

Punished for meting out odd punishment

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

The Dinajpur district administration yesterday closed Parbatipur upazila assistant commissioner (AC-Land) John Kennedy Jambil for meting out bizarre punishment, abusing his magisterial power during a mobile court operation against motorbike riders who violated rule the day before yesterday's election in Parbatipur municipality.

"The administration seized the magisterial power of John Kennedy Jambil and withdrew him from the duty in Parbatipur municipality election today [Thursday] as Rangpur Divisional Commissioner Jashim Uddin Ahmed directed us to close him," said Md Jamal Uddin Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Dinajpur yesterday.

Different national dailies yesterday published photographs testifying to the odd punishment given to rule violator motorcycle



PHOTO: STAR

This picture, published in The Daily Star yesterday, prompted the authorities to take action against Parbatipur upazila assistant commissioner (Land) John Kennedy Jambil.

riders by AC Jambil in Parbatipur municipality area on Wednesday.

After detaining motorbike riders at different points of Parbatipur town on charge of running those defying a ban ahead of the municipality election, Jambil forced the riders to lie, kneel down and roll on the street, and even somersault on the street in front of hundreds of onlookers.

Even honourable persons

including school and college teachers, physicians and businessmen were not spared.

Members of law enforcement agencies including police and Border Guard Bangladesh assisted the official during the operation.

As a large number of people witnessed the unbecoming incident at Dhaka More, they protested it and at one stage Jambil with his force left the spot.

"He could have fined the motorbike riders for violating the rule but such inhuman punishment is unexpected," said a trader at Dhaka More.

This correspondent failed to contact Jambil as nobody received his cell phone.

"I have taken immediate step after hearing about the punishment meted out by the mobile court of John Kennedy Jambil. We will launch a detailed investigation over the incident after the municipality election," Dinajpur DC Md Jamal Uddin Ahmed told this correspondent over cell phone.

A caption story run by The Daily Star yesterday inadvertently mentioned that the mobile court led by AC Jambil meted out the odd punishment to the motorbike riders for not having valid driving licences but actually the riders concerned were accused of running the motorbikes in violation of a ban the day before yesterday's municipality election.



PHOTO: STAR

Growers with sacks of potato wait for buyers at Gobindaganj market in Gaibandha district. But poor presence of wholesalers due to falling price of the produce frustrates most of them.

Price-drop frustrates potato growers in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

Potato growers in the district are in a quandary as huge amount of their firm produce has remained unsold due to price fall in the market.

Most marginal farmers this season initiated potato farming either leasing plots from landowners or under crop-sharing contract to make a healthy profit, but a gradual fall in market price of potato has frustrated them.

Fearing loss, the whole-

salers are also showing less interest in buying potato from market, said Fazlur Rahman, a potato trader in Gobindaganj upazila.

Encouraged by high price of potato last season, marginal farmers of the district have been involved in potato cultivation borrowing money from local lenders this season.

"We are worried about return of production cost if the price of potato continues to fall," said Abul Kashem, a potato grower of Mohimaganj union under the upazila. Ali Hossain,

another grower, said it needs Tk 12,000 for potato farming on a bigha of land.

While visiting a market in Gobindaganj upazila on Wednesday, this correspondent witnessed that potato was selling at Tk 220 to 225, but the price was over Tk 320 per maund three to four days ago. Growers were seen sitting idle with potato, as there were very few buyers in the market.

Apprehending huge loss, many growers returned home with their unsold

potato, as price came down to Tk 100 per maund within 24 hours.

At present, potato is being sold at Tk 10 to 12 per kilogram in the retail markets, whereas it was Tk 25 last year, said Hasem Ali, a potato retailer in Gaibandha municipality market.

According to District Agriculture Extension Department, some 9,372 hectares of land have been brought under potato cultivation this season, targeting per hectare output at 20 tonnes.

3 students fined for stalking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Three college students were fined here Wednesday evening for teasing Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Puthia upazila.

Sources said a group of students of Al Hera Degree College of Hamidpur in Jessore went to Rajbari in Puthia upazila for picnic on Wednesday.

Puthia upazila nirbahi officer AKM Tareq said, Mehedi Hasan, Sohag Hossain and Tapon, all HSC first year students of the college, harassed AC (Land) Kazi Abida Gulshan in front of upazila land office adjacent to Puthia Rajbari.

They also entered into Abida's room at around 3:00pm while she was having lunch and hurled abuse at her.

Following the incident, a mobile court fined the three youths Tk 200 each, in default, to suffer 15 days jail.

Drug peddler sentenced

UNB, Bogra

A mobile court led by Sherpur upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) sentenced a drug peddler to two years imprisonment on Wednesday.

Convict Saban Ali, 36, is son of late Pawmusa of Madanpur village in the upazila.

Police said, the mobile court led by UNO Manzoor Alam Prodhan arrested Saban along with 14 small packets of heroin and sentenced him instantly.



PHOTO: STAR

Centenarian Suro Bala, accompanied by her granddaughter, takes the trouble to walk to Parbatipur Girls High School centre to cast her vote during election in Parbatipur municipality of Dinajpur. Twelve municipalities across the country went to polls yesterday.

CASE FOR ALLEGED BID TO GRAB LAND OF MANIPURI LEADER Jubo League, BCL men get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court yesterday granted bail to seven people including city corporation councillor Azadur Rahman Azad, also city Jubo League general secretary in the case filed by Bangladesh Manipuri Mohila Samity president S Rina Devi.

The others who got bail are district BCL president Pankaj Purkayostha, Azad's elder brother Azizur Rahman Manik, former district BCL joint convener Ranjit Sarker, businessman Muhibur Rahman Muhib and two BCL men.

In her case, Rina alleged that a group led by the aforesaid people had attacked and attempted to grab her family property on the day of her son's marriage on 23 January last.

Chief Judicial Magistrate of Sylhet

Md Amir Uddin granted the bail in the case for the alleged land grabbing attempt that took place in the city's Shibganj area.

The members of Manipuri community under the banners of different organisations of indigenous communities on Wednesday staged a human chain at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar demanding immediate action against the accused.

Activists of Bangladesh Manipuri Mohila Samity, Bangladesh Manipuri Sahitya Sangsad, Integrated Manipuri Association, Ethnic Community Development Association, Bangladesh Manipuri Jubo Samity, Bangladesh Manipuri Chhatra Samity, Sampraday Kalyan Parishad and Tribal Welfare Association, among others, joined the

programmes.

They later handed over a memorandum, addressed to the Prime Minister, to the deputy commissioner of Sylhet.

Rina Devi, a veteran activist, in the case filed with the Kotwali PS alleged that Sylhet city ward councillor Azadur Rahman Azad led a gang of 70 to 80 goons who attempted to grab her family land on 23 January.

A son, a daughter and three others of her family sustained injuries in attack by the culprits, she alleged.

Manipuri community people in the area are passing days in panic since the incident, she alleged further.

She also appealed to the authorities to ensure law and order in the area to remove fear and a sense of uncertainty among the indigenous community.

Five to die for killing Sylhet businessman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

Additional District and Sessions Judge-1 of Sylhet Md Nazir Ahmed, also Special Tribunal judge yesterday awarded death sentences to five people for killing a businessman in 1996.

Of the convicts, two are at large while others are in jail. They are Saraf Uddin alias Sofoi, Kacha Miah, Md Nasir Uddin, Jamir Uddin (absconding) and Shahabuddin (absconding), all from village Barofoud of Sylhet Sadar upazila.

According to the prosecution in brief, on 7 November night in 1996, the five picked up Rais Ali, a businessman of village Umairgaon while he was returning home from the city.

Police recovered the body of Rais next day from a paddy field.

Brother of the victim Abdul Ahad filed a case the same day with Sylhet Kotwali PS.

As many as 12 out of 15 prosecution witnesses gave their deposition during the trial.

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