

They did it for money

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However, leader of the 10-member kidnapping gang Ameer Hossain alias Langra Ameer, a listed criminal active in Old Dhaka and Keraniganj, is still at large along with his accomplices Al Amin and Akash, law enforcers say.

Ameer is a close friend of Juba League President Aminul Islam Jewel of Shubhadda union in Keraniganj and Chhatra League leader Sajedur Rahman Saju of Juraia.

Law enforcers suspect the two political leaders might have some roles in the abduction.

Of the seven, six persons including two students were arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion. Both youths were present with motorbikes on the spot during the abduction.

The six persons are: Zahidul Hasan, 18, an HSC student of Dania College in Shorin Akhra, Mohammad Ali Rifat, 19, an aeronautical engineering student at a private institute in Uttara; Kala Chand, 30, now a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver; Abul Kashem, 35, brother-in-law of Ameer, and Rizvi Ahmed Onik, 18, and Alfaz Hossain alias Masud, 18, friends of the two students.

They were paraded before the media at the Rab headquarters in Uttara yesterday afternoon.

The Keraniganj police arrested Mamun Miah, 43, of Shuvadya Purba Gram, from Munshiganj. He is also brother-in-law of Ameer.

Rab officials said Zahid and Rifat had participated in the abduction while Kala Chand acted as a spy to keep track of the movements of Parag and his family members from around their house before the incident.

Kashem, Rizvi and Alfaz had sheltered the kidnappers at their residences and kept them informed about the presence of law enforcers.

Son of businessman Bimal Mondol, Parag was abducted on November 11 and he was found three days later from Atibazar, two kilometres off the boy's residence.

Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, director of Rab's Intelligence Wing, said Parag's family paid a ransom of Tk 50 lakh in cash for his release.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

At the press briefing, all the six claimed they became involved in the kidnap for money but do not know the amount of the ransom.

Describing his part in the crime, Zahid said he along with Rifat was present on the spot with his motorbike.

Ameer and Al Amin had opened fire on Parag's mother, sister and car driver as the latter tried to resist the kidnapping.

"After the shooting, Ameer, Al Amin and Akash sped away with Parag while I and Rifat returned to our localities," he added.

According to Zahid and Rifat, Ameer had a feud with Parag's father. He hired

them, saying Parag's father had bought his land and was not paying up.

Both youths claimed they were unaware of the abduction plan.

Rifat added, "My father is a CNG driver and I was facing difficulties in financing my studies. I agreed to help Ameer because he proposed to give me Tk 18,000 every month for the studies."

They knew Ameer through local Chhatra League leader Shajedur Rahman Saju.

Zahid, however, said he just went there to help Ameer recover the so-called money Parag's father was not paying up.

Kala Chand told the press, "I was just appointed around a month ago to keep an eye on Parag and his family members."

"I was promised a reward of Tk five lakhs with which I planned to buy an auto-rickshaw," said Kala Chand, adding that he had not received any money yet.

His family members told The Daily Star that he had been working for Bimal Mondol's battery factory at Tantibazar for eight years till 2009. Later, he started driving auto-rickshaw to earn a living.

These three suspects said they did not know where the boy was hidden after the abduction.

Ameer's brother-in-law Kashem claimed he first came to know about the incident when Zahid, Rifat and another youth had gone to his Bhakura house in Basila to look for Ameer.

Onik and Alfaz claimed innocence and said they came to know about the abduction from Zahid and Rifat.

Rab is now trying to arrest Ameer, who resumed criminal activities after coming out on bail recently, his associates, Commander M Sohail of the elite crime buster said at the briefing.

MAMUN ON REMAND
Meanwhile, Mamun Mia, brother of Ameer's first wife Eti, was placed on a seven-day remand. Eti, picked up on Sunday and later released, provided details with information about the suspects.

Mamun, arrested in Nimtoli of Sirajdikan upazila of Munshiganj, was produced before a Dhaka court with a 10-day remand prayer. The court granted seven days, Shakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of South Keraniganj, said.

Police sources said apart from criminal activities, both Ameer and Mamun were engaged in sewing machine business.

"During the interrogation, Mamun said they planned the abduction to arrange a large investment," said an official of Detective Branch-South.

Sanwar Hossain, senior assistant commissioner of DB-South, said they had information that Ameer and Mamun contacted one

another before and after the abduction.

Contacted, both DB official Sanowar Hossain and OC Sakhawat Hossain said they were yet to be sure whether the six persons detained by Rab were really involved in the abduction and shooting as the arrestees were yet to be handed over to police.

The police and DB officials claim they have no information about the payment of ransom.

They said police asked the criminals through Eti to return Parag. Eti called the gang and said if anything happens to the boy, the police will kill her and her son."

Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to take proper steps ensuring security of Parag and his family members.

A two-judge bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury and Justice Farid Ahmed issued the order responding to a writ petition filed by Nazim Ahmed, editor of weekly Saptabarna.

SEC asks

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board meeting.

The DSE at a board meeting on November 8 discussed about the IPO (initial public offering) prospectus of Orion Pharma, which had received regulatory approval from the SEC on October 16 for raising Tk 240 from public.

The premier bourse also made some observations on the Orion Pharma IPO and sent the observations to the SEC on November 13. The DSE in its observations said it did not get adequate time to analyse the Orion Pharma IPO.

However, the SEC in the show-cause letter said Orion Pharma's IPO prospectus was submitted to the commission and the twin stock exchanges on April 29 and approved by the regulator after five and a half months.

Five months is an enough period for doing analysis on any company's IPO prospectus, said by SEC Director Mohammad Rezaul Karim.

The DSE has no authority to make observations on an approved IPO or the observations do not have effectiveness, the market watchdog said in the letter.

Moreover, media reports were published based on the DSE observations on Orion Pharma IPO before sending the observations to the SEC by the bourse.

It was completely unexpected, and it may create confusion among the general investors over the Orion Pharma IPO, according to the SEC letter.

As per the IPO plan, Orion Pharma will float four crore ordinary shares of Tk 10 each at an offer price of Tk 60, including a premium of Tk 50.

The subscription of the Orion Pharma IPO will start on January 6 next year.

PM, Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1
friendship will translate into deeper involvement in future."

The AL always admires the CPC's efforts to shape China, with the world's largest population, as a global leader, said Sheikh Hasina.

The 18th National Congress of the CPC is significant in its election of excellent leaders to steer China to greater heights, and to strengthen the existing ties between the two countries, she added.

She expressed her thanks to China for its support for and cooperation with Bangladesh.

"I am confident that under your wise and able leadership the same [support and cooperation] will continue with even more vigour. I also wish you good health, a long life and success in all your noble endeavours."

In a separate message, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said Xi Jinping's election is a true expression of the trust that the people of China have in him. "You bring with you great experience and proven wisdom."

She, on behalf of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), conveyed to him her "most sincere and heartiest felicitations" on his "assumption of this very important office".

The BNP chief said China has continued to make substantial progress under the leadership of the Communist Party since the birth of the People's Republic of China in 1949. "Today, China stands tall as a strong and stable nation."

The assistance and cooperation of the government of China for the socio-economic and infrastructure development of Bangladesh over the last three decades is a testimony to the depth of relations between the two nations, she added.

Khaleda wished Jinping good health and the people of China greater progress and prosperity.

D-8 meeting

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yesterday.

The premier's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi will represent her at the summit, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said.

"The prime minister had been very much looking forward to visiting Islamabad to attend the meeting of D-8 of which she was one of the founder members.

"But she has had to cancel her plan because of a conflict in her schedule," he said.

Azad further said that the premier had a previous commitment to attend the Armed Forces Day celebrations in Dhaka on November 21.

And that is why it would be impossible for her to reach Islamabad for the summit the following morning, he added.

The D-8 (Developing 8) countries comprise Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Iran, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Indonesia and Malaysia. The second summit of the group was held in Bangladesh in March, 1999.

Launching

FROM PAGE 1
Sobhan, Dr Kamal Hossain, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman and Prof Mesbah Kamal will discuss the book.

In his autobiography, Nayer narrates his eyewitness accounts of the various important events of the sub-continent, including the adoption of Pakistan resolution in Lahore in 1940, the partition of the sub-continent in 1947 and the birth of Bangladesh.

The book will be available at the Hay Festival at Bangla Academy and also at book stores including Prothoma, Book Worm, Pathok Samabesh, Sagar Publishers, Gyankosh and Words n' Pages. Readers can also buy the book from The Daily Star office at a discount.

"But what are we thinking? Do we want the model of development and consumption of the rich countries? I ask you now: what would happen to this planet if Indians would have the same proportion of cars per household than Germans? How much oxygen would we have left?"

The Uruguayan leader made a similar point when he addressed the Rio+20 summit in June this year: "We've been talking all afternoon about sustainable development. To get the masses out of poverty.

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