

Jamaat man held over April 11 Fatikchhari mayhem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Police yesterday afternoon arrested a Jamaat-e-Islami leader in Chittagong city's Halishahar area in a case filed over the April 11 mayhem in Fatikchhari upazila of the district.

The arrested Ziaul Haque, ameer of Dantmara union unit, is one of the key accused, said Halishahar police Officer-in-Charge Shahjahan Kabir.

Police arrested him at a house in Halishahar, said Bhujpur police OC Kabir Hossain.

On April 11, an Awami League motorcade was attacked allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir men in Kazirhat Bazar area, killing three AL men and injuring over 100 others.

Police filed the case with Bhujpur Police Station the next day accusing some 100 named and 5,000 to 6,000 unnamed persons.

DEMAND FOR ARREARS RMG workers go on strike in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Workers of Givency Garments Factory Ltd in Hotapara of Gazipur yesterday observed work abstention demanding their arrears for June.

To avoid unexpected situations, the factory remained closed yesterday.

Md Mosharrif Hossain, assistant superintendent of police of Gazipur, said they also blockaded Dhaka-Mymensingh highway on July 10 demanding their arrears.

Following the road blockade some workers received payment on July 12 and 13 and the factory authorities announced that the remaining workers would get their arrears by July 14.

However, the factory remained closed on that day and the following day, he added.



A taxi set afire by picketers at Gazipur Chandana Chowrasta during Jamaat-e-Islami's daylong nationwide hartal yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

GHULAM AZAM VERDICT Appeal for death penalty

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, a cultural organisation, yesterday rejected the verdict against former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam and demanded that the government appeal to the Supreme Court seeking capital punishment for him.

As Ghulam Azam was the front-liner in committing crimes during the country's Liberation War, the punishment is inadequate, said the Jote leaders. Ghulam Azam was given a 90-year jail sentence for masterminding crimes against humanity, genocide and other wartime offences in 1971.

Protesting the verdict, the organisation held a rally at TSC on Dhaka University campus.

Nasiruddin Yusuf Bacchu, who heads the cultural group, announced bringing out marches across the country at 4:00pm today for staging further protest.

"We are frustrated with the penalty. We demand a review of it," said noted cultural personality Ramendu Majumder.

Sangskritik Jote General Secretary Hasan Arif criticised the government for its comments that it was satisfied with the judgment. "By making such remarks, the government is insulting people's expectations and leaving a bad impression on public mind," he said.

Violence marks Jamaat hartal

STAR REPORT

The second consecutive hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday was marked by incidents of vandalism, arson and explosion and clashes with law enforcers, leaving at least four people, including a child, dead.

In Dhaka, pro-hartal activists unleashed a reign of terror by exploding some crude bombs and vandalising several vehicles including seven CNG-run auto-rickshaws of English daily Dhaka Tribune at Panthapath.

Activists of Jamaat backed Islami Chhatra Shibir torched and vandalised four buses and exploded several homemade bombs in the capital.

Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said they recovered nine abandoned crude bombs near Chhobir Hat at Suhrawardy Uddyan.

In Satkhira, two activists of Jamaat-Shibir were killed when police opened fire on them after the law enforcers were attacked by the activists in Kaliganj upazila.

Nine policemen and three Jamaat-Shibir activists also sustained injuries during the 20-minute clash around 6:00am.

The deceased were identified as Sharifuzzaman, 15, and Ruhul Amin Gazi, 35, both hailing from Kaliganj.

Around 300-400 Jamaat-Shibir men ambushed the law enforcers on Kaliganj-Shyamnagar road in Pawkhali area of the upazila.

The activists barricaded the road with logs

and electric poles. When a team of 35 to 40 policemen rushed to the scene and began removing the barricades, Jamaat-Shibir men suddenly swooped on them with sticks, said Tajul Islam, assistant superintendent of police of Kaliganj circle.

At one stage, the activists opened fire on them, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he added.

In Gazipur, a child was run over by a bus while she was running in fear as pickets set fire to another bus in front of Chandana police box at Chowrasta.

The victim, Nadia Sultana, 9, was the daughter of Saidul Islam of Netrokona district.

Witnesses said some pickets vandalised four buses and set fire to a bus of Pathersathi Poribahan near the bus stand at Chawrasta, leaving its driver injured.

Driver of another bus, standing beside the burning one, reversed the vehicle in panic and ran over Nadia leaving her dead on the spot.

In Dinajpur, a bus driver was killed as Jamaat-Shibir men pelted brick chips on him at Chiribandar upazila. The deceased was Abdul Kuddus, 60, of Fatejangpur village.

Locals said Kuddus was pelted with brick chips in front of Silk Board in the upazila. He died at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Similar incidents of clash, arson and vandalism took place in Sylhet, Chittagong, Chapainawabganj, Kushtia, Narayanganj, Rajshahi and Joypurhat yesterday, according to our district correspondents.

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