

Prime accused held over 2002 attack on Hasina's motorcade

UNB, Sirajganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested the prime accused in a case filed over an attack on the motorcade of the then leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina in Satkhira district in 2002.

Major Safayat Ahamed Suman, camp commander of Rab-12 at Sirajganj, said acting on tip-off, they arrested Khalid Manjurul Romel in Panchlia Bazar in Salanga upazila early yesterday. He was a son of late MA Gofran of Kadai Badra village in Shahjadpur upazila.

During the primary interrogation, Romel confessed to his involvement with the attack.

On August 30, 2002, the then opposition leader Hasina went to Satkhira Sadar Hospital to visit the raped wife of a freedom fighter of Kalaroa upazila in Satkhira.

After visiting the victim at the hospital, Hasina was going to Jessore.

According to a case statement, when her motorcade reached in front of BNP office in Kalaroa upazila on Jessore-Satkhira road around 11:30am, a group of miscreants carried out the attack firing gunshots and blasting crude bombs at the motorcade to kill Hasina.

Former lawmaker Mujibur Rahman and several journalists were injured in the attack.

Later, freedom fighter commander of Kalaroa upazila Moslem Uddin filed the case with Kalaroa Police Station in this connection.



Participants at a discussion titled "Kon Poth-e Bangladesh?" at the Liberation War Museum in the capital yesterday. Sanglaptopsutra, a new platform of young journalists, writers and right activists, organised the programme amid recent threats by Islamist group Hefajat-e-Islam against prominent citizens including Sultana Kamal.

Wild elephant found dead in Netrakona

A CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A wild female elephant was found dead in Menki Fanda area near Durgapur border in Netrakona on Thursday.

Locals said they saw the elephant dead at 4:45pm on the day, and later, informed the police and the forest department of it.

The forest range officer, Saidul Islam, lodged a general diary with Durgapur Police Station.

Saidul said an autopsy has been conducted to know the reason behind the death of the elephant. A few samples from her body was also taken to test it.

A witness, Nirmolendu Sarker, told journalists that miscreants cut off the elephant's tusks, ears, teeth and a few parts of the body.

The elephant was buried in the area yesterday morning.

Livestock officer of Netrakona Shankar Kumar Bosak said, "She was an old elephant. There might be an attack of another animal on her. However, the autopsy report will confirm the reason behind her death."

AL activists confine cop over 'assault on fellow'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Awami League activists in Godagari upazila barricaded Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway for around two hours and confined a police official to a shoe store last night for what they said was protesting police assault on a party leader.

The AL activists sat on the highway at Dayingpara intersection around 8:00pm and chanted slogans against police.

They alleged that police assaulted Abdul Malek, vice-president of Godagari municipality unit AL, yesterday afternoon.

When HA Munshi, officer-in-charge of Godagari Police Station, went to the spot, the demonstrators confined him to a shoe store.

Later, police from Rajshahi city rushed there and rescued the OC.

The demonstrators withdrew their barricade around 10:00pm when AL leaders from the city intervened in the incident.

AL leader Abdul Malek said Jubo League activist Shahidul Islam, from Sarengpur College Para area, was among many locals who protested the poor repair work of Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway, but police detained Shahidul around 4:00pm, "siding with the contractor of the work".

In the evening, some policemen beat him up and his associate Sultanul Babu in front of the OC when they went to Godagari Police Station to know why Shahidul was detained, alleged Malek.

The police official said police picked up Shahidul as he demanded money from the contractor, but when local AL leaders came to them, Shahidul was freed.

Malek had an altercation with some policemen when he was taking Shahidul out of the police station, he said, claiming that no incident of beating up Malek happened.

Malek, however, refused the allegation against Shahidul.

GOLD BUSINESS TIB for policy to end fraudulence

UNB, Dhaka

The Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the government to announce a time-befitting policy involving stakeholders to stop fraudulence and dependency on smuggling in gold business.

For lack of a specific policy for jewellery business, the anti-graft agency said, the government and the regulatory authorities concerned cannot avoid the responsibility for the widespread corruption in gold trade.

In a statement yesterday, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said once an effective gold import and business policy with provisions for ensuring transparency and accountability is formulated, the country's jewellery business will flourish and will be a sustainable development-promoting industry. "A section of dishonest traders has long been running their gold business through corrupt means and gold smuggling for lack of a proper policy and laws. But, the authorities concerned haven't taken proper steps to check it, which causes harm to the country's economy," he said. The TIB chief said the officials concerned who are involved in corruption and negligence in this regard must be made accountable through legal process.

Vendor killed in room

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A body of a street vendor with his throat slit was found in his room in Vataria area of the capital early yesterday.

The deceased, Shahin Alam, 35, was a street vendor and also used to lend money on interest to other street vendors.

Police recovered the body from his room in Nayanagar area around 5:00am and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Shahin's younger brother, Abdur Razzak, who lives in the next room, was outside at

night. Later, when he came and called Shahin for Sehri, he found the body of Shahin in the room.

Later, Razzak informed police of the matter.

The deceased's elder brother, Rabiul Alam, said Shahin invested Tk 7 lakh to make profits by lending the money.

Nurul Muttaqin, officer-in-charge of Vataria Police Station, suspects that Shahin might be killed for money which he had invested.

However, no one was arrested in this regard.

Punish Hefajat leaders for

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representatives' platform in front of the national museum in the capital's Shahbagh.

"No one was arrested so far for making the threat...and the government did not even condemn it," said Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir.

"We won't accept it. The government should... arrest those who gave the threat," said the noted rights activist.

Dhaka University Prof MM Akash alleged that the government came into a liaison with Hefajat for the upcoming national polls, but they [the government] will not get their votes.

He termed section 57 of the ICT act "a bizarre provision".

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) General Secretary Liton Nandi condemned the recent arrest of BCU activist Chaina Patowary, a 17-year-old girl from Rangamati, under the provision 57 and

demanding her immediate release.

Earlier on June 2, Hefajat leaders from a rally in front of Baitul Mukarram gave an ultimatum to the government to arrest Sultana Kamal within 24 hours or send her into exile. Hefajat's threat came after a recent television talkshow, now available on YouTube.

Hosted by DU teacher Robaet Ferdous the programme was participated by Sultana Kamal, Hefajat leader Mufti Shakhawat Hossain, Gonojagoron Mancha spokesperson Imran H Sarker, and former Awami League lawmaker Apu Ulkil.

At the talk show, referring to the statue of Lady Justice on the Supreme Court premises, Shakhawat said there should be no religious structures on the court premises, Sultana told The Daily Star. "I said, yes, I agree with you. There should be no religious structures on the court premises. Not even mosques," she said.



Almost half of the Dhaka-Aricha highway near Savar Bazar Bus Stand is open to vehicular traffic as the rest is blocked with garbage dumped by locals.

PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

HC wants reports on

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Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority; deputy commissioner of Chittagong; director general of the coast guard; collector of customs, Bangladesh Customs; chairman of Chittagong Port Authority; chief inspector of Department of Explosives; director general of Directorate of Inspection for Factories and Establishments; director of Department of Environment; principal officer of Mercantile Marine Department; president of Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association; proprietor of Janata Steel Corporation, and managing director of M/S HRShip Management Ltd (safety agency).

The HC bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Md Salim came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), challenging the legality of the authorities' decision to import MT Producer and scrap it.

BELA chief advocate Syeda Rizawana Hasan told The Daily Star that Janata Steel Mill imported MT Producer in August last year in violation of the existing laws and court orders and gave a false announcement saying there was no toxic material in the vessel.

Janata Steel Mill has collected a clearance certificate from an unknown agency, and the industries ministry "most arbitrarily" permitted the breaking of the vessel on September 8, 2016 although the Department of Environment never issued environmental clearance in favour of breaking of the vessel, she said. After a news report titled "Maersk and the hazardous waste in Bangladesh published in a leading Danish newspaper, DANWATCH, on October 15, 2016, it was first known that the said vessel has been sold to Bangladesh, Rizwana said.

Barrister Fida M Kamal with assistance from Rizwana Hasan and Advocate Sayeed Ahmed Kabir appeared for the writ petitioner.

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The curious case of JU

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"The authorities mentioned the three points in the case including the blockade on Dhaka-Aricha Highway, which took place outside the campus." The Daily Star obtained the documents, which confirm that Anik, Sayem, and Ayon were not present when students laid siege to VC's residence.

Meanwhile, some students claimed though they were not present in front of VC's residence on May 27, they were made accused in the case.

Ashik Mustafa Shawon, a master's student of Economics department, claimed: "I was sleeping at my room then. I'm astonished to find my name in the list."

The others students -- Shahadat Hossain of botany, Shafiu Alam Prodan of government and politics, Shihab Uddin of geography and environment, Saimum Saeed of economics departments -- claimed that they did-

n't participate in any activity in front of VC's residence.

Seeking anonymity, a JU student alleged that the university unit of BCL had provided a list of names to the JU administration and police.

"This list is created without any reliable information. Some students, who expressed their opinion against the ongoing incidents, were made accused in the case, which is unexpected," said a senior teacher wishing anonymity.

Contacted, Jewel Rana, president of JU unit of BCL, brushed aside the allegation.

He said, "We are not part of the [JU] administration. We also demand withdrawal of the case."

In this regard, Mohsinul Kadir, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, said there is a rumor going on, which is not true.

"The accused were identified scrutinising video clips from CCTV camera

of the VC's residence," said the OC, adding that the investigation was going on.

On May 27, in the syndicate meeting, JU administration formed a probe committee and asked it to submit a report within 10 working days. However, on June 3, Oiyikya Mancha demanded the reformation of the committee.

When contacted, JU Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique on June 2 said a probe body was formed to investigate the incidents, and the concerned body would verify the matter.

He, however, declined to make any further comments.

Asked about the wholesale case filing, a probe committee member, who did not want to be named, said they are working on the issue.

"If it is found that the accused were not involved in the incidents, the [JU] administration would take the matter into consideration," said the member.

33 Bangladeshis secure clemency

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Myanmar fishermen who had entered into Bangladesh waters and were repatriated in December 2016.

The Bangladesh Embassy expects the two sides to release persons who unintentionally cross borders and territorial waters in such a spirit of good neighborliness and in accordance with the 1980 Border Arrangement between the two countries.

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