

MOTORCADE ATTACK Cops sue 65 activists of Jubo Dal, JCD

Also blame it on feud
between 2 ex-BNP MPs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Police have filed a case against 65 leaders and activists of Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal on charges of setting fire to two empty buses in Feni's Mohipal just after the BNP chief's crossed the area on Tuesday afternoon.

Sub-inspector Nurul Haque of Feni Sadar Model Police Station filed the case with the police station yesterday afternoon. Twenty-nine of the accused, including Noyem Ullah Chowdhury, president of Feni Chhatra Dal, were named.

Miscreants hurled two petrol bombs at the buses parked near a filling station on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

The incident happened when BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was returning to Dhaka following her visit to the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. Immediately after the incident, police detained six people, including the buses' drivers and their helpers, a local leader of Shramik Dal and a Chhatra Dal activist.

Feni Sadar Model Police Station

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Ruling party activists vandalise vehicles of BNP chief Khaleda Zia's motorcade at Karwan Bazar on April 20, 2015.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Hasina hails

FROM PAGE 16

The officials officially began later that month on March 26.

"Bharat sangar amader mukir sangar, bharat sangar swadhinatar sangar, bharat sangar shanti sangar" is a slogan for emancipation, the struggle this time is a struggle for freedom," Bangladesh proclaimed in a thunderous voice at a mammoth rally at the Racecourse Maidan (now Suhrawardy Uddan) that day.

"I am here today to a fortress, resist the enemy with everything you have... Having mastered the lesson of sacrifice, we shall give more blood. God willing [Inshallah], we shall free the people of this land," he went on to proclaim.

The speech touched every Bangalee's heart across the then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, and mobilised the whole nation, excepting a few pro-Pakistanis who were preparing for the Liberation War.

In the statement, Hasina said, "I'm extending my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the Unesco and its director in general and all concerned on behalf of Bangladesh for the formation of Bangladesh year for including Bangladesh's 7 March speech in the Memory of the World International Register."

The PM said the then West Pakistani rulers had started showing a "step-motherly" attitude towards Bangladesh. "The formation of Bangladesh in 1947 based on the two-nation theory," In addition to economic exploitation, they attacked our language and culture."

She said the Pakistanis moved to make Urdu as the state language instead of Bangla, mother tongue of most of the people. "Father of the Nation Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman first put up a resistance against the oppressions of the Pakistanis and led a movement for sovereignty of the nation."

The PM said the Bangladeshes were subjected to oppression and intimidation for raising resistance against injustice. "As a continuation of the Bengali Movement, they took part in the election in 1954 under the banner of the Jukta Front, waged a movement in 1966 for an education policy, participated in the six-point movement, took part in mass upsurge in 1969 and exercised franchise in the general election in 1970."

"All the movements and the victory in the 1970 polls culminated in a logical and decisive conclusion through achieving freedom," she added.

According to international political analysis, the Bangladeshis' 7 March speech is one of the best political speeches of the world and it had motivated the Banglae nation to clinch victory in 1971, the PM added.

Hasina mentioned that the speech she has made is also one of the best. "We Shall Fight on the Beaches: The Speeches that Inspired History," written by writer and historian Jacob V. Field.

Meanwhile, at a meeting in Awami League President's Diamond office last night, the ruling party planned a seven-day programme to celebrate the UN's recognition of the historic 7 March speech.

The programmes include placing of portraits at Bangladesh's portrait on November 3, broadcasting the March 7 speech and bringing out processions across at educational institutions across the country on November 4 and arranging special prayers at religious institutions on November 5.

Suhrawardy Uddan on November 9, said a party press release.

Probe fails to find AL men!

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But in the same incident, the same police official found evidence against 15 BNP men and members of the security personnel in a counter-case filed by a local AL leader.

The official submitted charge sheet against them to a Dhaka court on October 3 last year, and the court accepted it.

Sub-inspector Abdul Halim Mia was the investigation officer (IO) in both the cases.

Inquired whether police probe didn't find any proof of attack on Khaleda's convoy, Halim said yesterday, "Attacks were carried out by both the sides."

Asked if that was true, then why charge sheet was submitted in one case, not in the other, the police official said, "Why do I have to tell you that? I will only talk about this to my senior officials and the court."

Most of the attacks on Khaleda's motorcade in the city are known facts of Karwan Bazar and Tejgaon areas. Photographs of many of them attacking her convoy with bricks and sticks were published in newspapers and aired on TV channels.

Yes, police didn't find involvement of any of them in the attack.

On April 20, 2015, around 150 ruling party men led allegedly by Chhatra League leaders swooped on the motorcade with brick chips and sticks, leaving 15 people, including BNP chief's security personnel, injured.

Six vehicles, including four from the motorcade, were damaged. Two counter-cases of attempted murder were filed with Tejgaon Police Station a day later.

Over a hundred AL men were accused in the case filed by Khaleda's security chief Maj Gen (ret'd) Fazle Elahi Akbar while about a hundred BNP men and members of the party chairperson's security force (CSF) were used by AL's Dhaka Ward-26 President Jahurul Haque Zillu.

In the charge sheet of Zillu's case, the IO stated that AL men were holding a rally in front of Petro Bangla in support of Dhaka North City Corporation mayor candidate Anisul Haq and councillor candidate Shamim Hasan while Khaleda was addressing another rally, around 100-150 yards away, for mayoral candidate Tabish Awa.

Some people from the BNP rally hurled brick chips at AL's "peaceful rally" and also beat up AL leaders and activists indiscriminately, the IO mentioned.

"The CSF members opened fire in a bid to kill. In the investigation, it was found that before leaving the spot, they [CSF] threatened them [AL men] with death if they went for campaigning again," it added.

The 15 charge-sheeted accused include BNP chief's personal assistant Shamur Rahman Stimul Biswas, Senior Vice President of Swachhasebak Dal (Dhaka north) Azizur Rahman, Tejgaon Thana Jubo Dal Vice President Abdul Qader, and three CSF members.

But in the other case filed by the BNP, the same police official submitted a final report, saying the probe didn't find any proof of attack on Khaleda's convoy.

The IO, however, didn't mention how the vehicles in her motorcade were damaged or how the BNP men were hurt.

Contacted on Tuesday, Fazle Elahi Akbar, the plaintiff of the case, said, "Police did not contact us. We do not know anything about the fate of the case."

Talking to The Daily Star, Muhammad Nurul Haque, former inspector general of police, said one can file a no-conflict motion if he is not satisfied with the investigation. The aggrieved person may appeal to court for further probe by another agency.

Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "Although this is nothing new, it shows how law enforcement agencies are becoming convenient agents of promoting political agenda of the ruling authorities."

"This happened in greater or lesser degree when the present ruling party was in opposition. Disturbing as the trend is for the future of democratic accountability, it also accelerates the process of erosion of professionalism and hence lack of public trust in such public institutions," he added.

WHO WERE THE ATTACKERS?

Those who hurled bricks at Khaleda's motorcade and vandalised several vehicles were mostly leaders and activists of the ruling AL's associate bodies and Chhatra League men from ward-26, Tejgaon and Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, according to witnesses.

The Daily Star had identified about a dozen of the attackers from the photos and footage published by different newspapers and TV channels. Locals and sources in the BCL, the pro-AL student body, confirmed their identities. Their own Facebook pages also validated their party posts.

These attackers were frequently seen with the then top BCL leaders, including its then president H M

Badizuzzaman Sohag. They also had many photos with Sohag on their Facebook pages.

Following the incident, AL leaders claimed that traders at Karwan Bazar, who incurred losses due to the BNP-enforced blockade in early 2015, carried out the attack. Facebook page of Tejgaon thana unit BCL also claimed that the attack was a result of BNP's internal conflict.

However, the photos and the video clips say otherwise.

PROBE INTO BANGLA MOTOR

ATTACK

Two days after the Karwan Bazar incident, a group of around 70 people attacked Khaleda's motorcade with wooden sticks and threw brick chips at it in Bangla Motorcade.

On April 22, 2015, she was on her way to Old Dhaka for electioneering in city corporation polls.

Abdul Quayum, an adviser to the BNP chairperson, and six of her security personnel were injured.

A window of the sport utility vehicle carrying Khaleda and several other cars were damaged.

Quayum filed a case with Ramna Police Station against 50 unidentified people over the attack while Babu Hasan, a BCL leader, filed another case against some 25 anonymous people.

The investigations in both the cases are pending.

Sub-inspector Masud Zamzadur, the IO in both the cases, said the probes were taking time as the accused were not named in the cases.

No one had been arrested, he added.

Exam this year's, question paper last year's!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Fifteen ISC examines sitting for the tests at Narayanganj Girls High School and College centre had a terrible start yesterday as the authorities allegedly provided them last year's question papers.

The students taking the exam at two rooms - 208 and 209 - of the centre got the wrong question papers.

Five minutes into the beginning of Bangla first paper tests, they informed the invigilators, who were on duty at the rooms, of the matter. But the invigilators forced them to sit for the tests for an hour, threatening to expel them, alleged the candidates and their guardians.

The examinations of Junior School Certificate that began across the country yesterday asked the invigilators to change their question papers, but they did not pay heed to it.

At one stage, two candidates came out of the hall and told their guardians waiting outside the centre about the matter.

The guardians and students then demanded that their tests be held afresh, creating a chaos at the centre where 567 students of Academy High School and Chittaranjan Cotton Mill High School were taking part in the examinations.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Mother, son

FROM PAGE 1

House just after Magrib prayers. Shamshun Nahar opened the main door for her and Rashida went straight to the kitchen. She said she did not see anyone else when she entered the house.

"When I was cleaning the kitchen utensils, someone suddenly locked the kitchen door from outside," she told The Daily Star.

"I shouted and knocked on the door, asking for someone to open it but no one responded. Moments later, I heard someone shouting for help from one of the rooms," she added.

The door was later opened by the police officials and no one was being allowed access to the crime scene. The main gate was shut and even the tenants could not leave.

Asking around, no one could say anything regarding the murder and there were no witnesses to be found. She said that they heard the guard saying, "please come, they have killed madam."

Speaking to locals, it was known that the people offered their Magrib prayers right outside Shamshun Nahar's house, as the nearest mosque was quite far.

Right after prayers, a resident of the building informed the guard, Abdullah Noman, that there was an altercation going on upstairs.

He said that he had seen the guard and saw Shaon's body. Afterwards, seeing the door to their apartment ajar, he went in and found Shamshun Nahar's body.

Locals said that they heard Noman shouting "someone has killed the mother and son" five minutes after Magrib prayers. Locals then gathered around the building hearing the screams.

Krishna Pado Ray, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said that they have detained the guard, Abdul Karim, and the maid for interrogation and to verify whether they were involved in the murder.

The house owner was not present at home at the time of the incident, he said, adding that they did not see anything displaced inside the house.

Asked about whether anything was missing, he said that it was not possible to clearly say about that night now as they did not get the estimated property details from the owner.

Regarding family conflict or business rivalry, the joint commissioner, while addressing the briefing on the spot, said that they were investigating the case keeping "all the possibilities in mind".

Police official also informed that BNP official may have been married twice and they were looking into that as well.

The forensic team of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was examining the crime scene.

The bodies have been sent to the morgue of Dhaka Medical College.

Singaporeans get 'rage room' relief

FROM PAGE 16

While Singapore is ultra-modern and affluent, it is also notorious for the high levels of stress suffered by its citizens from school children to adults, who are placed under huge pressure to do well from an early age.

"Everyone in Singapore - no matter where you come from, what your background is, whatever you do, what age you are - everyone is stressed out," Royce Tan, the founder of "Fragment Room", told AFP.

"Be it school, be it work, be it like your own personal relations, everything is stressful."

The set-up is one of several such "rage rooms" in cities around the world, has two main offerings: half-hour slots with a limited amount of items to smash for S\$38 (\$28), or the S\$350 "annihilation pack" that lets customers

smash as much as they can in half an hour.

Most items are provided by the "Fragment Room", located in a disused noodle factory in central Singapore, but customers can also bring their own.

And the most popular item to smash? Printers.

On a recent afternoon at the shop, four students, aged 18 and 19, who had just finished their exams were

enjoying a session, and the thud of bat on printer was just audible through the concrete walls.

Law student Kylie Low, drenched in sweat and with her shoes covered in printer ink, described it as a "cathartic experience".

"When we're in school we're always printing things for class - so to be able to smash up a printer, it feels amazing," the 18-year-old said.

They were taking time as the accused were not named in the cases.

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US assures help in repatriation

FROM PAGE 1

The state minister highlighted the five-point proposal given by the Prime Minister at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in September this year and also requested for continuation of the support in this regard, said a foreign ministry press release.

Other members of the delegation are Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Scott Busby, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Tom Vajda and Director of the Office of Mainland Asia Patricia Mahoney. US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat was also present during the meeting.

The US delegation will visit different Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar today and tomorrow.

EU STANDS WITH BANGLADESH

The European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, who returned to Dhaka from Cox's Bazar after visiting the Rohingya camps, said "EU stands by Bangladesh in this difficult time."

house Padma, Christos Stylianides said that "dialogue between Bangladesh and Myanmar is the only way to bring a political solution to the Rohingya crisis."

"I strongly believe that there can be a political solution to the crisis," he said, adding that the root cause lies in Myanmar. "The government of Bangladesh and Myanmar should continue dialogue. This is the only way to ensure safe, dignified, and voluntary return of those who were forced to cross the border and want to return home," he said.

His visit comes a week after the EU and its Member States pledged more than 50 percent of the total \$434 million funding raised at the international Conference on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis held in Geneva.

He visited Rohingya camps and said the scale of this emergency was "painfully clear to see; this is the fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world."

"Our help will continue. I hope [the] Rohingyas will be able to return to their home in a safe and dignified way," he said.

Our promise is that we'll continue to provide assistance as long as it takes," he added.

Giving recent engagements between Myanmar and Bangladesh, the foreign minister expressed hope that EU will continue their "persuasion" of Myanmar until the Rohingyas return to their homeland safely, with security and dignity.

The European Commissioner thanked the Government and the people of Bangladesh for giving shelter to the distressed Rohingyas of Myanmar and deeply appreciated Bangladesh's humanity and generosity.

OTDPM WILL MATCH THE

DONATIONS OF CANADIANS

Canada will increase its assistance to thousands of Rohingyas refugees, who

have fled violence in Myanmar to seek refuge in Bangladesh.

The federal government says that it will match every dollar that Canadians donate to registered charities helping the Rohingyas refugee crisis, at the end of August and until November 28.

"I encourage all Canadians to donate to the organisation of their choice. Your donation will save lives. It will allow them to recover their sense of dignity until they can return to their homes," International Development Minister, Marie-Claude Bibeau, said while inviting Canadians to "be generous".

She announced that for every eligible donation made by individual Canadians to registered Canadian charities between August 25 and Nov 28, the government of Canada will contribute an equivalent amount to the fund.

The relief fund for the Myanmar crisis has no ceiling, the minister said, adding "these donations will be made to the Myanmar Crisis Relief Fund."