

BEATING OF 2 VILLAGERS

Two village cops get bail

Victims in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A Rangpur court granted bail to two members of village police at Badarganj upazila on Friday, seven hours after they were arrested on charges of beating two villagers over the purchase of a cow.

Out on bail, they started threatening that the families of the two villagers -- Amjad Hossain and Sahirul Islam -- would be forced out of the village if the case was not withdrawn, members of the families alleged.

The two families had been suffering from a sense of insecurity since the 12 accused in the case, including Kalupara Union Parishad Chairman Shahidul Haque, started issuing the threat as soon as the case was filed.

"My husband is innocent. None of the villagers can say he is involved in any unlawful activities," Amjad's wife Kulsum Begum told The Daily Star.

"The chairman of the union parishad became biased against my husband and Sahirul since they had worked for his rival candidate in the last UP election," she said weeping.

Officer-in-Charge Jahedul Haque Chowdhury of Badarganj Police Station said police had nothing to do against them because they had been released on bail.

Amjad's father Abdul Gofur had filed the case against the 12, including the chairman and four members of village police, on Thursday night.

Police arrested the two

police members, Abdul Mannan and Abdur Rahim, in their houses the following morning.

Asked why police had not arrested the other accused, the OC said police had raided their houses several times but could not find them.

On October 12, Amjad and five of his neighbours bought the sacrificial animal from Sahirul for Tk 11,000 ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

The chairman and his men went to Amjad's house the next day and asked him to show the receipt for buying the cow. Amjad told them he did not have any receipt because he had bought the cow from Sahirul's house.

On the orders of the chairman, the village police took both Amjad and Sahirul to the school field nearby, their hands tied to each other's. The chairman told the gathering that the two "had stolen a cow" and instructed the village police and his aides to beat them up.

Amajd's wife and daughters, aged between five and 10, were in the field, tearfully requesting the chairman and the others to stop torturing Amjad, but to no avail.

When the beating left Amjad and Sahirul severely injured, the chairman called the police, who showed up only to arrest the two victims on charges of stealing, witnesses said.

They were taken to the magistrate's court, which later sent them to Rangpur Central Jail.

IndustriALL

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appointments provide the Accord with strong leadership to move forward quickly on the vital work of factory inspections and remediation," Ansett said in the statement.

Under his experienced leadership, the Accord would establish and apply safety standards to all factories that supply to Accord member brands, the statement added.

It also said Alan Roberts would take up an international role, setting up the head office, raising funds and enlisting new signatories, and would be the first point of contact for the Accord.

Rob Wayss would be in Bangladesh and liaise closely with local actors, including the government and employers' organisations, whose cooperation is essential to the Accord achieving its aims.

Rob would train the Accord's local teams, work closely with the chief safety inspector and be a link to garment workers, the statement said, adding, both of these executive directors would be instrumental in implementing the work of the Accord in Bangladesh and in raising the profile of the Accord and its work, to stakeholders and the public.

The Accord for Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh was signed on May 13 in response to the Rana Plaza factory building collapse on April 24, 2013.

Meanwhile, Woolworths Australia, GEBRA, Wunsche Group of Germany have become the latest brands to sign the Accord, which aims to make the garment industry safe and sustainable for years to come. The number of total brands has crossed 100 with these retailers signing the Accord.

The Accord, a broad coalition of industry-leading brands with IndustriALL Global Union and UNI, has already released the names of more than 1,600 factories to be inspected to ensure fire and buildings safety.

Aussie military to probe link to bushfire

AFP, Sydney

The Australian military yesterday said it was investigating whether a major bushfire was linked to an explosives training exercise, as firefighters battled blazes that have destroyed or damaged 300 homes.

The Rural Fire Service said around 80 fires were burning across New South Wales state, with about 20 of them uncontained despite Saturday's cooler weather conditions.

Among the major fires

was one burning between the towns of Lithgow and Bilpin, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) northwest of Sydney, which intensified after burning through 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) and reportedly destroying some properties.

"This fire is by no means contained," New South Wales Rural Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said.

"It's got absolutely kilometres and kilometres of fire front."

Respond to PM's offer

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Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) told The Daily Star over the phone.

"The prime minister's proposal is a positive sign in the country's politics. We hope the opposition political parties will also respond to her call," Akram said.

If the opposition parties do not respond timely, the proposal would remain merely a proposal and the businesses would be hostages to violent political situation again, he added.

He feared that if the opposition did not respond, the political situation might reach the point of no-return.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a televised speech on Friday proposed forming an all-party election-time government and urged the main opposition BNP to nominate its lawmakers for inclusion in the interim cabinet.

Echoing the views of the FBCCI chief, president of

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Sabur Khan said the prime minister's proposal had given at least some relief to the businessmen as it would open a door for dialogue.

"We are welcoming the prime minister's proposal. It is a good indication that the political stalemate can be resolved through holding dialogues," Sabur told The Daily Star.

"The prime minister's proposal is a light at the end of the tunnel. Her proposal will create a positive political environment in the country," said SM Mannan Kochi, acting president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the garment makers' platform.

"Like the entire nation, our international buyers are also worried about the political tension in Bangladesh. Her proposal will help relieve this tension," Kochi said.

Ershad to meet Hasina

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and vague".

In a televised speech to the nation, Sheikh Hasina on Friday urged the main opposition BNP to nominate its lawmakers for inclusion in the all-party election-time government and interim cabinet.

She, however, did not specify the number of cabinet members, its area of work or who would head the cabinet. It was also not clear when the interim cabinet would be formed.

Addressing the meeting of JP presidium committee, the highest policymaking body of the party, Ershad told his party colleagues that he would call on Hasina with queries on different key issues, including who would be the chief of the all-party interim government.

A JP presidium member told The Daily Star that the JP boss was scheduled to meet Hasina at her Gono Bhaban at 8:00pm today.

Another JP presidium member, who was present at the meeting at Ershad's Banani office, told The Daily

Star, "In the meeting, we pointed out that the premier in her Friday speech did not mention whether the parliament would be dissolved. She also did not mention what the terms of reference of the election-time administration would be."

A number of JP presidium members observed that the party should tread "carefully" regarding Hasina's speech since the next election would probably be the last election with Jatiya Party headed by Ershad, considering his age and physical condition.

JP senior presidium member Raushan Ershad in the meeting advised the party chief not to speak about leaving the ruling grand alliance before making a final decision in this regard.

After the end of the hour-long meeting, JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader told reporters that the prime minister had not mentioned how a level playing field would be ensured if the lawmakers remained in their position.

Rickshaws ply VIP roads

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menace on the roads. The electric motors add speed to a vehicle clearly not designed to endure the pace.

Asked about law enforcers taking bribes, Mir Rezaul Alam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (traffic), said the department would take action against any traffic policeman proved to have taken bribes or to have been negligent in discharging duties.

He claimed that his department regularly conducts drives against rickshaws using streets that are off-limits to them and illegal rickshaws as well.

SM Salehuddin, former executive director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board, said the average speed of motorised vehicles on Dhaka streets is only 20 kmph due to congestion, but the speed drops to 7-8 kmph on streets where rickshaws ply.

The number of illegal rickshaws had increased a lot in recent times, he said, adding that the battery-run rickshaws have become a menace.

Ashikur Rahman, superintending engineer of Traffic Engineering Division of Dhaka South City Corporation, said the movement of two or three

rickshaws was enough to disturb traffic management.

Powerful syndicates of rickshaw and rickshaw-van owners, and workers' associations backed by different political parties in connivance with a section of corrupt city corporation employees and traffic police bringing in thousands of illegal rickshaws into the capital each month, sources said.

There are around 5 lakh illegal rickshaws and rickshaw-vans in the capital and only around 79,000 rickshaws and 7,793 rickshaw vans have permits.

Hold talks to narrow

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prime minister's latest proposal for an all-party government to conduct the next general elections, they said they were encouraged by the PM's offer and said the major parties now could sit for a dialogue to narrow down the gaps between them for an election-time government.

Asked for comment, US embassy spokesperson Kelly S McCarthy said the US continued to urge both the major parties in Bangladesh to engage in constructive dialogue to find an agreed way forward that will ensure free, fair and credible elections in the upcoming months.

"The nature of the way forward is for the major parties to agree on together. We are encouraged by indi-

cations of a willingness by both parties to engage in meaningful dialogue," she added.

The Chinese embassy noted that both the leaders of the two main political parties of Bangladesh called for dialogue recently and some proposals in this regard had been put forward.

"We believe that peaceful dialogue is the only way to end the current political crisis in Bangladesh and it is in line with Bangladesh people's aspirations and national interests," said Li Jun in response to a query about the PM's proposal.

"We sincerely hope that the effort of seeking dialogue will be continued," he added.

Meanwhile, talking to The Daily Star yesterday,

several diplomats stationed in Dhaka expressed their apprehension that the indefinite ban by police on meetings, processions and rallies in Dhaka metropolitan area might further deteriorate the political crisis, as the step was taken a week ahead of the BNP's planned rally on October 25.

They expect the two parties to restrain themselves from any more aggressive words and actions, and take positive moves to resolve the current political crisis and create an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and elections.

The diplomats said both the parties should avoid street confrontation and violence that cause sufferings to the citizens at home and hurt the image of the country abroad.

At least 35 hurt in Buenos Aires train accident

AFP, Buenos Aires

Nearly three dozen people were hurt, five seriously, in a train crash early Saturday at a Buenos Aires railway terminal, officials said.

"There are 35 people injured, five seriously, the rest with minor injuries," Argentina's security chief

Sergio Berni told local television.

"There are no fatalities for now," he said.

Television footage showed various railway cars that had left the track and were on the platform, after the train apparently failed to stop at the end of the line.

Officials, who said they

could could not immediately determine the cause of the accident, said the injured have been transported to area hospitals.

Buenos Aires has been plagued by rail accidents in recent years including a disaster last year that killed 51 people and injured 700.

BNP to roll out counter formula

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PM's proposal as a "trick to confuse people", particularly when the opposition is set to wage the final round of movement for the restoration of the caretaker government system.

"Besides, according to our constitution, there is no scope for forming an all-party government," he added.

Another standing committee member told this correspondent over the phone that at the meeting

they observed there was nothing new in the PM's speech.

And, the proposal won't resolve the ongoing political crisis over holding a free and fair parliamentary election, he added.

The BNP leader said within two or three days they would place a proposal for a non-party caretaker government to conduct the polls.

According to the proposal, the chief of the election-time government must be a neutral person but the

interim ministers could be politicians picked from two sides, the leader added.

On Friday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina proposed forming an all-party polls-time government and urged the BNP to nominate its MPs for inclusion in the interim cabinet.

Hasina, however, did not specify the size of the cabinet and its scope of work or who would head the cabinet. It is also not clear from her speech when the interim cabinet would be formed.

Work for AL

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and upazila nirbahi officers' interference.

Around 30 upazila chairmen, vice-chairmen, municipality and city corporation mayors spoke at the meeting.

The premier in response said the upazila parishad system had not been functioning for 18 years and her government introduced it anew. She told them that the upazila parishad would be strengthened and made the centre for all development activities if her party was voted to power again.

Hasina, also president of the ruling AL, advised them to bridge their differences with the MPs and work for the party-nominated candidates in the next election. She also informed them that the AL has no plans to hold a one-party election.

The local representatives pledged to work for the AL-nominated candidates at the next elections to

ensure the party's return to power and carry forward the ongoing development work.

Hasina directed them to work sincerely and initiate pro-people development projects so that her party could return to power.

"What you have got is not a big deal. Rather what you could give to the people who elected you is important," the premier told the elected representatives.

She advised them to work for people drawing inspiration from examples of sacrifice.

Hasina said her government had worked for people in every sector. "You [elected representatives] will have to work hard to ensure a continuation of development works."

She also said her government had kept the promises it made ahead of the last election. If elected again, her government would allocate district budgets on the basis of the need

of development in individual districts, she added.

The government would further decentralise power if her party was re-elected in the next election, Hasina said.


A system would also be developed so that no one would have to come to Dhaka for solutions to any local level problem, she said, adding that the problem would be solved at the upazila level.

At the meeting, the premier also directed the elected representatives to work in coordination with local representatives.

AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Syed Ashrafur Islam, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, PM's Adviser HT Imam, among others, were present.

Apart from local government related concerns, the country's socio-political issues dominated the discussion.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার			
সিনিয়র জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, রংপুর			
পত্র নং ৪৪.০৭.৮৫০০.১৬২.০৪.০২০-১৩-৩৬০৮(১০)		তারিখঃ ১৭/১০/২০১৩	
দরপত্র/পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
১	সংগ্রহকারী সত্তা	ঃ সিনিয়র জেল সুপার, রংপুর।	
২	দরপত্রের নাম ও কাল	ঃ (১) বিভিন্ন প্রকার খাদ্যদ্রব্য, ১/১/১৪ হতে ৩০/৬/১৪। (২) বিভিন্ন প্রকার খাদ্যদ্রব্য, ১/৭/১৩ হতে ৩১/১২/১৩ (পুনঃ দরপত্র)।	
৩	দরপত্র প্রকৃতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত।	
৪	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	ঃ দরপত্র দিলে বর্ণিতমতে।	
৫	দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ঃ কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার, রংপুর/কারা উপ-মহাপরিদর্শকের দপ্তর, ঢাকা বিভাগ, নাজিম উদ্দিন রোড, ঢাকা/রংপুর বিভাগ, কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার, রংপুর।	
৬	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	ঃ ১নং ৮৭০০ এবং ২নং ৮২০০।	
৭	সরবরাহকারীর যোগ্যতা	ঃ দরপত্র দলিলের বর্ণনামতে।	
৮	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	ঃ স্থানীয় কারাগার/বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয় ও কোতওয়ালী থানা, রংপুর।	
৯	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ সময়	ঃ ১০/১১/১৩ তাং অফিস চলাকালীন।	
১০	দাখিলের সময়	ঃ ১১/১১/১৩ তাং সকাল ৯.০০-১২.০০ ঘটিকা।	
১১	খোলা/মূল্যায়নের সময়	ঃ একই দিন বেলা ১২.৩০/২.০০ ঘটিকা।	
দরপত্র দলিলের সাথে বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী সংযুক্ত থাকবে। আরো জানার প্রয়োজনে এ দপ্তরে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।			
সিনিয়র জেল সুপার কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার, রংপুর			
জিডি-৩৯১৩			

<div>  <div> Chittagong Port Authority Office of the Project Director (WTP) </div> </div>		
Invitation for Tender (IFT)		
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping.
2	Agency	Chittagong Port Authority.
3	Procuring entity name	Chittagong Port Authority.
4	Procuring entity code	5205.
5	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Works.
7	Invitation reference No. & date	CPA/PD(WTP)/1341/02, date 10/10/2013.
8	Procurement method	National Open Tendering (Single stage two envelope system).
9	Budget and source of fund	CPA's own fund.
10	Tender name	'Installation of Surface Water Treatment Plant' at CPA premises.
11	Completion time	365 days.
12	Tender publication date	21/10/2013.
13	Tender document last selling date	18/11/2013 During office hours.
14	Name & address of the office(s) selling tender document	a. Office of the Director (Elect & Mech), Room No. 308; Annex Building, Bandar Bhaban, Chittagong Port Authority, Chittagong-4100. b. Office of the Chief Finance and Accounts Officer, Chittagong Port Authority, Bandar Bhaban, Chittagong-4100. c. Office of the Executive Engineer (Elect)/Power/Chittagong Port Authority, Near Jetty Gate No. 4, Chittagong-4100.
15	Name & address of the office(s) receiving tender documents	Office of the Director (Elect & Mech), Room No. 308; Annex Building, Bandar Bhaban, Chittagong Port Authority, Date: 19/11/2013 up to 12:00 hours.
16	Name & address of the office(s) opening tender documents	Office of the Director (Elect & Mech), Room No. 308; Annex Building, Bandar Bhaban, Chittagong Port Authority, Date: 19/11/2013 at 12:15 hours.
17	Date & time of pre-tender meeting	06/11/2013, 11-30hrs at Board Room, Bandar Bhaban, CPA.
18	Eligibility of tenderer	Any individual firm of Bangladesh having valid trade license, latest IT & VAT registration & fulfill the eligibility & qualification criteria as stated in the tender document. 1. The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the work or supply in gov/semi-gov/autonomous body as prime contractor or subcontractor or management contractor shall be 05 (five) years. 2. a) The minimum specific experience of executing 1 (one) contract successfully at home or abroad as a Prime Contractor in Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of Water Treatment Plant within the last 5 (five) years with a value of at least Taka 12 crore. b) Also leading partner or other partner successfully completed at least 1 (one) membrane based desalination plant having capacity of minimum 100m ³ /h within last 5 years. c) Contractor or subcontractor firm must have ABC category contractor and supervisory licence from Electricity Licensing Board, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. 3. The required average annual turnover shall be greater than Tk 50 crore over the last 3 years. 4. The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of the tenderer shall be Tk. 20 crore.
19	Brief description of works	River Water Intake System, Civil & Electromechanical works for Water Treatment, Desalination Plant, and Treated Water Supply Line. Plant capacity: 400m ³ /hour.
20	Price of tender document	Bangladeshi Taka 10,000.00 (ten thousand only) non-refundable in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft in favour of Chittagong Port Authority, Chittagong, Bangladesh from any schedule bank of Bangladesh.
21	Tender security amount	Bangladeshi Taka 60,00,000.00 (sixty lac only).
22	Name of official inviting tender	Shovan Kar Dhar.
23	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director (WTP), CPA.
24	Address of official inviting tender	Project Director (WTP), Office of the Executive Engineer (Elect)/Power/CPA, Near Jetty Gate No. 4, Chittagong Port Authority, Chittagong. Tel: + 88031-2510151.
25	Special instruction	i) The procuring entity shall reserve the right to accept any or reject all tenders. ii) If the last date of selling, closing and opening date of tender is disturbed by any holiday/unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable. All other conditions remain same.
<div> <div></div> <div>Shovan Kar Dhar</div> <div>Project Director (WTP) Chittagong Port Authority</div> </div>		
GD-3890		