

ATTACK ON NEWSMEN, OFFICE ON COURT PREMISES

# 15 BNP men jailed in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Lalmonirhat court yesterday sentenced 15 leaders and activists of BNP and its associate bodies to jail in the case for attacking newsmen and vandalising on office on the judge's court premises in August last year.

Judge Mehdi Hasan Mondol of Judicial Magistrate's Court-3 also fined the convicts Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer six more months in jail.

Of the convicts, Mehedi Hasan Jewel, general secretary of BNP ward No 3, and Anisur Rahman Anis, general secretary of Chhatra Dal district unit, were sentenced to four years rigorous imprisonment (RI) each.

The rest 13 were sentenced to three years RI each. They are Aditmari upazila BNP General Secretary Aminul

Islam, Joint Secretary Habibur Rahman, Jubo Dal Lalmonirhat municipal unit President Zahedul Islam Khokon, District Jubo Dal Sports Secretary Zakir Hossain, Organising Secretary of Sadar upazila Jubo Dal Shahadat Hossain, Vice-President of Aditmari upazila Jubo Dal Shamsul Alam Bokul, and district Jubo Dal activists Sumon Ahmed, Mojilul Islam, Kajol Miah, Mawla Haque, Milon Islam, Rashidul Islam and Nurnobi.

The court acquitted three BNP men as charges brought against them could not be proved. They are Mokhesur Rahman Babul, Shafiqul Islam and Rashedul Haque.

According to the prosecution, leaders and activist of BNP and its associate bodies on August 5 last year chased three local journalists on the judge's

court premises as they went there to collect news on a case filed against some BNP men after a hartal in the town.

When the journalists took shelter in the office room of Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) Sofura Begum Rumi, the BNP men attacked the room and vandalised its door and windows. Police rushed to the spot and rescued the newsmen.

APP Sofura Begum Rumi, also the general secretary of Lalmonirhat Lawyer Association, filed a case against 22 BNP men with Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station the same day.

Investigation Officer (IO) Mahbubul Hasan submitted the charge sheet against 18 of the 22 BNP men to the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court on August 16 last year.

## Two Hizb-ut Tawhid activists held with jihadi books, CDs

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two operatives of Islamist outfit Hizb-ut-Tawhid were arrested on the office premises of Chandpur police superintendent Sunday.

The arrestees are Saiful Islam, 30, of Masterpara village under Ramgarh upazila of Khagrachhari district, and Shafiqul Islam, 31, of Nabipur village under Debidda upazila of Comilla district.

Meanwhile, Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan will be produced in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Khulna, on February 7 in connection with Kadiani mosque bomb attack case.

Chandpur Police Superintendent Muhammad Shahidullah said law enforcers arrested the Hizb-ut-Tawhid men while they were distributing leaflets, calendars and books on jihad.

Police seized leaflets, books on jihad, 24 CDs and more than 50 calendars from them. Later, they were handed over to Chandpur Model Police, according to a correspondent.

Earlier on the day, the two



PHOTO: STAR

**Police arrested two activists of Islamist outfit Hizb-ut-Tawhid when they went to distribute leaflets, calendars and books on jihad on the premises of the office of Chandpur superintendent of police yesterday.**

went to the deputy commissioner's office and wanted to give him a calendar and some books. "Hearing their organisation's name, I refused to take calendar and books and asked them to leave my office," DC Priyatosh Saha said.

The Hizb-ut-Tawhid men were yesterday produced in the Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent them to jail.

Our staff correspondent

from Khulna reported that police will produce Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Barekuzzaman on February 7 in the case for bomb attacks on Kadiani mosque.

Seven people were killed and 54 others injured in bomb attacks on Kadiani mosque in Nirala residential area under Khulna Sadar Police Station on October 8,

1999.

Mufti Hannan, one of the 11 accused in the case, was brought to Khulna district Jail from Kashimpur Jail in Gazipur district on Saturday night amid tight security.

The Huji chief is facing 58 other cases filed with different police stations. On December 26 last year, he was brought to Khulna in connection with the case.

## Criminals loot late JCD leader's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Criminals introducing themselves as members of the Detective Branch (DB) of police looted the house of late Mashiul Alam Sentu, former president of Barisal district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), at Kawnia in the city early yesterday.

Sentu, also vice president of BM College Students Union, was a listed criminal in the city.

He was killed in a 'crossfire' with Rapid Action Battalion on December 28 in 2008.

Sentu's mother Mamta Begum said she and her niece were sleeping at the residence on Monday when there was no male member at the house.

"At about 2:30am, a group of five people claiming themselves DB men knocked the door. They were holding arms, wireless sets and walkie-talkies. They said a listed criminal named 'Dear' took shelter in the house and they have to check and search," she said.

"After entering the house, they tied us and looted valuables worth Tk 5 lakh in cash and kind. The group left the house after giving death threats if we inform anybody about the crime," Mamta Begum said.

## 'Cancel Matasagar lease, make it a tourist spot'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A human chain was formed in front of Dinajpur deputy commissioner's office yesterday to press the demand for cancellation of lease of 'Matasagar', a water body on around 45.31 acres of land under Sadar upazila.

Leaders of different political parties, local newsmen and representatives from socio-cultural and non-governmental organisations joined the human chain organised by Matasagar Rakkha Committee.

Addressing a rally at the venue, the speakers urged the government to cancel the lease of the water body and make it a tourist attraction.

They alleged that the four-party alliance government leased the water body to an influential BNP leader violating the rules.

the water body has lost its beauty as the

lessee has set up poultry farm, rice mills and some other business establishments, levelling the high lands around it, they said.

Dinajpur Press Club President Chittya Ghosh, General Secretary Golam Nabi Dulal, Convener of Matasagar Rakkha Committee Prof Saifuddin Akhter addressed the rally, among others.

The speakers demanded immediate cancellation of the lease. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a greater agitation programme to protect the water body.

They also urged the government to take necessary steps to protect Dinajpur Rajbari, Boromath, Ramsagar, Anandasagar, Kantanagar Temple, Sukhsagar, Julumsagar, Padma Sagar and Harisagar.

Dinajpur municipality mayor and activists of Udichi district unit also joined the human chain.



PHOTO: STAR

**Local political leaders and representatives from socio-cultural and non-governmental organisations form a human chain in front of Dinajpur deputy commissioner's office yesterday demanding cancellation of lease of matasagar, a large water body in Sadar upazila.**

## Priyanka loses a year for school's neglect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Priyanka Prashad, an SSC (Secondary School Certificate) candidate from Kabi Nazrul High School in Birganj upazila, cannot sit for her examinations starting today due to alleged negligence of the school authorities.

The school authorities informed her father Shankar Prashad that Dinajpur Education Board did not issue the 'admit card' of Priyanka.

Education board sources said it happened as the school authorities did not submit the candidate's SIF (students information form) to the board authority.

Other SSC candidates from the school, however, received the 'admit cards' from the school.

As Priyanka's parents contacted the school headmaster, he told them that there were errors in the SIF of Priyanka when the form was filled up after passing the SSC test examinations last year.

Priyanka was in the merit

list in SSC test examinations, school sources said.

"Despite being a meritorious student, my daughter cannot sit for her SSC examinations. Three teachers of the school are responsible for the incident," said Priyanka's father Shankar Prashad.

When this correspondent made a mobile call to Md Abdul Wadud, headmaster of Kabi Nazrul High School, he received it but cut the connection when he heard that a journalist was talking. From then on, his cell phone was found switched off.

Md Piar Uddin, controller of examinations of Dinajpur Education Board, said, "The school authorities did not send the SIF of Priyanka Prashad. Besides, they never contacted with the board authorities in this regard. Now there is no way for the girl but to wait another year to sit for the SSC examinations."

ACID ATTACK

## Accused threaten victim's family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Criminals are pressing the family of an acid victim in Tarikata village under Kalapara upazila to withdraw the case against them and threatening of dire consequences in case of failing to do so.

Meanwhile, the victim is still fighting for life at Acid Survivors Foundation in Dhaka. Khabir Sikder, husband of the victim on Sunday told the newsmen here that all three accused—Jabiul Haque, Mojibul Haque and Shamsul Haque—are threatening him of dire consequences if he did not withdraw the case.

He also alleged that police are not sincere to arrest the accused as they are moving freely in the area.

"My wife Hosneara Begum, mother of three children, is fighting for life as left portion of her body was seriously burnt in the acid attack," Khabir said.

Contacted, Sub Inspector Shafiqul Islam of local PS said they are 'trying their best' to arrest the accused. "We raided different areas several times to arrest them but failed", he said.

Hosneara Begum, mother of Tanzila, 10, and Masum, 8, was sleeping at her house with the children on December 20 night.

At that time her husband was at his workplace in Chittagong.

At about 3:00 am two criminals entered into her house by digging holes. As she raised a hue and cry, they threw acid on her body seriously burning left side of her face and different parts of body.



PHOTO: STAR

**Shampa, 10, who remained missing for four years, reunites with her parents at the shelter home of Association for Development (ACD), a local NGO, in Rajshahi on Sunday.**

## 'Abducted' Shampa returns to mother's lap after 4 yrs

RU CORRESPONDENT

Shampa, a 10-year-old girl, was reunited with her mother Rina Begum and father Sanowar Hossain on Sunday, after a separation of four years.

Association for Community Development (ACD), a local NGO, found the family of the child after two and a half years of search

and returned her on Sunday.

ACD authorities said, a student of Rajshahi University found Shampa crying on a Jessore-Rajshahi train in 2007 and took her to Motihar police station.

Later, police sent Shampa to ACD shelter home. The NGO had to work hard to find Shampa's family as she could not give any information about them.

Shampa's mother, a housemaid, said, "I am overjoyed to get my daughter back. I left her with my mother and went to work and could not find her since."

The girl went missing from their residence at Gandaria in Dhaka. Police believe Shampa was a victim of kidnapping.

## Boy rescued, mother held on abduction charge

5 more freed in separate incidents

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police rescued a 10-year-old boy on Sunday night three days after his abduction and arrested three people including the boy's divorced mother from Noakhali Sadar upazila, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees are Akbor Hossain Mitu, 32, Mainuddin Selim, 40, and Ruby Akter, 32, mother of the abducted boy.

Police said Ashiqur Rahman Shuvo, 10, son of Mohammad Ali was abducted by Mitu and Mainuddin with the help of Ruby for ransom of Tk 4 lakh from Saicha village under Raipur upazila of Laxmipur on January 28.

Mohammad Ali filed a general diary with Raipur police station in this connection.

Sub-inspector Abdur Rahim of Raipur police station with the help of Shudharam police first arrested Akbor Hossain from Sonapur rail station.

Following Akbor's statement, police rescued the abducted boy from the house of Rahman Ali at Jalial

village of Sadar upazila and arrested two others including Shuvo's mother.

In Kishoreganj, a Rab team rescued four children and arrested one person at Bhairab rail station on Sunday afternoon, reports our correspondent.

Alleged abductor Md Habibur Rahman, 30, is son of Billal Hossain of Purba Jurain in Kadamtali upazila of Dhaka district while the children are Md Rabbi, 10, son of Md Abdul Alam Azad, Ridoy Mia, 10, son of Suhrah Bepari, Rabbi Mia, 12, son of Abdur Rashid and Reazul, 14, son of Mutalib Mia of Purba Jurain.

Rabbi is a class five student of Jurain Abdur Rab Government Primary School and the others are child labourers.

Police said, Habibur Rahman told the boys that he will take them to Arkheri Munajat of Biswa Ijtema at Tongi while they were playing at Jurain school ground. But Habib tried to send the children to Sylhet by train on coming to Bhairab rail station.

Observing his suspicious movement, people

informed the Rab.

Rab rushed to the spot and arrested Habib with the children in the afternoon.

A case was filed with Bhairab police station and the children were handed over to respective families.

Meanwhile, police rescued a teenage boy from an abandoned house in an unconscious state at Mushuria village in Airport Road area of Barisal district on Sunday.

Victim Ruhul Amin, 16, son of late Jalal Uddin of Pormohol village in Sadar upazila of Jhalakati district was abducted four days ago.

Family sources said, a gang criminals kidnapped Amin from Sadar upazila Monopasha bazaar for ransom on January 26.

On secret information, police arrested two members of the gang the same day and on the basis of their confessional statement they raided various areas of the upazila but failed to rescue the victim.

Later, acting on a tip-off, police with the help of Barisal Airport police station rescued the boy on Sunday evening.

## Headmaster jailed for molesting kid, stalker mauls teen-age girl

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A headmaster was jailed for sexually harassing a class five student in Kishoreganj on Sunday while a teen-age girl was mauled by a stalker in Madaripur the day before.

The headmaster of Jashudal Bhugirchar Dakkin Government Primary School in Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila was sentenced to three months' jail and fined Tk 10 thousand, in default to suffer one more month in jail on Sunday for sexually harassing a class five student of the school, reports our correspondent.

According to police and locals, headmaster Rafiqur Rahman sexually harassed the daughter of Abdul Khalek of Bhugirchar at his office during tiffin period at noon.

Later, the girl disclosed it to parents and they along with locals rushed to the school. They gave the headmaster a good beating. On information, police rescued him from the mob in presence of Sadar Upazila chairman Dr Abdul Hai, civil surgeon Dr Dwin Muhammad and Sadar UNO Nora Alam Siddiqui.

In the afternoon the UNO handed down the verdict.

In Madaripur, a teenage girl was mauled by an alleged stalker after failing to rape her at Baparikandi village under Shibchar

upazila on Saturday night, reports our correspondent.

A case was filed with Shibchar police station in this connection yesterday.

Victim's family sources said, Mithu Farazi, 30, son of Tota Farazi used to stalk the teenage girl, daughter of a poor farmer, for the last one year. Three months ago Mithu threatened to throw acid on her in case of refusal to accept his indecent proposal.

After this, a village arbitration warned Mithu and asked him not to harass the girl any more. Later, the victim's family sent her to the house of her aunt in Munshiganj for safety.

On Saturday night, on her return from Munshiganj, Mithu took the girl forcibly to a nearby garden and tried to rape her when she went to their pond to collect water. Failing to rape her, Mithu seriously mauled her and injured her by biting on her face.

Hearing her screams, Faruq Hossain, a neighbour, rushed to the spot and saw Mithu fleeing away.

Inspector Mizanur Rahman of Shibchar police station said they have received a complaint in this connection yesterday and an investigation officer has already appointed to investigate the matter.