

EXTORTION CASE Ex-BNP MP, 10 others sent to jail in Narail

A CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Former BNP lawmaker Dhirendranath Saha and 10 others were sent to jail yesterday on their surrender to court in an extortion case.

The 10 others are Dhirendranath Saha's son Shukoch Kumar Saha, Narail upazila BNP president Nawabul Alam, organizing secretary Wahiduzzaman Milu, Abul Kashem, Asad Hossain, Badsha Master, Kamal Hossain, Yousuf Khan, Rabiul Islam and Mostak Khan.

Dhirendranath was elected from Narail-1 constituency (Narail-Kalia) in a by-election in 2001.

The 11 are among 23 people accused in the extortion case filed by Krishnapada Ghosh, organising secretary of Narail upazila Awami League with Kalia police station on February 27 this year.

In the case he complained that Dhirendranath Saha demanded Tk 2 lakh after being lawmaker in 2001.

As he declined, they attacked his house and looted goods worth about 2.40 lakh.

Ordered by High court the 11 appeared before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain. He sent them to jail.

Power crisis in 21 southwestern dists will not ease soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twenty-one south-western districts are reeling under severe power outage since Friday night as four plants of Khulna Power Station (KPS) are out of order due to technical glitches.

The severe power outage have virtually paralysed life and economic activities of people already shattered by price hike of essentials including rice.

Industrial units, particularly in and around Khulna city, are the worst victims of the power outages.

On an average, Khulna and

neighbouring districts had 12 hours of load-shedding on Saturday as the 110 mw power plant went out of order from 11:35 pm Friday for the 13th time in last 15 months.

As a result, 265 mw power was supplied against the total need for about 650 mw in south-western region comprising 10 districts in Khulna division, six in Barisal division and five districts in greater Faridpur.

The 110 mw power plant will not be able to go into operation before the first week of next month as its tubes have developed leakages for

use of saline water of nearby Bhairab river, said KPS chief engineer. The plant would produce at least 60 mw power a day when in operation, he said.

The old 60 mw unit which is inoperative since July 5, 2006 is now undergoing overhauling. It can not be said when overhauling will be completed, KPS sources said firm named Scoda company.

Czech company Scoda began the overhauling work in 2005. An amount of Tk 70 crore has already been drawing against the overhauling work.

The 28 mw barge mounted power plant-1 and 28 mw barge mounted power plant-2 are out of order since August 27 last year and December 3 of the same year respectively, also due to major mechanical glitches. Each of the two units could supply at least 25 mw power while in operation.

Highly placed sources in Power Development Board (PDB) said the power crisis in south-western districts can not be resolved without setting up new power plants and increasing capacity of the national grid.



With good yield of wheat in Hanar Char in Chandpur, farmers at a field give a happy smile as they eye making up the loss caused by Sids.

'Change draft ordn to make police people-friendly'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a workshop yesterday urged the government to either drop or change a few 'not people-friendly' sections of the recently prepared draft police ordinance.

Satkhira district police organised the district community consultation on Draft Police Ordinance 2007 on the premises of Satkhira Police Lines.

The draft ordinance aims at creating an environment to help police work independently. Khulna Range DIG Md Asaduzzaman Miasaid.

A few other speakers, however, feared that some sections of the draft ordinance might pose threats to democratic rights of people.

They referred to section 138, 144 and 145.

Section 138 says that if an allegation against any police personnel is proved false then the complainant would be given three months' imprisonment or Tk 20,000 fine or both.

This would discourage people

from making any complaint, they said.

Section 144 of the draft exempts a police official of any type of punishments for 'performing duty on good faith' but the term 'in good faith' has not been defined.

Section 145 does not allow any legal action against any police official. This section said that the report has to be made with previous permission from a government-authorised officer. They urged the government to omit or change these sections.

They also urged the government to increase facilities including salary of police personnel to keep the law enforcers free from corruption.

Among others, former minister Dr Aftabuzzaman, Additional Deputy Commissioner MA Aziz, Civil Surgeon Dr Abu Aziz Al Monsur, Pourasava Chairman Sheikh Ashraf Hake, Satkhira District Bar Association President Shah Alam and Prof Abu Ahmed spoke at the meeting presided over by Satkhira Superintendent of Police Mirza Abdullah Baki.

Steamer runs aground on Meghna shoal

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Dhaka bound rocket steamer PS Masud from Barisal with about 600 passengers, caught in a nor'western at around 11 pm Sunday night ran aground on a newly emerged shoal—Char Faruque—in Meghna, about 30 kilometres south of Chandpur.

BIWTC official in Chandpur Iskander Chowdhury said, the big steamer remained stranded on the shoal for about 12 hours.

It arrived Chandpur terminal at around 1 pm yesterday. It was supposed to arrive here Saturday midnight.

The incident could be known when the steamer anchored the terminal.

NBR chairman Abdul Majid was among the passengers. The steamer left the shoal at about 10 am yesterday when there was full tide, some passengers said.

Anti-graft rally held in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Teachers and students of Gaibandha Government University College yesterday brought out a procession in the town as part of their awareness campaign against corruption.

As the procession organised by district corruption resistance committee started marching the main roads of the town, passers-by joined it spontaneously chanting slogans to fight corruption at all levels of the society.

Earlier, a discussion meeting was held at college auditorium with Professor Mofazzal Hossain, president of district corruption resistance committee, in the chair.

Gaibandha Superintendent of Police Mollah Nazrul Islam was present as chief guest on the occasion.

Only a small section of the society got involved in corruption, causing harm to the economy and damage to the image of the country, speakers said.

A combined endeavour of all sections is needed to get a corruption-free society and so, a massive awareness should be built up, they said.



Erosion caused by waves due to rampant plying of sand-laden engine boats threatens the east side guide embankment of Jamuna Bridge, left, boats wait for loading sand at a river channel.



PHOTO STAR

Reception turns into condolence meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A reception arranged for Kazi Masuma Akter Munia, a first year student of Patuakhali Government Women's College, turned into a condolence meeting as the girl met a tragic death in a road accident on the way to her college.

Munia, winner of best cadet's prize from BNCC (Bangladesh National Cadet Core) in 2007 under its Sundarbans Regiment and also Runners up prize in BNCC national gathering, started on a motorcycle from her grandfather's house in Charfashion to attend the reception.

When she reached near Bhola town, a truck hit her motorcycle killing her on the spot.

The teachers and students, who were waiting to receive her at the college auditorium, became awed with grief hearing the news. They organised a condolence meeting there.

Munia was the only daughter of Kazi Shahadat Hossain of Gochani village under Dashmina upazila.

Jamuna Bridge east guide embankment vulnerable

Plying of vessels close to it, sand lifting cause erosion

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The east side guide embankment of Jamuna Bridge is becoming vulnerable due to erosion caused mainly due to plying of vessels very close to it and sand lifting.

The embankment is only about 100 yards from the shoreline.

Plying of any river transport or movement of people is prohibited within 50 metres of the embankment, but it is not enforced. The river close to the shoreline is virtually free for all. The erosion is accentuated by movement of vessels including sand-loaded ones, which create big waves that hit the coastline, sources and locals told this correspondent during a recent visit.

A syndicate of sand traders is lifting sand and doing brisk business, obstructing the Jamuna channel. They have illegally made several culverts for movement of trucks, which will also threaten the embankment.

The restrictions to protect the embankment are not followed strictly, sources in Jamuna Bridge Authority (JMB) said. Hundreds of sand-laden engine boats ply near the danger zone of the embankment every day. Though banned, people including tourists and cattle also move freely on the embankment, which is very important for protection of the bridge, experts said.

Some senior officials of JMB however claimed that actually it is mentioned in the guidelines that vessels should not touch the guide embankment.

The course of Jamuna river might return to its former channel and the approach road of the bridge may be damaged if GO Textile of the guide embankment is affected, they added.

The stones used in the guide

embankment to keep the soil intact were brought from Indonesia, JMB sources said. Some locals also claimed that small stones are often stolen.

Denying the all allegations, officials of Jamuna Bridge Authority said a 3-member team including executive engineer Liakat Ali and assistant directors Ashraf Ali and Aktaruzzaman visited the guide embankment on February 23.

There is no chance of stealing stones of the guide embankment as embankment is under strict watch, they said.

Somnath Lahiri, senior researcher of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA) in Tangail, said obstruction of the channel will give rise to shoals, which will change the river course and accentuate erosion.

On the other hand, Pingna-Jokarchar Nolin flood protection embankment near the bridge is also threatened as hundreds of sand-laden trucks move there everyday. This will affect the embankment, Water Development Board (WDB) officials in Tangail said.

Officials of Jamuna Bridge

Authority said they have written to the local administration to remove sand business from near the guide embankment.

Fazlul Kabir, officer-in-charge (OC) of JMB East police station, said he received a letter from JMB assistant engineer Tofazzal Hossain on March 17 to stop the illegal sand business.

"We have asked sand traders and others concerned to move away from near the guide embankment," he told this correspondent.

When contacted, Abu Sufian, superintendent engineer of Jamuna Bridge, said they are conducting a study on the matter.

"Big engine boats should not play near the guide embankment as it may damage the stones," he added.

When contacted, Tangail additional deputy commissioner (revenue) Abul Hassan said some sand traders filed a writ petition to High Court against an order to stop it. "We have informed higher authorities," he said.

Diabetic Association of Bangladesh
122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000
No. DAB/P/08/24 Dated: 30 March, 2008
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE NUMBER FIVE-(05)
Dates of sale of tender documents and submission/opening of tender for equipment of Liver Transplantation Services have been extended by ten (10) days. Re-fixed dates fall on 15 & 16 April, 2008 respectively.
AKM Shahjahan
Director (Project)
D-342

**Govt of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh**
Ministry of Communication
Bangladesh Bridge Authority
Setu Bhaban
New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212
Memo No-Tech/Jb-95/2006-153 Date: March 27, 2008
Corrigendum Notice
Sub: Pre-qualification Document for engaging 3rd O&M Operator for the Operation, Maintenance, Toll Collection & Associated works of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (4.8km long) area for 2009 to 2013.
Ref: Memo No-Tech/Jb-95/2006-54 dated February 04, 2008
It is notified that the last date for submission of Pre-qualification Document for engaging 3rd O&M Operator for the Operation, Maintenance, Toll Collection & Associated works of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (4.8km long) area for 2009 to 2013 has been extended up to 16th April, 2008 in lieu of 31st March, 2008. The pre-qualification document will be sold to the intending firm up to 15th April, 2008.
All other terms and conditions of the Pre-qualification Notice will remain unchanged.
Mir Abu Sufian
Chief Engineer (In-Charge)
GD-1510



Artistes present Monipuri dance on the concluding ceremony of Capital Market Fair in Sylhet city yesterday. Chittagong Stock Exchange arranged the fair.

সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
(সিএনজি সংক্রান্ত জনসচেতনতামূলক)
লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, কোন কোন যানবাহন মালিক অনুমোদনবিহীন ওয়ার্কশপ থেকে সিএনজি সিলিন্ডার-এর পরিবর্তে অস্বীকৃত, এসিটিলিন, এলপিগিজ বা স্থানীয়ভাবে প্রস্তুতকৃত (Locally fabricated) সিলিন্ডার সংযোজন করে সিএনজি জ্বালানীতে গাড়ি রূপান্তর করছেন। গাড়িতে সিএনজি সিলিন্ডার সংযোগ না করায় এসব সিলিন্ডারযুক্ত গাড়িতে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটছে এবং জীবন হানিসহ জনমনে আতঙ্ক সৃষ্টি হচ্ছে।
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