

SNAPS

Power supply to 2 state owned mills cut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

The Power Development Board (PDB) on Wednesday snapped electricity connections to state-owned Peoples Jute Mill and Eastern Jute Mill here for non-payment of outstanding bills amounting Tk 39 crore and 12 lakh.

Production remained suspended, sources at the mills said yesterday.

According to PDB, Peoples Jute Mill owe it Tk 33cr 74 lakh and Eastern Jute Mill over Tk 5 crore 37 lakh.

None of these two mills can pay their huge outstanding dues to PDB even in installments as those are running at loss, said an official at BJMC zonal office.

PDB, on the other hand, is determined not to restore the power supply unless paid in full, sources said.

7 get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Seven persons including a former Union Parishad chairman were sentenced to life term for murdering an old man in 1993.

Additional District and Sessions Judge AKM Sirajul Islam handed down the punishment to Akbar Ali Moral, former chairman of Bishnupur union in Kaligonj upazila, Ashraf Ali Moral, Nurul Islam Kanikar, Rabu Mohan Alias Rabinadra Haricharan, Subhadra Bibi and Sabiran Nesa and Narayan Chandra for beating Mohammad Ali Gazi to death at Fatepur village in Kaligonj upazila on April 9, 1993.

All of them except Narayan Chandra were present in the court during delivery of the verdict.

Dacoits kill one in Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, *Feni*

A young man was killed and three others including two women were injured by robbers at Gohatua village in Feni Sadar thana Tuesday night.

Police and family sources said, the bandits killed Yousuf, 35, and hacked his wife Zahura Begum, 25, mother Firoza, 58 and brother-in-law Khokon as they tried to resist them.

Critically injured Zahura was sent to Feni Sadar Hospital. The body was sent to the same hospital for autopsy.

One killed by husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

A housewife has been killed by her husband at Char Shiba village in Galachipa upazila.

After years of bitter relation with her husband Ismail Fakir, Kohinooor Begum, 40, was living with her daughter, married to a man in the same village.

On Wednesday night, she came to her husband's house to see her son Hasan.

At this, Ismail became angry and hacked her with sharp weapons. She died on the spot. Police recovered the body and sent to the Patuakhali Hospital morgue for autopsy. Hasan has filed a case against his father, police said.

2 kidnapped in dispute over touchstone

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Two persons were abducted from Ila Gainerpar village in Gournadi upazila in Barisal in a dispute over a valuable touchstone.

According to police and local people, six labourers --Jahanshah Fakir, Kabir Kazi, Moksed Sarder, Halim, Jasim and Ayub Ali--got a 24-inch touchstone of Radha-Krishna (Hindu god and goddess) while digging a pond at Brahmonogao village.

They contacted antique smugglers to sell it. Some smugglers offered them Tk 10 lakh. But they demanded more and kept it hidden at the house of Kabir.

Meanwhile, Kabir and Jahanshah told the four others that the touchstone was missing. They did not believe it and a dispute arose.

On Wednesday night, some armed persons, allegedly engaged by the four others abducted Kabir and Jahanshah from their houses, police said.

12 hurt in grenade attack in Chuadanga

Smugglers' bomb injure BDR men in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

At least 12 people including a municipal commissioner were injured when a grenade was hurled at an arbitration meeting at Hat Boalia bus stand at Alamdanga on Thursday.

Chuadanga police said miscreants threw a grenade when Chuadanga BNP vice-president and Alamdanga Municipal Chairman Mir Mohiuddin along with some commissioners were holding a meeting to arbitrate a complaint of toll collection, lodged by shopkeeper Mannan against some local hoodlums.

Municipal Commissioner Ali Aggar Sachhu, Mannan and two others --Faruk and Rubel-- were admitted to Kushtia General

70,000 marooned in Moulvibazar

One missing: road links snapped, rail link with Dhaka, Ctg threatened as track under water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

At least 70,000 people are marooned in 55 villages in Komolganj, Rajnagar and Kulaura upazilas as flood hit Moulvibazar district for the second time this year.

One Abbas Mia of Longurpar village in Komolganj, swept by water, is still missing, police and local people said.

Sylhet's railway link with Dhaka and Chittagong may be snapped any time as a bridge (No-182) near Bhanugachh railway station is under water.

The railway track between Bhanugachh and Shamsernagar

stations are under water. Trains moved over the tracks with caution Thursday night, railway sources said.

Srimongal-Kulaura and Moulvibazar-Kamalgonj road links were cut off yesterday as those went under water at many points.

The situation may deteriorate as water is gushing through several breached embankments of the Dholai and the Monu rivers, swelled by three days' rain and waters rolling from the upstream across the border, Water Development Board (WDB) officials at Moulvibazar and local people said yesterday.

They said Dhalai and Monu

were flowing two feet and three feet above their respective danger marks at noon yesterday.

The Dholai breached its embankments at Uzirpur, Kumrakapon, Mokabil, Ghoramara and several other points. The Dholai had breached its embankments at several points during the April flash flood, but were not repaired.

The Monu breached its embankment at least at three points in Tengra, Tilagaon and Sharipur unions, flooding most areas of Rajnagar and Kulaura upazilas. The embankment is threatened at some other points as the river is swelling, the officials said.

People of the affected areas have left homes and taken shelter in highlands.

Deputy Commissioner Md Mukhlesur Rahman and Police Superintendent Rawshan Ara Begum visited the flood affected areas of Kamalgonj upazila yesterday.

So far, 15 tonnes of rice, Tk 10,000 worth of chira (dry food) and sares and lungis worth Tk 10,000 have been distributed as relief in Kamalgonj upazila.

The WDB officials said they have reports that the two rivers have started receding in the upstream. They may start falling in Moulvibazar in a day or two if there is no more rain, they said.

'Fulfil 13-pt demand of Satkhira people'

Speakers at pre-budget discussion say

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Speakers at a discussion meeting in the town have urged the government to allocate more funds in the national budget for fiscal 2004-05 for development of "neglected" Satkhira.

They urged the finance minister to allocate funds to fulfil the 13-point demand of Satkhira Unnayan Committee (Satkhira Development Committee), contained in a memorandum addressed to him on June 4.

They criticised successive governments for not allocating required funds in national budgets for development of Satkhira.

The discussion on 'Demand of Satkhira People and National

Budget', held at the Khan Market on Thursday, was organised by the Committee, a civil society body formed last year.

Former State Minister Dr Aftabuzzaman was the chief guest at the function with Principal Sheikh Abdul Wadood in the chair.

The speakers included local daily Satkhira Chitra's Editor Anisur Rahim, Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar, Principal Khairul Islam, Principal Tamizuddin, Action AID Bangladesh Policy Analyst Shahidur Rahman, local NGO Uttarar's Co-ordinator Mahtab Uddin, college teachers Gazi Abdul Kashem, Prof Mainul Hsan and Tahsina Begum, journalist Mizanur Rahman, Parulia Union Parishad Chairman Golam

Farooq Babu, Saifullah Sarker, Advocate Abul Kalam Azad, Mainul Islam and Mobaserul Haq. A large number of people from all sections including educationists, lawyers, NGO men, local government representatives and civil society members were present.

Dr Aftabuzzaman in his speech said Satkhira earns foreign currency for the country by producing shrimp and frozen food but it is deprived of the due share of development funds.

He urged the government to include the 13-point demand for welfare of 20 lakh people of the district. "These are legitimate demands".

Other speakers said, Satkhira

being a remote district has been ignored in annual development plans by successive governments. So the Satkhira Unnayan Committee prepared the 13-point demand. But those have been ignored again.

The demands include setting up of a 132 KV sub-station and an agriculture college, extension of telephone facilities, creation of a tourist spot in the district near the Sundarbans, re-excavation of silted Sabodakh, Betna, Marichap and Kakshiali rivers, conservation of bio-diversity of the Sundarbans, rehabilitation of the poor affected by shrimp cultivation, rail link with the district and turning Bhomra custom station into a land port.



Former State Minister Aftabuzzaman addressing the discussion meeting organised by the Satkhira Unnayan Committee (left) and part of the audience (right).

CUET crisis deepens as authorities unmoved

Teachers continue class boycott, to announce 'no-confidence' against VC, tough programmes after June 30

CU CORRESPONDENT

Deadlock persists at the Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) as teachers are not taking classes since June 2 demanding withdrawal of show-cause notices on seven of their colleagues, served by the university authorities.

However, semester and final year examinations are being held.

The indefinite class boycott programme was announced by the CUET Teachers' Association (CUETTA), which is also demanding appointment of an engineer as Vice Chancellor of the university.

In view of the class boycott by teachers, the university authorities closed the university on June 5 till

June 19 and then extended the closure till June 29.

The CUETTA at its general meeting on Thursday decided to continue the class boycott and go for tougher programmes including 'no confidence' against the VC if their demands are not met by June 30. The meeting was presided over by its president Engineer Md Abdul Wazed.

They also announced a sit-in programme on the campus on June 29. There will be a "complete deadlock" if the demands are not met by June 30, sources in CUETTA said.

Speakers at Thursday's meeting said that the three other newly upgraded universities of engineering and technology got VCs but the CUET is being deprived and run by the director of then BIT, Chittagong

as the acting VC.

When contacted CUETTA General Secretary Mir Swaki Kaosar told this correspondent that they are likely to announce a 'no confidence' against the VC at its next meeting on June 30 if their demands are not fulfilled.

The CUET authorities had served notices on seven teachers including the president and the general secretary of CUETTA asking them to show cause why they would not be sacked for taking part in a silent procession on the campus on May 16.

On May 16, the CUETTA had brought out a silent procession demanding immediate appointment of an engineer as Vice Chancellor of the university to improve academic activities.

Jubo Dal leader held with arms for extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Police arrested a leader of Jubo Dal, youth front of ruling BNP, with a firearm when he was torturing a contractor for extortion.

Police said they arrested Biplob Rahman when he was beating Motlud Uddin, a sub-contractor of Major Bridge Engineering Company in Bheramara, as he declined to pay a toll of Tk one lakh. Motlud is collecting toll from vehicles on the newly built Lalon Shah Bridge on a contract.

Biplob and some of accomplices picked up Motlud from his, took him to a nearby place and were torturing him to realise the toll.

Tipped-off, Bheramara and Paksy police rushed to the spot, arrested the Jubo Dal leader with a rifle and rescued the Motlud.

Police later said Biplob was a gang leader involved in crimes in the area. A case has been filed.



Momtaj (wearing shirt) on a routine checkup of fishes at one of his ponds.

An effort needs support

Once landless Momtaj, now a rich fish farmer without govt help, wants to set up a modern hatchery to train youths

RAFIQUE SARKER back from Aditmari (Lalmonirhat)

RANGPUR: Once landless Momtaj Miah now runs a big fishery project, built without any government assistance. He plans to set up a modern hatchery to train youths, particularly local youths, in fishery.

Seven years back, he used catch fish in open waterbodies and sell in markets for survival. He had no land and pond of his own. Often his family had to remain half-fed.

Twenty-four people now work in his project covering 19 big ponds and two marshes at Mushrat Douzore village under Aditmari in Lalmonirhat district.

Two of the ponds are owned by him and the rest leased. Over the years, he also bought seven bighas of cultivable land.

This year he expects to earn a profit of around Tk 20 lakh.

"I changed my lot only with hard labour and honesty", said 38-year-old Momtaj.

"I had to borrow money from

moneylenders as I did not get any help from any government agency, except a short training on fishery", he deplored while talking to this correspondent during a visit to the village.

Narrating his days before 1997, Momtaj said he could hardly manage two meals a day for his family.

He left home for Bogra in search of work.

As he had a fascination for fishery, he managed a job at a hatchery, 10 km east of Bgra town.

Success stories of fish farmers who went there to buy fries stirred his hidden craving for fishery.

After six months, he went back home.

He borrowed Tk 10,000 from a neighbour and leased two ponds for fish culture.

In one year, he earned a profit of Tk 15,000, after meeting all expenditures.

Enthused, Momtaj invested more money by taking loan from moneylenders and devoted all his

energy and time to fish farming. He leased more ponds.

The nature did not betray his hard labour, but he could not convince the local fishery department officials.

Momtaj alleged that he sought help from the fisheries department, but got nothing except a short training. "What is the use of certificates if I do not get money?" He applied to the fisheries department thrice for loan, but was denied.

"People trust me. I borrowed money from moneylenders and rich people of the area on interest. Of course, they charge high interest rate.

"Had I been given loan from bank or any other organization, I could have earned more profit".

"I am now planning to set up a modern hatchery at my village so that unemployed youths can take training and be self-reliant. This will be easier if government helps me", he said

CU SYNDICATE POLLS

BNP, Jamaat contest with separate panels

CU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers aligned with ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami are contesting the Chittagong University Syndicate election scheduled for June 30 with separate panels as efforts for unity failed.

Both the groups earlier belonged to the 'while panel'.

On the other hand, teachers supporting opposition Awami League and left parties are united

and contesting the polls with 'yellow panel'.

Vice Chancellor Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury on June 15 held a meeting with leaders of BNP and Jamaat backed teachers at his office to forge a unity, but it produced no result, sources said.

The election will be held for representatives of four categories of teachers --Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor and Lecturer.

The candidates of the BNP-backed panel, led by former Pro VC Prof M Badrul Alam, are Prof ANM Munir Ahmed, Md Tayeb Chowdhury, SM Nazrul Quadir and Monzurul Kibria.

The Jamaat backed candidates in the other panel are Prof M Emdadul Haq, Dr Al Forkan, Dr Towhidul Hasan and Md Saiful Islam.

The 'yellow panel' candidates are Prof Kazi Mostain Billah, Hossain Kabir, Mahbubur Rahman and Md Delwar Hossain.



A woman sifting through the wreckage of her house at Bejora village in Majhira upazila, razed to the ground by a cyclone that ploughed through part of the town and adjoining areas Wednesday night. At least 50 people were injured and over 1000 houses flattened in the foray that also tore down power supply lines and uprooted trees in seven to eight minutes, local people said. Power supply was restored on Thursday. Local meteorological office recorded the cyclone at 87 kilometers per hour.

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