

2 Jamuna Group firms accused of forgery

STAR REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has filed cases against two firms associated with Jamuna Group for forgery, according to a press release.

The firms are Amcaba Ltd and Jara Accessories Industries Ltd, said the NBR in a press statement signed by Senior Information Officer Syed A Momen.

The Customs Bond Commissionerate Dhaka filed the cases with Ramna police on December 31.

The revenue authority's move came after it had filed a General Diary (GD) with the same police station against Jamuna Group Chairman Nurul Islam Babul and Helal Uddin, senior reporter of the daily Jugantor, the newspaper owned by the group, on allegation of publishing "false and fabricated" reports on the NBR chief.

In the GD filed in early December, revenue related anomalies of various firms associated with Jamuna Group were mentioned, said the press release.

The NBR said these two firms submitted fake Proceed Realisation Certificates (PRCs) as proof of shipments of products, raw materials, which were imported duty-free under bonded warehouse privilege.

The NBR said it had found the anomalies as part of its efforts to curb duty evasion and find sources with higher revenue potentials.

The owner of the two firms is the daughter-in-law of Jamuna Group's Chairman Md Nurul Islam, according to NBR.

It said Jamuna Group's sister concern Amcaba Ltd had earlier submitted a Tk-31.54 crore worth PRC on a pad of Bangladesh Commerce Bank. During examinations, the bank informed in writing that the PRC was fake.

The NBR said the owner of Amcaba was the managing director of Dada Trading, another sister concern of Jamuna Group. Another director of Dada Trading is Shariat Tasree, the release said, adding that Shariat is the daughter of Nurul Islam.

The release further said Amcaba Ltd's owner Sheikh Abdul Wadud is his daughter-in-law.

The NBR also said the Customs Bond Commissionerate filed a First Information Report against Jara Accessories and Amcaba Ltd for forgery under the Customs Act, Special Powers Act and Money Laundering Act with Ramna police.

Contacted, Masiur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Ramna police, said NBR had filed regular cases.

"We have forwarded the cases to the Anti-Corruption Commission because of their connection to corruption and forgery," he added.

NYT leaves

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with the article, showing a stark difference.

The article focused on the murders of some Bangali bloggers who supported gender equality, human rights and civil liberty.

At the heart of the piece is online activist Asif Mohiuddin, who had to flee Bangladesh after his freethinking, atheist views and secular blogging put him in severe danger.

He was brutally attacked outside the IT company building he worked at, with an eight-inch kitchen knife that missed his spinal cord by half a centimetre.

The article also revealed that a dozen young madrasa students, who were involved in the attack on Mohiuddin and other secular bloggers, openly admitted to their crimes and divulged information on an extremist group whose specific intent was to murder secular bloggers.

Niloy Nil, another blogger, was killed in August by a machete-wielding gang who broke into his apartment in the country's capital city.

At least four other bloggers have been killed in the country last year for writing critically about Islamist militancy.

AL, BNP

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AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam urged all party leaders and activists across the country to make the events a success, it added.

Meanwhile, the BNP, which had boycotted the 2014 national election, has sought the authorities' permission to hold the rally at Suhrawardy Udyan.

In 2014, both the parties announced they would hold rallies at Suhrawardy Udyan on January 5. However, neither was allowed to go ahead with the plan.

Later, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia called for a nonstop countrywide blockade, which triggered massive violence across the country. About 100 people died, mostly in arson and bomb attacks, during the three-month-long blockade.

Afghan forces free 59 prisoners from Taliban jail in south

AFP, Kabul

Afghan special forces freed 59 prisoners from a Taliban jail in Helmand, officials said on Saturday, as government troops redouble their efforts to drive back the insurgents who have seized large parts of the volatile southern province.

Islamist militants have launched a series of attacks in the capital, Kabul, in recent weeks and a tough fight is underway in key districts in the south, just as attempts have been made to revive a stalled peace process.

Afghan Defence Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said 37 of the captives freed from the jail, which was just to the north of the Helmand provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, were soldiers. Another seven were policemen and the rest civilians.

The operation to free the prisoners followed months of fighting in which the Taliban has seized several district centres in Helmand, a major centre of opium cultivation and one of its traditional strongholds.

Waziri dismissed suggestions that Helmand could fall to the Taliban entirely but said government forces faced a serious battle against insurgents who have grown in strength since foreign troops ended most combat operations a year ago.

"We have to accept that there is a fight going on in Afghanistan," he told reporters in Kabul.

The Helmand operation unfolded late on Friday night, just as a Taliban suicide bomber attacked a French restaurant in Kabul popular with foreigners and government officials, killing two people and wounding 18.

The Taliban claimed in a statement that "dozens of foreigners" had been killed or wounded, although the Islamist group often exaggerates casualty figures in attacks on foreign or government targets.

That attack, and an all-night battle at a Spanish embassy guest house in Kabul last month, highlighted the Taliban's strategy of seeking high-profile targets in the capital while at the same time stepping up its campaign to seize district centres in provinces such as Helmand.

It is also a stark reminder of the

difficulty Afghan officials face in their attempts to revive the stalled peace process, which broke down in July.

Officials from Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States and China are due to meet in Islamabad on Jan. 11 to discuss how to lay the groundwork for possible talks with Taliban militants.

The insurgent movement says it is not interested in new talks so long as foreign troops remain in Afghanistan.

Belgium releases three held over New Year attack plot

AFP, Brussels

Belgian investigators released three people on Friday after questioning them over an alleged plot to attack the capital on New Year's Eve which forced the cancellation of the city's annual fireworks display.

Police had detained six people after searches at seven locations in and near Brussels on Thursday. They also seized computers, mobile phones and equipment for airsoft, a sport like paintball using guns that shoot plastic pellets.

Authorities believe some militants practise airsoft in secluded areas as training for potential attacks.

Three of the six were released later on Thursday. Prosecutors had requested that the other three be held for a further 24 hours. The prosecutors office said on Friday that these remaining three had also been released after questioning.

In the same investigation, two Belgian nationals detained earlier this week and named as 30-year-old Said S. and 27-year-old Mohammed K., are being held on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack, prosecutors said. A court on Thursday extended their custody for a month.

Both are members of the Kamikaze Riders, a Brussels-based group that carries out motor bike stunts which can be seen in online videos. Most of the members are of North African origin.

Intern found

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interns also stopped work at the emergency and outdoor units for about two hours.

Several interns at Suhrawardy hospital alleged their colleague Shamim Khan Topu, 26, was kidnapped by four to five men from the hospital compound.

Ashique, a fellow intern, told The Daily Star that someone called Topu over the phone around 11:00am Friday, saying Tk 200 was recharged on his cell number mistakenly and requested him to return the money.

He agreed and asked the caller to meet him somewhere inside the college campus, Ashique said. After Juma prayers he along with two other friends came out of the hospital.

"I bumped into him at the emergency unit around 2:15pm. About 15 minutes later, I heard about the kidnap incident from my colleagues," he said, adding the abductors were in a white

microbus parked near the main entrance.

Quoting a student, who claimed to have witnessed the abduction, Ashique said the kidnappers dragged him in the microbus, which then drove towards Asad Gate.

Colleagues said they found Topu's cell phone switched on until yesterday morning. But it was later found switched off.

The two-hour work abstention ended around 2:00pm, when the interns returned to work on assurance of the authorities of looking into the matter.

But they will take to the streets again this morning if law enforcers fail to trace him, said another colleague, Dhiman.

He said Topu was not involved with any political or social organisation.

"I am afraid that he has been abducted this Friday and I can be kidnapped next Friday," he said.

Step up effort

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Investigators believe that many of the fugitives are holing up inside the country while some have already left the country.

Against this backdrop, the investigation agency at a press conference on December 27 said the ICT Act should be amended to incorporate a new provision so that the tribunals could order attachment of a fugitive's property to force them to surrender.

At the conference it also said law enforcers should carry out simultaneous drives across the country to arrest the war crimes fugitives and the drives should be carried out on a regular basis.

Sources of the Wednesday meeting, requesting anonymity, told The Daily

Police detain

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January 5, the second anniversary of the 10th parliamentary election, claimed the OC.

The BNP and its ally Jamaat boycotted the 2014 election, since it was held under the Sheikh Hasina administration, and not under a nonparty caretaker administration as demanded by the two parties.

The OC also claimed Jamaat leaders had also plans to carry out subversive activities centring on the upcoming verdict in the war crimes case against party chief Motiur Rahman Nizami.

Star that the meeting was convened mainly to discuss issues relating to fugitive war crimes convicts and accused and how they could be arrested and brought back, especially those who were believed to be staying abroad.

"The government has taken the issue [war crimes fugitives] seriously as this is the first time the home minister held such a meeting," they said.

The investigation agency sought more power to be able to arrest a war crimes accused without warrant so that the agency officials could detain a suspect during the probe, a source said on condition of anonymity.

It also called for amending the law keeping provisions for the security of witnesses, he said.

Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star could not take any comment from the home boss or the secretary.

College girl

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College Hospital where doctors pronounced her dead around 11:30pm.

Saturday was the last day for HSC registration in her college, claimed Shima.

The victim's father is an employee at a garment factory and her mother a housewife.

Dadan Fakir, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, said an investigation was going on.

Teachers

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Farid Uddin Ahmed said a "fake" notification was issued by the finance ministry on November 1 last year which reduced the possibility of grade-I status for university teachers. It was not endorsed by the cabinet committee to remove discrimination in the pay scale.

He demanded that the matter be investigated by a neutral probe committee and the notification cancelled.

He also demanded a fresh pay structure, keeping in place the selection grade and time scale similar to that of the seventh national pay scale, and the salaries equivalent to that of senior secretaries for a certain percentage of the university professors.

Prof Farid Uddin also alleged Finance Minister AMA Muhith on December 6 had assured them of retaining the selection grade and time scale for university teachers in the eighth national pay scale. But he did not keep his words.

"We have actually been deceived by him," he added.

The association condemned the "outrageous" comments of the finance minister about teachers and urged him to refrain from making any kind of "untoward" remarks about them.

"We are not demonstrating for salaries but for our dignity that we lost in the new pay scale," Prof Farid added.

Two hurt

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motorbikes suddenly fired around six shots at the vehicle near Shamsu Filling Station at Abdullahpur around 1:00pm, said Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Dakkhin Keraniganj Police Station, quoting witnesses.

Locals rescued the victims and sent them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The human haulier was heading for Nimtoli in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj from the capital's Nayabazar.

The victims were on the way to their village home at Baluarteek of Keraniganj after treating Shahabuddin's elder sister Hosne Ara, 42, at the capital's Mitford Hospital. Hosne Ara was also with them.

Talking to The Daily Star at the hospital, Shahabuddin said he was hit by bullets in his left shoulder and left leg. His nephew Ali Hossain was shot in his abdomen.

Some 11 passengers were travelling on the vehicle, added Shahabuddin.

Police were yet to establish a motive for the gun attack.

Bangladesh mission

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that it appointed Synerflux Sdn Bhd, which will be the "sole and exclusive entity" to develop, maintain and manage a fully online system known as Bangladeshi Workers Management System (BWMS).

The company will have offices both in Bangladesh and Malaysia, and supervise workers' registration and eligibility, and delivery of visas.

Synerflux Sdn Bhd, which is owned by former Malaysian home minister Azmi Khalid and Bangladesh-origin Malaysian resident Aminul Islam, came under criticism after the news broke.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), which has been opposing the appointment of Synerflux, requested the government not to allow the Malaysian company.

"The appointment of Synerflux is part of a syndicate that will control and monopolise labour recruitment and breed irregularities in the market. So, we requested the government not to allow the company," Baira President Muhammad Abul Basher told The Daily Star recently.

The issue of labour recruitment in Malaysia is very important as labour relations between the two countries have always been marred with corruption and exploitation.

Following reports of abuse in 2007-08, Kuala Lumpur had halted recruitment in early 2009. In late 2012, it began a state-level recruitment, but since then only about 10,000 have been recruited in plantation sector in Malaysia, home to some 6,00,000 Bangladeshis.

Industry insiders said powerful syndicates made sure that the G2G

(government to government) recruitment system failed.

In June last year, Malaysia declared it would go for recruitment through private agencies and allow employments in all sectors -- constructions, industries, services and plantations.

Since then, controversial Malaysian companies -- Bestinet and Real Time Networking -- lobbied Bangladesh and Malaysian governments to get the job of online recruitment of Bangladeshi workers. Both the companies are linked to Malaysian ruling party leaders, according to sources there.

In the face of severe criticism against Real Time Networking that was short-listed earlier, Malaysian government selected Synerflux.

The draft MoU was supposed to be approved by Bangladesh cabinet on November 9, but was deferred following requests by Malaysia. Malaysia then proposed that Synerflux would oversee the recruitment process.

The labour wing of Bangladesh mission recommended ensuring an equal role of the two governments for selecting agencies, setting one-year limit for each agent in labour recruitment, specifying the job demand and forming a joint monitoring team on labour recruitment.

Contacted, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Nurul Islam said they would discuss the matter with the Malaysian government before signing the MoU.

"We are negotiating with the Malaysian government on some points. But we want to assure that the MoU will be signed making sure that our citizens' rights are protected," he told The Daily Star recently.

Asked about the alleged syndicate, the minister said he had no idea about this.

'For now, no confrontation'

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"A DMP official told us that they would write us back soon after evaluating law and order and other issues centring the proposed rally," Masud Ahmed Talukder, a member of the delegation, told The Daily Star.

"We have planned to stage a massive rally if the government gives us permission. We want to show the government that BNP still has huge popularity," an organising secretary of BNP said.

If not allowed to stage the rally, the party may hold an indoor programme in the capital and demonstrations in different thana units in other parts of the country protesting the government's "undemocratic and autocratic attitude," added the party insiders.

Fakhru in the briefing, however, said they hoped the authorities would help make the rally a success and uphold democracy.

The BNP last year planned to stage a "black-flag" rally in front of its Nayapaltan central office on January 5. However, it could not hold the programme as law enforcement agencies confined its chief Khaleda at her Gulshan office since January 3 and locked the Nayapaltan office.

On the future plan of BNP, a central leader of the party said, "Before the municipality polls, we actually had started from zero. Now we got back our strength and we want to make best use out of the situation to reorganise the party and force the government to hold an early election."



Office of the Sub-Project Manager
Improvement and Modernization of the Academic Environment of the Department of Physics, JU (CP 3415)
Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project
Department of Physics, Jahangirnagar University
Savar, Dhaka 1342



Invitation for Tender

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education
2.	Agency	University Grant Commission of Bangladesh (UGC)
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Department of Physics
4.	Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6.	Invitation for	Supply, installation and testing of High Performance Computing (HPC) System
7.	Invitation Ref No.	JU/HEQEP/CP3415/G8/2015
8.	Date	31/12/2015
KEY INFORMATION		
9.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10.	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget (Government and IDA Credit)
11.	Development Partners (if applicable)	International Development Association (IDA)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12.	Project/ Programme Code	
13.	Project/ Programme Name	Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)
14.	Tender Package No	G-8
15.	Tender Package Name	Supply, installation and testing of High Performance Computing (HPC) System
16.	Tender Publication Date	02/01/2016
17.	Tender Last Selling Date	23/01/2016
18.	Tender Closing Date and Time	24/01/2016 at 11.45am
19.	Tender Opening Date and Time	24/01/2016 at 12:30 pm
Selling Tender Document		Address: Department of Physics, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka 1342.
Receiving & Opening Tender Document		Address: Department of Physics, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka 1342.
21.	Place/ Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	None
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22.	Eligibility and Qualifications for Package- G8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tenderer shall have a minimum 05(Five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. The Tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum 3 (Three) numbers supply contract of similar goods and related services within last 5(five) years. i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the news paper. The Tenderer must have successfully completed at least 1 (one) contract in a public or private university of BDT 50.00 lac or more within the last 5 (Five) years, i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. The Tenderer must provide documentary evidence in the form of Work Completion Certificate from the respective institute. The Tenderer shall have successfully completed supply of atleast 01 Cluster Server with QDR for High Performance Computing (HPC) System under a single contract within last five(5) years of BDT 50.00 lac. i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the news paper. The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is: BDT 56.00 lac Tenderer should have up to date and valid Trade license, VAT certificate, TIN certificate etc. The maximum 2 (two) number of arbitration against the Tenderer over a period of last 05 years. The Tender should have been submitted the documentary evidence with their tender for fulfilling the Qualification criteria.
23.	Brief Description of Goods	Supply, installation and testing of High Performance Computing (HPC) System
24.	Brief Description of Related Services	a) Require onsite installation using open source operating system; b) Onsite training on trouble shooting of the system.
25.	Tender Document Price	BDT 1500/- (One Thousand Five Hundred) Only
26.	Lot	JU/HEQEP/CP3415/G8/2015
Single		Supply, installation and testing of High Performance Computing (HPC) System
Location		Address: Department of Physics, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka 1342.
Tender Security Amount in Taka		BDT1,75,000/= (One Lac Seventy Five Thousand)
Completion Time		90 days from the date of contract signing
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
27.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Professor Dr. Tahmina Ferdous
28.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Sub-Project Manager (CP-3415), HEQEP.
29.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Address: Department of Physics, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka 1342.
30.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone No.: 88-01715-023143 Fax No.: 88-02-7791052 e-mail address: tahminaphysics@yahoo.com
31.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	