

## Cradled 'criminals' in courts



Cradled Mithu (left), Momin and eight year-old Shafiqul along with his mother appear before Barisal courts to pray for bail in criminal cases.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Minor children are being accused in cases in Barisal even after police investigation.

At least three children, accused in cases, were granted bail by magistrate courts on January 24, 28 and 29, according to court sources here.

Five year-old Golam Hossain Mithu, was cradled by his mother when he appeared before the court on January 24. Mithu of Harta village in Uzirpur upazila was accused in a criminal case filed for forging land documents.

Magistrate Munim Hassan immediately granted him bail and served a show-cause notice on investigation officer Sub Inspector

Parimal Chakraborty, who accepted the case on November 26 last year after three month's investigation.

The accused was only three and a half years old when the alleged crime was committed, sources said.

Five year-old Maksudur Rahman Momin, of Char Batkhra village in Chapnara union in Mehdiganj upazila, was accused in a cheating case lodged with a magistrate court on July 11 last year. His grandfather brought him to the court on January 29.

Momin was accused in the case on September 12 last year along with five others of his family. Magistrate Mohsin Ali granted

him bail when Momin 'surrendered' before the court.

Shafikul Bepari, 8, a student of class five, was accused on January 24 in a case on clashes between neighboring families at Khejurbari village in Banaripara upazila.

Magistrate Debasish Nag granted Shafikul bail when he 'surrendered' before the court on January 29.

The incidents of minor children being accused in cases were criticised by lawyers and high police officials. Public prosecutor Kamrul Ahsan Shahin and advocate Matabendra Babobayal, former president of Barisal District Bar Association, said accusing minor children in criminal cases even after police investigation is

violation of human rights and very much unfair. It proves how much irresponsible law enforcers are, they said.

These proved that investigators filed their reports and accepted the cases without proper investigation and field visit, they added.

Barisal Police Superintendent Ashrafur Rahman said usually cases are accepted according to description in first information report (FIR) lodged by complainant or on court order.

If the children were accused in charge sheet, police officials concerned could be made liable for wrong investigation, the SP added.

Sadar thana officer-in-charge (OC) Nawsher Ali confirmed filing of the case and said they are investigating the matter.

Doctor held for rape attempt on patient

Case filed under Woman Repression Prevention Act

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police have arrested a doctor for allegedly trying to violate a female patient Sunday at his clinic at Palashpore in Satkhira town.

The arrested physician is Dr. Kamruzzaman, working at Khulna Diagnostic Centre in front of Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

Police said, Rehana Khatun, 20, of Shaldanga village in Sadar upazila came to the diagnostic center on Sunday for tests.

As she entered the room with her husband waiting outside, the doctor tried to violate her.

As she screamed the doctor and his men threatened her and her husband with 'dire consequences' if they disclosed the matter, she said in a case filed with the Sadar police station under Women Repression Preventive Act, 2000.

When contacted at the police station, Dr Kamruzzaman denied allegation. She might have lodged case due to previous enmity, he said but could not elaborate.

Sadar thana officer-in-charge (OC) Nawsher Ali confirmed filing of the case and said they are investigating the matter.

ATTEMPT TO RESIST COPYING AT EXAM

## Death threat to RU teacher by JCD leader

RU CORRESPONDENT

A teacher of Law and Justice department at Rajshahi University got death threat from a Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader as he tried to desist him from copying during examination yesterday.

The teacher--Morshedul Islam Peter--lodged a general diary with Matiher police station and also submitted a copy of the GD to university authorities, campus sources said.

In the GD, the teacher said Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) joint convener of its Nabab Abdul Latif Hall unit Ashik Iqbal Romel, an Honours examinee of law and justice department, was appearing at examination at room No. 245.

As he was copying, invigilator Morshedul Islam took away the

copy chit and seized the answer script for an hour as punishment. When the examination ended, the JCD leader threatened the teacher saying, "You have to face consequences like Abdul Alim".

Alim was also teacher of the same department who was stabbed by unidentified criminals on February 1.

Morshedul also alleged that when he was returning to his Talaimari residence at around 2 pm, Romel along with some other JCD activists intercepted his rickshaw in front of University School and threatened to kill him for seizing his answer script.

Being informed, Morshedul's colleagues Sarker Ali Akkas, ANM Wahed Chandan and Ahsan Habib Bipu rescued him from JCD activist and escorted him to his residence, campus sources said.

Talking to newsmen later, chairman of the department Prof Rabiu Hossain admitted the incident and said, "We have informed police and requested them for prompt action."

Teachers of the department will also hold a meeting today (Wednesday) to discuss the matter, he said.

Rajshahi University Proctor Enamul Haque said, "We received the allegation and took the matter seriously".

Mizanur Rahman, officer in charge of Matiher police station, when contacted said, "We are trying to arrest the culprits". Nuruzzaman Likhon, convenor of RU JCD unit, told newsmen that he heard about the incident and that action would be taken against Romel if the allegation is proved.

## 3 cops suspended for harassing innocent man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two policemen including a sub-inspector (SI) of Shyamnagar police station were suspended yesterday for picking up an 'innocent' man and freeing him after realising Tk 10,000.

The suspended police personnel are SI Mafizul Islam and constable Manirul Islam of Shyamnagar police station.

Earlier, assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Anisur Rahman of Shyamnagar police station was also

suspended on February 3 for the same offence.

According to sources, ASI Anisur Rahman sent constable Manirul Islam to the house of one Arshad Ali at Iswaripur of village on January 10 and brought him to the police station on charge of being a drug peddler.

On way to the police station, constable Manirul took Tk 3000 and a mobile phone from Arshad Ali.

Duty officer SI Mafizul Islam detained him at the thana hajat. ASI Anis demanded Tk 10,000 from him for his release. After realis-

ing Tk 10,000 from the victim's son Zahur Ahmed, SI Mafizul and ASI Anis freed Arshad Ali on the same day.

Arshad Ali filed an allegation to Satkhira Police Superintendent against them.

SP Abdullaheb Baki went to Shyamnagar police station on February 3 and suspended ASI Anis as primary investigation proved the allegation.

The SP later suspended SI Mafizul and constable Manirul.

On contact, Arshad Ali said the police personnel harassed him and took Tk 10,000 from his son branding him as a drug peddler.

SP Abdullaheb Baki confirmed the incident and said a departmental case has already been filed against them.

He said stern action will be taken if any policeman is found harassing innocent people.

## Two outlaws surrender to Rab in Kushtia

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Two outlaws surrendered to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Kushtia along with arms, saying they want to go back to normal life.

They are Moslem Uddin, 24, son of Rahamat Ali and Rasedul Islam, 32, son of Ainul Haq of Katchubaria village in Mirpur upazila in the district.

The outlaws, after surrender, begged pardon to local people for their previous activities and urged other derailed youths to follow them. They also surrendered two rifles and three bullets.

According to Rab, both the outlaws were 'criminals' listed in Mirpur police. Moslem is accused in two murder cases and another case for extortion while Badal also faces several cases.

Rab took them to its Kushtia office and after interrogation handed over to Kushtia Sadar police. Police sent them to Kushtia jail.

Two more cases for possessing illegal firearms have been filed against them. Law enforcers said they would be treated under existing law.

## 32 fall sick after taking cakes in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 32 people including eight of a family fell sick after taking Pittha (cake) made with milk at Mathail Chapor village in Kazipur upazila in the district yesterday.

They were admitted to Kazipur Health Complex and Sirajganj Sadar Hospital. Condition of eight of them is serious, hospital sources said.

Locals and police said Mozahar Ali of the village arranged a winter festival and invited his relatives to his house for a dinner Monday night. The cakes were served yesterday morning.

Doctors said, the cakes might have been infected by adulterated molasses.

## Fake TSP fertiliser seized in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police in separate drives in Gangachara and Rangpur Sader upazila seized 200 bags of adulterated TSP fertiliser and tobacco products on Monday.

Acting on a tip off, a team led by Police Superintendent Hasib Aziz raided the godown of fertiliser retailer Kibria at Nicholchandi.

Gangachara upazila and seized 200 bags of adulterated TSP.

Police said, Kibria had been marketing adulterated TSP for long.

Another police team seized 17 bags of gool (chewing tobacco dust) and jarda from Burerhat area in the Sadar upazila.

Police said, one Saleem Miah of Dhaka hired a house and produced the adulterated tobacco products including gool, and bidi.

Part of the huge quantity of adulterated fertiliser seized at Nagarbari in Pabna by joint forces yesterday (story on page one).

4x2

8.5x2

6x2

9x3