

CORRUPTION AND OTHER CRIMES

31 Pabna AL, BNP leaders on the run

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Thirty-one leaders of Awami League and BNP in Pabna including two former lawmakers are on the run to evade arrest, top police officials said.

They are among 40 people on the list of law enforcers, wanted for alleged involvement in corruption and sheltering miscreants, the sources said. The list also includes some Union Parishad chairmen.

Nine belonging to both AL and BNP were arrested on April 10 and 11 and are now in jail on 30 days' detention, police sources said. After arrest of the nine, the rest on the list are on their heels, the sources said.

"We listed 40 political leaders including two former lawmakers for their alleged involvement in corruption and sheltering terrorists and miscreants", a police official told this correspondent on Sunday. "We arrested nine of them and the rest are absconding. Law enforcing agencies are trying to nab them", the official said seeking anonymity.

He declined to name the leaders but said the two former lawmakers from AL and BNP are on top of the list. When contacted, ACC Director

"One of them obtained an anticipatory bail from court but the official letter is yet to reach us", the official added.

Joint forces recovered government relief CI sheets from a poultry farm owned by one of the former lawmakers on February 17. The former lawmaker and his son face cases filed with Chatmohor police station in this connection, he said.

Joint forces also raided the former lawmaker's residence on February 17 but he escaped, he added.

"I heard that he (the former lawmaker) obtained anticipatory bail from High Court last week. We are yet to get any official letter in this regard", Officer-in-Charge of Chatmohor police station Zahidul Islam said.

Police sources said joint forces on February 18 seized 412 pieces of CI sheets from an educational institution set up by another former lawmaker. A case was filed in this connection with Sujanagar police station. Pabna Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) is also investigating the case, OC of Shujanagar police station Md. Tariqul Islam said.

When contacted, ACC Director

FLAG MEETING Joint border patrol in B'baria agreed upon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A battalion commander level flag meeting between BDR and Indian BSF was held at Kashba railway station ground in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

The meeting discussed ways to stop cross-border smuggling, drug peddling, trafficking and other crimes, BDR sources said.

To enhance vigilance against the crimes, BDR and BSF officials agreed to start joint patrolling along borders of the two countries, the sources said.

BSF also agreed to stop hemp cultivation in areas near Tripura border in India.

A five-member BDR team was led by Lt. Col. Sayed Raihanul Haque, Commanding Officer of 33 BDR Battalion while the four-member Indian team was led by AK Sarma, Commanding Officer of 22 BSF Battalion.

The flag meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and concluded with a fruitful result, the source said.

2 Jubo Dal leaders held in Kurigram

A CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Kurigram Sadar police arrested district Jubo Dal joint secretary Shahanur Ashraf Juel and vice-president of its municipal unit Ashan Kabir Likhan in the town yesterday.

Police said a case was filed against them under Section 54.

Besides, police in last 24 hours arrested 13 others from different areas of the district on various charges.

Training for crew begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A two-day training course for crew of water vessels, ansars and fire fighters began at Barisal port yesterday.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) organised the training.

BIWTA director (Operation and Transport) Motahar Hossain presided the opening ceremony of the training course where participants were being imparted training on safe navigation of water vessels and related issues.

More than 3,000 lives were lost in 46 major launch accidents since liberation of the country.

The training was organised as part of BIWTA's new initiative to impart training on navigation to at least 1,500 crew at 12 ports across the country, said BIWTA officials.

A centre to impart short course training to crew will be established in Barisal in near future, they disclosed.

Sunil Kanti Bose, chairman of BIWTA, Bijon Kanti Sarkar, divisional commissioner, Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, additional deputy inspector general of police, Lokman Hakim, deputy commissioner of Barisal Metropolitan Police, Golam Mawla, district president of district launch owners' association and vice president of central launch owners association, Nasimul Alam, former president of Barisal Journalists' Union and Reporters' Unity addressed the inaugural ceremony.

About 60 crew, ansars and fire fighters are participating in the training course.

The spillway at Madhutila Eco-Park in Sherpur.

PHOTO: STAR

Madhutila Eco-Park becoming attractive tourist spot

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Madhutila Eco-Park in Sherpur district has become an attractive tourist spot with sufficient breathing spaces and scopes for amusement.

The eco-park covering 380 acres of land in Sameshchura and Puragoan under Madhutila Forest Range in Nitabari upazila is the first man-made park for tourists in greater Mymensingh.

Madhutila, a frontier upazila in Sherpur, is bestowed with natural beauty with small hills. Hundreds of tourists visit the park every day during dry season, according to official sources.

To develop the Madhutila Eco-Park, the forest department took up the Madhutila Eco-Park Project-First Phase in 1999-2000

financial year covering 100 acres of forestland.

The project included a feeding place for birds and animals, plantation of rare varieties of trees and decorative and medicinal plants.

The Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) constructed a rest house, office and residential accommodation for officials and employees.

The LGED set up sculptures of elephant, alligators, tigers, deer, mermaids, snakes and frogs, dug lakes, constructed a watch tower atop a hill and a spillway. There are paddle boats in the lakes.

The first phase was completed in June 2004 at a cost of Tk. 1.64 crore, official sources said.

Work on the second phase was started in 2005-2006 financial year involving Tk 4 crore and will

be completed in FY 2008-2009.

The second phase work includes constructions of a mini zoo, children's corner, mural of animals and plants at the main gate of the park, creation of more picnic spots, information centre, display models, parking zone, steel made umbrellas and benches for visitors, said Md. Akbar Hossain, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Mymensingh.

The eco-park is 221 kilometers from the capital and 30 kilometers from Sherpur town. Sherpur is only about four hours' journey from Dhaka.

Albar said the eco-park will be a great attraction for tourists when the project work will be completed.

It will also be a source of revenue for the government.

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Flash floods have washed away about 700 metres of the under-construction dam at Aainapur of Jhenaigati in Sherpur district.

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Madhutila, a frontier upazila in Sherpur, is bestowed with natural beauty with small hills. Hundreds of tourists visit the park every day during dry season, according to official sources.

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Work on the second phase was started in 2005-2006 financial year involving Tk 4 crore and will

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The second phase work includes constructions of a mini zoo, children's corner, mural of animals and plants at the main gate of the park, creation of more picnic spots, information centre, display models, parking zone, steel made umbrellas and benches for visitors, said Md. Akbar Hossain, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Mymensingh.

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