

JMB ESCAPE Another abettor arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion has arrested one more person in Gazipur for involvement in the sensational escape of three convicted JMB militants being transported in a prison van to Mymensingh in February.

Khorshed Alam, 30, was arrested around 4:10am yesterday during a raid on a makeshift house at Konabari, said Mustaque Sarkar, operation officer of Rab-1.

He was in one of the minibuses used to ambush the prison van and take away the members of the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh. Khorshed was there as a backup in case those who made the attack failed, the Rab official added.

The arrestee, a resident of Satarkul in the capital's Badda, was on the run for a while. He worked at a

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Rights activists and families of eight men, who were allegedly abducted by Rapid Action Battalion on December 8, form a human chain in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the capital yesterday protesting against forced disappearance, killing and kidnapping in the country. Though the programme was organised by eminent citizens, police snatched their banners, leaflets and loudspeakers, surprising many of the participants. Inset, mother of Sajedul Islam Suman, a ward level BNP leader of Tejgaon and one of the eight victims, wails for her son.

PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON



Govt ready to build Padma bridge with own resources: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said there was a political game over construction of the Padma bridge, but her government overcoming all obstacles had completed all works to begin the construction of its main part with the country's own resources.

She asked the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) to form a team with local engineers and experts for designing and constructing the country's big structures like bridges and tunnels.

She also stressed the importance of utilising the expertise of Bangladeshi professionals instead of depending on foreign engineers and experts, as local experts understand the country, its people and its weather pattern better.

"We need to change the mindset of depending on foreigners and foreign aids, as the country's dignity must be upheld by standing on our own feet," she said, while formally inaugurating the 55th convention of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) on the IEB Bhaban premises.

The theme of this year's convention is "Engineers for Development: Towards a Safer Environment".

Nearly 5,000 engineers from home and abroad are participating in the five-day long convention that began on Thursday.

Hasina assured that her government would provide all sorts of cooperation and support to make engineering education a time-befitting one to keep pace with globalisation.

Hasina voiced her firm optimism that the country would move towards progress and prosperity in a faster way utilising engineers' expertise.

Elaborating various steps of her government taken for the welfare of the engineers, Sheikh Hasina said about 10-bigha land and Tk 5 crore had been given for their institution during 1996-2001, while Tk 23 crore more was provided at the fag end of her immediate past government.

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উত্তরা ১০নং সেক্টরের পাশেই পরিকল্পিত আবাসন
উত্তরা প্রবর্তন সিটি
এখনই বাড়ী করার উপযোগী,
গ্যাস, বিদ্যুৎ, পানির সুবিধা
সীমিত সংখ্যক রেডি প্লট এককালীন মূল্যে বিক্রয়।
ও মাসিক কিস্তিতে প্লট কেনার সুবর্ণ সুযোগ।
বিস্তারিত-০১৬১৫২৫৩৫০১, ০১৬১৫২৫৩৫০২, ০১৬১৫২৫৩৫০৩

Trader rescued in Jurain two days after kidnap

Police arrest 5 of a gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two days after his abduction from Bangshal, police rescued an automobile spare parts trader at Jurain in Dhaka early yesterday and arrested five of the alleged kidnappers.

Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they, acting on a tip off, raided a house in Jurain around 5:00am and rescued Abdul Hakim, 50.

Hakim had been tortured in captivity.

Police arrested Mohammad Rana, 25, Shamsuddin Ahmed, 24, and Mohammad Hridoy, 20, at the house and Nishi Begum, 26, and Bhagya Rani, 32, at Bangshal and Shyampur, said Monirul, addressing a press briefing at the media centre of DMP

where the arrestees were paraded.

After the kidnapping on Thursday, the abductors demanded over Tk 3.10 lakh in ransom from Hakim's family, the police official added.

"Nishi had lured Hakim to Rani's house in Jurain from where the kidnappers took him," Monirul claimed.

However, Hakim told The Daily Star that he was on a rickshaw in Bangshal going towards Rani's house when someone in a microbus travelling beside called out his name and asked him to stop.

"I stopped the rickshaw and before I knew what was going on they forced me into the vehicle," said Hakim.

Monirul claimed that Nishi was employed by the kidnappers to lure people to places from where they could be abducted. "We know about

five to six gangs who use such tactics. The women get a portion of the ransom," he said.

Hakim said he was taken to a house and tortured brutally. "They smashed my knuckles with a hammer to force me to ask my family members to send them Tk 10,000 via mobile cash transfer bKash. I called up my younger brother, and he did so. However, they were not satisfied and went on torturing me asking for a further Tk 3 lakh," said Hakim.

Hakim's clothes were stained with blood. There was a large mark over his right knee. His arms, chest and face bore bruises from beating.

Hakim's brother Abdul Matin filed a case with Bangshal Police Station on Friday in connection with the kidnapping.

Journos' professional freedom curbed

Observe leaders at World Press Freedom Day discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the number of mass media outlets has multiplied in the country in recent years, professional freedom of journalists has been curbed, journalist leaders said yesterday.

The owners of media houses who have other businesses often manipulate news to serve their business interests rather than upholding the truth, they said.

The observations came from a discussion, "Media Freedom for a Better Future", organised by a faction of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) at the capital's Jatiya Press Club in observance of World Press Freedom Day.

Notorious land grabbers owning media outlets often try to legitimise their misdeeds through their media, said Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, president of the BFUJ faction.

He urged the government to investigate why Bangladesh slipped three notches down in the global ranking of press freedom and take steps to eradicate the hurdles towards

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AL men threaten to kill journo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Some ruling Awami League leaders of Panchbibi upazila in Joypurhat have threatened to kill a local journalist for reporting their misappropriation of a Tk 50,000 cheque issued from the Prime Minister's relief fund for a victim of violence.

In this connection, the journalist, Sumon Chowdhury, 38, Panchbibi upazila correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj, filed two separate general diaries (GDs) with Panchbibi Police Station on Thursday and Friday.

In the GDs, he said Panchbibi upazila AL General Secretary and its Mayor Habibur Rahman and upazila AL Office Secretary Md Mamunur Rashid Mondal threatened to kill him over the phone on Friday morning and Thursday evening.

They also threatened to implicate him in extortion cases, the complaints said. Officer-in-Charge Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal confirmed the filing of the GDs.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not contact Habibur as he did not respond to the phone calls.

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To Know is to Prevent

A stitch in time saves nine

Any chest pain should not be ignored and delayed. Seek immediate help in the
Emergency Department of a hospital that is offering
24/7 primary angioplasty (PCI) service

Coronary arteries are the blood vessels which supply blood and oxygen to heart. **Atherosclerosis** is a condition where these arteries get thickened due to accumulation of calcium and fatty materials such as cholesterol and triglyceride. Heart diseases resulting from atherosclerosis of coronary arteries may lead to lack of oxygen supply to heart with consequent chest pain.



Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), commonly known as coronary angioplasty or simply angioplasty, is a non-surgical procedure which is used to treat the stenotic (narrowed) coronary arteries of the heart as found in coronary heart disease. PCI has proven to be equally effective and less costly than heart surgeries like CABG (coronary artery bypass grafting) in patients with medically refractory myocardial ischemia, a condition when blood flow to the heart muscle is decreased by a partial or complete blockage of heart's arteries.



Primary angioplasty (PCI) facilities are available 24/7 at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka and expert Interventional Cardiologists are performing PCI saving lives. Do not delay in seeking care when you or your near and dear ones have chest pain. It might be fatal unless you pay due attention!

**DID U
KNOW**

Millions of people die of heart attacks every year across the globe; Bangladesh is no exception. Don't ignore chest pain. Seek immediate help in a hospital emergency department.

*** This information is for public awareness only; it is NOT a medical advice*

For further queries or feedback write back to us at
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