

Unfit vehicles

FROM PAGE 16
Similar drives were taken in the past but to little avail as most of the outdated vehicles returned to the city streets immediately after the drives.

Everytime such action was taken, general people became victims of the scarcity of buses and it often forced them pay high fare to manage other modes of transport.

Corrupt officers of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) who issue licences and give fitness certificates taking bribes are primarily responsible for the present traffic situation and the frequency of road accidents.

Police also contribute to the deterioration of the traffic situation by allowing the outdated vehicles ply across the city in exchange for money.

The drive is being carried out while the communications ministry is planning to buy 700 passenger buses including 200 double-decker ones from India, China and Korea in the next one year.

"We have already bought 100 buses from Korea and those are already running on the streets. Plans to buy more buses to replace the unfit ones are at the final stage," said Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday.

He said the mobile courts will carry out the drive hiring vehicles from Rent-A-Car, instead of requisitioning public private transport.

The minister also said the transport owners pledged not

to bring their unfit vehicles to the streets.

"Despite that the drive will continue to seize such vehicles, if found on the streets" he added.

Chairman of BRTA Ayubur Rahman Khan said the drive would be successful this time as the owners assured them of extending full cooperation.

He also said the drive would help bring discipline in the vehicular movements on roads.

Khandaker Enayet Hossain, secretary general of Dhaka Sarak and Paribahan Owners' Association, said they would not run old buses and trucks in line with the government's decision.

Asked whether the old vehicles would come back after the drive concludes as it happened earlier, the transport leader said the situation would be different this time.

Husband

FROM PAGE 16
Mairan Tak of Uttar Khan in the capital.

She was rushed to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, from there to Tangail Sadar Hospital and finally to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Swapan was demanding another Tk 1 lakh as dowry for the past two years and went into hiding immediately after the incident.

Shikha filed a case with Uttar Khan police station yesterday against her husband under the Women and Children Repression Prevent Act.

Zahidul Islam alias Akash, son of Shikha and a class five student of local BRAC School, said during the incident his mother was removing pulp of boiled potatoes.

"Father asked mother whether he would pour the hot water where the potatoes were boiled outside home. She gave her nod. He lifted the pot and suddenly poured it on her and ran away."

"He was looking at my mother for about a minute and was thinking something before the move," Akash said.

He added they came to Dhaka around a year ago from Nagarpur in Tangail. "We had to shift house seven times, as my father used to beat up my mother and owners of the houses forced us to leave."

Shikha said around 8:00am that day Swapan told her to bring him Tk 1 lakh from her father.

"I told him that my father could not give him the money. Hearing this he started beating me. When I wanted to go to my father's house, he asked me to cook rice for him."

"He poured the hot water on me when I was removing pulp of potatoes after cooking rice," said an ailing Shikha on the bed of the DMCH burn unit.

Shikha's father Khandaker Nazrul Islam, a trader from Mirzapur in Tangail, said, "I gave him Tk 1 lakh during their marriage 15 years ago. He took the money saying that he would start a business. But he did not do anything."

"I also gave him all the furniture they needed for the family. He started demanding another Tk 1 lakh in the last two years saying that he would start a shop in Dhaka."

The officer-in-charge of Uttar Khan police said they have visited the spot and are trying to arrest Swapan.

2 JAMAAT LEADERS HC adjourns hearing on bail petitions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court (HC) yesterday adjourned for a week the hearing on the petitions filed by four Jamaat-e-Islami leaders including detained Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Kader Mollah seeking bail in two criminal cases.

The cases were filed against them on charge of obstructing police in discharging their duties and the killing during the liberation war in 1971.

Kamaruzzaman and Kader Mollah were arrested on Tuesday in a separate case filed on charges of killing 345 people during the liberation war.

A HC bench of Justice Afzal Hossain Ahmed and Justice MA Hafiz yesterday fixed July 21 for further hearing on the petitions.

Earlier on Tuesday during hearing on the bail petitions, the bench directed the government not to harass the four Jamaat-e-Islami leaders in these two criminal cases.

The two others accused in the cases are Jamaat leaders Nazim Uddin and Abul Hossain.

Shahbagh Police on June 29 filed the case on charge of obstructing them in the discharge of duties.

One Mozaffar Ahmed filed the case on December 17, 2007 with Keraniganj Police Station against the accused of killing his grandfather Golam Mostafa during the liberation war.

Advocate Khandaker Mahbub Hossain and advocate Tajul Islam appeared for the petitioners, while Additional Attorney General MK Rahman argued for the government.

Defence lawyers submitted bail petitions along with cancellation of the remand prayer. In the petitions, the lawyers said their clients were implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass them politically. So, they prayed for granting their bail.

At one stage, Quader Mollah sought permission from the court to rebut the allegations, but the prosecution prevented him from saying anything.

Though, Quader Mollah told the court that during the chaos of 1971 he was a residential student of Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University. So, he was not involved with the war crimes.

Dhaka District Public Prosecutor Khondaker Abdul Mannan said the Rajakers and Al-badrs had no right to say anything. He also said "I had only heard about them, but I see two Rajakers and Al-badrs in the court dock."

Freedom fighter Amir Hossain Mollah filed the case on January 25, 2008, with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

Hours before their arrest on Tuesday, the Jamaat duo appeared before the High Court and sought anticipatory bail in two cases -- one for murder in

Quader Molla

FROM PAGE 1
Meantime, the Jamaat leaders were also shown arrested in three other criminal cases filed with Paltan Police Station on February 12, 17 and June 20 for attacking the president's motorcade and preventing police from discharging their duties. They were arrested at the Supreme Court gate on Tuesday.

When the two were brought to the court by a prison van, Bangladesh Chhatra League of Jagannath University unit brought out a procession chanting slogans on the court premises and demanded their death sentence. They also showed them shoes.

Police also arrested 12 Jamaat leaders and activists from the court premises for their suspicious movement.

In the forwarding report, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Nurul Islam Siddiqui, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said the two along with their high level leaders had killed a large number of people during the Liberation War in 1971.

They had also raped women, looted and torched houses at that time. So they need to be remanded to find out clues about the cause behind killings and whereabouts of their accomplices responsible for committing such offences, the IO said.

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1971 and the other for recent assault on policemen.

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee were earlier shown arrested in the case.

RELATIVES OF TWO JAMAAT LEADERS ARRESTED
Meanwhile, police arrested Quader Molla's son and two sons-in-law and also Kamaruzzaman's son and nephew on the court premises.

Two activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were also detained.

The arrestees are Quader's son Hasan Jamil and sons-in-law Zahirul Islam and Mahibullah, Kamaruzzaman's son Hasan Imam and nephew Mashqur Rahman Jitu, and Shibir activists Zaman and Monirul Huq.

Mohammad Khurshid Hossain, deputy commissioner of DMP's Lalbagh division, said police arrested them on charges of attempts to deteriorate law and order on the court premises.

The arrestees would be produced before the court today, said police.

Sudan unready for south referendum

AFP, Khartoum

Sudan is "alarming" unprepared for a January referendum on southern independence and international intervention is urgently needed to prevent a return to civil war, a coalition of NGOs warned yesterday.

"The clock is ticking fast towards what might be the most important date in modern Sudanese history," the global coalition said in a report, referring to the January 9 referendum to decide on independence for south Sudan.

The vote also will decide on whether the oil-rich frontier region of Abyei will choose to fasten itself to the Muslim north or the Christian and animist south.

"Alarmingly, the current level of preparation is poor," the report warned.

The report by 24 international humanitarian and human rights organisations noted that the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) had ended more than two decades of civil war between north and south Sudan which left two million people dead.

War crimes trial

FROM PAGE 1
the government's move for holding the trial even after 40 years of the country's independence.

"If the opposition parties want to protest any decision taken by the government, they should do it in parliament," he said.

They should not go for violence in the name of protest, the UK minister noted.

In democracy, political views should be exchanged in parliament, instead of being expressed on streets through agitation, he said.

Duncan came to Bangladesh on Tuesday on a two-day visit and left the country last night.

The purpose of his visit was to see how the DFID-aided projects are being implemented in Bangladesh and whether the British taxpayers' money is being utilised properly, he mentioned.

What matters is the outcome of the projects as how those change the lives of the poor like the number of children taking academic education, people have access to safe drinking water and mother having safe birth, he said.

He said the UK is a longstanding partner of Bangladesh and is working with Bangladesh on a number of issues like poverty alleviation, climate change, etc.

"Britain wants to see Bangladesh as a strong voice in the international arena on climate change issue," he continued.

It believes in good governance and transparency to make sure every British pound is spent to serve a purpose, Duncan said.

On British aid programme, he said Britain is the first country in the world to spend 0.7 percent of its national income on international aid after 2013.

The minister also said his government is planning to revise the UK visa policy to make it friendlier to the Asian migrant workers.

"We are studying the policy and trying to figure out the problems the migrants are facing with it. And certainly we will take steps to resolve those problems," he said.

Duncan Norman, the acting British high commissioner, said the British government is working with the Bangladesh government to improve the country's human rights situation and make the country follow the international standards.

Chris Austin, the country representative of DFID, was also present at the press conference.

Govt probing

FROM PAGE 16
Hasina, said it is still mysterious why she went on hiding from her cantonment house in a black windowed car.

He however denied elaborating the process of investigation.

Referring to the submission of the charge sheet in Pilkhana carnage case he said the investigation was carried out in a neutral and transparent way.

Defying the claim of BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain over the charge sheet, he said none has been indicted in the case on political consideration.

At a press briefing on Tuesday Delwar alleged the charge sheet in the BDR mutiny case was politically influenced.

About the arrest of Jamaat leaders, Hanif said they were arrested on specific charges.

AL leaders AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin, Mrinal Kanti Das, Faridunnahar Laily, Afzal Hossain, Sujit Roy Nondi and Aminul Islam Amin were present at the press conference.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan is very hopeful of a successful negotiation this time since India, during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi in January, agreed to allow transit between Nepal and Bangladesh.

"The ultimate goal of the talks is to reduce the remaining gap and finalise modalities of the agreement on transport of trade cargos and operation of passenger vehicles," he told The Daily Star.

Sources in the commerce ministry said yesterday's talks were very positive and the two sides might come up with striking decisions on the concluding day today.

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JMB planned

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Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad said they are not worried at all about the hit list, as JMB has almost waned.

The JMB acting chief was arrested at Chhillpur on the outskirts of Bogra and following the information delivered by him police arrested five other operatives of the outfit in Gaibandha.

Meanwhile, a Bogra court yesterday placed Nazmul on a five-day remand after police sought a seven-day remand for him. He is a charge-sheeted accused in two cases--one filed in connection with the attack on late Prof Humayun Azad and the other in connection with the Mymensingh cinema hall blast in 2003.

Moreover, he is accused in nine cases filed in Thakurgaon in which arrest warrants were issued against him.

Asked what Nazmul disclosed about their huge quantity of explosives and firearms as disclosed earlier by detained JMB former chief Maulana Saidur Rahman and JMB military wing chief Shibli, Bogra SP Kabir said Nazmul told them that they do not have any stockpile of explosives and they only manufacture those when needed.

The SP said Nazmul told them that following the arrest of Shibli another member took over the charge of the military wing of JMB and that he did not know who the new military wing chief was.

Nazmul said after taking over as the JMB chief, he contemplated reorganising the organisation, which suffered a huge blow following the arrests of then JMB chief Saidur and Shibli.

Nazmul also told interrogators that said he already appointed in-charge of 16 districts in the northern region as part of his plan to reorganise JMB.

Nazmul also admitted that executed JMB military wing commander Ataur Rahman Sunny gave the revolver and bullets seized from him. He also said he had three 9mm pistols which he recently handed over to another JMB member at the directive of Shibli.

He claimed that he does not know the name of that member.

"During primary interrogation he may give us some misleading information. We'll start questioning him intensively from tonight with a questionnaire and ask about JMB's current organisational activities, source of funds, firearms and explosives," said Officer-in-Charge of Detective Branch of Bogra Abdur Rashid, also investigation officer of the case filed following the arrest of Nazmul.

Police said Nazmul told them during primary interrogation that JMB mainly runs on funds collected from members as contribution.

He said after his arrest, Shafiqul Islam, also known as Jama'i Rafiq, was supposed to take over the helm of JMB but he too has been arrested. He could not say who the new JMB chief is.

NAZMULASHIBIR MEMBER
Hailing from Paharpur village in Haripur upazila in Thakurgaon, Nazmul was a member of Islami Chhatra Shibir, a student body with close ties to Jamaat-e-Islami, until he joined JMB in 1998, police said.

In 2001, he got the post of Esher (full-time) member and was appointed a member of Majlish-e-Shura (highest decision-making body) of JMB. His appointment was made after the Shura was reconstituted following the arrest of JMB's founder Shaekh Abdur Rahman in 2006.

He took over as Ameer (chief) of the banned outfit after the arrest of Maulana Saidur Rahman in the capital in May.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent adds: Contacted Jamaat's Thakurgaon district Ameer Abdul Hakim said he does not know anyone by the name Nazmul in his party.

Son of madrasa teacher Abdul Quayum, Nazmul sat for the SSC exams at Rabhatta Chowranghi High School in 2001 but failed to pass.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: A Gaibandha court placed five JMB operatives--north Bengal JMB chief Jama'i Rafiq, Gaibandha district JMB chief Gias alias Rasel, Esher member Khairul Islam alias Shakil, Gayree Esher (part-time) members Anwer Alam alias Army Anwer and Abdul Majid--on four-day remand each.

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5 cops sued

FROM PAGE 1
on June 17.

After getting the news Babul Gazi went to Ramna police station for their release, but the police demanded Tk two lakh for the process.

"Police had threatened if he (Babul) failed to meet the demand, the two detained drivers would be implicated in several criminal cases and forced to give confessional statements involving my husband," she said.

She stated that Babul Gazi then gave police Tk 70 thousand on different days for Karim and Momin, but police did not release them and forwarded the drivers to court.

On June 28, Babul Gazi went to the CMM court for their release, but they did not get bail from the court, and Babul returned to his garage at Moghbazar in the evening, she said.

The same day police called Babul over telephone and asked him to go to Khejurtola at Moghbazar and pressed him to pay Tk 1.30 lakh and later they took him to the Ansar Camp of T&T colony at Moghbazar and tortured him to death, Shuvo claimed.

After getting news of arrest of her husband, Shuvo went to Ramna police at 11:30pm on the same day, and the police informed her that SI Altaf Hossain took her husband to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for treatment as he fell down from his CNG-autorickshaw and got injured, she said.

Shuvo then went to DMCH and found her husband dead.

Earlier on July 7, another murder case was filed against four police personnel and three civilians in connection with the killing of Mujibur Rahman in police custody on July 1.

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JMB chief

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During the interrogation that night, Saidur Rahman facing Jamaat Secretary General Mojahid claimed that Mojahid had regrets about his failure to kill "all" the pro-liberation intellectuals on the night of December 14, 1971.

Mojahid initially denied the allegation but became silent when Saidur stood by his claims referring to an event that took place two decades ago, according to DB officials.

"In 1990, when I was the Habiganj ameer, while talking to us in the party office at Moghbazar Mojahid boasted of leading the killings of pro-liberation intellectuals in 1971. But he expressed disappointment as many of them survived," Saidur told the interrogators in presence of Mojahid.

"Mojahid also said that if all the pro-liberation intellectuals were killed that night, none could speak against Jamaat-Shibir," Saidur claimed.

Mojahid rejected Saidur's statement and denied the allegations against him of killing the intellectuals, said DB officials.

However, according to the DB officials, Saidur told Mojahid, "You told me this sitting on the first floor of the party office while we were having oranges that you had brought for us."

DC Monirul Islam said, "We got some new information when we put the detainees face-to-face."

According to Saidur, he took the helm of JMB as per the Jamaat ameer's directive while Nizami said that they suspended Saidur from the party when they came to know about his link with JMB.

Saidur differed with the statement saying that he was never suspended from Jamaat. He said when his son AKM Shamim was arrested on September 7 in 2005, he was present at Habiganj Jamaat office and discussed the next course of action with the party leaders.

Asked about the comment on JMB, Jamaat leaders said they never support JMB and therefore, top JMB leaders were arrested during their tenure.

When the DB officials asked Saidur and Sayedee about the killing of Prof Humayun Azad during their face-to-face interrogation, Saidur said Sayedee had incited the killing.

Sayedee denied the allegation, said the DB officials.