

Acting JMB chief

Police also recovered huge amount of bomb-making materials, a revolver and books on jihad from their possession.

In a separate drive Monday night, Joypurhat police arrested five members of the banned outfit from Panchbibi upazila while they were holding a meeting at a JMB member's house.

The arrestees were identified as Tanvir Hossain alias Adnan and Al-Mamun alias Swapan, Lutfar Rahman, Reaz Uddin and Golam Mahbub. They are all from Dhaka and went to Joypurhat to attend the meeting, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Police seized a laptop and several compact disks containing Iraq war videos and 10 cellphone sets from their possession.

Officer-in-charge of Panchbibi Police Station Biman Chandra Karmaker said acting on a tip off, a police team raided the house of Sirajul Islam at Tajpur, a bordering village, and arrested them.

Police said an active member of JMB, Sirajul has been absconding since he was accused in charge sheet of a robbery case in 2003 in Khetlal upazila.

He is also accused in charge sheet of the August 14, 2003 attack on a police team in Khetlal. A group of JMB leaders swooped on the team that day as it was preparing to raid a JMB den.

During the gunfight JMB men snatched three rifles from the law enforcers. The criminal investigation department in Dinajpur submitted the charge sheet in connection with the

attack to a Dinajpur court last month.

Police suspect the arrestees might have gathered at the house Monday night to plan a fresh attack either in the district or elsewhere in the country.

The detained were produced before a court with a prayer for seven-day remand for each yesterday afternoon. The court sent them to jail.

Joypurhat Acting Superintendent of Police Md Masrurur Rahman Khalid said security measures have been beefed up in the district after the arrest.

BCL activist

FROM PAGE 1 Polish in the college campus on the day of the incident," added the OC.

Ayub sustained minor injuries in the campus clash about an hour ahead of the murder.

MC College authorities suspended the classes yesterday.

A close friend of the deceased, Ayub is also a third year honours student in MC College and is an activist of the same BCL faction.

Party insiders say Sylhet City Corporation councillor Azadur Rahman Azad, also the president of city unit Jubo League, blesses the BCL faction.

BCL sources alleged that the faction led by MC College unit BCL chief Tajim Uddin carried out the attack on Polish.

No case has yet been filed as the family members of Polish were at their village home at Komolganj in Moulvibazar district, said the police.

Microbus kills DU employee

DU CORRESPONDENT

A female employee of Dhaka University (DU) died after sustaining severe injury when a speedy microbus dragged her at least 20 yards on a campus road yesterday.

Rupchan Begum, the 50-year-old victim, used to work as a cleaner at Rokeya Hall. The killer vehicle hit her when she was crossing the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) intersection to begin her work around 8:00am.

A witness, Mamun, who sells tea at TSC area, said the microbus hit Rupchan from behind and she fell aside immediately.

"But, a part of her shari tangled with the bumper of the vehicle and it dragged her as far as Bangla Academy," he said.

With injuries in the major portion of her body, she was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctor on duty declared her dead, the DU officials told The Daily Star.

Rupchan got appointment as a cleaner in 2006 after working in the post for 17 years on a temporary basis.

She is survived by five children and her husband, who works at the publication section of the university.

JS body

FROM PAGE 1 do not pay proper heed to the committees' recommendations to fight graft and improve governance.

For the first time during the tenure of the current parliament, Hasina, also the leader of the House, is going to listen to the chiefs of parliamentary standing committees.

A few chiefs of parliamentary bodies have already informed the speaker about the difficulties in discharging their crucial job of overseeing the activities of the executive.

"We hope the prime minister will listen to the problems we are facing. We will also urge the leader of the House to take steps for amending the rules of procedure of the parliament to make the functioning of the committees vibrant," M Israfil Alam, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on labour and employment ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Shaikh Muzibur Rahman, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on communications ministry, recently told The Daily Star that his committee is facing difficulties in doing its job as the minister concerned questioned the jurisdiction of the committee in seeking documents from them.

A delegation of the committee also met Speaker Abdul Hamid and informed him about the issue a few months ago.

Muzibur Rahman said the speaker assured them of arranging a meeting with the premier to resolve the problems.

Last year, the parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings summoned the former Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) chairman and two incumbent commissioners to appear before it but all of them refused to do so questioning committee's jurisdiction to summon them.

At that time, the parliamentary body met the speaker and requested him to take steps to ensure attendance of the former ACC chief and its two incumbent commissioners before the committee. The issue, however, remains unsettled till date.

Even, the all-party parliamentary body probing the alleged corruption of the former speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar, his deputy Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain faced the same complexity.

The probe body had summoned the trio to appear before it to explain their stance over the graft charges brought against them. But none of them appeared before the committee, questioning the committee's jurisdiction to summon them.

Many parliamentary body chiefs said the House should enact a law empowering the committees to ensure attendance of witness and producing of documents before the committee if required.

The constitution also says parliament may by law bestow power on committees for enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath, affirmation or otherwise, and compelling the production of documents.

IRRI made early

FROM PAGE 1 He revealed that IRRI scientists have already achieved initial successes in developing rice plant tolerant of both salinity and submergence, and yet another one that is tolerant of both submergence and drought.

"Now the challenge is to combine all the traits in one variety so that farmers can effectively fight the climatic adversities."

The IRRI DG's disclosure came at a time when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked scientists to invent new varieties of rice compatible with the climate change and different seasons.

"We have to produce rice that will harmonise with the seasonal changes and adjust to the changing climate," Hasina said yesterday at a city function where Zeigler also was on the dais. The special programme was arranged at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in celebration of the 50th founding anniversary of IRRI.

The Philippines-based IRRI is the world's largest rice research and training centre and one of the 15 food and agro-research centres funded through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), an association of public and private donor agencies.

An internationally acclaimed plant pathologist with 20-year experience in agricultural research in developing world, Zeigler said, "We're trying to come up with rice varieties that'll enable poor farmers to face the stress conditions like drought, salinity, submergence, water scarcity etc. And these are the areas where things are feared worsened because of climate change. So, we see it as a convenient convergence."

Appreciating Bangladesh's tremendous success in augmenting food production keeping pace with population growth since its independence in 1971, the IRRI DG said the country still holds potential for further growth in food production.

Referring to the rise in population and rapid depletion of croplands as major challenges, an optimistic Zeigler said, "If Bangladesh can provide its farmers with stress-tolerant varieties and can help farmers bridge the yield-gap, this country can still achieve dramatic production growth in the coming 10 years."

Yield-gap means the difference between per unit crop production in breeders' fields (in ideal lab condition) and farmers' fields.

As investments in agricultural research in the past gave the world enormous dividend in terms of fighting food insecurity, Zeigler thinks the governments of Asian countries should not shy away from investing more in agriculture.

"Sometimes people in finance departments don't really understand research and what benefits research can provide. Agriculture science is not sexy enough to draw much attention. But all

should reckon the 2008 world food crisis and financial meltdown as a wake up call," observed the IRRI DG.

Zeigler thinks the biggest investment Bangladesh can make is for creating a congenial environment where new generation brilliant ones can take agro-science study and research as career, and brain drain is halted.

A citizen of the United States, Zeigler has been at the helm of IRRI since 2005. Earlier, he had a six-year stint as a plant pathologist at IRRI from 1992 to 1998. Then Zeigler left to become professor and head of the department of plant pathology, and director of Plant Biotechnology Centre at Kansas State University in the US, before briefly working as director of the Generation Challenge Programme of the CGIAR in Mexico.

Jamaat leaders

FROM PAGE 1 While leaving the chamber of his counsel barrister Abdur Razzaq at around 6:00pm, Kamaruzzaman told reporters that the government is acting like a fascist regime. It is persecuting Jamaat leaders, violating court orders.

Pro-Jamaat lawyers and party activists were accompanying him on the court premises.

Tajul Islam, a lawyer for the detained Jamaat leaders, yesterday told The Daily Star that he would move a contempt petition today against the police for breaching the HC orders not to arrest his clients.

Of the two cases in which the Jamaat due sought anticipatory bail yesterday, one was filed on June 29 by Shahabul police on charges of obstructing their work.

The other was filed with Keraniganj Police Station on October 17, 2007, by one Mozaffar Ahmed for killing his grandfather Golam Mostafa in 1971.

On June 29, police arrested Nizami, Mojahid and Nayebe-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee in a case filed for hurting the sentiment of the Muslims. They were later remanded and shown arrested in other cases.

Sand-laden

FROM PAGE 1 Talking to The Daily Star, a top official of Department of Shipping said they could not continue the drive to stop plying of sand carriers during the night due to lack of cooperation from district administration concerned.

Inspector of the Inspectorate of Inland Shipping Shafique Aiyub identified lack of sufficient budgetary allocation and logistic support for the discontinuation of the drives.

Bazul Rahman, director general of the shipping department, assured that his department would strengthen monitoring to avoid further accidents.

"But inadequate manpower is the major hurdle to proper monitoring. I have already urged the government to recruit sufficient number of people in the department," Rahman said.

Hasina for climate

FROM PAGE 1 processed agricultural products are entering into the world markets."

She said during the Boro season the government provided electricity to the rural areas for better irrigation, keeping the urban areas in darkness, and that resulted in a bumper Boro production this year.

"For this our government had to listen to bad words from different quarters as we diverted electricity from Dhaka city to rural areas."

The PM said to ensure the food security the production of rice has to be increased. She said to feed the 18 crore people in 2015, the rice production has to be increased by one ton in each hectare while the present production capacity per hectare is 2.8 metric tons, which is lower than many countries.

Hasina said the Awami League government all the time worked for development of the agriculture and farmers.

"As we believe that without the development of agriculture it is not possible to develop the country."

She said during her previous rule, her government for the first time in the country's history became self-reliant in food in 1999-2000 and the country won the Ceres Award.

The PM said the government is committed to ensuring food for all and as per the election pledge the government would achieve self-reliance in food production by 2013. "That's why we gave

Court to decide

FROM PAGE 1 ornaments at the Bangladesh Bank locker for security reasons.

The court also directed the IO to keep other evidences of case to the officer-in-charge (OC) of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court storeroom.

Earlier on Monday, special superintendent of police Abdul Kahar Akand of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted the charge sheet to the CMM Court accusing 824 persons including BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Awami League leader Torab Ali.

The charge sheet showed 21 BDR personnel as absconding and the IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against them and sought an order to attach their properties.

CID has arrested 2307 persons so far in this connection while 2282 were taken on remand and 543 had given confessional statements.

The IO dropped names of 1483 BDR personnel and 13 civilians from the charge sheet as the charges of murder, arson, looting and concealing bodies brought against them were not proved.

But they will not be released from jail as they will be charged with mutiny and they will be tried, the charge sheet added.

BDR carnage

FROM PAGE 1 I won't be able to witness the killers of my brother get punished if the trial takes that long."

"I want to ask the killers why they killed my brother," he added.

Nehreen Ferdousi, wife of slain Col Mujiburul Haque, said it has been almost one and a half years since the carnage and she still does not know why her husband was killed.

"After so much hard work for the country why should they [army officers] face such death? I want the trial to finish soon and the killers punished," said Nehreen.

Nishad Rahman, wife of Col Mohammad Nakibur Rahman, told The Daily Star that she wants the trial to be fair.

Hasnaha Chowdhury, wife of slain Maj Hossain Sohel Shahnewaz, said, "We now have nothing much to ask for but a proper trial."

Elevated

FROM PAGE 1 agreement with the selected bidder at the end of this year for the construction work," he said.

The communications minister said major portion of the construction work would be completed during the tenure of the current government.

On metro railway in the city, he said the Japanese government has given a hint that they will finance 80 per cent of the project on condition that they would conduct feasibility study for it through Jica (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

He hoped that major portion of the construction work of the metro railway would also be completed during the present government's tenure.

Citing a number of projects both ongoing and under process, he hoped that the traffic situation would come to a tolerable level during the tenure of the current government.

On building an overpass at Jurain level crossing, upgrading Jatrabari-Demra-Kanchpur road into a dual carriageway, upgrading Jatrabari-Kanchpur portion of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway into eight lanes, construction of Gabtoli-Swarighat and Madartek-Nandipara-Trimohoni roads are among the projects under process, the communications minister said.

He said the government has also planned to upgrade Dhaka bypass road into a dual carriageway.

He said upgrading work to make Dhaka-Chittagong highway into a dual carriageway will have full pace in October this year and is likely to be completed by 2013.

DRIVE AGAINST OLD VEHICLES In response to another query, the communications minister said 15 more executive magistrates will start running mobile courts tomorrow to take action against bus and minibuses over 20 years old and goods carrying vehicles over 25 years old.

The government has already banned those vehicles from plying the city streets. Two executive magistrates have been running mobile courts to take actions against those vehicle, he said.

Israel orders Gaza-bound aid ship to Egypt

AP, Cairo

An Israeli military vessel confronted a Libyan aid ship yesterday trying to breach Israel's three-year-old Gaza blockade and ordered it to divert to an Egyptian port, the Israeli military and organisers said.

The Gadhaifi International Charity and Development Foundation said the Moldovan-flagged Amalthea, which left Greece on Saturday carrying 2,000 tons of food and medical supplies, refused to alter its course for el-Arish in Egypt and insisted it will steam on for Gaza.

The foundation also said in a statement posted on its website that the Israeli naval vessel is shadowing the Libyan-commissioned aid ship.

The Israeli military confirmed that it has made contact with the Amalthea and said "the navy has begun preparing to stop the ship." It did not elaborate.

The latest challenge to Israel's blockade on the seaside strip comes more than a month after Israeli naval commandos boarded a flotilla of Gaza-bound ships, killing eight Turks and a Turkish-American on one of the vessels.

That raid focused international attention on the Israeli embargo on Gaza, which is ruled by the Islamist militant group Hamas, and forced Israel to ease the movement of goods through land crossings.

However, Israel's naval blockade on the territory,

JMB boss

FROM PAGE 1 Saidur's statements regarding the "four-party alliance backing militant activities" add up.

DB sources said Saidur, former ameer of Habiganj district Jamaat, had also claimed Mojahid used to boast at party meetings that he led the killings of intellectuals in 1971.

2 arrestees confess

FROM PAGE 1 He added he had immediately thrown the bag outside, but a plainclothes Rab man later placed it in the balcony which was witnessed by his wife, brother and a neighbour.

Asked, Commander Sohail of Rab said they don't see any logic in Shafiqul's claims. As the officer concerned was convinced that someone else had placed the arms, he did not arrest Shafiqul, Sohail added.

He however said police are investigating the case and everything will be clear once the probe ends.

Asked whether their members checked Shafiqul's background before raiding his house, he said it's their duty to raid a place if they have information that there are illegal firearms there.

Apart from Bhutto, a team of Rab arrested his two associates -- Nuruzzaman Paltu and Hadiuzzaman Badsha -- in Kulia village around 5:00am yesterday. Another team arrested Rab informant Amirul Islam at the railway station in Khulna around 4:00am the same day.

During a media briefing at the Rab headquarters in Uttara, Bhutto also said Aminul, manager of the brick kiln, gave him the firearms. He along with Rouf's son Selim placed those in Shafiqul's house through a window grill.

"I informed Amirul that I have done my job around 11:00pm and asked him to do his part," Bhutto said, adding, Rouf gave him only Tk 5,000 for the job.

Amirul, who was also produced before the journalists, said he had informed Rab officer Maj Kamruzzaman that there are firearms at the house of "arms dealer" Shafiqul. Accordingly, the Rab went to Shafiqul's house around 1:00am that night, he added.

He claimed Rouf had asked him around a month before the incident to help him make an arms seizer plot at Shafiqul's house after his men would plant those.

"As I had helped Rab recover arms and drugs on many occasions, I was confident to do it. So I assured that I would help him," Amirul said.

He said Rouf had initially given him Tk 10,000. But as the scenario changed, Rouf called him and asked him not to return to the area, he added.

"Rouf also told me that he would give me enough money and subsequently gave me Tk 1 lakh through my cousin. From that amount my wife spent Tk 25,000, while the rest is still deposited in a local bank,"

Tk 95 lakh found

FROM PAGE 1 Meanwhile, Abdul Jalil, former pressman of offshoot branch of BG Press, who was arrested Monday with Tk 28 lakh at BG Press office, was placed on a three-day remand after he was taken to Rangpur yesterday morning.

Jalil was put face to face with the other arrestees in Rangpur, said police sources.

The committee formed by BG Press authorities to investigate the incident is probing into how Jalil took the money inside the BG Press.

The probe committee formed by the education ministry yesterday visited the guesthouse and interrogated its owner Kamal Ahmed and employees. They also exchanged views with local journalists.

SP Saleh told reporters that they got important information from the arrestees. He said a number of officials of Public Service Commission, BG Press and the establishment ministry are involved in the leakage of question papers from BG Press.

He, however, refrained from disclosing names for the sake of investigation.

Sources claim that 5-6 officials of PSC and 10-15 employees and some security guards of BG Press are involved in the leakage. They said the syndicate earned several crores of taka during the last eight years.

Rangpur police is looking for Alauddin, a clerk of Rangpur Zilla Parishad and brother-in-law of detained Hamidul Islam, a binder of BG Press, as he was the owner of one of motorcycles recovered from the Bhinno Jagat guest-

house on July 8.

Police in the capital are looking for Shahidul Islam, a binder of BG Press, who according to arrested Compositor of BG Press ATM Mostafa's information took the question out of the press on July 6, sources said.

Police raided Shahidul's house in Tejgaon a few days ago and found a pair of fake BG Press uniform trousers that had a secret pocket.

A large syndicate has long been leaking question papers and names of many more people of the syndicate would come out once Shahidul is arrested, they added.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday told reporters that no official of his ministry was involved with the question leakage and there were no negligence on part of the officials of his ministry.

A large syndicate is behind the leakage, he said, adding that the ministry's probe committee will submit its report within 10 days.

Sources in the education ministry said the history of question-paper leakage in different public examinations is quite long. Question papers of different public examinations including Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations, medical college admission tests and different recruitment tests have been leaked in the past.

Though every time the government formed probe committees and the committees came up with their reports but none of the recommendations were implemented, sources said.

Nimtoli still numb

FROM PAGE 16 treatment at hospitals.

On the night of June 3, a blaze erupted from a chemical warehouse at Nimtoli that killed 123 people and injured around 150.

The fire also gutted 20 shops and eight residential buildings bringing sufferings to around 100 families. A total of 70 families have lost their dear ones in the disaster.

The survivors of the inferno are yet to return to their professions due to burns in their bodies.

Quoting doctors, survivors said they are still suffering from burn injuries and it would take at least three months time for them to return to their regular professions.

Only Shahjahan Mia, who also received burn injuries in the flame, has been able to restart his business while owners of 19 shops and eight buildings could not due to fund crisis.

The injured victims from low-income group are the most sufferers as they have already spent their aids they received after the tragedy for survival.

"My wife is now running my seven-member family," said an injured day-labourer Kuddus Mia. He returned home from hospital in the last

week of June but his burns on back and neck are still causing sufferings to him.

"Doctors advised me not to rejoin work for at least three months", Kuddus added.

Another injured Mamun Mia was walking through the lanes at Nimtoli yesterday wrapping a piece of black cloth in his right hand to hide his burn injuries.

Mamun returned home from the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital on July 3 but could not reopen his fruit shop that was burnt in the fire due to fund crisis and physical unfitness.

Like others, Mamun also visited his son's grave at Azimpur graveyard and prayed for salvation of his soul.

Mohammad Didar, one of the owners of the five-storey building from where the fire erupted on June 3 night, said, "It would cost at least Tk 10 lakh to repair the house. We are not in a position to start the repair work due to fund crisis."

"We now pass nights at other people's corridors as we could not repair our burnt house," said another victim of the arson Azmeri Begum.

Azmeri along with 14 others of three families used to live in a one-storey semi-pucca building, which was gutted in the Nimtoli inferno.