



A citizens' group demonstrates before the capital's National Museum yesterday protesting arson attack in Longadu on Friday. PHOTO: STAR

Punishment for Longadu attackers sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society members and rights activists yesterday demanded investigation into the role of the on-duty law enforcers "for their failure to prevent" the synchronised arson attacks and vandalism of houses and shops of Chakma community in Longadu upazila of Rangamati on Friday.

They also demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment for the perpetrators, proper compensation for the victim families and ensuring security of their lives and belongings.

Speakers made the demands at a protest rally in front of the capital's Bangladesh National Museum organised under the banner of Nagarik Samaj.

Bangalee settlers unleashed a series of arson attacks on the Chakma community in three villages on Friday over the death of a local Jubo League leader. Over 200 homes and shops were vandalised and burned after they were looted while one indigenous woman was reportedly burnt to death.

Speaking at the programme, rights activist Khushi Kabir said one has to cross a number of security check posts to enter that region. How could those villages be burned

Govt not responsible for delaying 9th wage board

PM tells BFUJ-DUJ iftar UNB, Dhaka

The formation of the 9th wage board is being delayed because of the nonchalant attitude of the media owners, not the government, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

The government could have effectively started its work had the owners given the names of their representatives to the board, she said.

The PM was addressing a joint iftar and doa mahfil of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at

'HELPING PROF YUNUS' US Senator seeks information on Hillary's actions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A United States (US) Senator has sought to know from US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on whether then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her staff sought help through official channels for Dr Muhammad Yunus, who the Senator claimed was a donor to the Clinton Global Initiative and Clinton Foundation.

The chairman of the US Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Senator Charles E Grassley, wrote a letter to Rex Tillerson asking the State Department for information. The letter was released in Senator Grassley's official website on June 1.

The Senator wrote, "The allegations of special treatment include reports of a threatened IRS audit of the Bangladeshi prime minister's son, living in the United States, if he did not help quash a Bangladeshi government investigation of the businessman and

University dropout leading 'Neo JMB'

Claims counterterrorism official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 27-year-old university dropout is now leading the terror outfit "Neo JMB", a top counterterrorism official said yesterday.

Ayub Bachchu took over as the amir of the outfit after the death of Maynul Islam Musa during an anti-militancy drive in Moulvibazar on March 31, Monirul Islam, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, told a media briefing.

He said they were now conducting a search using his photograph and other clues, which they collected after the arrest of three "Neo JMB" members including a close associate of Bachchu from Savar and Laxmipur district early yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Md Monir Hossain alias Sumon, Md Touhidul Islam alias Tuhin, and Md Kamal Hossain. They were working to collect explosives and funds for the outfit in the name of setting up a cosmetics factory in Genda of Savar, said CTTC officials.

They said the family of "Neo JMB" amir Bachchu, who earlier used to live in a building, close to Atia Mahal of Sylhet, moved to Savar on March 26 after law enforcers conducted an anti-militancy drive in Sylhet.

Before the CTTC raid on their Savar house on May 27, they managed to flee. Police, however, recovered seven grenades, three suicide belts and a huge amount of bomb making materials from the hideout, they said. In the Savar hideout, there was an engineer named Hasan who also fled.

A newborn with rare ageing disorder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A baby boy born at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in the capital on May 22 is showing the symptoms of progeria, a premature ageing condition, doctors have said.

The baby was born at only 26 weeks, or six months, of pregnancy, Prof Nurul Huq, head of the Pediatrics Department at the medical college, told The Daily Star.

Progeria signs include growth failure, loss of body fat and hair, aged-looking skin, stiffness of joints, and hip dislocation, according to the US-based Progeria Research Foundation.

At 13 days old, the boy now weighs 0.96kg, gaining a mere 160 grammes since birth, whereas low birth weight is considered to be below 2.5kg.

Though the doctors suspect the condition to be progeria, but the diagnosis has not completed yet, he said.

In 2010 and 2016, two other boys named Tuhin and Bayezid respectively were said to have been the first two progeria patients in Bangladesh on record.

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