

JMB cadre, 2
outlaws held
in Bagmara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested an alleged JMB militant and two outlaws belonging to Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) from Bagmara in Rajshahi yesterday.

Police said arrested JMB militant Motiar Rahman, 30, of Kamargaon village was accused in several cases including Mahbub murder case and another for police assault in 2005.

The two arrested PBCP cadres are Sayer Ali Khan, 50 of Baroihati and Mansur, 40, of Bajekola vil-lage.

Sayer Ali, who was absconding for several years, was arrested from his house. His son Abdur Rashid, a 'regional commander' of PBCP, was killed in crossfire with Rapid Action Battalion in 2004.

Mansur was a listed outlaw, police said.

Officer-in-Charge of Bagmara police station Mirza Golam Sarwar said locals helped police to arrest the JMB cadre and the outlaws.

Extortion, cheating case against Satkhira BNP vice-president

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An extortion and cheating case was filed against Satkhira district BNP vice- president Abdur Rouf yesterday.

Rouf is also general secretary of district bus owners association and chairman of Alipur Union Parishad (UP) in Sadar upazila.

Osman Faruk, son of former UP member late Abdul Mazed of Alipur village, filed the case with the Sadar thana under Sections 420,406, 385 and 506 BPC (Bangladesh Penal Code).

In the case, Osman Faruk alleged that Rouf has been cultivating shrimp on 461 bighas of land including his 37 bighas for long. He also stated in the complaint that he has a land dispute

with Rouf and a case in this regard is pending with the district judge's court.

Taking advantage of the case, Rouf stopped payment of the lease money of Tk 17,14, 000 for his lands since 1993, Osman alleged.

It was decided at a local arbitration that Rouf would give him the lease money, but he did not pay, according to the FIR.

Rather, Rouf, being a leader of the then ruling party, demanded toll from him whenever he went to him for the lease money, Osman alleged.

When contacted, Osman said he filed the case failing to realise the lease money. There was no alternative to filing case as Abdur Rouf is on run since promulgation

of emergency, Osman claimed.

When contacted over cell phone, Abdur Rouf denied the allegation and said it is a conspiracy to tarnish his image. The land case is yet to be disposed of by the court, he said.

He also said he is not hiding to evade arrest.

Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge Shafiqur Rahman confirmed filing of the case and said accused Rouf is absconding since declaration of emergency.

Abdur Rouf was also arrested during the 'operation clean heart' in 2005, launched by the army to net alleged criminals and godfathers of terrorists. He was released after detention of about three months, police sources said.

BJMC to make
part payment
to jute mill
workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) is likely to make part payment of arrear wages of the workers by Thursday, said Crescent Jute Mill (CJM) general manager (GM) Shamim Ahmed, also acting coordinator of Khulna zonal office of BJMC.

The rest amount will be paid in due course, he said.

Shamim identified three factors for deadlock in jute sector in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt. But he refused to disclose the factors in the wake of the current crisis. The crisis was created following agitation launched by workers in demand of payment of arrears including Eid bonus and withdrawal of lay-off in four state-owned jute mills.

No untoward incident occurred in Khalishpur industrial belt although normal life came to a standstill. An amount of over Tk 60-crore will be required to make full payment of arrear wages and salaries to workers and employees of the laid- off mills.



PHOTO: STAR
Children formed a human chain in Barisal city yesterday to create awareness about their rights and stop trafficking. It was organised by Aparajeya Bangla, a local NGO.

110 MW Khulna plant silent again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The 110 MW power plant in Khulna again went out of order Sunday evening for the fourth time in the current month.

According to sources in the West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZPDCL), the 110 MW plant became silent due to leakage in boiler tubes. It may resume power generation on Wednesday or Thursday, the sources said.

The plant earlier went out of

order on April 5, 8 and 14.

WZPDCL sources said all the boiler tubes of the 110 MW plant have virtually become inoperative. At least 3 or 4 days are required to repair the boiler tubes, which frequently goes out of order.

They alleged that WZPDCL authorities did never pay heed to repeated reminders to replace the old boiler tubes with new ones.

Another 60 MW plant in Khulna is inoperative for nine months. There

has so far been no indication of any move to put the plant into operation, reportedly due to bureaucratic tangle and fund crisis, other sources said.

The entire south-western zone including greater Khulna is again in the grip of a severe power crisis due as the 110 MWT and 60 MWT plants are silent. Only 219 megawatt of power was supplied on Sunday against the demand for 580 MW, WZPDCL sources said.

REPORT ON ALLEGED CORRUPTION BY EX-BNP MP

Tk 10 cr defamation case against Kushtia daily editor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A former BNP lawmaker from Kushtia has filed a Tk 10 crore defamation case against an editor of a Kushtia daily for publishing news on his alleged corruption.

Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi, immediate past lawmaker from Kushtia-4 and general secretary of Kushtia district BNP, filed the case on Sunday against Editor and publisher of Dainik Andoloner Bazar Manjur Ehsan Choudhury.

According to case, the daily published a news on March 28 under the headline 'Intelligence agencies have started to justify the evidences recovered from Hawa Bhaban on alleged corruption by Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi.' The daily also printed a photo of Mehedi.

In the case, the BNP leader said he sent a rejoinder on March 30 protesting the 'baseless and fabricated' news. But it was not publish in the daily, the complainant said.

Later, Mehedi served a legal notice on the editor on April 3 demanding Tk 10 crore for defaming him. But authorities of the daily ignored legal notice, Mehedi claimed in the case.

Mehedi then filed the case with a First Class Magistrate court in Kushtia on Sunday.

When contacted, Manjur Ehsan Choudhury said, "It is a conspiracy to throttle his newspaper."

Majur claimed that the BNP leader did not send any rejoinder to his office after the news was published.

"I got a legal notice only", he said. News on alleged corruption by the lawmaker were also published by some Dhaka-based national dailies, he said.

Manjur urged the caretaker government to investigate the alleged corruption done by the former BNP lawmaker in last 10 years.

Woman killed,
50 hurt
in Chandpur
nor'wester

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A nor'wester that lashed Faridganj uapzila area of the district Sunday night left a widow killed on the spot and about 50 others injured besides uprooting innumerable trees and damaging at least 250 houses.

The woman killed in a house collapse during 20-minute -long storm, was identified as Moriam Begum, 45 of Kobi Rupsha village in Rupsha North union, official source said yesterday.

The 20-minute nor'wester left a trail of devastation in at least 8 villages. The worst affected villages are Daichora, Rupsha, West Rupsha, Jamalpur, Mirpur and Shahpur.

Faridganj UNO Md Alim Akhtar visited the affected areas including the home of Moriam.

This was the first nor'wester in the district this year.

Seriously injured eight people were admitted to the local health complex, the sources said.

Fugitive convict
of triple murder
case arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A fugitive convict of a triple murder case who was awarded death penalty by a court here earlier was arrested by the members of government railway police (GRP) in the early hours of Sunday, police said.

GRP sources said, the fugitive, Manik, was arrested from an inter-city train as a member of a gang of snatchers called 'Aggan Party.'

After his arrest, Manik was identified as the main accused of the triple murder of Medda here. Later, he was sent to jail custody.

He was absconding since his conviction by the court.

Earlier, all the eight convicts but him were arrested.

They killed Md Akter, a first class contactor, his wife Joli and daughter Arna on August 10, 2005.

