

144 firearms recovered in 10 days, 64 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint drive comprising law enforcement and security agencies arrested 64 people and recovered 144 firearms in the last 10 days.

The recovered weapons include eight revolvers, 41 pistols, 11 rifles, 17 shotguns, five pipe guns, 19 shutter guns, 10 LG guns, 22 guns, one AK-47, one gas gun, one Chinese rifle, one airgun, one tear gas launcher, three SMGs and three single barrel breech loader firearms, said a text message of Police Headquarters yesterday.

On August 25, the interim government suspended licences issued to civilians during the tenure of the AI government – January 6, 2009 to August 5, 2024 – and directed to submit the firearms to nearby police stations by September 3.

After the timeframe, those firearms are to be deemed illegal.

The joint drive comprising the members of the armed forces, BGB, Coast Guard, police, Rab, and Ansar, will also recover illegal firearms and the firearms and bullets looted from different police stations and security forces after the fall of Sheikh Hasina on August 5.

Enamul Haque Sagor, assistant inspector general (media) of PHQ, earlier said the joint drives are targeting three categories of firearms – those stolen or lost from the police, SSF, and other security forces; firearms with suspended licences; and illegal firearms.

According to PHQ database, 5,818 firearms and 6,07,262 bullets were looted from police, different police stations, and establishments. Of those, 3,933 guns and 3,12,857 bullets were recovered by 12:00am on September 5.



Labourers unload sugarcane in bulk off these boats and transport them to Mahilara Bazar in Barishal. Traders from various villages sell the sugarcane at wholesale prices to retailers, with prices ranging from Tk 2,000 to Tk 5,000 per 100 pieces, depending on the size. The photo was taken in Gaurnadi upazila recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Several women attacked, harassed in Cox's Bazar

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In another incident, the same group approached a woman sitting on a beach chair late at night.

They questioned what she was doing so late at night and forced her to leave, despite her repeatedly saying, "I am just a tourist, what is my fault?"

A third video shows a woman begging policemen near a room at a restaurant at Sugandha Beach to help her retrieve her mobile phone, which had been

taken by the group.

"I will buy a ticket and return to Dhaka right away if you return my phone," the woman said.

In another video, Farokul was seen repeatedly hitting a woman who was on a floor with sticks in a room as she begged him to stop.

In another instance, the group intercepted a rickshaw carrying two women. The women were dragged from the vehicle, and as they tried to flee, Farokul chased them with

sticks.

Qadaruddin Shishir, Bangladesh editor of AFP Fact Check, also verified the authenticity of the videos and identity of Farokul.

The incidents occurred on the night of September 11, and the videos were posted by Farokul and his associates on Facebook, where they boasted about their actions.

Despite the clear evidence of harassment and assault, law enforcers have yet to take action against

the group responsible for the attacks.

Farokul's Facebook was found deactivated yesterday evening, but it resurfaced later. Most of the videos were deleted.

But there were several posts where he gave justification for his actions, indicating the women they attacked were prostitutes and those criticising them are involved in the trade.

He claimed in another post that the administration is helping

them.

Abul Kalam, assistant superintendent of Cox's Bazar Tourist Police, said they were aware of reports that some third-gender individuals were removed from the beach, with one being beaten by youths for allegedly "polluting the area".

He said no complaint has been filed yet, but action will be taken if one is received.

Farokul could not be contacted for comments.

Govt did nothing

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exchange and discussion forum.

"My first question to the current government is why it failed to stop the destruction of these establishments. If it continues to fail, I hold them responsible for the current state of the country," he added.

He demanded that those responsible for the vandalism of shrines be brought to justice and that the shrines be rebuilt using state funds.

"Those who think that Islam is their personal property and vandalise shrines, I would warn them that Islam is not their personal property, it belongs to all," he said.

He emphasised that Islam does not grant anyone the right to take the law into their own hands. "One can express opinions and issue fatwas, but no one has the right to enforce these fatwas on others," he added.

Mazhar went on to say, "We support the government. We do not want it to be weakened in any way. But despite our repeated pleas, the government is not heeding our concerns."

He also said those who vandalise shrines have no

connection to Islam.

Addressing the vandals directly, Mazhar said, "You [those openly announcing plans to vandalise graveyards] have smashed graveyards with hammers and exhumed skulls. I challenge you to go to Tungipara or Ziaur Rahman's grave. Let's see what strength you have to smash those graves."

Highlighting the cultural significance of shrines, Mazhar said the shrines have enriched the country's culture, including its Baul, Bayati, Fakiri, and Bhakti music traditions, as well as different faiths.

"By vandalising the shrines, you [vandals] have broken the hearts of the people and left wounds on our souls," he remarked.

He called on the new director general of the Shilpakala Academy to organise a cultural fair as a fitting response to the shrine attackers.

Speaking at the event, Dhaka University teacher Zobaer Mahmud said the vandalism of shrines not only constitutes a criminal offence, but also infringes on religious freedom.

Representatives from different shrines and dargahs also spoke.

Hindu Jagran

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an increase in puja holiday, digitalisation of the Pali and Sanskrit Education Board, the allocation of prayer rooms in educational institutions, and the creation of a Hindu Foundation.

The protesters claimed that attacks on minorities have been rising in a systematic manner. They cited recent incidents such as the attack on Utsab Mandal in Khulna and the desecration of idols in Chattogram, Thakurgaon, Rangpur, Nilphamari, and Mymensingh as examples.

On September 12, they said, a temple and house were attacked on Sutrapur Hrishikesh Das Road in Dhaka.

Nirjon Mondal, who arrived from Pirojpur to join the protest, voiced his frustration with the lack of action, saying, "The Sanatani people [Hindus] have always been oppressed under all governments. I was tortured during the Awami League regime and continue to face persecution. A few days ago, we protested, and the interim government assured us of action, but nothing has happened so far."

Meanwhile, thousands of protesters from Chattogram also took to the streets expressing their solidarity with Hindu Jagran Manch in Dhaka.

Woman found

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When she entered from the back, she found Setara lying on the floor.

Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of Rupsa Police Station, said Setara's hands, feet, and face had been tied, and there were visible head injuries.

The body was sent to Khulna Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 14

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4:35	12:45	4:30	6:14	7:45
JAMAT	5:10	1:15	4:45	6:17	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা এক-ব্রুক-এসি-একনির্মিত ১৫০০ বর্গফুটের দক্ষিণমুখী নির্মাণাধীন ফ্ল্যাট।

ম্যাজিক প্রিক্স হোভিসেস লিঃ।

০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮

Lost

I. Abdullah Al Mamun, S/O: Abdul Matin Khan, have lost my two passports, number BC0401061 and C0989972 (old), on 11 August 2024. I have filed a GD, number 482, tracking number XGDNK2, on 05 September 2024 at Dhanmondi Model Police Station. Requesting to let me know on 01717601301 if you have found.

D-12

NBR server breached

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NBR server is restricted to specific IP addresses, and requires a one-time password sent to the user's mobile phone for verification.

However, investigators revealed that the gang accessed the server from different IP addresses, and no OTPs were sent to the concerned officials' phones.

Both Zakaria and Sonia Sarkar deny any involvement.

"I am not sure who is using my user ID because I did not receive any message from the server on my designated mobile number," Sonia Sarkar said.

This is not an isolated incident.

In the last three years, at least 38 imported consignments were

released illegally using the login credentials of eight revenue officials.

Chattogram Customs has filed several cases and formed investigation committees, but has so far failed to identify the perpetrators.

Customs Commissioner Mohammad Fyur Rahman said, "Our preliminary investigation suggests a large gang is behind these frauds. We expect law enforcement agencies to uncover the full picture."

Bandar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kazi Mohammad Sultan Ahasan said, "We have received a case application from customs but no action has been taken yet. A detailed investigation will begin soon, involving senior officials."

Ensure justice

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Shahadat Hossain, a relative of another slain protester named Raju, said all the people need to work together to build the country for which many like Raju sacrificed their lives.

Monir Hossain, father of Shahriar Hossen Rokon, said the hospital authorities refused to discharge the corpse of his son initially.

An injured protester named Shaheen, who sustained bullet injury, demanded bringing Sheikh Hasina under trial after extraditing her.

Addressing the event, Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganosamhati, said the first

step towards building a "New Bangladesh" would be ensuring justice.

He also demanded formation of a commission immediately to prepare the list of the deceased and injured. "We have to make sure that no martyrs are left out and their families are taken care of," he added.

A seven-point demand including bringing all individuals involved in the attacks and killings to justice and declaring the deceased as martyrs were placed at the programme.

It also includes taking appropriate measures to find the missing persons, providing proper medical treatment for the injured at government expense.

Unrepaired road

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said around 600 students of his institution have been facing difficulties to attend school due to the road's dilapidated state.

Robiul Hossain Bidyut, project manager of Mahbub Brothers Pvt Ltd, said complications arose due to encroachments by local businesses and residences, which hindered the road's renovation work.

"Due to the unrest in recent time, the work remained stopped... The work has resumed in full swing. After the drain

work is done, we will start renovating the road. We hope to complete it by December this year," he added.

Contacted, Mashuazzaman Khan, chief engineer of KCC, said there has been considerable negligence by the contractor firm, which led to the delay in completing the road's renovation.

"We have written to them that if they do not complete the work by December 31, their license will be blacklisted," he added.

AL govt behind 800

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He also accused the Hasina government of taking loans amounting to Tk 18.035 lakh crore in the name of development, with 95 percent of the funds being looted by her family members and party affiliates.

Rizvi arrived in Dinajpur yesterday morning and met with the families of Abdur Rashid of Katapara village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila and Asaduzzaman Babu, a

rickshaw puller from Biral upazila.

Asaduzzaman was shot dead on August 5 in front of Jatrabari Police Station in Dhaka.

Rizvi offered financial assistance and his condolences to both families.

"Their deaths are irreparable... the nation will remember them forever," he said.

He also gave gifts to Rashid's newborn child.

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they were behind my son's killing," Rabbi said.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE

Rab-11 conducted a drive on Sunday night, arresting Shafayet Hossain Shipon and Mamun Mia from Chashara and Kalir Bazar in Narayanganj city.

The next day, another person, Kajal Hawlader, was arrested from Dhaka.

Their names were on the list of a leaked Rab investigation alongside Azmery Osman.

On Wednesday, Rab arrested Jamshed Sheikh, 36, the driver of Azmery, from Dhaka's Mirpur.

According to the draft probe, Jamshed was driving the car, in which Taqi's body was taken for dumping in the Shitalakkhya.

Previously, Yusuf Hossain Liton, Sultan Shawkat Bromor, Rifat, Tayebuddin, and Simanta – all named in the draft report, were arrested in connection with Taqi's murder.

Yousuf and Sultan confessed to the crime before a magistrate, but all five have since been absconding after being

released on bail.

Rab-11 CO Pasha said the Taqi murder investigation reached a near conclusion in 2013, but progress slowed after the then CO was transferred.

He mentioned that while many suspects were identified, not all were found, and a committee has been formed to complete the probe.

Pasha said they aim to submit the charge sheet within three months, as the current environment allows for an impartial investigation.

WHAT WAS IN THE LEAKED REPORT

According to the leaked probe findings, Azmery not only masterminded the murder, but also directly took part in it.

According to the report, Azmery killed Taqi as his father Rafiur Rabbi, a left-leaning leader and a cultural organiser, along with his supporters actively campaigned for Selina Hayat Ivy ahead of the Narayanganj City Corporation election.

At his directives, his accomplices abducted Taqi and took him to his

"torture centre" at Winner Fashion on Allama Iqbal Road on March 6, 2013.

Later that night, Azmery and his cohorts beat and strangled Taqi to death.

His body was then put into a sack and taken to Charargop area in Azmery's car.

From there, the killers took the body to Kumudini Jora Khal in a boat and dumped it in the Shitalakkhya sometime between 1:00am and 1:30am on March 7.

Earlier on August 7, 2013, Rab raided Azmery's "Winner Fashion" office in Narayanganj, seizing blood-stained jeans, a pistol butt, and yaba consumption equipment.

Bullet marks were found on the walls, an almirah, and a sofa.

"Winner Fashion" was one of six known torture cells identified by Taqi Mancha, a citizen platform formed in 2014 to combat crime in Narayanganj.

Neither Shamin Osman nor anyone from his family could be reached for comments. Earlier, he denied any involvement of his family with the killing.