

AL men attack CU bus 4 teachers, students hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two teachers and two students of Chittagong University were injured yesterday as a group of Awami League activists attacked two buses carrying them at Mirsarai on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

The injured are Assistant Professor Mamta Uddin, Lecturer Shahidullah Kaiser and fourth year students Sujan Kanti Dey and Shahnaz Parvin of the Department of Public Administration.

Witnesses said some 20 to 30 AL activists, after a rally at Baroijer Hat, stopped the two buses by almost blocking the road at Thakur Dighir Par around 5:30pm. The teachers and students were on their way back from Comilla.

"The activists tried to get on the buses even though we told them the buses were reserved for a study tour," said Sujan.

When the students and teachers did not allow them on board, they attacked the buses. They threw stones at the buses, chasing after those, and left four of the passengers injured, added Sujan.

The two buses then drove off to the Mirsarai Police Station complex, said police.

Ataur Rahman, president of AL's Mirsarai upazila unit, said, "We will take action against those involved in the attack."

The students, who were attacked, lodged a complaint with the police station, said Iftekhar Ahmed, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Police were arranging to escort the buses to their destination, said the OC.

Drone strike kills 3 Qaeda men in Yemen

AFP, Sanaa

A drone strike near the Yemeni capital killed three suspected al-Qaeda members including a militant wanted for a deadly attack on the US embassy in Sanaa, security officials said yesterday.

They said the drone strike, believed to have been carried out by the United States, targeted a car near the village of Beit al-Ahmar in the Sanhan region, 15 kilometres southeast of Sanaa.

Three people were killed and two wounded, they said.

Khoka

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Hassan Azad, its general secretary; and AHM Tareque, manager of the market's parking lot.

Nur Hossain Khan, deputy director of the ACC, and also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

On February 15, Mahbubul Alam, assistant director of ACC, filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station accusing Khoka and the three others of pocketing parking charges Tk 26,14,900 collected from the DCC market between 2003 and 2011.

According to the complaint, Khoka also caused a loss of Tk 11.05 lakh to the public exchequer by cancelling tenders for leasing out the parking lot in 2003 and 2005. The tenders were cancelled even after the completion of all the procedures for awarding the work, including selection of the highest bidder.

The High Court earlier had granted bail to the accused including Khoka until the probe report is submitted, therefore the bail expired yesterday.

On March 29 this year, the ACC filed another case against Khoka, Land Reform Board Chairman Nurul Huq and five others for corruption in the construction of a multi-storey car park in the capital.

Arguments

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converted 100-150 Hindus of Parerhat and other villages to Islam during the war.

He also compelled them to go to the mosque to offer prayers.

Witness Mianur Rahman Talukdar in his deposition on December 19, 2011, said the same and that Sayedee gave them Muslim names and directed them to go to mosques and offer prayers five times everyday.

Second prosecution witness Ruhul Amin Nabin, in his deposition on December 8, also told the same in detail. He had said that every day they were taken to mosques and forced to pray five times.

They were also forced to memorise two to four suras [verses of the holy Quran] and were provided with materials for prayers. Many escaped to India unable to take the insult, he had said.

The prosecutor yesterday completed placing his arguments on the 20 charges against Sayedee. He would place his arguments against the testimony of defence witnesses on Sunday.

TIPOO ISSUES STATEMENT

Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal Ghulam Arief Tipoo in a statement yesterday claimed that defence counsels of accused Jamaat leaders were also culpable for the "mayhem" led by Shibir (pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body) activists on November 5 and November 6 in the country.

On November 5, Sayedee's counsel Mianur Islam, who also move for other Jamaat leaders in court, alleged before the tribunal that "plainclothes police abducted" their witness from a road near the High Court shrine.

The defence later boycotted the tribunal and reportedly Shibir men led the vandalism throughout the country over the "abduction" and in favour of stopping the trials against Jamaat leaders accused of crimes against humanity.

Tipoo in the statement said November 5 was not fixed for witness deposition rather it was the scheduled day for placing closing arguments of the prosecution at Tribunal-1.

Defence counsel Mizanul Islam's attempt to bring prosecution witness Sukharanjan Bali as defence witness was questionable, he said.

Sukharanjan's family filed a general diary with a police station over his disappearance.

Mizanul had also cross-examined another prosecution witness over the general diary and his disappearance, the statement mentioned.

The initiative of bringing in missing Sukharanjan at the

tribunal without informing law enforcement agencies was mysterious, unbelievable and ill-intended, Tipoo claimed.

In the same fashion, the allegation of "abduction" was baseless and unacceptable, the statement said.

SHAHEEN

CROSS-EXAMINED

Tribunal-2 yesterday completed cross-examination of journalist Shaheen Reza Noor, the fourth prosecution witness in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahed.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir recorded the cross-examination before adjourning the case proceeding until November 13, when the fifth prosecution witness is expected to testify.

Martyred journalist Sirajuddin Hossain, father of Shaheen, was one of many Bangladeshi progressive intellectuals who were abducted and killed by the Al-Badr at the fag end of the Liberation War, according to the prosecution documents.

Replying to a question of defence counsel Syed Mianur Rahman, Shaheen yesterday said, "It was not my assumption that Al-Badr force was formed with leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Sangha [the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami]. I got this information from newspapers then, mainly from Daily Sangram."

Al-Badr, a collaborator force of Pakistani army, was also known as "killer force" or "Gestapo force" during the Liberation War. Mojahed was the president of East Pakistan Islami Chhatra Sangha between October and December 1971, Shaheen had said in his testimony.

Replying to another question Shaheen yesterday said, "It is true that I did not give any speech terming Mojahed as Al-Badr or Al-Badr commander anywhere but before this tribunal because there was no such scope."

Mianur Rahman said Mojahed did not hold any post in Al-Badr, Al-Shams or the Razakar force during the Liberation War.

Shaheen rejected the defence's claim.

"You have given your testimony linking Mojahed with the Al-Badr force to demean him and make him politically unacceptable," suggested Mianur Rahman.

"Not true," replied Shaheen.

The tribunal also recorded the cross-examination of Abdus Samad Mondal, the fifth prosecution witness in the case against former minister Abdul Alim before adjourning the case proceeding.

He said the government earlier found that traders applied formalin to fish imported from Myanmar.

"We have taken steps to a make law to punish those who use formalin in food items."

Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed, chairman of Standard Bank, said traders in the market would see increased turnout of buyers if fish and vegetables were chemical-free.

Speaking on the occasion, FBCCI President AK Azad called for identifying the food adulterators.

Those who contaminate food with formalin should be tried in special courts and be given exemplary punishment," said FBCCI Director Helal Uddin. "There are 30 big kitchen markets in the capital now. We want to announce all of them formalin-free within the next two months."

The commerce minister

called for a withdrawal of cases against him and justice over the shooting.

Mali has slid into chaos since a March 22 coup overthrew the government of president Amadou Toumani Toure, creating a power vacuum that enabled Islamist rebels to seize the vast desert north.

Malis has been accused of

Stop firing on border

BGB asks BSF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Border Guard Bangladesh demanded an end to firing on the border at a deputy director general-level meeting with Indian Border Security Force on the Tamabil border in Sylhet yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was part of a four-day conference that began on Monday at a hotel in Sylhet city and ended yesterday. The BGB asked the Indian force not to build anything permanently within 150 yards of the border.

The BSF, on the other hand, demanded completion of the barbed wire fence along the 610 km border of the Sylhet division, a BGB official said.

Both sides agreed to strengthen joint patrols on the frontier.

BGB Deputy Director General Abu Sayeed Khan led the 14-member Bangladeshi delegation while BSF Inspector General of Meghalaya Sudesh Kumar headed the 21-member Indian delegation.

Other sessions at the conference discussed trespassing, kidnapping of Bangladeshis on the border and smuggling of items -- such as Phensedyl, liquor, cannabis, arms -- from the Indian states of Meghalaya, Assam and Tripura.

2 killed

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injured Sumon, almost same age as Abul, was being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Abul's family claimed Sumon was one of his friends and both were auto-rickshaw drivers.

Officer-in-Charge Mainuddin Khan of Keraniganj Police Station told The Daily Star that two men riding on a motorcycle and some three-four on an auto-rickshaw around midnight chased another auto-rickshaw, shouting that it was carrying muggers.

As they reached near Khagail, the pursuer auto-rickshaw hit the other causing it to overturn.

Locals joined the pursuers and the two alleged muggers were dragged out of the vehicle and beaten up. Both were injured. Police took them to DMCH where Abul died around 8:00am yesterday.

Sumon told police that they hired the auto-rickshaw from Chunkutia.

On the way, they gave the driver poison-mixed food and he had fallen unconscious. They threw the driver out of the vehicle at Mujahidnagar and sped with the vehicle. Seeing this, people on the motorcycle and the other auto-rickshaw chased them.

OC Mainuddin said the mob did not notice the auto-rickshaw driver who had been left on the road. Locals saw the body of driver Babul in the morning.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Limon's family

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August 20 over old rivalry.

Hearing his hue and cry, Forkan rushed to the spot and got beaten to death while trying to "save" him, said the complainant.

Sub-Inspector Ariful Islam, investigation officer of the case, said police had sent the body to Jhalakathi morgue for autopsy. The postmortem report said Forkan died of heart attack and not from torture.

After considering the medical report, evidence and statements of witnesses police found Ibrahim's allegations baseless.

In the afternoon of August 20, which was Eid day, Ibrahim and his gang attacked Limon and his family members while the latter were taking pictures on Saturia-Idurbari road at Rajapur upazila, Henoara Begum said in the GD that she filed on that very night.

She said her husband stood accused in the case although he was in Dhaka during the incident.

Forkan was lodged to force us to leave the area or compromise in the case lodged against the Rab personnel in connection with maiming of

Islamist rebels to seize the vast desert north.

He called for a withdrawal of cases against him and justice over the shooting.

Muhith pointed to various

issues, including corruption, for the less-than-expected flow of foreign direct investment to the country.

Neither Sen nor Yunus was available for comments.

The minister also questioned the honesty of Yunus, whose microcredit model won him and the microfinance bank Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

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