.

Samad served 4-year sentence in jail earlier, Shahinur said.

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Sharif's mother Sharifa Begum filed a general diary with Joydevpur thana on May 5 in this connection.

Leaders, troops

FROM PAGE 1
The carnage along with the simultaneous mutiny in 40 other garrisons was the first such scale of tragic incident in the 214 years' history of the force.

"I hope such tragic incidents would not be repeated in the force," said Gen Mainul who has been reverted to the army.

Gen Mainul confirmed that he has been appointed as Chief of General Staff (CGS) of the army and would take over his new responsibilities tomorrow.

The post of the CGS was lying vacant since March when CGS Maj Gen Abdul Hafiz was appointed as force commander of the UN Peace-Keeping Mission in the Ivory Coast.

On the other hand, Maj Gen Chowdhury Hasan Sarwady, who has been appointed as the new DG of Ansar and VDP, joined on Thursday.

The government made the changes in the forces on April 15.

Talking to The Daily Star, the newly appointed DG said his main job will be protecting the border besides continuing the trial of the mutiny and apply the government policies including reorganisation of the force.

is in progress.

"My other major task was to bring the border back to the normalisation," he said, remembering the people's tension about the fate of 4,456-kilometer-long border with India and Myanmar, for which there are about 44,000 riflemen.

Besides protecting the border and reform of the force, another major task was to ensure that the same type of tragic incident would not happen again.

Gen Mainul said his other big task was to assist others to ensure compensation for the victims of the carnage.

"It is the total force [BDR] that achieved the goals," said Gen Mainul, adding, draft of law of the force has been finalised and is awaiting submission in parliament as a bill.

"We have also finalised the new organisational structure or organogram and that is also awaiting the government approval.

"I can proudly say that nobody can point a finger to us that we have worked to take any revenge. We worked to ensure justice," said Gen Mainul.

Around 80 soldiers have died so far in custody of BDR since they surrendered, putting the force in the face of severe criticism.

"All the controversial deaths in the force have been investigated by the home ministry and if there was anything wrong I was supposed to know. But I did not hear anything and we are very clear to our conscience in this regard," said the outgoing BDR chief.

He said Bangladesh, the Maldives and Cambodia are the three countries of Asia to be receiving additional fund from the EU for adaptation to climate change.

The envoy said EU countries annually grant around 450 million Euros for socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

Stefan praised Bangladesh's role in the climate change issue saying Bangladesh needs to take lead of the Least Developed Countries in Asia. The EU Commission for Climate Change would attend the conference of Global Climate Change Alliance on May 30-31 in Dhaka.

On the next COP 16 in Mexico, he said the EU would take a common position regarding reducing carbon level by 20 per cent. He hoped that the COP 16 in Mexico would produce better results than that of Copenhagen's.

Asked about Rohingya