

Minu handed 13 yrs

FROM PAGE 1
said the extortion charges were brought by the authorities of a college that does not even exist. "The false case was filed as part of a conspiracy," she added.

The defence lawyers however declined to comment before the media.

PANKAJ COUPLE

PANKAJ has been sentenced to 10 years' rigorous and three years' simple imprisonment under the ACC Act for accumulating wealth worth over Tk 64 lakh illegally and concealing information from the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) about Tk 4.64 lakh.

Monica has been sentenced to three years under the same sections as well as section 109 of the penal code for earning through dishonest means and aiding her husband in accumulating assets disproportionate to the known sources of income.

The Special Court-1 set up in the MP Hostel in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex also ordered the state to confiscate the property earned illegally. It observed that Pankaj kept the wealth in the name of his wife and mother Sabita Deb Nath.

The AL wing leader will have to serve 13 years in a row while sentences on his wife will be served concurrently. It added that the order against Monica would take effect on the day of her surrender or arrest, said the court.

Judge Firmuz pronounced the judgment at 3:10pm and continued for about half an hour.

Before delivery, the court mentioned that Pankaj did not have any source of income while his wife would work at Arab Bangladesh Bank for a monthly salary of Tk 2,500.

ACC sources said that Pankaj owns a flat worth Tk 30.50 lakh in the name of his wife, a plot worth Tk 6.55

lakh in the name of his mother, and savings certificate worth Tk 32 lakh in Arab Bangladesh Bank in the name of his mother and wife.

He was detained on February 4 in the first raid as part of the crackdown on corrupt suspects.

Meanwhile, verdict in the bribery case against former communications minister Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda will be delivered today.

Judge Shamsunnahar of Special Court-4 will come up with judgment in four tax evasion cases against former minister Shahjahan Siraj's wife Rabeya Haider today.

Referring to his discussion with the newspaper editors, he said, "Since we rely on the media, the confidential discussion was held for building confidence between the government and the media."

"We should stay together to achieve our goals for creating a democratic atmosphere," Mainul observed.

Mahbubul Alam of the Independent, Rabat Khan of the Daily Ittefaq, Abed Khan of the Shamokal, Toab Khan of the Janakantha, Golam Sarwar of the Jugantor, Mahfuz Anam of The Daily Star, Nurul Kabir of the New Age, Riaz Uddin Ahmed of the News Today, Motiur Rahman Chowdhury of the Manabjanin, Amanullah Kabir of the Amar Desh, Bazlur Rahman of the Sangbad, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury of The Daily Observer, Alamgir Mohiuddin of the Naya Diganta and Shyamol Datta of the Bhorer Kagoj, attended the meeting among others.

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No students pass

FROM PAGE 1
colleges was 363 in last year.

No HSC examinee of 23 Alia madrasas and nine technical colleges under the Technical Education Board passed the exams this year.

Six colleges under Dhaka and Barisal Board, eight under Rajshahi Board, five under Jessore Board and three under Chittagong Board failed to have any successful HSC candidate.

But no educational institution under Barisal and Comilla boards has such disappointing HSC result this year.

The number of last performing colleges and madrasas in HSC exams has been decreasing steadily over the last five years.

The number of educational institutes with no success in HSC exams was 131 in 2005 while it was 278 in 2004, 298 in 2003 and 553 in 2002.

A total of 1,046 examinees were expelled this year which was 1,000 in last year, 1,729 in 2005, 3,747 in 2004, 7,616 in 2003, 31,835 in 2002 and 42,270 in 2001.

DU incidents

FROM PAGE 1
Same person had been involved in different incidents while more than one case has been filed for each of those resulting in such a huge number of cases and accused, noted the DMP boss.

As of yesterday afternoon, 25 people have been rounded up.

Naim said investigation into the cases will be completed within the next two weeks. Preparations are on to submit charge sheet or final reports as soon as possible to relieve the people of anxiety.

"We have already started investigation and are trying to hunt down those responsible for the violence," the DMP commissioner said referring to the student unrest at DU and elsewhere in the city between August 20 and 23.

He added that the investigations are being carried out with caution so that no innocent person is subjected to harassment.

Replying to a query, he said he hopes the curfew would be withdrawn soon.

Asked if any other teacher was found to have "provoked the students", he said their probe is still on. About the allegation that crores of taka had been spent on instigating the "acts of vandalism", he said investigation would determine if anything of that sort had happened.

Thousands of students fought pitched battles with the law enforcers on August 20 and the following two days in protest at the beating of three students by the army personnel.

The clashes spread to other parts of the capital, leaving scores of people injured and extensive damage to property.

The statement said though the Press Information Department issued a notice late on Thursday directing print and electronic media personnel to obtain special curfew passes from the metropolitan police, local journalists faced "an extreme shortage of passes available".

It also expressed concern about widespread self-censorship among local broadcast media following Wednesday's remarks by Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain in which he reminded journalists that emergency regulations were in force and urged the media to "play a responsible role".

As he did "request channels to stop televising footage of violence until further notice because this might instigate further violence, private television channels abruptly stopped carrying reports about the street demonstrations, suspending even the popular political discussion programs about the day's news".

On Thursday, two television channels -- Ekushey and CSB news network -- received a written notice from the Press Information Department warning them not to broadcast "provocative" news.

According to its own sources, the CPI said, journalists from print and broadcast media outlets also have been receiving telephone calls, instructing them to exercise greater caution in their reporting.

Simon said, "The political crisis will only be exacerbated by attempts to suppress news and opinion."

"This government must not abuse the extraordinary powers it has under the state of emergency to keep the public in the dark," he maintained.

The water levels of the Brahmaputra and the Jamuna continued to fall and are likely to fall further in the next 24-72 hours. The water level of the Padma also started falling and is likely to continue its downward trend in the next 24-72 hours. The Padma at Goulundo and Bhagyakul receded slightly and is likely to show the same trend in the next 24-72 hours.

Flood situation in the districts of Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Chandpur, Dhaka and Nawabganj upazilas of Dhaka is likely to improve further.

The damage to the fish cultivating water bodies in Sadar upazila is estimated at Tk 1.42 crore, the statistics said.

Besides, structural damage inflicted on the water bodies by the flood in every upazila of the district is estimated at Tk 2.11 crore, while damage to the fish resources is estimated at Tk 7.73 crore.

Mohammad Ashraf Uddin, fish survey officer in Tangail, told The Daily Star that they are making a list of affected fish farmers in the district as part of their plan to compensate them.

"The fish farmers will get only technical support if the government does not provide financial help," he added.

3 RU teachers

FROM PAGE 16
said Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner Mahbubur Rahman.

Meanwhile, a case was filed yesterday against 1,400 to 1,500 unidentified students and outsiders for vandalism on the Chittagong University (CU) campus on Wednesday, reports our CU correspondent.

The teachers were shown arrested in four cases including the fresh one filed with the same police station following the violence on RU campus on August 22.

Mothair Police Station Officer-in-charge Khondoker Ferdous Ahmed said the detained teachers led a silent procession on RU campus on August 21 making an urge to resist the Dhaka University (DU) incidents.

"The banner of the procession read: Stand up to resist the attacks on teachers and students of DU. This slogan clearly showed their (teachers) instigation behind RU violence on August 22," said the OC.

"Following the teachers' support, students called a strike on August 22 which resulted in violence," he said.

"Besides, these teachers were in favour of the students during the rampage. All these activities violated the EPR and they were accused in the case," said the OC.

Meanwhile, Rab members arrested former RU vice chancellor Prof Dr M Saidur Rahman Khan and RU Progressive Teachers' Association convenor Prof Dr M Abdus Sobhan in the wee hours on Friday and former Management Department chairman Prof Moly Kumar Bhoumik in the afternoon from their abodes.

Sources said the taskforce interrogation cell grilled them at Rajshahi Rab headquarters before they were handed over to police on Saturday evening.

Police produced them before a magistrate court that granted a police petition of their 10-day remand.

Since the filing of the case, general students of the university as well as political leaders and activists are now living under a heightened fear of being arrested or harassed by law enforcers, added the sources.

Over 40 students, teachers and police personnel were injured in Wednesday's clash on the campus.

CPI concerned

FROM PAGE 16
unfolding political crisis, without interference from security forces and without fear of retribution from the government," the CPI's Executive Director Joel Simon said.

"The interim government so far has maintained that it is not imposing direct censorship, but it is clearly taking steps to control media coverage," he added.

The statement said the government slapped the indefinite curfew to quell "the scene of violent clashes between police and students who were calling for an end to the emergency rule".

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ACC chief

FROM PAGE 16
forward with better ideas for removing these fear factors, he added.

The ACC chief said it is not the entire business sector or the people who are scared due to the anti corruption drive. "We know who are scared. Till now we have asked 200 people to submit their wealth statements, but they didn't submit," he said adding that none of them could be arrested and petitions have been filed to the Supreme Court or High Court against the order.

"If we lose, we will restart the whole process again," he said.

He, however, said that the ACC has no problem if the government decides to find out any other way by which this fear will be over for once and all people will come out clean, which they did a few days back and all know who they are.

"My point is why should such people be let off, those who had been lecturing you and me on giving taxes," he posed the question.

FICCI President Masih UI Karim and Vice-President Carlo Cifello also spoke at the function.

The President told the elected representatives that the government would raise the issue of Sharif brothers' return in violation of the agreement with Saudi Arabia. "The Sharifs are bound to abide by the 'exile' agreement and the Saudi government will be approached in this connection," Sharif, who was ousted in a military coup in 1999, has denied entering into any deal with the government, which required his family members to stay out of the country for at least ten years. But, the government insists that he had signed the 'exile' pact in exchange for a presidential pardon.

However, Musharraf told the ruling party heavyweights that self-exiled former Premier Benazir would only be allowed to return to the country after general elections. "There's no possibility of her return before the polls."

Students from business studies group have marked a significant progress with pass percentage of 74.58 while 68.17 per cent passed from science group and 56.14 per cent from humanities group.

Like the previous year, colleges in urban areas, particularly those in metropolitan cities, dominated in the GPA-5 category and institutions with hundred per cent pass rate.

Among the top ten GPA-5 winning colleges in each of the education boards, nine are in the capital under Dhaka Board, nine in Jessore, Khulna, Jhenidah and Kushtia under Jessore Board, eight in Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Habiganj under Sylhet Board, six in Rangpur, Bogra, Dinajpur and Pabna under Rajshahi Board, six in Comilla, Noakhali, Feni and Brahmanbaria under Comilla Board, five in Barisal and Pirojpur under Barisal Board and four in Chittagong under Chittagong Board.

Highest 825 students of Notre Dame College in the capital secured GPA-5, followed by the city's Vignanshri Noon College with 493 students and Dhaka City College with 348 students achieving the same grade point average.

In Dhaka Board, 90,422 of the 1,27,767 examinees passed the exams with the pass percentage of 70.77 against 74.76 of last year. As many as 37,092 students took the examinations under Chittagong Board and 22,759 among those who passed making for a percentage of 61.36 against 61.45 of last year.

Among the 1,02,108 candidates under Rajshahi Board, 63,193 came out successful with a pass percentage of 61.89 against 56.76 of last year. Under Jessore Board, 78,134 students

appeared in the examinations and 46,478 passed. The pass percentage is 59.48 against last year's 54.40.

Under Comilla Board, 30,295 examinees out of 46,073 passed with a success rate of 65.75 per cent against 63.73 of last year. Barisal Board had 23,689 candidates and 13,178 of them passed. The pass percentage is 55.63 against 61.5 of last year.

Under Sylhet Board, 16,972 students sat for the examinations and 11,198 came out successful with the pass percentage of 65.98 against last year's 65.45.

Under Madrasa Board 51,623 Alim examinees took the exams and 38,363 came out successful with the pass percentage of 74.31 against 75.23 of last year.

A total of 49,700 students appeared at Business Management examinations under Technical Education Board and 33,863 of them passed with pass percentage of 66.13 against 69.74 of last year.

Expressing satisfaction over this year's HSC results, Additional Secretary Abdul Awal Mojmudar said stern action against cheating in the public examinations has helped to make the students more attentive to study, which has been key to achieving good results.

Law enforcers held Duta General Secretary and Dean of Life Science Faculty Prof Anwar Hossain and Dean of Social Science Faculty Prof Harun-ur-Rashid at their homes on the night of August 24.

The Duta also expressed grievances over law enforcement agencies assault on a number of students and DU employees in and outside the campus after the curfew was imposed.

The press release also added that the filing of cases against thousands of students and teachers following the untoward incident have made the teachers and the students anxious. The Duta observed that this kind of steps is not helpful in bringing back normalcy on campus.

It, however, observed that the decision to close all public universities sine die and students' vacating the dormitories was practical and timely. The Duta also appreciated the decision to enforce curfew at six divisional cities.

"The teachers' association denied" having any connection with the provocative loudspeaker announcements made on the campus following the closure of DU.

In the press release it also observed that when the situation on the campus was about to become normal following several decisions made by the authorities including removal of the army camp from campus, an "evil force" helped spread violence citywide.

The Duta added that the violence that spilled over into the country has no relation with the one at DU, which was students' resentment and a protest out of emotion.

They also expressed their shock at the way the violence spread across the country.

Ex-Jamaat MP

FROM PAGE 16
In his statement, the former lawmaker claimed that he did not own the vehicle, as he could not pay Tk 50 lakh.

However, an ACC investigation found that Shahjahan took possession of the SUV after making full payment through opening an L/C with Arab Bangladesh Bank's Mohakhali branch in August 2006 and had been using it for the last one year.

The investigation conducted by the ACC's Chittagong office also found that Shahjahan has all the required documents relating to the vehicle in his name.

A case was filed against Shahjahan on charge of submitting false statement on July 1.

HSC exams result

FROM PAGE 1
Pass percentages for boys and girls are 66.48 and 64.42 against 66.36 and 64.64 of last year.

The HSC results were published yesterday under the grading system introduced in 2003. The examinations began on May 10 and ended on June 24.

The comparative statistics of the examination was published yesterday at a press conference at Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Dhaka, where Additional Secretary of education ministry Abdul Awal Mojmudar, Joint Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, Dhaka Board Chairman M Manirul Islam and officials of nine education boards were present.

Among the seven education boards, Dhaka Board secured the top position with the pass rate of 70.77 per cent while the pass rate in Sylhet Board is 65.98 per cent, Comilla Board 65.75, Rajshahi Board 61.89, Chittagong Board 61.36, Jessore Board 59.89 and Barisal Board 55.63.

The rate of success under Madrasa Board is 74.31 per cent and Technical Education Board 68.13 per cent.

Some 11,140 examinees -- 6,510 male and 4,630 female -- have secured the highest Grade Point Average (GPA)-5.

Of them, 5254 are from Dhaka Board, 1,818 from Rajshahi Board, 506 from Comilla Board, 1,191 from Jessore Board, 911 from Chittagong Board, 314 from Sylhet Board, 239 from Barisal Board, 930 from Madrasa Board and only five from Technical Education Board.

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