

Two top leaders of Pabna BNP held

Police file two cases against 400 accusing them of Monday's violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police arrested two top leaders of local BNP from their residences in the town early yesterday.

They are Major (ret'd) KS Mahmud, president of district unit BNP and Habibur Rahman Tota, general secretary of the unit.

The arrests followed filing of two cases against them on charge of involvement in Monday's intra-party clash.

Police in separate raids arrested Mahmud from his Dilalpur residence and Tota from his Shibrampur residence in the town at about 5:30am. Later, a court sent them to jail.

Officer in-charge of Pabna police station Md. Afzal Hossain said the cases were filed with on Monday night for creating violence, disrupting public life and assaulting on duty policemen.

Sub Inspector Md. Abdul Bari and Sub Inspector Zia filed the cases-one for attack on policemen and the other under speedy trial act. KS Mahmud and Habibur Rahman Tota are accused in both the cases, the OC said.

Around four hundred BNP men have been accused in the cases. The cases named 29 leaders including Pabna district unit BNP president KS Mahmud, vice president Abdullah Al Mahamud, Abdus Samad

Khan Montu, general secretary Habibur Rahman Tota, organising secretary Mahamudunnabi Swapon and office secretary Zohurul Islam.

Police are conducting drives to nab the other



KS Mahmud



Habibur Rahman Tota

accused, the OC said.

However, no case was lodged in connection with the death of BNP activist Milon in the clash till filing of this report at 3:00pm yesterday.

Milon Hossain, 25, son of Rahim Baksh of Tulapatti in the town, was killed and 20

others were injured in the clash.

Local municipality Mayor Quamrul Hasan Minto and district BNP president KS Mahmud had long been at loggerheads over establishing their dominance in the party.

The rival supporters locked in a fierce clash at Abdul Hamid Road over taking control of the district party office on Monday.

A chase and counter-chase took place amid several gunshots during the incident that left 15 people injured, five with bullets, from the both groups.

Bullet-hit Milon was rushed to Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

BNP rival faction on Monday brought out a procession with the body of Milon and later buried him at night.

Meanwhile, the BNP rival faction at press conference in the town yesterday demanded punishment of the killers of Milon.

They also blamed Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, personal assistant to party chief Khaleda Zia, for the intra-party clash on Monday.

Shimul triggered feud in the party by forming a new district committee with the people of his choice and dropping the devoted partymen, they said.



A large number ethnic people and Bangali settlers join a peace procession organised by the district administration in Rangamati town yesterday, apparently to bring back a sense of confidence among the residents against the backdrop of clashes between the two communities in the town on Saturday.

Joint team's drive in Bagerhat

UNB, Bagerhat

Five fishermen were detained and 43,000-meter-long current nets seized in Sharankhola upazila on the first day of the 11-day ban on Hilsa fishing on Tuesday.

The district Fisheries Officer Narayan Chandra Mandal said, a joint team of the Fisheries Department and the members of Coastguard conducted a drive in Baleswar River and caught red-handed the five fishermen while fishing Hilsa violating the week-long ban on catching the popular fish at noon. The team recovered 43,000-meter-long current nets from the arrestees.

The team also recovered 45 kilograms (kg) Hilsa in Sharankhola and Sadar upazilas.

However, the team freed the detained fishermen later on after taking bonds from each and the banned fishing nets were destroyed by setting those ablaze in Shorankhola town.

The team also distributed the seized fish among several orphanages in the two upazilas.

BAN ON HILSA NETTING TAKES EFFECT Huge current nets, mother fish seized in Barisal zone

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Authorities seized at least 71,000 metres of current net and 2265 kg of mother hilsa in different coastal districts as the 11-day ban on hilsa netting, meant for ensuring safe spawning of the popular fish during the peak breeding period, started yesterday.

Fifty-four fishermen have been jailed or fined for violating the ban as of filing this report yesterday evening.

Our Barisal Correspondent reports: Law enforcers seized 145 kg of hilsa and 3,800 metres of net, jailed five fishermen for one month and fined another Tk 2,000 in Barisal, said district fishery officer Wahiduzzaman.

In Barguna, 960 kg of hilsa and 1,200 metres of net were seized and 19 fishermen were fined Tk 19,000, said Ashraf Hossain, in charge of ban monitoring control room in the district.

Pritish Kumar Mallik, Bhola district fishery officer, said 11 fishermen were fined Tk 11,000, fifteen others jailed for a month, 20,000 metres of net and 500 kg of hilsa were seized in the district for violating the ban on hilsa netting as of filing this report yesterday evening.

During the September 25 to October 5 ban on netting hilsa in 7,000 square kilometres of hilsa breeding grounds at four points of seven coastal districts, authorities also imposed restrictions on marketing, sale and transport of the fish across the country, said Bankim Chandra, assistant director of Barisal office of fisheries directorate.

The district and upazila administrations, the police, Rapid Action Battalion, navy and coastguard have been asked to monitor the enforcement of the ban and take action in case of any

violation. The 11-day restriction would ensure safety to around 1.5 crore mother hilsa, giving them chance to naturally lay 46,800 kg of eggs, and it will eventually help production of huge hilsa worth hundreds of crores of taka, fishery researchers hope.

But poverty pushes poor fishermen in the coastal districts to catch hilsa even during the ban, said Israil Pandit, president of Bangladesh Khudra Matsyajibi Samity.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reports: Authorities seized 46,000 metres of current net used to catch hilsa in Sadar, Bauful and Kalapara upazilas under the district yesterday.

They also seized 60 kg of mother hilsa netted by the fishermen.

The coastguard in a drive on Paira River in the morning seized 15,000 metres of current net. Bauful upazila

administration seized 11,000 metres of current net from Tentulia River while and 20,000 metres of current net was seized from Andharmanik River in Kalapara upazila in a joint drive by the upazila administration and fisheries department.

All the seized nets were later burnt down.

Our Madaripur Correspondent reports: A mobile court seized 600 kg of hilsa and fined three fishermen Tk six thousand for illegal sale of the fish at Utrail haat in Shibpur upazila under the district yesterday.

A Correspondent from Bhola adds: Nurul Islam, president of Khudra Matsyajibi Samity of Bhola, urged the authorities to arrange compensation and rehabilitation for the fishermen affected by the 11-day ban on catching and sale of hilsa.

SNIPPETS

Man held with morphine

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A hotel manager was arrested on charge of drug peddling at Katpaty road in the city yesterday. Sumon Chandra Gharami, 26, manager of Multiplaza Residential Hotel was held with 60 vials of morphine injection. A team of officials of local Narcotics Control Department raided the hotel in the afternoon and seized the injections from Sumon.

'Criminal' beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A top criminal was killed in mob beating in Kamarkhand upazila on Monday night. He was identified as Abdul Khaleque, 38, son of Ashraf Ali of Khidrabhadraghat village under Kamarkhand upazila. He had been absconding for long to escape from 18 years' imprisonment in two cases. Khaleque was a most wanted accused in several cases including for murder, robbery and extortion, police said. Abul Kalam Azad, OC of Kamarkhand PS said Khaleque returned to his village on Monday night and started extort people. When the news was spread, local people encircled him and beat him up severely. Later he succumbed to injuries at a hospital at night.

Three held with arms

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

Police in separate drives arrested three criminals along with arms in Jessore town on Monday night. The arrestees are Biplob, son of Hamidur Rahman, Rajib, son of Mohor of Kholadanga and Korban Ali, son of Mohammad Ali of Old Kasba Kazipara in the town. Police said they raided Bablatala and arrested Korban Ali along with a foreign pistol and one bullet. In another drive, police arrested Biplob and Rajib from Kholadanga and recovered one revolver, five hand bombs and two KGs of gunpowder from their possessions.

Fake oil factory fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A mobile court yesterday fined a fake oil factory Tk 50 thousand and seized and destroyed 1025 litres of spurious mustard oil. The court, led by executive magistrate Hasan Abdullah Tauhid, raided the factory of Doel Marka Tel company in Bonelghoria bypass area of the town and found that the oil was being manufacturing and packed in an unhygienic way. The factory was also using fake trademark of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) and there was no price tag on the products.

4 held, cocktails seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Police arrested four people along with cocktails, cars, knives and machetes at Kazipara in the district town on Monday night. The arrestees are Ubaidur Rahman Linkon, 32, of Dakkhin Poiratala, Alamgir, 38, of Uttarmourail, Tushar, 32, of Kazipara, and Kalam Mia, 35, of Moulvihahir in the town. Md. Abdur Rab, officer in-charge at Sadar Model police station, said on secret information, they raided the area and arrested the four. The law enforcers also recovered seven cocktails, two private cars, a jeep, 12 knives and two machetes from their possession.

30 injured as students, police clash in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

At least 30 people including five policemen were injured as police and students locked in a clash in Begumganj upazila yesterday.

Police fired 35 rounds of blank shots to disperse the students.

The injured policemen sub-inspectors Kamal Krishna Dhar and Anwar Hossain, assistant sub-inspector Feroz Ahmad and constables Gias Uddin and Md. Halim were being treated at Begumganj 10-Bed Hospital.

Agitated students alleged that principal of Begumganj Technical School and College Kafil Uddin is ill-tempered and a man of bad taste.

Protesting his behaviour and demanding his removal the students of the college stood in a queue beside the roadside. But without any provocation, police attacked the students, they said.

Amirul Alam, officer in-charge of Begumganj police station said that the students began to throw bricks at the law enforcers when they tried remove a road barricade.

The principal of the college, however, denied the allegations made by the students.

ACCIDENT SPARKS PROTEST

Fire fighters spray water on a bus set afire by aggrieved locals after it knocked down Class V student Raju Hossain at Bhatoli Bazar in Shaikupa upazila under Jhenidah district yesterday morning.

PHOTO: STAR



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