

BCL cadre that drove nails through RU student's leg held

STAR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police on Wednesday night arrested a Chhatra League activist of Rajshahi University unit in connection with campus violence.

Arrestee Feroz M Arifur Rahman, 25, along with some other BCL cadres severely beat up and stabbed a RU student in public branding him as a Shibir man on August 31, police said.

The BCL cadres allegedly drove nails through a leg of Mashuiur Rahman, a postgraduate student of Philosophy department, near the university's transport market at about 8:30pm.

The cadres also assaulted shopkeepers of the market who tried to help Mashuiur hearing his scream.

Later, friends rescued an unconscious Mashuiur from the spot and rushed him to hospital.

A patrol team of Motihar police however detained Feroz, also a close associate of



Feroz M Arifur Rahman

expelled BCL RU unit president Awal Kabir Joy, from Auctroy intersection around 11:30pm, for campus violence on August 7.

BCL on August 24 expelled Joy and Majedul Islam Opu, general secretary of RU unit, for intra-party feuds that led to several clashes.

The decision came after the August 15 clash on the campus that left Nasim, a BCL activist, dead.

Abul Khair, officer-in-charge of Motihar police

station said Feroz, an MBA final year student at RU, went into hiding after he was implicated in one of the two cases filed in connection with the clash between the people of Joy and Opu on August 7 that left 10 people injured.

The factions filed cases against each other accusing at least 32 rival activists, including Joy and Opu.

Opu is in police custody while Joy is absconding.

Mashuiur Rahman, on his released from RMCH, told our RU correspondent that he could not dare taking shelter of law fearing fresh attack.

"I did not file any case or general diaries against the attackers as they are very dangerous", Mashuiur said.

He alleged that the cadres are still moving freely on the campus under the nose of the university authorities and law enforcers.

He urged the university authorities to take proper action against the BCL men who attack him.

SYLHET AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY

9 BCL men, 7 Shibir cadres punished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Agriculture University (SAU) yesterday punished nine Chhatra League (BCL) and seven Shibir men for unruly activities on the campus.

Among them, SAU unit Shibir president Shabbir Ahmed was expelled for three years and Sayek Ahmed and Mokammel Haque for two years each while Abdullah Al Hares for one year.

SAU Registrar Professor

Jamal Uddin Bhuiyan said the authorities also took punitive measures against 9 members of the Chhatra League and three Shibir men.

Humayun Ahmed Jony, Najmus Saki, Abdul Bari, Manik Hossain, Rumel Ahmed, Shafiqur Reza Wares, Abdullah Al Mamun, Mehdi Hasan and Shafiqul Alam Shafin of BCL and Nurul Al Imran, Md. Faruque Hossain and Mostafizur Rahman Khokon of Shibir have been fined Tk 1500 each.

They will also have to seek

apology in writing for their wrongdoing, he said.

Besides the administration warned BCL activists Rana Roy and Dhruva Jyoti Chowdhury.

The decision to punish the 16 men was taken at the syndicate meeting held on 7 August, the registrar said.

The measures followed an incident on 5 January this year when the two rival student organisations locked in clashes on the campus leaving SAU lecturer Sultan Ahmed and 25 students injured.



Forest department staff take onto boats logs of trees that have survived flood in char (newly emerged landmass) areas of the Padma River. The photo was taken from Bulonpur in Rajshahi yesterday.

ANTHRAX 21 more in Kushtia feared infected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 21 more people are feared to be infected with anthrax at Bilgathua village in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia yesterday.

On Wednesday, 16 other people of Dharmadaha, an adjacent village, were reported to have contracted anthrax. With this the total number of infected in the upazila rose to 37.

The patients are taking treatment at the upazila health complex and home.

Doctors at the health complex said they are still waiting for experts' opinion on the blood and skin specimens sent earlier to Dhaka.

Saleh Ahmed, Daulatpur upazila health official, said this time the disease might have caused from consuming meat of sick goats.

According to villagers a few goats at Dharmadaha and adjacent villages including Bilgathua and Krishnapur caught an unknown disease 10-15 days ago. People have slaughtered those and consumed the meat.

"We knew that cattle are the only cause of such infection. But now it appears that goats can also carry the disease," Liton, an infected patient of Dharmadaha village, told The Daily Star.

Jatindra Chandra Roy, civil surgeon of Kushtia, said medical teams are working in the area. He also urged people not to panic.

AUG 29 KILLING OF ELDERLY MAN IN HABIGANJ

4 DB men, 2 others sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Wife of Nurul Islam, who was killed allegedly in firing by the Detective Branch (DB) of police at remote Alinagar village in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj district on Sunday night, yesterday filed a case against four DB men and two alleged drug peddlers in connection with the killing.

Following the case filed by Jarina Khatun, wife of the deceased, with the Judicial Magistrate's Court in Habiganj, Magistrate Rajib Biswas ordered the officer in charge of Madhabpur Police station to take legal action.

The accused are Sub-Inspector Syed Belayet Hossain, constables Zahid Hossain, Mahfuzur Rahman and Anisur Rahman, and alleged drug peddlers Ataur Rahman and Shahin Miah.

Madhabpur upazila Chairman Zakir Hossain Chowdhury Asim, Dharmaghar union parishad (UP) Chairman Shamsul Islam and 19 others have been made witnesses in the case.

The complainant in her case stated that the locals recently asked drug peddlers Ataur Rahman and Shahin not to

run the illegal business in the area but the two men reacted to it and threatened Zebu Miah and others with serious consequences.

Consequently, Ataur managed the DB team and took them to Zebu's house at about 11:30pm on August 29, she said.

"As the team attempted to pick up Zebu, his father Nurul Islam, 60, asked them not to arrest his son without warrant. He also said Zebu would be handed over to them, in presence of the upazila chairman and the UP chairman, if he was guilty. But the DB men ignored the request and suddenly opened fire, causing injuries to Nurul Islam. He was rushed to Madhabpur upazila health complex where doctors declared him dead.

"I tried to file a case with Madhabpur police station, but the police did not accept it. They threatened my son and other relatives not to proceed for legal action. They also pressed the UP chairman to divert the murder case. Still the accused are active to suppress the murder," said the complainant.

Hours after the killing, DB Sub-Inspector Belayet filed a case accusing

Nurul Islam, Zebu Miah, their neighbour and relative retired army man Enamul Haque, and 20-25 others on charge of assault on police.

UP Chairman Shamsul Islam, who filed an unnatural death (UD) case with the PS the same day, later said the police pressed him to put signature on a plain sheet, which was used for starting the UD case.

"They picked me up from my home and asked me to sign. I was just blackmailed. I informed the upazila chairman and the SP of the matter," he said.

Madhabpur OC Sheikh Kabirul Islam denied the allegation.

Meanwhile, a three-men committee headed by Zillur Rahman, the additional SP of Habiganj, filed their report to the SP on Tuesday, stating that the claim of DB men was correct and police was compelled to open fire as the arrestee's men attacked them.

An uneasy calm is prevailing at Alinagar village as most of the male people have gone into hiding to evade mass arrest in the police assault case, locals said.

Khulna jail sends names of 9 war crime convicts to tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna district Jail authorities have sent a list of nine war criminals, who were convicted under Collaborators Act and section 364 of Bangladesh Penal Code.

The convicted war criminals are Mohammad Reza, AY Ahmad Ali, Abdur Sheikh, Tota Sheik, Makbul Sheikh, Sohrab Molla, Hamid Sheikh, Mokarram Gazi and Anwar Ali Morol.

Some of them were transferred to Jessore, Rajshahi and Satkhira jails and later released under general amnesty and also on appeal to

the higher court, jail sources said.

Jail Superintendent Shah Alam Khan said they were punished by special tribunal in Khulna under Collaborators Act and section 364 of Bangladesh Penal Code.

He said the jail authorities have made the list as per directive of the home ministry and sent it to International War Crime Tribunal.

Convicted war criminals AY Ahmad Ali and Mohammad Reza were released under general amnesty on November 22 in 1973 and on April 10 in 1974 while Razzak was released on June 27 in 1977 on an appeal to a higher court.

War criminals Tota Mia, Makbul Sheikh, Sohrab Molla, Hamid Sheikh and Mokarram Gazi were released under general amnesty from Jessore Central Jail and Rajshahi district jail.

Tota Mia was transferred to Rajshahi Jail on August 15 in 1974 while Makbul Sheikh, Sohrab Molla, Hamid Sheikh and Mokarram Gazi were transferred to Jessore central Jail on different dates in 1974. They were also released under general amnesty.

War criminal Anwar Ali Morol was released from Satkhira court on September 14 in 1973.

Letters have been sent to the record keeper of Khulna

Collectorate and all nine UNOs of the district to supply lists of razzaks, al-badrs and al-shams who were perpetrators of crimes against humanity during Liberation War in 1971. But the record keeper is yet to supply the lists as all documents and evidence are reported to have gone missing from the record room.

On July 12, the deputy commissioner of Khulna received an official order from the home ministry to collect and update the list of war criminals as well as the list of the then district committees of Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Sangha and other legal evidence relating to the cases filed and disposed of.



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers in Teesta and Dharla river basin areas in Lalmonirhat district now find cattle rearing a hard job as the area sees crisis of green fodder due to damage of grasslands by the recent flood.

Green fodder crisis hits flood-hit farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Acute crisis of green fodder in Teesta and Dharla river basin areas in Lalmonirhat district adds to the worry of flood-affected farmers, especially those who mainly depend on rearing domestic animals for livelihood.

Many of the cattle owners, who have been facing serious problem due to high prices of hay, oilcake and wheat bran from the beginning of rainy season this year, are now thinking of selling their domestic animals for whatever price they get in the local market.

According to district livestock office sources, flood damaged eight dairy farms in Teesta river basin areas of Hatibandha and Aditmari upazilas in Lalmonirhat district, causing a loss of about Tk one crore.

"Now I get only three litres of milk daily from three cows that gave nine to eleven litres

of milk two weeks ago. As the recent flood has washed away my haystack, milk production has decreased due to lack of fodder," said Habibur Rahman, 45, a dairy farm owner of South Goddimari village in Hatibandha upazila.

"I had four cows but I sold three of them for a nominal price on Tuesday as fodder is not available in the village," said Rohidul Islam, 40, of flood-hit Sindurna village of the same upazila.

Even after the recent recession of floodwater, many farmers are staying on roads, embankments and highlands along with their cows as floodwater had destroyed their houses and cowsheds.

Only two weeks ago, one mound (around 40 kg) of hay sold for Tk 150 to 160 but now it is selling for Tk 280 to Tk 300 in local markets, much to the worry of cattle farmers.

Hanif Sarker, 62, of Gobordhon Char village under Aditmari upazila, said they fear much difficulty to

rear cows as the fodder crisis is likely to continue till the beginning of aman paddy harvest.

"I am badly in need of grass seedlings as I lost grass on five bighas (one bigha is equal to 0.33 acre) of land due to the recent flood," Shamsul Alam, 48, a dairy farm owner at the same village, said.

"I have facing untold problem with my ten cows, as all the grasslands around my homestead has been damaged in the flood. I have not money enough to buy hay for my cows," said Parimol Chandra Sen, 65, of flood-hit Bongram village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

"Fodder crisis has become acute as floodwater destroyed green fodder in about 30 villages in Teesta and Dharla river basin areas in four upazilas of Lalmonirhat. It will take time for new grass to grow," said Lalmonirhat District Livestock Officer Dr Siraj.

WAR CRIMES IN BAGERHAT

14 sued on charge of killing, looting, arson in 1971

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Fourteen alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces have been sued for killing, looting and setting fire to a house in Mongla upazila of Bagerhat district in 1971.

Nazirul Islam of Dhalirkhanda village under the upazila filed a petition case with Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in Bagerhat on Tuesday.

In the petition, five out of the 14 accused have been shown as dead.

The court ordered the officer-in-charge (OC) of Mongla Police Station to record the case after proper investigation.

The accused are Altaf Shikdar, 64, Mostafa Goldar, 64, Abdul Mannan, 65, Abdur Rashid Munshi, 65, Sheikh

Nurul Huq Khokon, 68, Abu Bakar Siddique (dead), Abdul Jalil Sheikh (dead), Dr Sheikh Oli Ullah (dead), Moslem Fakir, 70, Rajab Ali Sarder, 69, Rahim Sheikh, 67, Imam Ali Ijaradar (dead), Ali Ashraf Ijaradar (dead) and Jinat Sheikh, 69.

The complainant alleged that the accused picked up 15 Hindus from their houses at Damerkhanda village at gunpoint at around 11:00am on October 12, 1971, took them to a paddy field and killed them.

He said the accused also stormed into my house on the same day and looted money and gold ornaments.

They fired blank shots and set my house, cow sheds, and kitchen afire, the complainant further stated in his petition.

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