

Charges pressed against 4 Bogra BEM militants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bogra*
Charges have been pressed against four members of new militant outfit styled BEM in an arms case.

Abu Sayeed, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) and Commander of Rab-12, submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Additional Judicial Magistrate Abdul Hamid on Tuesday.

The charge sheeted accused are Md Sanaullah, 35, son of Late Afajullah of Fulcoat village in Shajahanpur upazila of Bogra, Rafiqul Islam Rubel, 22, son of late Mizanur Rahman of Andaria village in Phulbaria upazila of

Mymensingh, Babu Sheikh, 24, son of Mubarak Sheikh of Sonarpara village in Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha, and Mahafujul Islam, 33, son of late Moyejuddin of Narayanpur village of Sherpur.

Of them, three are now in jail while Mahafujul Islam is still at large.

Rab personnel on August 22 arrested the three, raiding a house named Dewan Bari at Thanthania Pashchimpara in Bogra town and seized a China-made AK-22 semi-automatic rifle and a magazine with 15 bullets, a Germany-made GSG-522 sports rifle and a magazine with 22 bullets, a US-made

pistol with a magazine and 35 bullets and five US-made Saber knives from their possession.

The Rab men also seized one rifle target scope, two bayonets, three daggers, a hammer, two axes, one cleaver, 29 iron rods, a toolkit for repairing weapons alongside several Jihadi books, leaflets and notes from the house.

The elite force handed them to the police on August 23 and filed three cases with Sadar Police Station against four identified and 15 unidentified BEM men. Later, the arms case was transferred to Rab.

JOB 'QUOTA' BCL disrupts IU bus services

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Islamic University (IU) unit yesterday disrupted the bus services of the university.

They have been agitating since Monday last, demanding quota in the ongoing recruitment of class three and class four employees.

Police said a group of BCL men halted a university bus and also took away the key of another bus from its driver at Customs intersection at around 8:00am. Another group halted the university-bound buses at different points on Kushtia-Khulna Road.

Contacted, Superintendent of Police (SP) Mofiz Uddin Ahmed said they have identified the persons involved in halting the university buses and creating chaos on the campus.

"We will hold a meeting with the university authorities and then go for action," the SP added. IU Proctor Jahangir Hossain said they trying to sit with the BCL leaders to resolve the problem.

On Monday, BCL kept the offices at the administrative building under lock and key for over two hours and locked the main entrance to the university on Wednesday to put pressure on the IU authorities to meet their demand.

The BCL men also assaulted Officer-in-Charge (OCC) MD Moniruzzaman of IU Police Station as he tried to prevent them from bringing out the procession on the campus, defying the ban imposed by the university authorities for a month from on September 3.



FILE PHOTO: STAR
Three of the four BEM members, who were charge sheeted in an arms case in Bogra on Tuesday. This photo was taken immediately after their arrest at a house in the district town on August 22.

Arsenic poisoning spreading in 12 upazilas of Comilla

UNB, *Comilla*

Arsenic poisoning has become a major cause of concern in the district seriously affecting health of people of all ages.

There are 3,673 people attacked with arsenicosis, a health condition caused by ingestion, absorption or inhalation of dangerous levels of arsenic, in 12 of the total 16 upazilas of the district, according to an NGO working on the problem.

Of them, 1,775 are males and 1,918 females while 135 more people are bearing the symptoms of arsenicosis, said NGO Forum, Comilla.

Symptoms of arsenic poisoning have appeared in most people with numerous dots developing in their bodies.

A few have got parts of their skins decaying. Two people have so far died from arsenicosis in the district, said sources in the NGO and also the district civil surgeon's office.

According to the sources, a large number of people in the district have so far been affected by toxic effects of arsenic.

Drinking water rich in arsenic over a long period leads to arsenic poisoning or arsenicosis, they said.

The District Civil Surgeon's office advised the affected people to eat more vegetables and fruits.

The civil surgeon's office sources said 2,341 people have been affected by arsenic contamination in Muradnagar upazila, 480 in Monohorganj, 255 in Chandina, 231 in Debidwar, 218 in Daudkandi, 60 in Laksham, 30 in Nangolkot and Brahmanpara, 29 in Barura, 11 in Homna, nine in Chouddagram and one in Sadar Dakkhin upazila.

Besides, 37 people have been suspected of having arsenic-related problems in Homna, 28 in Muradnagar, 360 in Chandina, four in Chouddagram, 502 in Laksham, 61 in Nangolkot, 107 in Titash and one in Sadar Dakkhin upazila.

The symptoms of arsenicosis are: black spots in hands and feet, dehydration, frequent coughing, itching and rash in eyes.

Besides, arsenic affected people have the possibility of being attacked with bronchitis, high blood pressure, liver and kidney diseases.

Rural doctor Swapan Debnath said many people in the area are affected with arsenic and they are treated only with Rex tablet.

Sishir Kumar Roy, regional manager of NGO Forum, Comilla, said presence of arsenic was detected in the district in 2006 research.

There is campaign to make people aware about the effects of arsenic, he said.

Also arsenic test is being done on the local people every six months, he added.

Man killed as villagers clash

A CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

An elderly man was killed and six others were injured in a clash between two groups over establishing supremacy at Sreeula village in Assasuni upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Hakim Sardar, 55, son of late Afiluddin Sardar of the village.

Sriula Union Parishad Chairman Abu Hena Shakil said, Nur Mohammad, president of Shreeula union unit Awami League and also former chairman of Sreeula UP had a long standing family feud with his cousin Abdul Hakim.

Sahidul Islam, a local BNP leader allegedly supported Hakim and joined hands with him.

On Wednesday, the supporters of both the groups locked in a clash on the court premises in the district and police arrested Al-Mujahid, a supporter of Nur Mohammad group from the spot.

As a sequel of the incident, a fierce clash took place between the supporters of both groups yesterday leaving Abdul Hakim dead on the spot and six others injured.



PHOTO: STAR
Construction of Kalai fire station in Joypurhat district is yet to be finished due to legal complexities regarding the acquired land.

KALAI FIRE STATION PROJECT

No sign yet of resuming construction work

KONGKON KARMAKAR, *Dinajpur*

The construction work of Kalai fire station in Joypurhat district have remained suspended for the last three years due to legal complexities regarding the acquired land, although 90 percent of the work had been completed by the time.

Following a government decision to set up the fire station, the authorities acquired 33 decimals of land in 2006 near T and T area in Kalai and paid off Tk 1,77,568 as compensation to land owner Monowara Begum in 2007, said officials of Fire Service and Civil Defence at Joypurhat.

But Monowara filed a case with a local court, demanding Tk 50,000 for each decimal. The case is still pending.

Meanwhile, work order for the Tk 2.5 crore project of fire station construction was awarded to a local contractor who started the work in June 2009. It was scheduled to be completed within June 2010.

But Mozaffar Hossain, son-in-law of Monowara Begum, filed a writ with the

High Court claiming that the land belonged to him. On June 6 in 2010, the court issued an order for suspension of the work for three months.

The authorities could not restart the construction work in last three years as no further court order was issued regarding the matter.

Talking with local journalists, Mozaffar Hossain claimed his mother-in-law donated the land to him.

As the work has remained suspended for three years, the contractor is yet to get full payment of his dues.

Contacted, Saleh Uddin Ahmed, executive engineer of Joypurhat Public Work Department, said they could not restart the work as they are yet to get further order from the High Court after the period of the suspension order ended in September 2010.

Emdad Hosain, deputy assistant director of Joypurhat Fire Service and Civil Defence, said they approached the high-ups several times for restarting the construction work of the fire station but to no effect yet.

Help Nayan, help a dream come true

AZIBOR RAHMAN, *Jhenidah*

Achiever of GPA-5 in both Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations under humanities group, Nayan Hossain now faces uncertainty about higher education due to financial hardship.

He passed the SSC from Mostabapur High School in 2011 and HSC from Shahid Nur Ali College in Kaliganj upazila of the district this year.

"I started private tuition to manage my schooling cost when I was in class seven. Before my HSC examinations I worked in other's crop fields to manage the fees for filling up form," said Nayan.

"Now I need to get myself admitted to a quality coaching centre to prepare well for admission test to join the university. But it needs Tk 7000 for admission and coaching fee per month Tk 3000," said Nayan, who wants to study law or English at Dhaka University and dreams of becoming an administrator.

Nayan's father Shahidul Islam, who works as a day labourer in crop fields, said, "My son needs financial assistance for continuation of education."

Rashed Sattar Toru, principal of Shahid Nur Ali College, said, "Nayan is a brilliant student and we took special care of him. He bears bright prospect if he can continue study smoothly."



PHOTO: STAR
Nayan Hossain, left, working with his father at their paddy field at Moheshwarchanda village in Kaliganj upazila under Jhenidah district.

3 jailed for illegal tree felling

UNB, *Barisal*

A court here on Wednesday sentenced three people to six months' imprisonment each for cutting down trees illegally.

They were also fined Tk2,000 each for cutting down the roadside trees, belonging to the local forest department.

The convicts were identified as Mizanur Rahman, son of Mosharrat Hossain of Zia Sarak of the city, Delwar Zamaddar, son of Harun Zamaddar of Guthia Uzirpur area and his brother Nuru Zamaddar.

According to the case, the convicts felled 11 roadside trees of the forest department without taking permission in Guthia Bridge and Narayanpur areas on February 20, 2007.

Uzirpur upazila forest officer Shah Alam filed a case against the trio on April 2 that year on charge of cutting down and looting the trees.

M Mustafizur Rahman, judicial magistrate of Barisal, handed down the punishment to them after examining witnesses and other evidence.

Four get life for rape of schoolgirl in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bogra*

A court here on Wednesday sentenced four men to life term imprisonment for violating a schoolgirl in 1997.

The convicts are Khokan, son of Mozammel Haque, Tojam, son of Faraj Ullah, Siraj, son of Abdul Khaleque Munshi and Bakkar alias Bokko, son of Sanullah of Muruil village in Sadar upazila.

Judge SM Saiful Islam of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 also fined each

of the four Tk 25,000, in default, to suffer another two years in jail.

According to the prosecution, the convicts abducted the class v girl on her way to school on August 6, 1997 and took her to a house in Khandar area of the town and raped her for four days.

Later, father of the victim filed a case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, accusing nine people.

After examining all the evidence and witnesses, the court on Wednesday after-

noon sentenced the four to life imprisonment with Siraj and Bakkar still on the run.

The court also acquitted five accused as the allegations against them could not be proved.

They are Abdus Sattar, son of Joyen Uddin, Mozaffar Hossain, son of Faraj Ullah, Khosru Mia, son of Javed Ali, Shamsul Haque, son of Budha of Muruil village and Afshar Ali son of Numur Hossain of Kamarcharpara in Gabtoli upazila.

Wife killed in fire, husband burnt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

A physically challenged woman was burnt to death and her husband received serious injury in a fire at their residence while they were asleep early in the morning yesterday in Khotkhotia area of the city.

The deceased was identified as Nurunnahar Begum, 50, wife of Ashek Ali, 65, of the area. Nurunnahar became paralysed about four years ago.

Quoting family members, locals said that the fire originate from a mosquito coil at around 4:30am and soon engulfed the bedroom.

Hearing their screams, family members and neighbours doused the fire and rescued the couple.

They took them to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) with severe burn injuries where Nurunnahar Begum died at around 5:30am.

Professor Maruful Islam, head of Burn Unit at the hospital said more than 75 percent of Ashek Ali's body has been burnt in the fire.

"His condition is very critical, he added.



PHOTO: STAR
Workers treat huge quantities of hilsa with salt for preservation prior to its sending to distant districts as the ongoing peak season sees good catches of the popular fish. The photo was taken from Port Road fish landing station in Barisal city on Wednesday.