

DHANMONDI PLAYGROUND FOR ALL

Plot on against campaigners?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants in a mystery attack on Friday night defaced the portrait of Sheikh Jamal and vandalised the guardroom of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the capital's Dhanmondi-8 playground.

The portrait at the entrance to the field was stained with black ink while window panes of the guardroom were vandalised around 10:40pm, Masud Karim, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station, told The Daily Star.

A banner was also found there which read, "Thanks to Engr Mobassher, Iqbal bhai, Dana apa, Salma apa for protecting the playground from the clutches of illegal government and Sheikh family and opening it to the public."

Police released green activist Sayed Ishtique Ahmed of Green Voice, who was detained from the playground while trying to bring down the banner around 10:30am yesterday, added the OC.

The club authorities filed a case against 35 unidentified people on Friday night in connection with the incident, mentioned the OC.

Meanwhile, protesting hanging of banners and festoons at the Dhanmondi-8 playground, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday complained that a vested group, that has no relation with the green activists' movement to save Dhanmondi playground from illegal occupation, has put up the banners and festoons there.

The organisation in a press release demanded immediate punishment of the vested group.

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, a limited company, has been illegally occupying the playground for the last few years.

The High Court in 2011 had ordered the then Dhaka City Corporation, police and public works ministry to open the field to public and remove all illegal structures from there.

On April 18 this year, the club sued three eminent green activists Mobassher Hossain, Bapa Joint Secretary Iqbal Habib, architect Salma A Shafi and national award winner sports organiser Quamrunnahar Dana for entering into the playground.

However, on April 24, the Dhaka South City Corporation opened the playground to public.



Miscreants defaced the portrait of Sheikh Jamal at the entrance to the Dhanmondi playground Friday night and inset, hung banners of environmentalist groups "Tarun Samaj" and "Parisbeshbadi" that had been trying to get the playground free from illegal occupation.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Rahul's riposte

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phase of the nine-round voting tomorrow covering 41 of the total of 543 constituencies.

Polling for 502 constituencies was held in the previous eight phases. Counting of votes in the world's biggest democracy will be held on May 16.

Varanasi goes to polls tomorrow along with 40 other constituencies spread across three states, including 18 out of a total of 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh and 17 out of 42 seats in West Bengal, writes The Daily Star correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya.

Besides Modi, who is also contesting Vadodara in his home state of Gujarat where he is chief minister, the politicians whose electoral fate will be decided in the last phase of polling include Arvind Kejriwal, who is pitted against Mulayam Singh Yadav.

The high-octane campaign ended on a note of controversy as BJP questioned the impartiality of the Election Commission over allowing Rahul's

roadshow in Varanasi while denying permission for a rally of Modi in the temple town two days ago.

Modi, 63, had addressed an election rally in Amethi, the parliamentary constituency of Rahul in Uttar Pradesh a week ago, violating an unwritten code that a top political leader does not campaign in the political backyard of a top rival politician.

Returning the compliment today, Rahul travelled in an open-top car along with thousands of Congress supporters through some of the most congested localities of Varanasi, many of which are Muslim-dominated, in an impressive road show.

BJP leader Arun Jaitley, considered close to Modi, yesterday slammed the Election Commission for allowing Rahul's 's roadshow at a locality in Varanasi where Modi had been refused permission for a rally just a couple of days ago on security concerns.

"The Rahul Gandhi roadshow is passing through the area where we

were denied permission," Jaitley told CNN-IBNTV channel.

Varanasi, which has been the hotbed of numerous political activities with roadshows to rallies to even skirmishes among rival political activists, is witnessing Modi locked in a contest against Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal, and low-profile Congress candidate Ajay Rai.

Rahul's roadshow, featuring a crowd that stretched in more than half a kilometre, revived Congress' subdued campaign in Varanasi after being flagged off from a Muslim-dominated locality, Pilikothi, at around 8:40am and passed from Beniyabagh locality, the same area where BJP was denied to hold a rally recently.

On reaching Beniyabagh, which is the native place of late shehnai maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan and is largely inhabited by Muslim weavers and traders, Rahul's convoy was welcomed with a photograph of the musician and a "charkha".

Locals gathered on the roof of houses in the congested lanes and bylanes of the city and welcomed the convoy, waving and showering flower petals on the Congress vice president.

Later addressing a rally in Varanasi, Rahul took Modi head on and said the BJP's PM candidate does not understand the strength of India and its people and accused his party of following a politics that was "full of anger".

He also attacked Modi on the controversy over snooping of a young woman in Gujarat and advised him to change slogans on BJP posters promising he would give power to women, as "he was the person sending police after women and tapping their phone in Gujarat."

"India is for everybody. It is for Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians. It belongs to every caste and community, poor and rich people and it will remain for everybody."

Hardest job in the world

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to keep them alive. She will teach them to hunt, fly, run or swim – everything needed to survive.

For humans it is not any different. Mothers all over the world will go to any lengths for their children. Just look at all those mothers waiting outside schools and colleges in the scorching heat, for hours on end – just to make sure that their wards can be taken home safely. Many of them stay at home, devoting their entire lives to take care of their children so that they can follow their dreams when they grow up.

Just watch those women carrying heavy loads at construction sites, slogging in factories for hours on end, cleaning and cooking in other people's houses, rushing to offices at the other end of town. Many of them are mothers whose second, more demanding job awaits them at home. While their male counterparts may indulge in a tea

break or a little chit-chat with friends after work, these women are rushing, always rushing - to get home to their children.

As mothers our job is a little daunting – the way we bring up our children will determine how well adjusted they are as individuals and how they will face the challenges thrown at them all their lives. What's more, we are required to always set a good example. If we are cold, they may grow up cruel, if we are devious, they may become deceitful. If we are too indulgent they may become spoilt and if we are too harsh they may end up broken.

Responsibility, sacrifice, unconditional love - all this is part and parcel of motherhood. Yet rarely will you find a woman who regrets being a mother. It is through her children that a mother experiences pure joy, it is their love that gives her strength. It may be the hardest job in the whole world but it is also the most rewarding.

Arrest 'dismissed' Rab-11 officials

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yesterday decided to expel its vice-president Nur Hossain, the prime accused in the case, and general secretary Yasin Mia, another key accused.

In a two-and-a-half-hour speech, Nazrul's wife Selina Islam described why and how Nur Hossain, also a ward councillor, "abducted her husband and killed him with the help of some Rab members".

"Apart from feuds over tender and a road development project, my husband's popularity as politician was a reason behind his killing," she told The Daily Star coming out of the DC office.

Nazrul's father-in-law told the probe body about the "involvement of Rab members and exchange of money for the killing".

"I told them that all the facts will come to light if the three Rab members are seriously interrogated," he said.

Bijoy Paul, son-in-law of Chandan, said, "Seeing media reports and other evidence, we came to know that Rab-11 members are involved in the abduction and the killing."

Talking to reporters at the DC office, chief of the probe body, Additional Secretary Shahjahan Ali Molla, avoided saying whether the three Rab personnel would be interrogated or not.

Rab-11 commanding officer Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, Major Arif Hossain and Lieutenant Commander Masud Rana have been sent to forced retirement over their alleged involvement in the abduction and murder.

Last night, Siddhirganj police recovered a licence-expired pistol and around 30 rounds of bullets



Shamsunnahar, wife of murdered driver Jahangir Alam, is showing the last gift from her husband, a pair of bangles, at her home in Narayanganj yesterday.

raiding the house of Nur Hossain's nephew Shahjalal Badal, who too is a ward councillor, at Sanarpar, Narayanganj.

THE TALE OF TWO FAMILIES

The poor families of two drivers, who were among the murdered seven, are passing days in misery as little

attention is being given to them.

Yesterday, a pregnant woman in her early twenties walked into the district commissioner's office after travelling eight kilometres. She is the widow of Jahangir Alam, driver of Nazrul's friend Swapan.

"Our baby is due next month -- our first child -- but my husband will not be there," Shamsunnahar told The Daily Star after giving her statement before the probe body.

"My husband used to come home for lunch every day around 1:30pm. However, on April 27, it was past 2:30pm but he was still not home. So I made his sister call him. After a few seconds of calling, we abruptly heard a commotion following which the line was cut suddenly. We called again but the phone was off," said Shamsunnahar.

Showing a pair of bangles, the last gift from her husband, she said, "My husband used to support me with his meagre wage of Tk 8,000. But I am penniless now. Who will support me? Who will support my child?"

Ismail Hasan Ronny, the-15-year old son of Mohammad Ibrahim, driver of Chandan, now has to face the grim prospect of dropping out of school.

"Father used to give us Tk 6,000 a month. But how will we make ends meet now? My mother has already asked me to leave school."

He pleaded to the journalists, "Please ask the government to support me -- please make sure I can still go to school."

In another development, Manzill Murshid, president of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, submitted a memorandum to the DC office for ensuring security and assistance for the family members and witnesses.

3 Jubo Dal men held

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abduction.

Police yesterday said BNP's youth wing leader Ali Akbar, Zihad Miah of Sunamganj Old Bus Stand area, and Tareq Miah of Balijuri in Tahirpur upazila were arrested at the Old Bus Stand area of the town.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Harun Or Rashid of Sunamganj said police arrested them on suspicion of their involvement in the abduction allegedly over a land dispute and they were interrogating them.

Mujibur, adviser to "BNP United Kingdom chapter" and Sunamganj BNP convening committee member, and his driver disappeared on May 4 when they were going to Sylhet from Sunamganj.

Mujibur had bought land from one Fazlul Haque at the Old Bus Stand area of Sunamganj town and was building a market there. There was a dispute between Fazlul and Mujibur.

Ali Akbar is Fazlul's son-in-law and Zihad and Tareq are Fazlul's nephews.

Mujibur's wife forwarded the letter, which was dropped in her

mailbox, to Sunamganj police.

The letter, written in Bangla, said those who have abducted Mujibur and his driver would hand them over to another party but they could not. The letter said they would kill Mujibur if they failed to make the transfer.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Mokbul Hossain told The Daily Star that they suspect that the motive behind the abduction might have the origin in the UK rather than in Bangladesh.

"We have gathered information that Mujibur Rahman had a dispute with a BNP leader in England," Mokbul said.

Meanwhile, in Sylhet city, Ilias Mukti Sangram Parishad, a platform of BNP men, yesterday formed a human chain and held a rally at the City Point area, demanding the return of Mujibur and his driver.

UK acting High Commissioner Nick Low on Thursday expressed concern at the abduction of British citizen Mujibur Rahman and urged that the government appraises them of the circumstances of his disappearance and progress in probe.

4 Bangladeshi

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The Daily Star over the phone last night.

He, however, could not confirm the identities of the injured.

The bus was carrying 27 Asian migrants, reports Gulf News.

The drivers of the bus and the truck - both Pakistanis -- have been detained,

the Gulf News reported, quoting Salah Bu Farousha, Senior Chief Prosecutor and Head of Dubai Traffic Public Prosecution.

Mizanur Rahman said the bodies of the Bangladeshi migrants were kept at a police morgue and would be sent home after the autopsies and other official formalities.

Alibaba, for real

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revolutionising retailing for consumers who just a few decades ago used ration coupons to buy items such as clothing, rice and bicycles. Like Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook Inc. (FB), Steve Jobs of Apple Inc. and Jeff Bezos of Amazon.com Inc. (AMZN), Ma has become an iconic figure whose impact stretches far.

"If Steve Jobs created the operating system for the smartphone, Jack Ma

and his team created the operating system for commerce in China and the future," said Porter Erisman, who directed the documentary, "Crocodile in the Yangtze: A Westerner Inside China's Alibaba.com," that chronicled his eight-year employment at the company starting in 2000. "He's someone who loves a challenge. He's motivated by doing things that push China forward."

Already, Alibaba is the source of

more than 70 percent of package deliveries in China and has broken what may be a worldwide sales record of \$5.6 billion in a single day. It has also pioneered a service that lets users deposit money into accounts via smartphone, drawing about \$87 billion in its first nine months, more than double Goldman Sachs Group Inc. (GS)'s 2013 revenue. Alibaba has helped create 15 million jobs, Ma said in a

February letter to employees on the company's official microblog.

"I searched the word beer, b-e-e-r, very simple word," Ma recalled in a television appearance shown in the documentary, "I found American beer, German beer, and no Chinese beer. So I was curious. I searched 'China,' and all search engines said no China, no data."

Ma said he asked his friend to help him create a home page in Chinese,

and within five hours of posting it, he received five emails from the US, Japan and Germany seeking more information.

"I was so excited," he recalled. "I said, 'This is something interesting.'"

To start China Pages, Ma took 7,000 yuan from his savings and borrowed money from his sister, according to a book in Chinese by Ma's personal assistant Chen Wei and verified by an Alibaba spokes-

men.

The company's first two employees were Ma's wife Zhang Ying, who was his university classmate and colleague when he taught English. Zhang played an important role in Alibaba's early days until she turned to more-domestic responsibilities and raising their son, according to Chen's book and company spokesmen, who declined to give the son's age.