

ALLEGATION OF FUEL THEFT

9 Parbatipur railway staff suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Nine people including staff of Parbatipur Railway Locomotive Shed and policemen have been suspended on charge of negligence in duty as two high-powered probe bodies started investigation into allegations of widespread fuel theft from the railway store. Abu Bakkar Siddique, fuel in charge of Parbatipur Locomotive Shed, Dev Dulal SSE (Fuel), Md Abdul Kafi, deputy loco master, Nazmul Islam and Arif Hossain, assistant loco master, were suspended on Saturday while SI Asaduzzaman and guard Md Tareque of the locomotive shed's security force, constables of Parbatipur GRP Shafiqul Islam and Shawkat Ali were suspended yesterday.

Law enforcers yesterday demolished the bamboo-made house, built and used allegedly for illegal storage and trade of fuel stolen from Parbatipur Railway Locomotive Shed near the GRP police station building, in presence of the investigation officials.

Authorities on Saturday formed the investigation teams headed by Dulal Kumar Roy, chief mechanical engineer of Rajshahi, and Rafiqul Islam, divi-

sional mechanical engineer of Pakshi, following report of large-scale fuel theft from Parbatipur Railway Locomotive Shed and rail engines on different routes.

After their arrival in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur at around 11:00am yesterday, the team members visited different sites of Parbatipur Railway area including the Locomotive Shed, talked to many officials and staffs and checked documents of the railway station.

Meanwhile, the members of the two probe teams received several phone calls and text SMSs since Saturday night threatening them to face dire consequences for suspending some officials and staffs, the investigators said, showing the text SMSs sent from several cell phone numbers.

"Our first findings show involvement of different officials in fuel stealing. Stern action will be taken against those involved in the evil act," Dulal Kumar Roy told local journalists.

The probe teams will submit their reports within three days, said the team members.

GRP police on Saturday arrested Kusum, 24, of Kalibari Road, and Monir

Hossain, 27, of Namapara area under Parbatipur municipality, on charge of stealing fuel from the locomotive shed, said Md Emdadul Haque, officer in charge (OC) of Parbatipur GRP.

ASI Solaiman and ASI Babul of Parbatipur GRP were ordered to be closed to Saidpur GRP Police Lines on Saturday evening but the order was cancelled later, said a source of Parbatipur GRP.

The OC declined to make any comment over the 'mysterious' change in the decision.

Roughly 1,000 litres of diesel is stolen everyday from the engines of intercity trains plying different routes while a section of dishonest officials and staffs of Parbatipur railway office and some local miscreants are involved in the act, railway sources said.

Besides, dishonest officials and staffs of the locomotive shed used to sell around 1,100 litres diesel to outside markets, showing the fuel as used for miscellaneous purposes.

Recent months see more frequent incidents of fuel stealing as fuel prices have gone up, said sources of the department.



PHOTO: STAR

Different species of fish put on display at the traditional Machher Mela (fish fair) on the bank of the Kushiara at Serpur in Moulvibazar district. Thousands of people from different parts of the country thronged the two-day fair that concluded yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

The century-old Dak Bungalow in Thakugaon town being demolished to build a new one at the same site.

Two Pabna journos honoured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Ranesh Maitra and Anwarul Haque, two veteran journalists of Pabna, were accorded reception here on Saturday night on completion of their 60 and 50 years of active journalism.

Journalist Mirza Shamsul Islam Foundation honoured the two journalists on Pabna Press Club premises. Lawmaker from Pabna-5 constituency Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince, Vice-Chancellor of Pabna University of Science and Technology Prof Mozaffar Hossain were the special guests at the reception chaired by press club president Prof Shibojit Nag.

AL leader advocate Amjad Hossain, educationist Prof Md Nurunnabi, freedom fighter Baby Islam, President of Pabna Bar Association advocate Abdul Matin, and Secretary of Pabna Press Club Ahmedul Haque Rana spoke.

Ranesh Maitra started his carrier in journalism in 1951 in a weekly newspaper in Pabna. He joined the daily Sangbad as its Pabna correspondent in 1955. He also worked as the district correspondent of the Morning News from



Ranesh Maitra

Anwarul Haque

1961 to 1967 and the Observer from 1967 to 1992.

Ranesh Mitra joined The Daily Star as Pabna district correspondent in 1992 and continued until 2000. He now writes column for newspapers.

Anwarul Haque started his carrier in journalism in the daily Ittefaq in 1961. As the then Pakistan government stopped publication of the newspaper in 1966, Anwar joined the daily Azad. He went to jail for his anti-government stance in 1967. After two years imprisonment, he again joined the Ittefaq and is still working as district correspondent of the daily.

10 cops hurt in clash with Jamaat, Shibir activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 10 policemen including a sub-inspector of Khansama upazila were wounded in a clash with the activists of Jamaat and Chhtra Shibir yesterday.

Sources said Khansama upazila Jamaat and Chhtra Shibir called a meeting at Zia ground in the upazila around 4:30pm yesterday demanding release of Ghulam Azam and their other top leaders.

After the meeting, the protesters brought out a procession chanting slogans around 5:00pm. Police intercepted them triggering a tripartite clash.

Jamaat and Shibir activists attacked police with brickbats leaving five law enforcers injured. At this, police used rubber bullets and tear gas shells.

Later several chase and counter chases took place till 5:50pm and five more policemen were injured.

The wounded policemen include Belal Hossain, sub-inspector and Shahidul Islam ASI of Khansama police station and constables Asad, Abdur Rahim, Piarul Islam, Abul Hashem and Abdur Mannan.

They were admitted to Khansama upazila health complex.

Police said Belal and Shahidul received severe head injuries as Jamaat members pelted brickbats during the hour-long clash.

Abducted boy yet to be rescued

UNB, Sunamganj

A 15-year-old boy, who was allegedly abducted from Jamalganj upazila about three and a half months ago, is yet to be rescued.

Police and local sources said Tareque Miah Tipu, son of Dilfar Ali of Chandbari village and a student of class VIII of Ganiganj High School in the upazila, was "kidnapped" on September 27 last year.

Though police arrested four people, including one of his friends, and recovered his mobile phone, they could not rescue the boy.

Sources said Tareque went out of his residence after taking breakfast on the day and never returned home.

After two days, the alleged kidnappers sent a message through Tareque's mobile to his niece asking the victim's family to go to a certain place on September

30 with Tk 1 lakh to buy his freedom.

But the abductors did not turn up although the family members went there with the ransom money. Instead they sent another text message on the day asking them to go to another place with Tk 1.5 lakh for the release of Tareque.

However, the kidnappers neither came to the place for ransom money nor released Tareque.

Later, the victim's mother Rehena Begum filed a case on October 7 in this connection.

Contacted, officer in-charge of Jamalganj police station Alam Khan said they extracted some 'important' information from the arrestees.

He said Tareque would be rescued soon. "The main criminals will also be arrested," he added.

Mill shut for want of sugarcane

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Joypurhat Sugar Mill suspended its operation on Thursday night for want of sugarcane, according to the officials concerned.

The mill started operation on November 25 last year to produce 6,000 tonnes of sugar by crushing 80,000 tonnes of sugarcane during its 60-day operational period.

But it produced 4,000 tonnes of sugar by crushing 63,000 tonnes of sugarcane in the last 49 days (November 25 to January 13), the officials said.

Md Abdul Bari, manager of sugarcane procurement department of Joypurhat Sugar Mill, said supply of sugarcane was not enough to keep the mill functional for the rest 11 days. Therefore, the authorities suspended operation

because of inadequate supply of sugarcane, he added.

Another official said sugarcane production in the district is on the decline as growers do not get due price of their produce. They are switching to other crops or interested in producing molasses, the official added.

The sugar mill will incur a loss of Tk 16 crore for unscheduled suspension of sugarcane crushing, mill sources said.

Growers hold the mill authorities responsible for creating supply shortage. They allege the authorities unnecessarily harass growers at the mill gate and make delay in payment.

Babu Chowdhury, president of Joypurhat Sugarcane Growers' Association, has urged the government to ensure good price for sugarcane.

Three youths jailed for stalking schoolgirls

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Mobile courts sentenced three youths to jail on Thursday and the day before for sexually harassing schoolgirls in Jhenidah town.

In Dinajpur, a young man was arrested on Wednesday on charge of stalking.

A mobile court jailed two teenage boys for three months for teasing a girl student of class seven at Alhara Islami Institute in Jhenidah Sadar upazila.

The convicts are Zahid Hossain, 15, son of Golam Morshed of Shekhpara area of the district town and Raju Ahmed, 15, son of Abdur Razzaque of the same area.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury of Sadar police station said, locals caught Zahid and Raju while teasing a girl student and handed them over to police.

Another mobile court on Wednesday morning sentenced a young man to one year imprisonment for similar offence.

The convict was identified as Imran Hossain alias Sajal, 18, of the upazila town.

Local people caught Sajal from in front of Al Falah Hospital while teasing a girl of class VIII of Government Girls High School and handed him over to police after mass beating.

In Dinajpur, a college student was arrested on Wednesday on charge of stalking a college girl and making porn videos and obscene still images in

Birganj upazila.

During the raid, police recovered several porn movies and images of the girl. Modem and computer were also seized from his possession.

Arrestee Dipan Kumar Roy, 20, is son of Monoranjan Roy of Nizpara village of Birganj upazila of Dinajpur.

The raid followed a case filed by the victim on Wednesday.

অভিনন্দন

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PHOTO: STAR

Bogra Azizul Haque College unit of The Daily Star Readers' Club distributes warm clothes among the cold-hit people of the remote chars of Jamuna and Bangalee rivers at Satabki village in Sonatala upazila of the district a few days ago

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