

MOLESTATION OF FEMALES ON PAHELA BAISSHAKHI

Cops obstruct Chhatra Union march to PMO

Later escort five-person team to office which submits six lakh signatures demanding punishment for perpetrators, negligent DU proctor, cops on duty that day

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday stopped a procession of Bangladesh Chhatra Union that was heading towards the Prime Minister's Office to submit mass signatures the union collected in its campaign to stop sexual harassment of females.

On May 19, the union launched a countrywide campaign to collect 10 lakh signatures in support of its 6-point demand regarding the mass molestation of females on Pahela Baishakh at Dhaka University.

However, they collected six lakh signatures. The demands of the organisation include immediate arrest of the perpetrators, removal of the DU proctor and punishment for cops who were negligent on that day.

The left-leaning students' organisation first brought out a procession on the DU campus. They then organised a sit-in in front of the National Museum after facing a barricade of at least 100 armed personnel.

Afterwards, a five-member team was allowed to go to the PMO. They submitted the signatures to a PMO official who promised to forward those to the prime minister.



Bangladesh Chhatra Union holds a rally at the capital's Shahbagh yesterday, protesting the sexual harassment during Pahela Baishakh celebrations in April, after police stopped its leaders and activists there when they were headed towards the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to submit a memorandum with six lakh signatures they collected demanding punishment for the molesters. However, police later escorted five activists, inset, to the PMO for submission of the signatures.

PHOTO: STAR



WAR CRIME TRIALS

Two Mymensingh suspects held

Eight Jamalpur "Al-Badr" men's charge framing hearing starts next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two war crimes suspects in Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila while a tribunal decided to hold trial of eight accused including six fugitives of Jamalpur.

In Phulbaria, Hazi Amjad Ali, 88, son of Fajar Ali Akanda of Palashihata (or Keshoreganj) village, and Riaz Uddin Fakir, 65, son of Nayeb Ali Fakir of Bhalukjan village, were detained around 2:00pm, said police.

The two were held hours after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 (ICT-1) issued arrest orders for three men of Mymensingh suspected to have committed crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

Officer-in-Charge of Phulbaria Police Station Rifat Khan Rajib said, "We are trying to arrest the other man."

Prosecutor Hrishikesh Saha said the prosecution sought their arrest for a proper and effective investigation.

Ataur Rahman, investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star that he launched the probe in October 2014 and found the three's "involvement" in the killing of at least 50 people in 1971.

He said Amjad Ali was the advisor of the anti-liberation Razakar Bahini in Phulbaria while Riaz Uddin was an Al-Badr commander and the other suspect was a Razakar.

Amjad and Riaz were involved with the Jamaat-e-Islami but the other man was not engaged in politics.

Meanwhile, the ICT-2 yesterday decided to hold trial of six fugitives, accused of war crimes in Jamalpur, in absentia and of two other arrestees.

The tribunal took the decision as the fugitives did not surrender at the court even after newspa-

per advertisements asked them to do so.

The fugitives are Ashraf Hossain, 64, Prof Sharif Ahammed, 71, Abdul Mannan, 66, Abdul Bari, 62, Md Harun, 58, and Abul Hashem, 65.

The tribunal appointed two lawyers Abdus Sobhan Tarafder and Kutubuddin Ahmed as their counsels to defend them in the case.

The two arrestees now in jail are Shamsul Haque, 75, and AKM Yusuf Ali, 83.

All eight were allegedly involved with the anti-liberation Al-Badr and committed murder, abduction, torture in the district between April 22 and December 11, 1971, according to the charges.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan fixed September 15 to start hearing the charges before it indicts the accused.

Prosecutor Tapos Kanti Baul said

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Ctg Mayor Nasir feels urgency for city govt

Says he will request PM for its introduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Mayor AZM Nasir Uddin yesterday stressed the need for introduction of city government, which will bring all public service providers under one umbrella for better coordination and make the mayor the city's head, thus improving services at the city corporations.



Forum Dhaka (CJFD).

Nasir said governance of city corporations was totally dependent on the central government now, and he would request the prime minister to introduce city government.

According to an April 24 report of The Daily Star, the city corporation does not

have legal or financial mandate to work in a number of areas concerning power production, construction of waterways conservation of flood plains, or introduction of commuter train services. There are different implementing agencies of the government for each area, it said.

"It is not possible to improve services without better coordination among the service providing agencies, and it will be best if the coordination comes under a legal framework," he told a press conference at the capital's Jatya Press Club, organised by Chittagong Journalist



Amjad Ali, 88, left, and Riaz Uddin Fakir, 65, two war crimes suspects of Mymensingh's Phulbari upazila were arrested at their villages yesterday. The two were allegedly involved with the killing of at least 50 people in the district during the Liberation War of 1971.

PHOTO: STAR

Children with disabilities demand friendly schools

Assert their constitutional rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children with disabilities yesterday called for creating friendly atmosphere for them in mainstream schools, saying education was their constitutional right.

At a roundtable, speakers urged the government to ensure training for all the teachers to give extra care to such children at school.

They said at the special schools such children are provided with only primary education.

Non-government organisations Society for Education and Inclusion of the Disabled (SEID), Steps Towards Development and Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF) jointly organised the programme titled "Education, Equal Justice and Protection against Gender Based Violence of Persons with Autism, Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities" at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

"I am not allowed in a good school. I, too, want to get education like other normal children," said Shila Moni, an autistic child.

Another physically challenged child Sanjid Hossain said, "When I go outside, I am often mistreated. I went to a school; three days later, they asked me not to come again."

"Aren't we humans?" he asked.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki said, "If people understood their [children with disabilities] problem, the issue would be solved to a great extent."

She also underscored the need for an early screening system for the prevention of birth of child with disabilities.

Social Welfare Secretary Tariq-ul-Islam said his ministry had conducted a survey and listed a total of 18 lakh persons with disabilities though many might have been dropped.

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Eight DB, Rab impersonators arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of police on Monday arrested eight people who mug people by impersonating DB and Rab officials.

A team of detectives in a raid arrested the impersonators in Uttara of the capital while they were preparing for mugging in front of Brac Bank, said Md Ashiqur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of DB west division.

Police also recovered four jackets with the word "Rab" written on them, a walkie-talkie, a pair of handcuffs and three machetes from their possession.

The DB official said the gang would target people who withdrew money from banks and then pretending to be DB or Rab officials, they would

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BANGLADESH-SLOVENIA RELATIONS

Hasina for exploring untapped potentials

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underscored the need for more institutional arrangements between Bangladesh and Slovenia including exchange of trade, investment and chamber delegations to explore untapped multifaceted potentials.

The prime minister made such comments when non-resident Ambassador of Slovenia to Bangladesh Darja Bavdaz-Kuret paid a farewell call on her at her NEC building office.

After the meeting, the prime minister's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters.

Sheikh Hasina also urged the Slovenian government to import various world-class products like ceramics, readymade garments, leather goods as well as jute and jute goods from Bangladesh for mutual benefit.

Laying emphasis on strengthening people-to-people contact between the two countries, she said both sides should start

mutual cooperation in various fields.

The prime minister said her government is establishing special economic zones and foreign investors could invest there as the government has ensured investment-friendly climate in the country.

Stressing the need for regional connectivity, she said India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh have already signed an agreement to boost connectivity in the region and strengthen economic activities.

Sheikh Hasina also highlighted the achievements of her government in various sectors and said Bangladesh has already ensured food security for its people.

At the meeting, the Slovenian envoy said she already had a meeting with FBCCI leaders here and they will send a MoU for boosting cooperation to enhance economic relation between Bangladesh and Slovenia.

The outgoing ambassador also offered to send good football coaches to improve the sector in Bangladesh saying her country has quality football coaches.

4 killed in Gazipur

One man's body found after two days of disappearance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The body of a man was found in a ditch in front of Shafipur Ansar Academy on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Gazipur yesterday, two days after he went missing.

Meanwhile, two men were killed in separate incidents in Gazipur on Monday night.

The body of Mohammed Masum, 35, hailing from Dinajpur was found in a ditch yesterday. Masum was working as a manager in the printing section of Devine Textile in Gazipur.

Family sources said Masum did not come home after work on Sunday night.

Masum's younger brother Sohail filed a general diary (GD) on Monday morning. Police said Masum's body was found tied up and blindfolded.

The body was sent for an autopsy. Meanwhile, the driver of a van was hacked to death by miscreants in Palerpara area on Monday night.

The deceased was Roton Majhi, 55, hailing from Barisal. Mohammed Rohul Amin, sub-inspector of Joydevpur Police Station, said Roton was returning home on Monday night when a group of miscreants attacked him, leaving him dead on the spot.

The body was sent for an autopsy. Raju Dewan, a trader of garment waste products, was hacked to death by unidentified miscreants in Fakir Market area of Tongi.

Police recovered the body of an unidentified man in Kalampur area of Kalikoir upazila yesterday morning. The body bore injury marks and it was sent for an autopsy.

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