

Jamuna devours 180 feet of Sirajganj dyke

A CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 180 feet area of Sirajganj town protection embankment collapsed yesterday triggering panic among the townspeople.

Thousands of locals threw sand bags, concrete blocks and other materials in the affected area to stop erosion

while a large number shifted to safer places.

Workers of Water Development Board started putting sand bags and CC blocks immediately after the collapse to prevent further damages but their attempts went in vain because of strong current in the Jamuna.

The divers of Bangladesh

Navy said the embankment began to collapse as sand under the CC blocks moved away about 35 feet off the dyke.

Water Development Board sources said at around 2:00pm yesterday the bamboo poles used at the hard point in Kazipur Ghat for protection began to surface.

On information, the divers of the Bangladesh Navy deployed there tried to inspect the situation.

Chief of the diving team Shahnewaz Bhuiya said the sand bags under the CC blocks were displaced by strong whirlpool forcing those to slide away.

Executive Engineer Abdul Malek of Water Development Board (WDB) said they are examining the whole situation to take necessary steps.

Sources said the embankment was built with a 100-year warranty, but last year it was damaged twice--on July 10 and on July 17.

Panic gripped the locals following the incident, as the area of erosion was widening till filling of this report last evening.

Huge number of law enforcers have been deployed in the area to face emergency situation.

Thousands of local people, scared by the incident, staged demonstration accusing the WDB of failure to protect the embankment, reports UNB.

Sirajganj Sadar Upazila UNO Mohammad Hossain blamed the WDB officials for negligence in performing their duties. He also told the local reporters that he would file a complaint with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).



About 180-foot area of Sirajganj Town Protection Embankment goes into the Jamuna due to erosion by the turbulent river yesterday afternoon.

Ripon to be quizzed in Polash murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A judicial magistrate's court in Sylhet yesterday granted two-day remand for Chhatra League leader Abdur Rahim Ripon for quizzing in the case for killing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist Udayendu Singha Polash.

Quizzing is likely to start today (Tuesday), said investigation officer of the case, Sub Inspector Abdur Rahim.

Police on Friday arrested Ripon, president of recently dissolved MC College hostel Chhatra League unit, at a room in the hostel as a suspect in the murder case.

Intra-party rivals stabbed to death BCL activist Udayendu Singha Polash, 22, also an honours 3rd year Mathematics student of Sylhet MC College, at Shaplabag in Sylhet city on July 12 afternoon.

On July 14, Bireswar Chandra Sinha, father of deceased Polash, filed a murder case

with Sylhet Kotwali PS accusing 14 activists of BCL MC College unit including eight named and six unnamed ones. The named ones are Fazlur Rahman Jashim, Md Delwar Hossain, Shipon Khan alias Kala Shipon, Shahidul Haque, Russel Ahmed, Giasuddin, Mostafizur Rahman, Sanjay Kumar Chowdhury.

Police earlier picked up Ayub Ali, a friend of the deceased, about two hours after the killing. After primary interrogation, he was sent to the jail through magistrate's court July 13 under Section 54 as a suspect in the incident, police said.

The central committee dissolved the unit, along with the BCL, Sylhet district, city and college units of the unit, on July 14 and expelled six of the college unit and 12 of the district and city units for their complicity with unwanted activities. Ripon is one of them.

Two Hizbut Towhid women held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Kalihati police arrested two women activists of Islamist outfit Hizbut Towhid Bangladesh on Sunday evening.

People of Maloti village under Narandia union in the upazila detained Mazda Khanom, 42, of Basail upazila and Momena Akter Moriam, 16, of Tangail town while motivating the villagers about the ideals of Hizbut Towhid and encouraging them to buy books of the organisation.

The villagers informed police and a team from Kalihati police station rushed to the village and took the two women to the police custody.

Biral upazila chairman gets 2-yr RI

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Dinajpur court yesterday sentenced Biral upazila parishad chairman to two years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for damaging portrait of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and assaulting the UNO of Biral upazila.

The court also fined convict Mokarram Hossain Moka Tk 500, in default, to suffer one month more in jail.

AJM Fazlul Haque, judge of Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court pronounced the verdict in a crowded courtroom.

After the verdict, the chairman was hurriedly taken to Dinajpur jail to avoid any untoward incident as hundreds of his supporters gathered on the court premises.

According to the prosecution, on April 29 Biral upazila chairman Mokarram Hossain applied for an outmoded vehicle of upazila nirbahi office for his personal use.

UNO AKM AZADUR Rahman agreed to hand over a vehicle but on condition of a formal letter from the chairman.

This angered the upazila chairman and at one stage of altercation, he hurled abusive words at the UNO, ransacked his room and damaged goods including furniture, personal laptop of UNO.

He (chairman) also threw a paperweight at the portrait of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina damaging it on the spot.

Following the incident, president of Biral upazila AL Md Ishaque Ali filed a case with Biral police station under speedy tribunal accusing the chairman of damaging portrait of prime minister and assaulting the UNO.



Children of Panchagarh Shishu Paribar barricaded Panchagarh-Dhaka highway on Sunday protesting expulsion of six fellows from the orphanage.

Orphans revolt again as 6 fellows expelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Children of Panchagarh Shishu Paribar revolted again on Sunday and barricaded Panchagarh-Dhaka highway protesting expulsion of six fellows in connection with an incident at the orphanage about three months ago.

The children of the orphanage said the superintendent on Sunday asked Zillur Rahman, student of class X, Shohag and Tanin of class IX, Rezaul of class VIII, Arif of class VII and Shohel of class V to leave the orphanage for good.

Sources said, the superintendent took the action on the basis of a probe report on April 21 incident at the orphanage. When the expelled students started leaving the

orphanage, the other 74 students also came out with them with their bag and baggage and barricaded the Dhaka-Panchagarh highway.

Meantime, the officials and staff of the orphanage fled the scene. On information, a police team led by sub-inspector Rasel Mahmud rushed to the spot and brought the students back to the orphanage after about an hour of sit-in on the highway.

Earlier on April 21, the children of the orphanage revolted against the alleged maltreatment by the officials and demanded their removal.

The children alleged that the officials of the orphanage used to torture them on trivial matters and force them to take

stale foods. "If any child of the orphanage fell sick, they hurled abuse at him instead of providing treatment," said a boy.

Md Masum Ali, superintendent of Panchagarh Shishu Paribar said he expelled six students on the basis of the recent investigation report of Director (Institution) of Social Welfare Department Habibur Rahman.

Expelled student Shohag, a class nine student of the orphanage, however, told the reporters that they lodged a complaint against three officials during investigation about the previous incident, but the investigator took action against innocent officials of the orphanage instead of the corrupt ones.



A mobile court staff pours adulterated milk on the seller's head during an anti-adulteration drive at Haji Shariatullah Market in Faridpur town yesterday.

JMB ARRESTEES IS GAIBANDHA, JOYPURHAT

5 confess to doing criminal acts, 5 others remanded

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Five arrested activists of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) confessed to their involvement in several blasts on August 17 in 2005 and other criminal acts before a Gaibandha court under Section 164 on Sunday evening.

Meanwhile five suspected activists of the outfit, arrested in Joypurhat on July 13, were remanded yesterday.

Gaibandha Judicial Magistrate's Court recorded confessional statements of five JMB activists and sent them to jail as police did not seek further remand. They were produced in the court on expiry of their four days remand, according to our correspondent.

Police in a drive on July 13 arrested JMB North Bengal chief Jamaal Rafiq alias Shafiqul Islam, Gaibandha district chief Gias alias Russel, ehsar members Khairul Islam alias Shakil, anwar Alam alias Army Anwar and Md Abdul Majid in Prodhanerpara area under Gobindaganj municipality.

The arrestees were produced in the Judicial Magistrate's Court the following

day with a prayer for ten days' remand, but the court granted four days.

During remand at Gobindaganj Police Station, the JMB men confessed to their involvement in August 17 serial blasts in 2005 and other criminal

They told police that as per instruction of their present Ameer Saidur Rahman they were engaged in recruiting members and collecting money from JMB supporters to carry out the party activities.

Police said the court recorded their confessions under section 164 and sent them to jail.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reported that Joypurhat Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday placed five suspected JMB men on one day's remand.

They were arrested on July 13 at the residence of chargesheeted JMB man Sirajul Islam at Tazpur village under Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat district, police said.

The five arrestees are Golam Mahbub Shahrir Rial, 25, a freelance photographer and son of Abdur Rob of Narinda in Sutrapur, Tanveer Hossain Adnan, 28, a student and son of Afzal Hossain of the same area, Al Mamun Swapan, 27, a print-

ing and packaging worker in the same area, Lutfor Rahman Apel, 29, owner of a CD/DVD shop and son of Salahuddin of Gendaria, and Md Riazuddin Riaz, 27, son of Mohiuddin of Ucchar Poddar Lane in the capital.

Police produced them in the court, seeking a five-day remand. After hearing, the magistrate granted only one day's remand.

Panchbibi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Birman Karmaker said a police team led by him raided the house of charge-sheeted JMB man Sirajul Islam and arrested the five youths when they were holding a meeting inside the house on July 13.

Villagers, on the other hand, said police arrested the five youths from outside the house when they were going to Korla, a bordering village of the upazila, by an electric three-wheeler.

Police claimed that they recovered a laptop, CD, a camera and 10 bottles of phenisidyl during the raid.

Sources said these boys came to Sirajul's house on July 11 and police arrested them the next day.

Jamaat leader 'advocate' of war crime trial

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

"The war criminals who killed people indiscriminately and committed crimes against humanity during the Liberation War must face trial. The government has started the process and the trial would be completed if God wishes."

Believe it or not, this is the utterance of Chapainawabganj municipality Mayor Aatur Rahman, who is also a member of the Sura and Karmaparishad (working committee) of Chapainawabganj district unit of Jamaat.

Aatur was addressing a meeting arranged by the newly elected district command of Muktiyoddha Sangsad at Shahid Satu Hall in Chapainawabganj town yesterday.

As the freedom fighters were chanting slogans 'Joy Bangla' and 'Joy Bangabandhu', the local Jamaat leader said, "Joy Bangla means long live Bangladesh. Bangabandhu's contribution to the country's independence is extraordinary. Mere slogans are not enough. All should pray to Allah for salvation of his soul. We wish him enter heaven."

"There are war criminals in all parties and after detection they must be brought under trial," he said.

Among others, Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila parishad Chairman Ruhul Amin, Awami League leader Dr Samil Uddin Ahmed Shimul and Executive Magistrate Shahadat Hossain addressed the meeting presided over by newly elected President of Chapainawabganj district command of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Golam Rabbani.

15 Jamaat-Shibir activists remanded in Satkhira

Charge framing of 47 in Khulna delayed

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Fifteen Jamaat and Shibir men, arrested in Satkhira on July 15, were placed on a three-day remand while charge framing against 47 activists of the two organisations in Khulna was deferred to July 25 yesterday.

In Bogra, police arrested two Jamaat activists at a rally in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

According to our Satkhira correspondent, police arrested 15 out of 89 Jamaat and Shibir men on the night of July 15 in a seditious case filed with Sadar Police Station.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station Shah Jahan Khan, also the investigation officer of the case, produced the arrestees in the chief Judicial Magistrate's Court the following day with a prayer for seven days' remand.

Chief judicial Magistrate Samsul Arefin heard the prayer yesterday and placed the Jamaat and Shibir men on a three-day remand.

Those placed on remand are Kamrul Islam and Nurul Islam of Puratan Satkhira, Sultan Karikar of Machhkhola village, Abdul Ahad of Kashedempur village, Abul Kalam Azad and Shahinur Rahman of Katia village, Mahbubur Rahman of Kamalnagar village, Abdur Rahman of Munshipara village, Shah Jahan of Dahakula village, Nurul Haque of Raichpur village, Abdul Momin of Rasulpur village, Abdus Sabur of Jahanabad village, Ahad Ali of Jordia village and Kabir Hossain of Alipur village in Sadar upazila; Amirul Islam of Sakhipur village in Debhata upazila, and Abdullah of Assassumi village and Shahinur Rahman of Keshavillage in Tala upazila.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reported that the Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday deferred charges framing against 47 Jamaat

and Shibir men to July 25 in a case for attack on police in the city on June 30 this year.

Of the accused, 23 are now in jail while the rest still at large. Court sources said the tribunal judge fixed the date for charge framing on July 25, asking the law enforcers to arrest the remaining 24 accused and produced them in the court on the day.

Sub-Inspector Monirul Islam, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted charge sheet to CMM's Court on July 12, accusing 47 leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir of attacking law enforcers at Dakbunglow Square during a demonstration on June 30.

Sub-Inspector Rezaul Karim lodged an FIR with Khulna Sadar Police Station the same day. The FIR was later recorded as a regular case under sections 4 and 5 of the Speedy Trial Act and the case was referred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal.

The 47 charge sheeted accused include Jamaat Khulna city unit Ameer and former lawmaker Mian Golam Parwar.

Police arrested two Jamaat member at a rally in Fateh Ali Bridge area of Bogra Sadar upazila yesterday morning, says our staff correspondent.

The arrestees are Mojahar Ali, 50, son of Misir Ali of Shaktala, and Osman Gani, 42, son of Sharafatullah of Fultala under Shahjahanpur upazila of the district.

Bogra Sadar police arrested the two while local Jamaat unit was holding a rally in Fateh Ali Bridge area at around 8:00am demanding release of three top party leaders.

Police said the arrestees are accused in a case filed with Sadar police station for damaging vehicles and creating obstruction in performing government activities during June 27 hartal.

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