

BOGRA BCL LEADER MURDER

Pistol used to kill Jewel recovered

It was bought by Ropan, police say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police yesterday seized the foreign-made pistol used in killing Bogra district Chhatra League leader Sakhawat Hossain Jewel.

Criminals killed Jewel, former joint secretary of Bogra district unit Chhatra League, by shooting and hitting with local made weapons inside Shibhati Sebak Samity in the town on June 5 night.

On July 16, police arrested Bogra Jubo League leader Omar Khayyam Ropan on charge of involvement with the killing of sand trader Liton when he came out with

bail in Jewel killing case from Bogra Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.

Following Ropan's statement, Bogra police led by Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rifur Rahman Mondal yesterday morning recovered the pistol along with two bullets and two magazines that were wrapped in a plastic bag in an abandoned garden at Andha Hafezia Madrasa Lane in the town, police officials said at a press conference at the office of Bogra superintendent of police yesterday noon.

Ropan bought the pistol from a bordering village in Joypurhat district for Tk 75,000, ASP Arifur Rahman

said, adding that Ropan hired criminal Rokonzaman Ripon for Tk 50,000 on June 4 to kill Jewel and Ripon was with Jewel during the killing.

Ripon was killed at Malotinagar in the town on August 14 evening.

On the same night, a case was filed with Bogra Sadar police station against BNP leader and Bogra municipality ward councillor Shifar Al Bakhtiar and 13 others on charge of killing Ripon by shooting and local made arms.

There are several cases with Bogra Sadar police station against Shifar, police said.

2 prisoners die in jails

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two prisoners died in Pabna and Bagerhat jails yesterday and the day before.

A prisoner died in Pabna jail yesterday due to illness, jail sources told our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Ali Hossain, 42, son of Harun Ur Rashid of village Kadirpur in Bagha upazila under Rajshahi district.

He was imprisoned in Rajshahi jail in a murder case and later shifted to Pabna jail on April 17 this year for treatment, jail sources said.

Pabna Jail Superintendent Md Enamul Haque told this correspondent that Ali Hossain fell sick on Wednesday night. He was taken to Pabna Jail hospital but as his situation deteriorated he was shifted to Pabna General Hospital yesterday where he died yesterday morning.

In Bagerhat, an under-trial prisoner died of cardiac arrest at the district jail on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Kamal Hossain, 36, son of Abdul Halim, a resident of Mongla upazila town, reports UNB.

Jail Superintendent said Kamal Hossain felt severe chest pain early in the morning and fell seriously ill. Later, after giving preliminary treatment at the jail he was taken to the Sadar hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

Kamal was in jail since January 13 this year in connection with a rape case. After postmortem, his body was handed over to his family members in the afternoon.

3 housewives murdered, another raped

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three housewives have been murdered and another raped in four districts.

A mother of two was hacked to death allegedly by her husband for dowry in Kashor area in Mymensingh early Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Mahfuza Khatun, 25, daughter of Abdul Majid of Bhatia Barera area of the town and wife of Abdul Quader of Kashor, reports UNB.

Police said, Quader, son of Abdul Khaleque, married Mahfuza 10 years ago taking a dowry of Tk 1.50 lakh from her parents. But after the marriage Quader and his family started torturing her for more money.

A few days ago, Quader asked Mahfuza to bring Tk 2 lakh from her parents which she refused. On Tuesday late night Quader picked up a quarrel with Mahfuza over the issue and at one stage he with help of his family members stabbed her to death.

In Pabna, a housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry on Monday.

Police recovered the victim's body from Char Sadirajpur village along the river Padma and sent it to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy on Wednesday.

Victim Shirin Akter, 25, was daughter of Aslam Sheikh of village Brozonathpur in Pabna Sadar upazila.

Family sources said, Shirin was married to Rubel Fakir, a carpenter of village Char Sadirajpur about 18 months ago with a dowry of Tk 20 thousand.

Police quoting the victim's father said, Shirin was killed by her husband and in-laws for dowry. She was beaten to death on Monday and her body was dumped in the river.

A housewife was strangled during a family feud at Syedergaon village under Monohordi upazila in Narsingdi on Wednesday, reports a correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Dipa Akter, 25, wife of Rafiqul Islam, an auto-tempo driver of the village.

Sources said, Dipa and Rafiqul often quarreled over family problems and poverty. On the fateful day, Rafiqul strangled Dipa and fled away leaving her body in their room.

Away in Thakurgaon, a housewife was raped at Mondalpara village under Baliadangi upazila early Tuesday, reports our correspondent.

Police and locals said, Anwar Hossain of Mondalpara village went to catch fish in the nearby waterbodies at night leaving his wife Fency Akhter, 20, alone at home.

Golam Hafez alias Robiul, 25, son of Ibrahim of the same village forcibly entered Fency's room and violated her. Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and rescued her but the rapist managed to flee.

A case was filed accusing Robiul.

Deed forgery racket busted, 5 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Law enforcers arrested five members of a forgery racket and seized from their possession about 3500 deed writing stamps of Bangladesh, Pakistan and India, rubber stamp seals of several government officials and other documents used for forgery in Dinajpur on Wednesday night.

The items were used to prepare fake land documents, officials said.

Police arrested Md

Moslem Uddin, 60, of village Alammoha of Chhiringbandar upazila of Dinajpur, after Shah Mujahiduddin, a magistrate of Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner's office, conducted a raid at Moslem's Kalitola residence in Dinajpur town on Wednesday night.

Following Moslem's statement, police led by the magistrate raided different places in Dinajpur throughout the night and arrested Md Abdur Rahman, 65, of Dinajpur Satellite town block-5, and his son Md Rafiqul Islam, 35.

The law enforcers seized 3500 fake deed writing papers of Dinajpur and Bangladesh, and 39 rubber stamp seals of different countries, documents of Land Settlement Department and receipts of land development taxes and other documents used for forgery from their possession.

Police also arrested Md Khalilur Rahman, 50, of village Biswanathpur and AKM Abdul Salam, 45, of village Islampur under Dinajpur Sadar upazila for involvement with the

gang. Md Jahangir Alam, ASI of Dinajpur, filed a case with Dinajpur police station in this regard.

During primary interrogation, the arrestees revealed that a number of people in revenue business are involved with the racket that is active in Dinajpur and some other areas of the country.

Several other members of the well-organised gang have disappeared following arrest of the five people.

Govt backed Naogaon operations in 2004

Claims JMB militant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Hemayet Uddin Himu, arrested leader of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), yesterday said the militant outfit carried out its activities in Naogaon in 2004 with the backing of government.

Himu disclosed this at a press conference at Rab-5 headquarters in Rajshahi city. He said police and government officials used to accompany Bangla Bhai's armed gang while it conducted criminal activities such as murder, torture and extortion.

The 39-year-old JMB man said Bangla Bhai and his cadres used government vehicles at their will while kidnapping people from their houses, in taking them to torture camps or sending the bodies to hospitals or police camps.

Quoting witnesses and their intelligence reports, Rab officials said Himu was a close aide to the executed JMB leader Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai.

He was active in Raninagar, Atrai and Sadar upazilas of Naogaon as the regional commander of JMB.

"I am a farmer. The outlaws were extorting me and capturing my lands... I was not getting justice anywhere until 2004. When Bangla Bhai appeared on the scene and sought our help to resist the outlaws, I extended



Hemayet Uddin Himu, leader of banned JMB, is brought before journalists at a press conference at Rab-5 headquarters in Rajshahi city following his arrest yesterday.

support to him," said Himu. "I helped Bangla Bhai identify the outlaws and brought bhai later killed and tortured them at JMB torture camps."

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-5 arrested Hemayet Uddin Himu, raided his house at Atrai village in Atrai upazila of Naogaon district at around 3:00am yesterday.

The Rab officials said Himu used to work for outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) before joining JMB in 2004.

They said Himu and 35 other JMB men kidnapped Sheikh Farid, a retired army man on April 26 of 2004,

branding him as a leader of outlaws. They took him to Bhabanipur High School ground and beat him up. Farid succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on May 1. Police later pressed charges against 32 people including Himu in the murder case.

Himu is also a charge-sheeted accused in Idris Khejur murder case. Police exhumed Khejur's body from near Bheti Madrasa torture camp in Naogaon on May 28, 2004.

At least 22 people were killed and several hundred others maimed by JMB in Rajshahi, Natore and Naogaon districts in a couple of months in 2004.

BARISAL COURTS Over 28,000 criminal cases pending

UNB, Barisal

More than 28,000 cases have been pending with Barisal district judge and judicial magistrate courts for a long time causing sufferings to the justice seekers.

Barisal district judge court sources said at least 13,415 cases remained pending with 17 sessions judge courts and tribunals till date.

On the other hand, 14,874 cases are pending with 13 courts of Barisal judicial magistracy.

Sources said Barisal was upgraded to a division in 2001 and Barisal district municipal town upgraded to city corporation in 2003 and Barisal judicial magistracy created on October 26, 2006.

After separation of judiciary, one chief judicial, two additional chief judicial magistrate courts for the district and 10 judicial magistrate courts for all of the 10 upazilas were scheduled to start functioning.

However, Barisal judicial magistracy started functioning with 10,083 cases on November 1, 2007 and metropolitan magistracy is yet to be created for Barisal city corporation areas.

At present only one chief, one additional chief and five senior judicial magistrate courts are functioning for trial of 14, 874 cases registered with 13 courts.

In a similar situation, at least 13,415 criminal cases are pending with 17 sessions judge courts and tribunals.

"We need immediate functioning of all upazila judicial magistrate courts and judicial sessions courts and metropolitan magistrate courts to settle the criminal cases piled with trial courts," said Advocate Giasuddin Kabul, Barisal district public prosecutor.



PHOTO: STAR

Police yesterday seize the foreign-made pistol, used to kill Bogra district Chhatra League leader Sakhawat Hossain Jewel, along with two bullets and two magazines. The recovery followed statement of Bogra Jubo League leader Omar Khayyam Ropan (hand-cuffed), also an arrestee in the murder case.

AUGUST 15 INCIDENT

RU students demand expulsion of BCL men

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of history department of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday submitted a memorandum to university Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan demanding expulsion of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) cadres who seriously injured Nasirullah Nasim, a student of the department.

In the memorandum, the students stated that BCL cadres Zahidul Islam, Zahurul Islam, Toufiqul Islam, Ruhul Amin and Lutfar Rahman, all loyal to BCL RU unit President Awal Kabir Joy, beat up Nasirullah Nasim, a fourth year history student, and a resident of Shah Makhdoom Hall, and pushed him down from the first floor of the dormitory

on August 15.

They threatened tougher agitation if the cadres were not punished. The vice chancellor assured the agitating students of taking necessary steps in this regard.

Earlier, over 500 students of history department formed a human chain in front of the university central library and held a rally at the venue at 1:30pm. At the rally, the students criticised the law enforcers for not arresting the BCL culprits who led the attack.

They alleged that BCL cadres were involved in clashes, extortion and other crimes at different halls on the campus and several hundred students had to leave their dormitories due to threat by BCL activists but the university authori-

ties have failed to take proper steps against them.

They urged the university authorities and law enforcers to take steps for punishment to the BCL cadres.

The incident happened following a dispute over distribution of iftar token among the students of Shah Makhdoom Hall on the occasion of National Mourning Day



Critically injured Nasirullah Nasim was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested two BCL men during a raid at the hall around three hours after the incident and a case was filed with Motihar Police Station accusing ten BCL men on the same day.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of history department of Rajshahi University form a human chain on the campus yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the BCL men who seriously injured Nasirullah Nasim, a student of the department, at Shah Makhdoom Hall on August 15.

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