

EXTORTION CASE

Tangail court rejects Pintu's bail prayer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, one of the accused in August 21 grenade attack case, was produced in a Tangail court yesterday in an extortion case filed against him with Bhuapur Police Station in October this year. Judicial Magistrate Jannatul Ferdous Ibne Haque rejected Pintu's bail prayer and fixed February 11, 2013 for hearing of the case.

Awami League worker Zahidul Islam Bhuiyan Lebu lodged the case against Pintu, also vice president of BNP, and 10 others on October 13.

In the case statement, the complainant said the 10 other accused at the instruction of Abdus Salam Pintu stormed into his house on October 1, 2001 and demanded Tk 3 lakh from his wife Flora Begum.

As she refused to oblige, the accused vandalised the house and took away money and other valuables, the complainant stated.

Pintu was brought to Tangail from



PHOTO: STAR

Former Deputy Minister and vice-chairman of BNP Abdus Salam Pintu being taken to court yesterday.

Dhaka Central Jail in a prison van on Monday night. Of the remaining 10 accused, eight were earlier granted bail by the High Court and two are now staying abroad, police sources said.

Anisul Islam Bangabasi, lawyer for Pintu, said the case was filed to harass his client.

BNP men gathered on the court premises in the morning and chanted slogans demanding withdrawal of the case.

72 Indian fishermen held for intrusion

Bangladesh Navy also seizes their five fishing trawlers in two days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Members of Bangladesh Navy arrested at least 72 Indian fishermen along with five fishing trawlers in the coastal areas here on Saturday night and early yesterday.

According to Md Abul Kalam Azad, office in-charge of Sharankhola police station, a patrol team of the Bangladesh Navy rounded up 46 Indian fishermen along with three fishing trawlers in the early morning from the Fairway Bay area in the coastal area for intrusion into Bangladesh waters.

The arrestees were handed over to Sharankhola police yesterday and sent to Bagerhat jail through a court on filing of two cases.

The arrested fishermen hailed from north and south 24 Parganas in Paschimbanga, of India.

However, their names and identity could not be known immediately.

Earlier, on Saturday afternoon, another Navy team arrested 26 Indian fishermen for their illegal

entry into Bangladesh maritime boundary.

They are Swapna Das, Bafon Das, Anil Das, Amulya Das, Gopal Das, Nikhil Mondol, Uttam Das, Sudhir Das, Niranjan Das, Haridhan Das, Rajib Das, Sirmani Das, Sanjay Das, Taraknath Das, Shankar Das, Bivuranjan Das, Mintu Das, Shukumer Das, Binoy Das, Dhananjay Das, Apon Das, Kalu Das, Mongol Chandra Mondol, Ripon Das, Bimol Das and Rui Das, reports UNB.

The fishermen were produced before the chief judicial magistrate here on Sunday that sent them to jail *hajet*.

Police said the Navy patrol team held the Indian fishermen from the Bay along with two trawlers on Saturday night on charge of fishing inside Bangladesh waters.

The arrestees, who hailed from different villages of south 24 Pargana district in Paschimbanga, were handed over to Mongla police.

The fishermen said they mistakenly entered Bangladesh's water territory.



PHOTO: STAR

This 'old' tiger that entered a village in Dakope upazila of Khulna from the Sundarbans in search of food on Monday night was beaten to death by villagers early yesterday.

Tiger beaten to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A tiger was beaten to death by villagers at Perikhali under Paschim Dhangmari forest area in Dakope upazila of the district early yesterday.

Amirul Islam Chowdhury, divisional forest officer of the Sundarbans East Zone, said the tiger entered a locality in low-lying Khajuria under

Barishanta union in search of food after crossing a canal adjacent to Dhangmari Forest Station on Monday late night.

The 12-13-year-old tiger which was 7 feet 11 inches long from its tail to head, caught a dog of a fisherman at midnight. It also attacked and injured three fishermen who were fishing at a nearby waterbody.

As the fishermen cried

out for help, neighbouring villagers came out of their homes along with sharp weapons and wooden sticks and chased the tiger.

At one stage, they trapped it near a homestead and beat it dead.

Being informed, Forest Department staffs rushed to the spot.

They collected the skin of the tiger and buried it in the afternoon.



PHOTO: STAR

Fishing in the drying up rivers, canals and water bodies during this season is a common feature in Bangladesh. The photo shows children catching fish in the muddy water of the Dhaleshwari River in Jokarchar area under Kalihati upazila of Tangail.

3 Hizb-ut Tawhid men arrested

Leaflets, jihadi books seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police arrested three members of Islamist outfit Hizb-ut Tawhid in Panchagarh town yesterday and seized leaflets, posters, CDs and books on jihad from their possession.

The arrestees are Hozaifa Islam, 14, Zahid Islam, 20, and Sajid Hasan, 17. They hail from Gangni upazila of Meherpur district.

They had been living in a

rented house in Tulardanga area of the district for the last one month, police said.

The Hizb-ut-men were distributing books on jihad and CDs among the locals and pasting posters on walls in front of the local press club at around 1:00pm.

Being informed by local people, law enforcers from Panchagarh Police Station reached the spot and arrested the Hizb-ut-Tawhid activists.

ILLEGAL TRAVEL TO MALAYSIA

BGB arrests nine in Cox's Bazar

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in separate drives in Teknaf upazila on Monday and Sunday night arrested nine people, who were illegally going to Malaysia.

The names of the arrestees could not be known. They all are from Eidgaon village of Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila, BGB sources said.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of paramilitary troops launched a drive at Katabania in Teknaf upazila at around 9:00am on

Monday and arrested five people as they gathered there to go to Malaysia in a trawler, said Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Zahid Hassan, commanding officer of 42 BGB.

In another drive on Sunday, BGB men detained four people from the same area. The arrestees were later handed over to Teknaf police.

On October 28, a Malaysia-bound trawler, carrying 128 Bangladeshis, capsized near Myanmar coast. Of them, six were rescued while the remaining 122 remained missing as of yesterday.

PBS SNAPS POWER CONNECTIONS TO DEEP TUBEWELLS

Cropland drying up, villagers deprived of drinking water

KONGKON KARMAKAR, Dinajpur

Around 10 thousand acres of cropland in five upazilas under the district is drying and thousands of people are denied pure drinking water as Dinajpur Palli Bidyut Samity-1 (PBS-1) has snapped power connections to 74 deep tube wells under Barind Multilateral Development Authority (BMDA).

The action, following a dispute over payment of additional bills claimed by Dinajpur PBS-1 upon their 'no load loss' plan, triggered resentment among the

farmers as it has started affecting the winter vegetables and crops including broccoli and famous *kathari* rice during the season.

Preparation of the lands for the next cultivation is also hampered.

Sources of BMDA in Dinajpur said they have PBS power connections with 683 deep tube-wells in seven upazilas under Dinajpur PBS-1 but the latter has snapped power supply of 74 deep tube-wells -- 23 in Birganj, 28 in Khansama, seven each in Chirirbandar and Biral, and nine in Dinajpur Sadar upazila since October 31.

As the PBS will snap more connections to realise the additional bills, BMDA authorities have directed the committees concerned to pull down the transformers attached to the deep tube wells, meaning 'no use' of the electricity, sources said.

On August 26 this year, BMDA sent a letter to the deputy commissioner of Dinajpur, informing that Dinajpur PBS-1 added an additional 186-unit charge with the regular bill for each deep tube well.

"The Dinajpur PBS-1 authorities claimed to have made effective the 'No load loss' basis power bill from

July 2012 although the PBS in other districts including neighbouring Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Joypurhat did not impose any such bills," reads the letter.

Even Dinajpur PBS-2 that covers six other upazilas of the district did not impose the additional bills, BMDA sources said.

Each deep tube well covers around 100 acres of land and supplies pure drinking water for 86 families in the area, said Md Mizanur Rahman, assistant engineer of Barind in Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

Reza Md Nure Alam, executive engineer of Dinajpur BMDA, said, "BMDA, which have been playing a vital role in country's agricultural sector, is also the largest power consumer of PBS. But it seems to have fallen victim of conspiracy. At least 10,000 acres of lands have been affected due to the recent snapping of power connections by Dinajpur PBS-1. We cannot pay the additional charges as there is no decision at the top level in this regard."

When contacted, Kazi Mohammad Ali, general manager of Dinajpur PBS-1, said, "We are implementing the decision of the higher authorities."



PHOTO: STAR

Palli Bidyut Samity-1 has snapped power connections to 74 deep tubewells, threatening crops in five upazilas of Dinajpur following a dispute over payment of bills. The photo was taken from Gopalganj in Sadar upazila.

SNIPPETS

Elderly woman electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

An octogenarian woman was killed while her son and daughter-in-law sustained injury when they touched a live electrical wire at Talian village in Kaliganj upazila yesterday afternoon. The dead was identified as Anima Rani Basu, 80, of the village. Her son Ananda Basu, 31, and Ananda's wife Laxmi Rani, 25, were rushed to Kaliganj upazila health complex. Police said, Anima Rani was electrocuted when she touched the door of her house which was wet due to rain. When her son Ananda and Ananda's wife Laxmi Rani, came to rescue her, they also became injured.

Houses gutted in fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Four houses were gutted in a fire in Mirzar Court area of Patgram town on Monday evening. Fire service men from Patgram fire station rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire but the failed to save anything including the furniture of the houses. Locals said, the fire originated from an electric short-circuit at a stone trader's house and spread to three other neighbouring houses. The houses owners claimed that goods worth Tk 25 lakh was damaged by the fire.

Youth commits 'suicide'

A CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

An expatriate youth took his own life by taking poison at Shantinagar village in Dorshona municipality area under Damurhuda upazila of the district on Monday evening. The youth was identified as Abdur Rahman Asad, 25 son of Namizuddin of village Shantinagar of the upazila. Quoting family members, police said Abdur Rahman Asad had been living in Kuwait for the last three years. Recently he returned to his village home and a marriage proposal to a girl of his village. Being refused, he took poison at his room at noon. Later, the family members rescued him in critical condition and took him to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital where he died at 7pm.

Robbery in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

Robbers looted cash and valuables from a businessman's house at Cheragi village in South Surma upazila early Monday, leaving his wife injured. Police said a gang 5-7 entered the house of Hossain Mia by breaking open the back door at about 2:30am and took the members of the house hostage at gunpoint. They then looted Tk 30,000, four tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk three lakh.

Two held on rape charge

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police arrested two people on charge of raping a college girl at a residential hotel in Phultala upazila early on Monday. The arrestees are Debashis Prakash, 26, son of Nirmal Das, and Banomali Dutta, 24, son of Mintu Dutta of Dhuligram village under Abhoynagar upazila of Bagerhat district. Police also arrested a woman named lovely Begum, who brought the girl to the hotel, promising a job on Sunday. The victim filed a case with Phultala Police Station, accusing five people--Debashis, Banomali, Sajib Hossain Billal, son of Rahat Ali Biswas, owner of the hotel, Ebadul and Lovely Begum--on Monday noon. Debashis, Banomali and Lovely were arrested soon after filing of the case while the rest are still at large.

10 hurt as rival groups clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 10 people were injured as two rival groups clashed at Gopalpur village in Santhia upazila yesterday. Police said Shahadat and Kalam of the village had a longstanding dispute over a land. Villagers belonging to the two groups locked in a clash at around 2:00pm over capture of the land, leaving at least people from both sides injured, police added. Of the injured, seven were admitted to Santhia Upazila Health Complex while the rest given first aid.