

Jamaat-Shibir activists attack, loot FF's house, business centres

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Criminals, allegedly belonging to Jamaat-Shibir, ransacked and looted the house of a freedom fighter at Kutubpur village in Chirirbandar upazila on Friday night.

House owner Altaf Hossain, 62, said a gang entered the house around 11:30pm and went on rampage. Sensing trouble, he along with his family members fled the scene.

The gang also took away three cattle before leaving the spot. However, the cattle were recovered later, he said.

FF Altaf Hossain suspected that Jamaat-Shibir men carried out the attack.

Meanwhile, many traders of different 'sensitive areas' in the district have started shifting their business items at warehouses to safer places in fear of arson attack and looting as Jamaat-Shibir called countrywide hartal fortoday.

The areas are Bhusirbandar and Ranirbandar of Chirirbandar and Pakerhat of Khansama upazilas.

Trader Sekendar Ali Shah of Bhusirbandar area said, the decision to shift the business items was taken following an attack by Jamaat-Shibir men on Bhawani Agarwal in the area on Thursday night.

The attackers torched at least five buses, a jeep, a pickup van and two motorcycles at the business centre. They also looted the shop.

In addition, a garments shop of Sultan Mahmud in



PHOTO: STAR

This house belonging to freedom fighter Altaf Hossain at Kutubpur village in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinaipur was vandalised and looted allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir activists on Friday night.

Ranirbandar area was looted on the same night.

Yesterday, several hundred freedom fighters of the district brought out a procession in the town, protesting the countrywide arson attacks and lootings by Jamaat-Shibir.

The district unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad organised the procession that paraded different streets of the town.

The processionists also hailed the execution of war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah.

BSF returns 3 boys

32 rescued from traffickers

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday returned three teenage Bangladeshi boys who were taken to India through Benapole border three years ago by traffickers.

On completion of jail term in India they were handed over at Gedy border under Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga in the morning.

The boys were identified as Sohel Rana, 12, son of Kayum Rana of Jessore district, Biplob Mondal, 14, son of Babu Mondal also of Jessore district and Islam Molla, 13, son of Gafur Molla of Narandiya village in Magura district, reports our correspondent.

BGB Darshana Camp commander Abdul Awal said, a flag meeting was held between BGB and BSF at Gedy border at 11:00am over the issue.

Later BSF handed the boys to the BGB after the flag meeting and Damurhuda police handed them to their relatives.

Meanwhile, members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested 32 people from Putkhali bordering area of Jessore yesterday noon while they being trafficked to India, reports our Benapole correspondent.

23 BGB Battalion commander Lt Col Majharul Islam said, a BGB team raided the area and caught 11 women and 21 men.

However, the traffickers managed to flee the scene, sensing the presence of the BGB jawans.

The victims hailed from different areas of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Narail, Barisal and Faridpur districts, said the commander.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Traders bring huge quantity of paddy to the riverbank at Baliatali in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district for loading onto vessels, getting the much awaited opportunity during yesterday's break from the continuous countrywide blockade enforced by BNP-led 18-party alliance.

No voting

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yesterday said time to question the credibility of the election was yet to come.

"Once the election is over, we can understand whether the election will be credible," he told reporters at the EC Secretariat when his attention was drawn to the record number of candidates to be elected uncontested.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her party had reached a compromise with other parties over the polls-time government. "We've withdrawn our candidatures from some seats after liaising with other parties."

Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu, who is a member of the Awami League advisory council, told BBC Bangla Service that the EC repeatedly had said there was no scope to change the polls schedule.

Responding to a query about talks with the opposition BNP, he said discussions were going on but there were constitutional barriers to a change in the schedule.

On another question, Amu said it would not be ethical to brand the election farcical if a single party boycotted it.

The number of candidates to be elected unopposed has broken the record of the controversial February 15 election in 1996. Held amid a boycott by opposition parties, the election saw 49 ruling BNP candidates declared elected without challenge.

Then in opposition, the Awami League led the boycott alongside waging a street agitation for the introduction of an election-time caretaker government system.

This time, the BNP is leading the election boycott alongside the violent blockade to get the caretaker system restored and resist the January 5 polls. The violence has claimed many lives and paralysed the economy.

The boycott has also resulted in the lowest-ever participation of candidates in the January 5 polls. Only 398 candidates will fight for 149 seats. Each of the nine other parliamentary polls held since 1973 had more than 1,000 candidates.

Also yesterday, the returning officers allocated electoral symbols to the candidates for the remaining constituencies, another step towards the January 5 polls.

In many areas, the returning officers, who are also deputy commissioners of districts, have started declaring lone candidates as winners in different seats.

The EC will publish gazettes announcing the official results on completion of the polls. The MPs-elect will take oath within three days of the gazette publication, EC officials have said.

Transport

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returning home on a motorcycle near the housing culvert in Block-C around 10:00pm.

Criminals on motorbikes opened fire on him from a close range, leaving the victim critically injured.

Locals whisked Nur Hossain to Kusthia General Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Belal Hossain and district police super Mafiz Ahmed visited the spot.

Tortured, driven out for dowry, Rima doesn't know what to do now

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Tortured by husband and in-laws, a dowry victim took shelter at her father's house and now passing days amid fear, agony and uncertainty.

As Sohel Miah and his family members could not realise dowry money from the mother of Rima Akhter, they allegedly chained her and shaved her head on December 4 night, said Md Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Pagla police station in Gafargaon upazila.

According to police and the victim, Rima, daughter of late Chandu Miah of Belobo village under the PS was married off to Sohel of the same village four years ago.

Sohel's family took landed property and cash of around Tk 1,60,000 as

dowry, said police, quoting Rima that the couple were blessed with a daughter two years ago.

When Sohel married another girl at Masterbari in Bhaluka five months ago without the consent of Rima, he started torturing Rima allegedly with a plan to drive her out.

Recently Sohel demanded a fresh amount of Tk three lakh from Rima and threatened to drive her out of the house if she failed to meet the demand, said police.

As Rima declined, Sohel and his family members beat up Rima several times, they said.

Following an altercation over the demanded dowry, Sohel, his mother Shahor Banu, sister Kulsum Begum and sister-in-law Kalpona Akhtar on December 4 night chained Rima and shaved

her hair and confined her to a room.

On information, local people rescued Rima the next morning and caught Sohel red-handed.

Later, they handed over Sohel to village police but some influential locals freed him from them, said the OC.

Rima along with her daughter is now living at her parents house amid untold misery.

"I do not know what to do now", Rima told this correspondent.

Contacted, Selim Ahmed, chairman of local Moshakhali union parishad termed it a heinous crime and said that the culprits must be brought to book.

Rima filed a case with Pagla police station, accusing nine people including Sohel and his mother Shahor Banu.



PHOTO: STAR

Shohel Miah (right), who along with his family members tortured his wife and shaved her head for dowry on the night of December 4 at Belabo village in Gafargaon upazila of Mymensingh, was caught by locals with a polythene bag containing hair of his wife and later handed over to police.

ABDUCTION, MURDER IN GREECE

Relatives burst into tears as Rocky's body arrives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

The body of Bangladeshi national Mojibur Rahman Khan Rocky, who was killed after being abducted in Greece in September this year, reached Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

Rocky's body arrived at the airport in a Qatar Airways flight in the morning.

Relatives burst into tears when the body was taken to Mahmudpatti village in Louhajang upazila of Munshiganj. After namaz-e-junaza, he was buried at Kumabhog graveyard at the village.

Son of Latif Khan of Mahmudpatti village, Rocky had been in Greece since 2004. A gang of Bangladeshi expatriates kidnapped Rocky



Mojibur Rahman Khan Rocky in the first week of September and demanded Tk 27 lakh from his family.

Rocky's family claimed though they deposited Tk 27 lakh to a local bank account of the kidnappers as per their demand, they killed him.

The family also filed a case with CID (Criminal Investigation Department),

accusing Bangladeshi expatriates Alauddin, Russel Mia, Morshed Alam and Jamal Mia as they demanded the money from Rocky's family.

CID sought help from Greek police, who arrested abductors Russel Mia, Morshed Alam and Jamal Mia. On the basis of their confessional statements, Greek police recovered the body from a garden on December 4.

Family and CID sources said accused Alauddin, who masterminded the abduction and killing of Rocky, is still at large.

Rocky's brother Motin Khan said his brother came to Bangladesh about two years ago and was supposed to come again in January

SNIPPETS

Listed criminal shot dead

UNB, Munshiganj

A 'listed criminal' was shot dead by his rivals at Jahanabad in Sreenagar upazila on Friday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Akash, 24, the ring leader of local gang 'Akash-Bikash Group' and son of Abdur Rab of Rudrapara village in the upazila. Quoting locals, Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sreenagar Police Station, said a gang shot Akash twice from a close range in the area around 4:00pm, leaving him dead on the spot. Later, police recovered the body and sent it to the morgue for autopsy. Police also said Akash had at least five cases against him filed on charge of robbery and mugging.

Hartal in Zianagar today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

BNP led 18-party alliance called a dawn to dusk hartal for today in Zianagar upazila, protesting the killing of a party activist. Md Abdul Latif Hawlader, president of Zianagar upazila unit BNP, said, after the namaz-e-janaja of Sukkur Ali, they declared the hartal. On Friday early morning, Sukkur Ali, 25, succumbed to injuries at Bhandaria health complex in the district. He was hit by bullets on Thursday night allegedly fired by an AL leader when the BNP led 18-party alliance brought out a protest procession at Goshherhat bazaar area protesting Jamaat leader Quader Mollah's death sentence. However, AL men and police both denied the incident of firing there. After the death of Sukkur, who hails from Delwar Hossain Saydee's village, locals claimed that the deceased was a Jamaat supporter.

13 houses gutted in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur

At least 13 houses were gutted by a fire that broke out at Aurakandi village in Bhanga upazila on Friday afternoon. Witnesses said, the fire originated from the kitchen of one Tipu Matabbar of the village and soon engulfed 12 other adjoining houses in the area at about 4:00pm. On information, firefighters from Bhanga fire service rushed in and doused the flame after three hours of frantic efforts with the help of locals. The affected house owners claimed that the extent of loss from the fire could go up to Tk 50 lakh.

6 pro-BNP men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pubna

President of Sirajganj district unit Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal Abu Sayeed Sweet, 36, and his five party men were held on Friday night. The other arrestees are Md Fuel Hossain, 35, vice president of Jubo Dal, Alamgir Hossain alias Alam, 48, joint convener of Swechhasebak Dal, Md Salim Hossain, 39, its member and activists Jahangir Hossain, 43 and Mukul Hossain, 29. The arrestees were sent to jail yesterday morning. Officer-in-charge of Sirajganj Sadar police station Md Habibul Islam said all the arrestees are accused in several cases. They were wanted criminals, the OC said. Acting on a tip off Sirajganj Sadar police arrested them from Amlapara Eidgah Maidan at about 8:30pm on Friday when they were holding a meeting there.



PHOTO: STAR

Wreaths were placed at the memorial for Bir Shrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir at Rahaichar in Chapainawabganj town yesterday. Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir embraced martyrdom during a battle with the Pakistani occupation forces at Rahaichar on this day in 1971.

Chapainawabganj was freed on this day in 1971

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Chapainawabganj district was freed from the Pakistani occupation army on this day in 1971.

On December 15, 1971, the heroic sons of the soil hoisted flag of the independent Bangladesh in the district town after a nine month fierce fighting with the Pakistan troops.

Divided into two subsectors under the Sector No. 7, the freedom fighters waged war against the occupation forces in the district, the then sub division.

Bir Shrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir was the commander of the Mohodipur sector while Lieutenant Rafiq was the commander of the Doldoli sector.

Five Pakistani soldiers were killed as the freedom fighters launched an attack on the army camps at Makrampur and Ali Nagar on November 7.

Other Pakistani troops managed to flee by crossing the Mohananda River on that day.

On December 10, Captain Jahangir along with 50 freedom fighters crossed Mohananda River and made

advance towards the Chapainawabganj town to capture it and occupied the bunker of the Pakistani army.

The freedom fighters took position near Rahaichar Moholla in Chapainawabganj town on December 13 and engaged in a fight against Pakistan army.

On the following day, Captain Jahangir went ahead of the defence line and charged grenade into a trench of Pakistan occupation army.

Later, they launched an attack on the Pakistani troops there.

Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir died on the spot when a bullet of Pakistani army pierced through his forehead during the operation.

After a gunfight, the Bangladeshi freedom fighters finally freed Chapainawabganj district from the Pakistani occupation forces and thus clinched the victory on December 15.

As the news spread, people from the adjacent areas came to the town and rejoiced freedom by chanting slogans 'Joy Bangla' with the freedom fighters.