

Sylhet hawker leader arrested over grabbing city footpaths

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested a hawker leader in Sylhet city on Sunday night over grabbing city footpaths.

The arrestee, Rokib Ali, is president of Sylhet metropolitan unit of Hawkers' League and Mohanagar Hawkers' Kalyan Samabaya Samity, said Kotwali Police Station OC Gousul Hossain. The arrest was made after he was asked to go to the police station, said the OC.

On October 18, Sylhet Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Saifuzzaman Hero issued an arrest warrant against 26 people including Rokib in connection with grabbing of footpaths.

In October, the city corporation and police mentioned the names of the 26 following a court order.



"Let's be good human beings" -- a simple but powerful message found hanging from the metal frame of a stolen trash bin near the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. A large amount of public money went down the drain after most of these trash bins installed by the Dhaka city corporations were stolen. But someone has turned the bad deed into good by making good use of the bin's remaining structure.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Daughter's birthday without father

3 weeks on, Mubashar remains untraced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Can you put yourselves in the shoes of my brother [Mubashar], not for too long, just for two minutes?... I bet you couldn't..."

On the occasion of the sixth birthday of Ariyana, the only daughter of missing North South University (NSU) teacher Mubashar Hasan, Mubashar's sister Tamanna Tasmin wrote this on her Facebook wall.

"Can you now feel a bit of my brother's pain?... Why can't my brother hold his only daughter in his arms on her birthday? Why do we have to lie to an innocent six-year-old?" Tamanna wrote in the Facebook status.

She demanded safe return of her brother in the post with the hashtag #BringBackMubashar.

Mubashar, a researcher of political Islam and assistant professor of political science at NSU, disappeared after he had left his workplace around 4:30pm on November 7.

Police said he had last talked with someone over the phone at 6:41pm on that day when he was near Lions Eye Hospital.

The law enforcers could not find his whereabouts in



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Peace, security in Rakhine must for Rohingyas' voluntary return

UK international development minister says in exclusive interview with The Daily Star; announces additional £12m for Rohingyas taken shelter in Bangladesh

REZAUL KARIM

Peace and security are yet to be restored in Myanmar's Rakhine State for "voluntary return" of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to their homeland from Bangladesh, observed Penny Mordaunt, international development secretary of the UK.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star on Sunday, during her three-day visit to Bangladesh, the DFID minister also said her government does not see any chance of immediate repatriation of the Rohingyas as their persecution is still ongoing in Myanmar where their homes have been burnt to the ground.

"This is not a crisis going to be resolved swiftly. It is clear to me refugees are going to be here for some time. All have to be very practical about this."

The focus has to be on creating a condition that will enable their safe and sustainable return. "We need to ensure that Bangladesh is properly supported to do that," Penny said, urging the international community to step up their support to resolve the Rohingya crisis.

Yesterday, after she visited camps in Bangladesh where Rohingyas took refuge to flee ethnic cleansing in their country, the UK minister announced a further £12m in aid for the persecuted Rohingyas.

Over 6,22,000 Rohingyas have taken shelter in Bangladesh amid persecution by Myanmar security forces since August 25. The UN has termed the atrocities a "text-book example of ethnic cleansing".

On Nov 23, Bangladesh and Myanmar signed a bilateral agreement in Naypyitaw to begin repatriation of the Myanmar citizens in two months.

As part of UK's efforts to assess and

resolve the Rohingya crisis, Secretary Penny Mordaunt flew to Bangladesh and visited several Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar on Saturday. This is her first overseas visit since she was appointed as international development secretary on November 9.

Referring to the "harrowing" stories of "torture and sexual abuse" she heard from many victims at the Rohingya camps, Penny said it is imperative to take the refugees' views into account. "Everyone I spoke [with] wants to return, but they can only do so if they have peace and security."

"If we pretend that people are going home in [a] couple of months, that will be a disservice to Bangladesh."

"We need to think long term. How we can build peace and security, which is necessary for the refugees to stay there," she said, adding, "We need to be very very practical about this. The people we met yesterday [Saturday] are very very traumatised."

Most importantly, there must be peace and security and it is necessary to ensure that Rohingyas are not going to be injured again, the minister said.

UK APPROVES ADDITIONAL AID FOR DISPLACED ROHINGYAS

UK Secretary of State for International Development Penny Mordaunt yesterday announced an additional £12m in aid for the forcibly displaced Rohingyas, bringing the total UK support to £59 million since Aug 25.

"The persistent persecution of the Rohingya people must stop. It is horrifying that hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children have had their homes burnt to the ground, and parents have been forced to helplessly watch as their

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Penny Mordaunt

Don't want justice!

Says Dr Milon's mother on 27th martyrdom anniversary of her son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Milon's mother Selina Akter has said she does not want justice for her son from the ones who assumed office by collaborating with his killers.

On November 27 in 1990, the armed goons of then autocratic ruler HM Ershad gunned down Dr Milon, the then joint secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association, near the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University in a bid to foil the mass upsurge.

Expressing frustration Selina said she was heartbroken when she witnessed Ershad being restored to the country's politics.

Ershad is now talking about democracy but the sad part is that he is talking about democracy remaining with those who launched movement against his autocratic government, she said after placing floral wreaths and offering special prayers at the grave of Dr Milon on the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) campus yesterday.

Different political parties and socio-cultural and professional bodies observed 27th Shaheed Dr Milon Day yesterday in a befitting manner.

In the morning, the delegations of Awami League and BNP placed floral wreaths and offered prayers at the grave.

Bangladesh Medical Association organised a discussion

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Form impartial commission to probe Rangpur mayhem

Demand civil society members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent civil society representatives yesterday demanded an independent and impartial commission for probing the recent arson attack on the Hindu community in Rangpur and bringing the culprits to book at the earliest.

They also demanded the authorities concerned pay adequate compensation to the victims and take action against the members of law enforcement agencies as well as the local administration who neglected their duties.

The compensation should be collected from the attackers, they also said while speaking at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Under the banner of Nagorik Samaj, representatives of five civic and rights organisations, including Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), organised the conference to present the findings of their recent visit to Thakurbari village under Gangachara upazila in Rangpur.

They visited the area on November 15 to 16 and talked to the victims, local people and journalists. The other organisations are Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Nijera Kori and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

On November 10, hundreds of zealots attacked Hindu houses in the village, protesting a Facebook post "demeaning Islam". The attackers claimed that it was posted from the account of a local man named Titu Chandra Roy. They torched 11 houses and vandalised many others.

A man was killed and at least 20 others were injured after police fired rubber bullets and teargas to bring the situation under control.

Following the incident, police filed two cases accusing 2,000 people and arrested Titu on November 14. He was remanded twice. He also gave a confessional statement.

Speaking at the programme, the civil

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Dec 12 to be observed as National ICT Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to observe December 12 as the National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Day.

The ruling Awami League formally declared the Digital Bangladesh concept in its election manifesto on December 12, 2008; therefore, the government has fixed the day as the National ICT Day.

A weekly cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Prime Minister's Office took the decision.

State Minister for ICT Junaid Ahmed Palak told The Daily Star that the acknowledgement will be a boost for Bangladesh's ICT sector.

Briefing to reporters at the secretariat, cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam said National ICT Day would be considered as the "Kha" category day.

The cabinet also approved Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) Law, 2017 in principle in a bid to bring the organisation under a legal structure.

About the structure of the BMDA, the cabinet secretary said, there will be an advisory council, headed by the agriculture minister, that will have the responsibility to make policies.

Other members of the council will be made from 17 different categories including local parliament members, secretaries of the ministries of finance, agriculture, environment, power and energy, and water resources, BMDA chairman, and divisional commissioners of Rajshahi and Rangpur.

Besides, the cabinet adopted a resolution congratulating Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her being chosen as one of the top honest and hard-working leaders in the world by the People's and Politics, a research firm of global politics.

It also adopted another resolution greeting British Labour Party MP and granddaughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, as she received an award for "Labour Newcomer MP of the year" at the annual Patchwork Foundation Awards in Westminster.

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