

Tk 13 lakh missing from Baghabari Janata Bank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A team of inspectors of Janata Bank Ltd found Tk 13 lakh missing from the vault (strong room) of the bank's Baghabari branch in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj district on Monday morning.

Finding involvement of some bank staff in the incident, the team closed Mohammad Ali, cashier of the bank, to Sirajganj Regional Office.

Following an allegation, a team led by deputy general manager of Pabna office went to Janata Bank Baghabari branch on Monday morning.

During inspection, they marked shortfall of Tk 13 lakh in the bank's cash and came to know that a few bank staff illegally removed the money from the vault.

A three-member probe committee comprising Senior Principal Officer Aminul Haque, Principal Officer Serajul Islam and Senior Officer Abdus Sattar of the bank's Sirajganj regional office have started an internal investigation in this regard.

Two staff of the bank seeking anonymity said a few bank officials are engaged in illegal practice of giving lakhs of taka from the bank to a section of businessmen for 'share of profit'.

When contacted, Abdur Razzaque, manager of the bank branch, denied the allegation of his involvement in the irregularities.

Fertiliser truck seized in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Jhenidah police recovered a truckload of fertiliser from near a filling station in the town when the truck was going to Chuadanga without valid documents.

The driver and owner of the fertiliser escaped sensing police presence. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Jhenidah police station Kazi Wased Ali said he was informed that a truck with 250 bags of urea was being taken to Chuadanga through the Chuadanga-Jhenidah road.

A police team waylaid the truck and intercepted it near Barsha filling station. The driver and the owner of the fertiliser jumped from the vehicle and ran away, the OC said. The consignment has been seized and a case filed, the OC said.

Acid attack on couple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A couple is fighting for life at Enayetpur Khaja Yunus Ali (RA) Hospital as criminals threw acid on them following previous enmity at Goprekhy village in Shahzadpur upazila early yesterday.

Isha Ali, 45, and his wife China Khatun, 38, sustained serious burn injuries on their face, chest and back when they came under acid attack while sleeping at their bedroom, family and police sources said.

Hearing their screaming, neighbours rushed to the spot and took the victims to hospital in a critical condition.

Police have suspected the incident as a sequel to previous enmity.

JAMUNA FERTILISER FACTORY

500 MT production loss a day due to gas crisis

MIRZA SHAKIL, back from Tarakandi, Jamalpur

Jamuna Fertiliser Factory (JFF) incurs a production loss of 500 tonnes of urea in a day due to less supply of gas.

The largest urea factory in the country resumed production on September 11 after suspension of four days due leakage in boiler tube in its ammonia plant.

The factory produced a record 5,20,000 tonnes of urea in last financial year (2007-2008) against its normal capacity of 5,00,000 tonnes.

But it could not sustain the production due to low gas pressure for last few months.

Its installed production capacity is 1,700 tonnes a day, which is about 5,60,000 tonnes a year.

Factory sources said 46 MSCFD of natural gas is required as raw materials per day but the supply has been reduced to 30 MSCFD.

They said 26,000 kg/cm2g gas pressure is required to produce 1,700 tonnes of urea a day. It can not produce more than 1,200 tonnes with a gas pressure of 17,87 kg/cm2g, they said.

As a result, the factory would not be able to meet the production target of 5,00,000 tonnes in the current financial year.

Jahirul Hassan, general manager (production) of JFF, told The Daily Star yesterday that the gas problem started affecting production since February and it turned acute since last week of July.

If this situation continues production will be about 1,50,000 tonnes less this year. To meet the shortage, government will have to import at least Tk 1,000 crore urea, he added.

The gas problem is also causing damage to costly equipment and machinery, he said.

The JFF at Tarakandi in Sarishabari upazila in Jamalpur district supplies urea in 20 districts including four districts in

greater Mymensingh through its 1,823 dealers since its establishment in 1991.

Admitting production loss, JFF Managing Director Mir Mozaffar Ali said he has been sending letters almost every week to Titas Gas authorities to resolve the gas problem and ensure smooth production, but to no result.

"Now we have no urea in our stock. We are maintaining supply from our daily production," he added.

Sources in Titas Gas Company, when contacted, said they cannot supply gas to JFF as per its need due to lower production in the field.

Sources said the six factories in the country including the JFF can produce 20 lakh tones of urea a year against a total demand for 26 lakh tones.

Now, urea is imported at Tk 62,000 per tonne and sold to farmers at Tk 10,000 per ton, giving a subsidy of Tk 52,000 per ton.

Illegal power lines to Kotwali police, outpost, club snapped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPDC) yesterday snapped illegal electricity supply lines to Barisal Kotwali police station, Natun Bazar police outpost and Police Club under Barisal Metropolitan Police.

WZPDC sources said the lines were snapped for using illegal connection by taking double phase lines without paying any bill.

Rezaul Alam, executive engineer of sales and distribution department of WZPDC in Barisal division-2 said Sub-divisional engineer Shahidul Islam led drive to snap illegal lines.

The three subscribers are however getting power supply as they use double phase lines, he said.

ALLEGED SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Action against cop demanded for threat to withdraw case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A woman, claiming that she was sexually harassed by a physician, has demanded action against Sub-inspector Ahad Ali of Phultala police station in Khulna for threatening her to withdraw the case she filed against the doctor.

Mosammat Rozina Begum at a press conference at Khulna Press Club yesterday alleged that Dr. Hadiuzzaman Hadi, owner of Phultala Surgical Hospital, sexually harassed her in his chamber at 10 pm on June 18 this year when she went there for medical check up. She said she had been suffering from uterus-related problems for three months. Her husband Md. Elias Sarder of Dhopakola village in Phultala upazila was also present at the press conference.

"Dr. Hadiuzzaman also threatened me not to disclose the matter," she said.

Rozina said her husband lodged an FIR with Phultala police station on July 19 naming Dr. Hadiuzzaman as accused. The FIR was recorded under Section 10 of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.

She alleged that SI Ahad Ali, investigation officer of the case, threatened her and the complainant to withdraw the case filed against Dr. Hadiuzzaman.



ACT OF CALLOUSNESS AND FUND EMBEZZLEMENT: But for the long bamboo-made structure made by locals, the Tk 11 lakh bridge on Parla-Telagati road across Mogra River in Netrakona would remain useless after one year of construction as the approach road is yet to be complete.

BARISAL-DHAKA ROUTE

Passengers suffer as only 2 launches ply either way

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Defying the rules and regulations for inland permit issued by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Launch Owners' Association has continued self-imposed 'rotation system' on Barisal-Dhaka route, much to the inconvenience of passengers.

Recently the situation has worsened as the association on September 4 decided to operate only two launches from each of Dhaka and Barisal ends defying their previous decision to run four launches from each end.

In mid-February in 2005, the BNP-backed Inland Water Transport Owners' Association led by controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun imposed the rotation system that kept provision

for operating four launches from Dhaka and Barisal every day. Due to the rotation system, passengers are facing problem in choosing better transport for journey and booking seats as per their choice.

Launch owners said they had to take the decision to avoid losses as the number of deck passengers drastically decreased.

From September 26, four launches will start plying from each side and from September 28 special trips will start for Eid, said launch owners association leaders in Barisal.

"We requested the authorities to consider the matter of decrease in the number of passengers which forced us to incur huge loss daily," Golam Kibria Tipu, a member of the executive committee of Launch Owners Association, told reporters.

Passengers and legal aid groups have demanded cancellation of the rotation system.

Following filing of a case by an affected passenger, a Barisal court gave verdict declaring rotation system as illegal at the end of 2006.

Due to pressure from the launch owners, the BIWTA earlier failed to cancel the 'rotation system' of launch trips on Dhaka-Barisal route and implement the terms and conditions of the route permit and the timetables.

BIWTA Deputy Director (passenger transport) Rafiqul Islam, and Assistant Director Rezaul Islam said they informed the higher authorities of the situation and action would be taken against violators of rules.



Farmers block Majhkhandi-Bhatiapara road at Kadirdi Bazar in Faridpur yesterday demanding adequate supply of fertiliser.

Patuakhali coasts under 3-5 feet water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Vast areas of Patuakhali district including 40 chars in Galachipa, Kalapara, Dashmina coastal upazilas have been inundated due to rain and high tide under the influence of full moon. At least 40,000 people have been affected in the areas.

The floodwater rolling from central areas of the country cannot flow in to the sea as the sea level is 4-5 feet higher than normal due to the full moon, according to Water Development Board (WDB) Executive Engineer Jahir Uddin.

Gangways in four out of five ferry terminals on Kuakata-Barisal road have gone under water, snapping road link.

Heavy rainfall in different areas in the district since Sunday aggravated the situation, administration sources in different upazilas said.

They said many of the 40 affected shoals are under 3-5 feet water now. They include Char Ganga, Lata Chaplee, Nizampur and Khajura in Kalapara upazila; Char Halim, Char Agunmukha, Char Karforma, Char Bangla and Panpatty in Galachipa; Rangopaldree, Khalishakhali, Alipur, Char Hayder, Char Agustee, Char Borhan and Bashbaria under Dashmina; Muradia in Dumki; North Badura and West Auliapur under Sadar upazila.

Water is stagnant in most areas of the town for last several days. Local Met office recorded 125 mm rainfall in 24 hours till 2 pm Tuesday. The water will start receding tomorrow, WDB source told.

Attack on community policeman for protesting irregularities

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A community police personnel sustained serious injuries in an attack by musclemen of an influential as he protested illegal occupation of a public tube-well at Palita village of Khali Union in Rajoir upazila on September 11.

Community policeman Kumud Sarkar sustained serious injuries in the attack by musclemen of Mukunda Mandal, an influential at the village, who reinstalled the public tube-well inside his house without caring for public interest. Nearby people were using water of the tube-well for the last 20 years which was installed near to his house.

Anukul Barai, an accused in a case filed against him for illegally cutting government trees allegedly collaborated him in the misdeed. Anukul is also an accused in four other cases for assaulting the villagers.

The attackers are now allegedly giving death threats to Kumud and his family members to withdraw the case filed by him against them.

Mukunda is now allegedly harassing the victim by adopting various techniques. He allegedly cut down the forehead of his wife intentionally to harass him. Later, he filed a false case accusing Kumud and his family members.

When contacted, Khalia Union Parishad chairman Sirajul Huq Molla confirmed the incident.

On contact, Mukunda told reporters he reinstalled the tube-well inside his house as he was facing problem. He, however, could not answer to the query as to why his wife was attacked.

The victim said the tube-well was installed for welfare of villagers, not only for a single family. I was attacked by musclemen of the influential when I told villagers to inform the matter to UP chairman.



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Samajik Protirodh Andolon form a human chain in front of Sathkhira pourasava office yesterday demanding punishment of the torturer of Shamima, a winner of UN award.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এই মর্মে সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, আব্দুল হামিদ মিলন, পিতা: মোঃ তাজউদ্দিন বেগারী ও মাহমুদা হামিদা বানী: আব্দুল হামিদ সফরের ঠিকানা-১০৪, কাজী পাড়া, মিরপুর ঢাকা-১২১৬ নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত স্থাবর সম্পত্তির মালিকানা হাতে আনা মালিক ও ভোগ-দখলদার হিসেবে সার্ভিসেট করা হয়েছে।