

Pintu caught from court

Arrested as his name surfaced in nat'l probe report on BDR carnage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu was arrested yesterday on the High Court compound in connection with the February 25-26 carnage at the Pikhana BDR headquarters.



Pintu, a former BNP lawmaker, is the first prominent political figure to have been arrested after the sensational incident.

His name first officially surfaced when the report of the national committee for investigating the bloody mutiny at Pikhana categorically said he helped mutineers flee by arranging engine-run boats to cross the Buriganga at Keraniganj ferryghat.

During the investigation different sources mentioned the names of a few leaders of both

the ruling and opposition parties as having links with the mutiny. Pintu was one of them.

Detective Branch police rounded up Pintu along with his brother-in-law Mainur Rahman Apu around 5:15pm when they were coming out of the High Court on a motorbike. Pintu was wearing a black gown of lawyers and a helmet to dodge law enforcers, witnesses said.

In the face of law enforcers' drive to arrest him, Pintu along with his lawyer appeared before an HC bench for an order to direct the government not to arrest or harass him without any specific charges.

Investigation Officer of the BDR carnage case Abdul Kahar Akand declined to say

Pintu's failed escape act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu attempted to evade detectives wearing a lawyer's gown and a helmet while speeding away by a motorcycle from the High Court yesterday.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police also detained Pintu's brother-in-law Mainur Rahman, who was riding the motorcycle to help Pintu's

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Govt critical of ACC's costly legal help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet division yesterday said it was not correct ethically to keep expensive lawyers appointed for a long time, instead of taking steps to have a permanent prosecution unit for the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

In a report placed before the parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings, the cabinet division however agreed with the contention that it was not possible to appoint expert lawyers for the ACC with the government-sanctioned remunerations.

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Speaker to ensure their presence now

JS body says ACC bosses undermine dignity of House

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Speaker Abdul Hamid will take steps to ensure that the previous chief of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), its incumbent acting chief and the other commissioner appear before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings.

The assurance came following the committee's rigid stance on taking legal actions against former ACC chief Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, Acting ACC Chairman M Habibur Rahman and Commissioner Abul Hasan Manzur Mannan for undermining the dignity of the House by refusing to appear before the committee.

"We requested the speaker to take necessary legal steps to ensure their appearing before the committee. The speaker

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JS SEAT ORDER ROW Opposition says no to 1 more seat in front row

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque yesterday rejected a proposal for one more front row seat in parliament for the opposition.

The offer was made on the second day of talks between Chief Whip of the House Abdus Shahid and his opposition counterpart mediated by Speaker Abdul Hamid.

Zainul Abidin told journalists later, "The meeting ended inconclusive as the speaker could not give us any

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AILA-HIT AREAS

Banks asked to suspend agri loan recovery

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday asked all the state-owned commercial banks to suspend agricultural loan recovery activities in the Aila-hit areas for next one year, as the disaster caused massive crop damage in the southern part of the country.

"It has been decided that the loan recovery activities will remain suspended for next one year to help farmers mitigate their losses," said a central bank circular in the wake of a cabinet decision on Monday.

It said the banks would ensure that the farmers do not face any harassment in this regard and the banks' own

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Ajit Kumar of Kanilchhi in Bhetkhal union of Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira teaches around 50 children in his own home. He started multiple shifts of schooling after Aila hit the area. He also provides them with books and stationeries. Most of the students he teaches have lost their books to the tidal surge during and after Aila.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Education in tatters at coast

WASIM BIN HABIB with ABU AHMED, from Satkhira

Class-III student Khalid Hasan helps his father as much as he can to build a tiny shack on an embankment, taking time out from trying to get relief materials and catching fish.

His mid-term exams were supposed to be held soon but his school is barely standing and he has lost all his books to Aila.

"Nothing remains. All my books and stationeries have been washed away in the tidal surge," he said.

Son of Ansar Ali of Dumuria under Gabura union in Shyamnagar upazila, the nine-year-old studies at Dumuria Government Primary School, now closed.

Khalid does not know whether his studies came to a halt for this year or forever. "I don't know," he said with a grim face when this correspondent asked him whether he would continue his studies.

His father Ansar said, "We are struggling to survive. We neither have any house nor any food. We are still alive because we got some relief; how could we think about our children's studies?"

Taslima Akter, a class-X student of Burigoalini High School, is in almost the same boat. Daughter of poor parents of Shora-9 in Gabura union, she reached class-X with her keen interest in studies.

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Khaleda warns against foreign masters' agenda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said yesterday they will go for a movement if the government does not refrain from implementing the agenda of its 'foreign masters'.

"We are cooperating with the government. But we will be forced to stop doing so if it does not put an end to its misrule," she said while inaugurating a food-distribution programme at Gazipur.

The programme was organised by Gazipur BNP on the occasion of 28th death anniversary of founder of the party president Ziaur Rahman.

The leader of the opposition in parliament alleged that they are given no opportunity

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Taj on leave

Says Sahara; sources say he resigned out of frustration

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Frustrated State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj "tendered his resignation" after government high-ups criticised him for some of his recent actions, highly placed sources in the government said.

They said Sohel Taj, who has not been in his office since Sunday, also developed "misunderstandings" with Home Minister Sahara Khatun over power sharing and making decisions on issues like reshuffle in the police department and the department's administration.

He was also under pressure from influential party leaders as they pursued him to serving their own interests and lobbied for posts, promotions and undue privileges of police officials, close aides to the state minister told The Daily Star.

Sohel, the youngest member in Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's cabinet, allegedly submitted his resignation Monday. Hasina did not accept this resignation and asked him to go on leave.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun, however, yesterday said she was oblivious to her deputy resigning. She said, "He [Sohel] applied for leave from June 6 to June 23 and I signed the application which will be sent to the prime minister for approval."

She said she tried to contact Sohel over telephone after hearing the rumour but failed to reach him. She ridiculed the media

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Madrasa must use approved books

JS body recommends banning Moududi, other books

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education yesterday made strong recommendations for imposing a ban on use of 'unapproved books' in madrasas, including those written by controversial writer also founder of Jamaat-e-Islami, Syed Abul Ala Moududi.

The committee recommended that all madrasas should follow books that are approved by the madrasa board.

Chairman of the committee, Rashed Khan Menon, told The Daily Star after a committee meeting in the parliament building that his committee recommended to the government to introduce creative education methods in all public examinations in phases.

"We have recommended to the government that madrasas should follow only the books that are approved by the madrasa board, and no other," he said.

"We have also recommended that the government bans in madrasas, books written by Syed Abul Ala Moududi," a ruling coalition lawmaker Menon, also president of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, added.

The parliamentary committee also recommended that all madrasas must hang portraits of the Father of the Nation

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