



‘HAMZA BRIGADE’ IN CTG 33 indicted on terror charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court in Chattogram yesterday framed charges against 33 people, including Barrister Shakila Farzana, in two cases filed over their alleged involvement with Shaheed Hamza Brigade (SHB), a militant outfit busted by the Rab members in 2015.

Chattogram Anti-Terrorism Tribunal’s acting Judge Abdul Halim framed the charges in the cases filed with Hathazari and Banskhali police stations under Anti-terrorism Act, said Monoranjan Das, public prosecutor (PP) of the tribunal.

The tribunal also issued an arrest warrant against Shakila, daughter of the BNP’s former whip Syed Wahidul Alam.

“Barrister Shakila is accused in both the cases and had been on bail,” the PP said, adding that the tribunal issued the warrant cancelling her bail.

The tribunal fixed September 8 for recording testimony of witnesses in the cases, he also said.

Shakila’s lawyer advocate Abdus Sattar said they had sought some more time from the tribunal as his client was staying abroad for treatment.

Shakila was arrested along with two other lawyers -- Hasanuzzaman Liton and Mahfuz Chowdhury Papon -- on charges of funding terrorism on August 18, 2015.

Rab said the trio had deposited a total of Tk 1.08 crore in the bank account of Maniruzzaman Don, a key member of the SHB.

On February 19, 2015, Rab raided a theoretical training centre of the SHB, which was being run in the guise of an Arabic learning centre, at a madrasa in Olipur area of Chattogram’s Hathazari upazila and arrested 12 people.

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Holding her 11-day-old baby girl in her arms, Khadeza sits at Bangamata Bidyaniketon, a temporary shelter for the victims of the Chalantika slum fire, in the capital’s Mirpur-7 yesterday. Recovering from a caesarean section, she is too weak to stand in long queues outside the shelter for relief. Her rickshaw-puller husband cannot help her either as he has to go out to earn money. More than 1,000 shanties were razed to ashes in the massive fire on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Why should not Minni be granted bail?

HC asks govt to explain in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain within a week why Aysha Siddika Minni should not be granted bail in a case filed over the killing of her husband Rifat Sharif.

It also fixed August 28 for hearing the rule and summoned investigation officer of the case to appear before it on the day along with the case documents.

Besides, the court asked the superintendent of Barguna police to explain why he held a press conference on July 18 saying that Minni was involved in the murder even before the investigation is completed.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman asked the Barguna SP to submit his explanation before the HC by August 28. The court passed the order after hearing a bail petition filed by Minni.

During the hearing, Minni’s lawyer AM Aminuddin appealed to the HC to grant his client bail on any condition as “she is a 19-year-old woman and she will not leave the country if she is granted bail”.

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hussain Bappi opposed the bail petition, saying that Minni and four other accused had given “confessional” statements to the magistrate and therefore, she could not be granted bail.

On August 8, another HC bench led by Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman refused to grant Minni bail in the case, upon which her lawyer withdrew the bail petition from the HC bench saying he would move the petition before another bench.

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-38 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-41 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



‘Not proud as Indian’

Amartya Sen slams Modi govt decision

NDTV ONLINE

Nobel laureate Dr Amartya Sen has vehemently criticised the government’s move on Kashmir, saying it not only emphasised majority rule “as opposed to it sustaining the rights of all human beings”.

“I don’t think ultimately you will have any resolution in Kashmir without democracy,” he told NDTV in an interview on Monday.

Pointing out the loopholes in the government’s decision on multiple levels, the 85-year-old told NDTV: “As an Indian, I am not

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Pakistan to move ICJ over Kashmir

More arrests in J&K to deter protests; schools remain deserted after opening

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan yesterday said it would take its dispute with India over Kashmir to the International Court of Justice, after New Delhi revoked the special status of its part of the region earlier this month.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s surprise move has increased tensions with arch rival Pakistan which lays claim to Kashmir and has accused India of human rights violations in the territory at the heart of more than 70 years of hostility between them.

Islamabad reacted with fury to that decision, cutting trade and transport links and expelling India’s ambassador.

“We have decided to take the Kashmir case to the International Court of Justice,” Pakistan’s foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, told ARY News TV on Tuesday. “The decision was taken after considering all legal aspects.”

The case would centre on alleged human rights violations by India in Muslim-majority Kashmir, which both countries claim in full but rule in part, Qureshi said.

A decision by the court would advisory only. However, if both countries agreed before-hand, the ruling would become binding.

A spokesman for India’s foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. India denies committing human rights violations in Kashmir.

The development came as security forces detained 30 people overnight in Indian Kashmir’s main city of Srinagar, local officials said, seeking to keep a tight lid on protests over the federal government’s controversial.

Crowds have demonstrated frequently in the city despite a severe clampdown on phone and internet services, a ban on public gatherings

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‘Robber’ killed in ‘gunfight’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

A suspected robber was killed in a “gunfight” with Rab at Pekua upazila in Cox’s Bazar early yesterday.

The dead Kamal Hossain Prokash alias Badsha Dakat, 33, was a listed robber in Chanua union of Chattogram’s Banskhali upazila, said Rab.

Rab conducted a drive in Mognama Ghat area of Pekua on information that a group of robbers, led by Badsha, was preparing for robbery there, claimed Major Mehedi Hasan, Cox’s Bazar company commander of Rab-7.

Sensing Rab’s presence, the criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he added.

At one stage of the “gunfight”, the criminals fled the scene leaving bullet-hit Badsha behind, he further added.

Rab rescued Badshah and rushed to Pekua Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, the Rab official claimed.

The body was sent to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Rab also claimed to have recovered four locally made fire arms, 12 bullets, four sharp weapons and eight empty shells of bullet from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the Rab claims.

A case was filed in this connection.

Sailor’s message in bottle found 50 yrs later in Alaska



AFP, Washington

A man gathering firewood in Alaska discovered a bottle with a handwritten message inside wishing the finder “happy sailing” more than 50 years after it was dropped into the sea by a Russian sailor.

“Sincere greetings! From the Russian Far East Fleet mother ship VRXF Sulak,” it read. “We wish you good health and long years of life and happy

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3 abducted in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Armed criminals abducted three people from Bandarban’s Ruma upazila on Monday evening, said police.

The three are Basu Karmakar, 32, Nayan Das, 28, and Md Mizan, 30, of the upazila. They are drivers of “Chander Gari” (locally modified passenger vehicle).

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ruma Police Station, said some criminals kidnapped the three at gunpoint from Minjiri Mukh area when they were returning to Ruma upazila town from remote Munnam Para of the upazila.

Army and police are jointly working to rescue the victims, said the OC.

Khalilur Rahman, secretary of Jeep Owners’ Association of Ruma, said the criminals demanded a ransom of Tk 10 lakh over phone to free the abductees.

On August 5, some criminals sent a letter to the organisation, demanding

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A CNG-run three-wheeler squeezes through a gap between two buses on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in the capital’s Matuail area yesterday. Many drivers do not comply with a ban on plying of three-wheelers on highways which often leads to serious accidents. Only two days ago, eight people were killed when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a bus on Cumilla-Laksham road in Jamtoli area.

5 arrested on rape charges

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested three men for their alleged involvement in the gang-rape of a female dancer in Narayanganj.

The arrestees are Shafiqul Islam, 24, Mahmudul Hasan, 23, and Sajib Miah, 21, of the districts Sonargaon upazila, said police.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon Police Station, said the victim filed a case against five men. The three were arrested as they were named in the case.

According to the case statement, Mahmudul invited the victim to perform dance at his office. Responding to the invitation, the victim went to Sonargaon upazila along with one of her friends.

As the victim and her friend reached Darikandi area of Sonargaon, Mahmudul and his cohorts abducted them and gang-raped the woman at knife-point, the case statement

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