

## LEADER FAILS IN EXAM BCL men go bonkers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Rampaging Bangladesh Chhatra League men vandalised the Business Administration Department of Pabna University of Science and Technology all because their leader failed to pass an exam.

They also demonstrated on the Dhaka-Pabna highway for a few minutes yesterday afternoon.

Mizanur Rahman Sabuj, convener of the university unit of Chhatra League, was one of five students who failed the fourth year first semester exams of business administration department, according to results published yesterday.

Sabuj was the only one who failed in five out of seven papers.

Amirul Islam, assistant professor of the department, said as the fellows of Sabuj wrongly assumed that he would not get promoted, they became angry and vandalised the department.

They, chanting slogans against the teachers, vandalised the windows of office rooms, chairs, and tables and destroyed some documents, Amirul said.

The Chhatra League activists then demonstrated on the Dhaka-Pabna highway in front of the campus.

Amirul Islam said Sabuj would get promoted to the next semester but he

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR  
The smashed windows of business administration department of Pabna University of Science and Technology after Chhatra League activists went on the rampage there because one of their leaders failed in exams. *Inset*, vandalised furniture of the department.



## 28 killed as militants raid Karachi

FROM PAGE 1

The bodies of the 18 victims of the Taliban assault -- including 11 airport security guards and four workers from Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) -- were taken to a Karachi hospital where another 26 wounded people were being treated, a hospital official said.

After the siege, some 50 Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and PIA employees who had been trapped inside the building all night were seen leaving. PIA spokesman Mashud Tajwar said no airline passengers were caught up in the incident.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's office issued a statement "commending the bravery" of security forces and saying normal flight operations would resume in the afternoon, while Afghan President Hamid Karzai -- who is battling his own Taliban insurgency -- condemned the attack in a statement.

The airport remained on high alert late yesterday with military patrolling the area as engineers carry out inspections on planes before outbound flights resume, a CAA official said.

The TTP said the brazen attack was its latest revenge for its late leader Hakimullah Mehsud, who was killed in a US drone strike in November.

TTP spokesman Shahidullah Shahid said the Pakistani government had used peace talks as a ruse, and promised more attacks to come in retaliation against recent air strikes in

the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

A statement later issued by the group said the targets were selected "to have minimum public loss and maximum loss of government personnel", implying the TTP had not planned to attack any planes on the airport tarmac.

Talks to end the TTP's bloody seven-year insurgency in Pakistan have been underway since February, after Sharif returned to power last year, but little clear progress has resulted and more than 300 people have been killed in militant strikes since then.

The assault will raise fresh concerns about Pakistan's shaky security situation, and questions about how militants were able to penetrate the airport, which serves one of the world's biggest cities.

Pakistan's military has carried out a series of airstrikes in the TTP's base in North Waziristan in recent weeks, killing dozens of people but holding back from a full-blown ground offensive.

Security analyst Imtiaz Gul said the strikes had not hindered the TTP's ability to carry out massive attacks thanks to its penetration of major cities, particularly Karachi, through sleeper cells.

"This is clearly part of a campaign aimed at hurting Pakistan's strategic and economic interests. It sends a clear message to foreigners also: don't come to this country," he said.

A senior intelligence official added

that the city was an emerging base for the Taliban where they are able to both plan and raise funds for attacks.

"The Karachi based militants have been told to not carry smaller terrorism activity but only take up bigger terrorism acts which could create much hype," he said on condition of anonymity.

The Taliban makes use of allied groups like the anti-Shiite Lashkar-e-Jhangvi to carry out such attacks, he added.

Officials said the gunmen entered from two sides of the airport at around 11:00 pm on Sunday -- the terminal used for the hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, and an engineering section close to an old terminal.

An AFP reporter witnessed three huge blasts as suicide bombers detonated their explosives.

Smoke was seen billowing from the airport as fires raged close to planes parked on the runway, while militants clashed with the airport's security force who were backed by police, paramilitary squads and elite commandos.

In 2011, Taliban gunmen attacked the Mehran naval base, which lies close to the Karachi airport, destroying two US-made Orion aircraft and killing 10 personnel in a 17-hour siege.

The group also carried out a raid on Pakistan's military headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi in 2009, leaving 23 dead including 11 troops and three hostages.

## Delhi to press

FROM PAGE 1

Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali.

New Delhi also mulls offering visa-on-arrival facility for the Maitree Express passengers, mentioned the sources.

Officials at the foreign ministry said Dhaka will also raise various issues with the Indian delegation, but the ratification of Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) and signing of the Teesta water sharing deal will come up prominently.

According to Indian diplomats, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is keen to have better access to the northeast and for this, it wants to introduce road and rail links between Tripura and Mizoram using Bangladesh as a transit route.

On the Maitree Express, official sources said the train now operates twice a week, but India wants to make it thrice a week. In future the train could run every day.

According to railway sources, the Maitree Express had over 80 percent occupancy in the last three months. The train, which was introduced in 2008, takes over 10 hours to reach Dhaka after customs and immigration formalities at Gede in India and Darshana in Bangladesh.

The Dhaka-Kolkata bus service has been running since 1999, while the Dhaka-Agartala bus service since 2001.

The Maitree Express under the Indian railways leaves Kolkata on Tuesday and returns from Dhaka the following day. From Bangladesh, the train leaves Dhaka on Friday and departs Kolkata the following day.

According to a report run by the Times of India yesterday, Indian foreign officials are ready to discuss agendas including extending the route of Maitree Express from Dhaka to Chittagong.

For connecting North Bengal to Kolkata via Bangladesh, the option of using an old route via Hardinge Bridge on the river Padma will be discussed. The new route can be from Kolkata to Ranaghat and then through Bangladesh up to Hili, from where passengers will travel to New Jalpaiguri, the report added.

Meanwhile, sources said though BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is not holding any official position, Sushma Swaraj might meet the former prime minister as the BJP government wants to put importance on maintaining relations with the BNP considering future elections in Bangladesh.

During the tenure of Manmohan Singh's government, Dhaka and New Delhi initiated talks on plying commercial vehicles through Bangladesh. But the issue could not make much progress following India's failure to ink the Teesta water sharing deal and ratification of the LBA.

## Can't get enough

FROM PAGE 1

Mohammad Amzad Hossain.

"Hoisting flags on rooftops has now turned into a competition among the young generation. One of my grandsons, who is studying in class III, forcefully took Tk 300 from me and hoisted a Brazil flag," said 74-year-old Ahsanullah.

Amzad Hossain and Ahsanullah may not stay up nights due to their advanced years but members of the young generation like salesman Abu Naimur Raju, car driver Rubel Mia and businessman Mohammad Ripon are eagerly anticipating night time vigils for their favourite Argentina and Brazil, even at the risk of compromising their jobs.

"I will drive my car half-day during the World Cup," said Rubel.

"Each World Cup comes once in four years, so I can sacrifice a few days to watch my favourite Argentina," said electronics businessman Ripon while Raju and his friends plan to get their hands on a projector to watch the matches on a giant screen.

World Cup merchandise is big business now and businessmen ranging from street hawkers to posh retailers are cashing in on the fervour, especially after the underwhelming response to the ICC World Twenty20 at home. Items range in price from flags at Tk 10 to replica Brazuca balls available at Tk 2,200.

"We have already sold approximately 5,000 jerseys priced between Tk 600 and Tk 1200 and we have achieved 70 per cent of our sales target," said Inter Sports' account officer Abu Sayeed Riad, adding that sales of local replicas of the Brazuca ball has also been good.

"Initially we did not import a lot of jerseys in fear of low sales like during the ICC T20 World Cup but this time, we have had to meet demand by bringing in goods from other shops," said Nazimuddin, a shareholder of Sports Pavilion at Elephant Road.

Echoing Nazimuddin's sentiment, Omar Chisty Sunny, owner of Sports Centre at Twin Tower in Gulistan, said, "We are not prepared for such

responses from fans because we feared a repeat of the fans' disinterest like during the ICC World Twenty20. The reality is that the demand is ten times higher than our calculations."

Sunny said that approximately three crore local and imported jerseys from three wholesale markets -- Twin Tower, City Plaza and Gulistan Shopping Complex -- are expected to be sold.

Street hawkers like Mainuddin, Yasin and Malek at Gulistan are doing brisk business, pocketing Tk 50 to Tk 80 from each jersey while flag vendor Abdul Kudddus is hoping to make Tk 25,000 profit from his stock of 1100 flags.

Such lucrative prospects have even made many reconsider their profession or line of goods. Fish vendor Nurul Islam of Rayerbazar and erstwhile CNG driver Shah Alam have both temporarily abandoned their regular vocations and joined the thousands of merchandise vendors, because the city just cannot get enough of Brazil 2014.

## No probe report yet

FROM PAGE 1

The SP yesterday told reporters that according to the court order delivered on January 16 last year, she had to complete four tasks -- rescue Kalpana; interrogate the accused, Lieutenant Md Ferdous Kaiser Khan and Village Defence Party men Nurul Haq and Saleh Ahmed; interrogate the witnesses and others linked with the incident; and unearth facts about the abduction.

"I have interrogated Ferdous and two other army officers who were with him [according to his statements] on the night [of June 12, 1996] at the Jugolchhari army camp," Amena said.

She claimed she did not submit the report because she could not yet rescue Kalpana. She added that she, however, had made considerable progress in getting other tasks done.

Though the names of the alleged abductors -- Ferdous, Saleh and Nurul -- did not come up in the FIR, Kalpana's younger brother Lalbahari Chakma named the three as abductors during

the subsequent investigations by the police and the Criminal Investigation Department and in an inquiry by a judicial committee.

Both the police and the CID did not interrogate the alleged abductors during their investigations and failed to reach a conclusion regarding Kalpana's abduction and her whereabouts.

The Rangamati SP, however, said she had come to know from a number of sources that Kalpana was still alive and was living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. "However, we could not verify the claims."

Meanwhile, Kalpana's family prayed to the court to instruct the SP to submit a progress report on the re-investigation.

"The court fixed July 9 as the next submission date [of the re-investigation report]. If the report is not submitted within the period, the court would give an order for the submission of a progress report," said the family's lawyer Jewel Dewan.

POET GOLAM MOSTAFA

## District admin steps in to protect house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

The local administration has knocked down a demarcation pillar installed by people intending to take over the ancestral home of poet Golam Mostafa in Jhenidah.

It has also told them not to try to occupy the poet's house in Monohorpur village of Shaikupa upazila.

Yesterday morning, Mohammad Ali Prince, Shaikupa upazila nirbahi officer, along with other officials went to the house and demolished the demarcation pillar.

The UNO said they had knocked down the pillar on the directives of Deputy Commissioner of Jhenidah Shafikul Islam.

On Sunday, The Daily Star published a report on land grabbers' attempts to occupy the poet's home.

The house was built by the poet himself on five bighas of land in Monohorpur village.

Mostafa (1897-1964), who is considered to be an icon of Islamic renaissance in Bengali literature, was born in the village and breathed his last in this very house in 1964.

Recently, Sadar Uddin and Alauddin, two brothers, have come up with the claim that they own 24 decimals of land of the house complex.

According to the poet's children and locals, the brothers are involved with local Awami League and wield immense political clout in the area.

When this correspondent asked the duo if they have any document to prove their claim, they said they had

HABIGANJ FOREST

## More ammo recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday recovered more ammunition at the Satchhari National Park in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj on the eighth consecutive day of their drive.

The elite crime busters recovered one machine gun barrel, 633 bullets of machine guns and rifles and 54 anti-tank shells from one new bunker, said Sana Shamunur Rahman, camp commander of Rab-9 in Shrimangal, at a press briefing on the spot.

The Rab personnel also found four machine guns and oil used for cleaning firearms and two more empty bunkers on Sunday.

The firearms and ammunition recovered in the past one week had been sent to the Central Ammunition Depot in Dhaka and Bangladesh Ordnance Factories in Gazipur, said the Rab official.

However, the elite force could not arrest anyone in this connection.

The reserve forest, about three kilometres off the Indian state of Tripura, was used as a route by Indian separatist groups for smuggling arms, according to the investigations conducted after the 2003 arms haul in Bogra.

The Rab first laid its hands on 184 anti-tank rocket shells (40mm) and 153 rocket charges on June 3 inside a bunker at a hillock of the forest.

Six more empty bunkers were found on that day, Rab sources said. The next day law enforcers found two more bunkers piled with a cache of arms and ammunition.

Earlier, Rab Media Wing Director Habibur Rahman said the arms and ammunition recovered in the forest were apparently similar to those recovered in Chittagong in 2004 and Bogra in 2003.

## Court orders

FROM PAGE 16

jailed yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasibul Haque issued the order after two top-level army and naval officials appealed to the court to hand the Rab personnel over to their forces for investigation and to mete out punishment if found guilty.

Police said 10 to 12 people, including Mizanur and Abdullah of Rab headquarters, went to the home of Jamir Ali at Fajur Batan in Uttarkhan around 3:00pm on Sunday. They first attempted to oust the inhabitants and failing to do so they began vandalising the house.

Informed by locals, police went there and detained the Rab personnel and three other people.

Rokeya Begum had been claiming ownership of the house, police said.

A Rab official at the Rab headquarters said he had heard that the house belonged to a relative of one of the arrested Rab personnel. He said the Rab personnel went there to request the tenants to move out as they had not been paying rent for a long time, he said.

A scuffle began during that time, said the Rab official.

## 5 HC judges' job

FROM PAGE 16

general's office said some influential people in the government were unhappy with Altaf Hossain for some of his judgments and directives, which might be why his service had not been confirmed.

An HC bench of Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain on July 24, 2012 delivered a judgment against an observation of the then Speaker Abdul Hamid, now the president of the republic, about a judge.

In the full text of the judgment released on August 27 of the year, the bench said the then Speaker's observation that the HC judge (Justice AHM

Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik) had violated the constitution by making "derogatory remarks" about the Jatiya Sangsad and the Speaker had no legal effect and no existence in the eye of law.

The government filed an appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the HC verdict.

The Appellate Division disposed of the appeal with some observations that are yet to be published.

The government, in the meantime, has promoted Justice Hasan and Justice Manik as Appellate Division judge.

People in the government are also displeased by Justice Altaf's move to

get allocation of a government residence after his appointment as an additional HC judge, according to sources.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam said they did not know why the government had not regularized the service of Justice Altaf.

The chief justice may administer oath of the five judges, whose services have been confirmed, on Wednesday or Thursday, the SC registrar said.

The six additional judges, appointed by late president Zillur Rahman, were sworn in on June 14, 2012.