

WHEAT FOR UPAZILA INSTITUTIONS

Jubo League leaders admit charge of misappropriation

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Two activists of ruling Awami League (AL) in Parbaipur upazila under the district have confessed to bribery and misappropriation concerning 96 tonnes of wheat, a special allocation from Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry for 23 educational institutions in the upazila.

Police on Monday detained Al-Amin, 30, joint secretary of Habra union unit of a Jubo League, and Golzar Hossain, 40, another Jubo League leader of Palashbari union of Parbatipur upazila for interrogation, following instruction of Rahenul Islam, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Parbaipur.

The two persons confessed to police and the UNO that a few upazila AL leaders sold the 96 tonnes of

wheat for Tk 19.20 lakh and paid Tk 9 lakh as bribe to officials and staff of the Directorate of Disaster Management for obtaining the special allotment letters, said officials.

Besides, Tk 1.15 lakh was distributed among a few officials of upazila administration as bribe, sources said.

After quizzing, police released Al-Amin and Golzar yesterday morning.

After learning about misappropriation of the 96 tonnes of wheat worth Tk 20.16 lakh by a few upazila AL leaders, local lawmaker Md Mostafizur Rahman, also minister for primary and mass education, on July 20 instructed the UNO of Parbatipur to take immediate steps to recover the amount.

"Tk 4.5 has already been refunded to me. Hafizul Islam Pramanik and Rezaul

Karim, president and general secretary of Parbatipur upazila AL respectively, refunded Tk 2 lakh each while a few other AL leaders jointly refunded Tk 50,000 recently," UNO Rahenul Islam said.

"My administration is working for full recovery of the embezzled amount," he added.

Hafizul and Rezaul claimed that Tk 4.20 lakh was distributed among the educational institutions while sources of Parbatipur UNO office said the amount handed over to the heads of the institutions would not be more than Tk 1.5 lakh.

The two top leaders of upazila AL should be arrested and interrogated for detailed information about the misappropriation of the allocation for the institutions and its full recovery, said several local leaders and activists of AL.

13 poachers caught with venison, skins and traps

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bagerhat

Bangladesh Coastguards and forest department in separate drives arrested 13 alleged poachers at Sharankhola range under Sundarbans East Zone yesterday and the day before.

They also seized deer skins, heads, venison, traps for catching deer, Indian made pesticides, sharp weapons and two engine-run trawlers from their possession.

The arrestees include Badshah Sikder, 52, of Harinpara village under Bhandaria upazila in Pirojpur district, Md Sahajahan Maji, 45, of the same village, Hasan Hawlader, 26, of the upazila, Md Fakhruddin Mridah, 22, Md Farid Akan, 27, of the area, Abu Bakkar Siddique, 25, Sona Mian, 32, Hasan Mir, 58, and Abdul Kader Mir, 26, of Patharghata upazila in Barguna district.

Of the poachers, five were arrested along with deer skins, heads, venison and a trawler at Dimerchar in the area yesterday, said Coastguards Kachikhali contingent commander M Habibur Rahman.

On Monday night, four were arrested at Pakhidiarchar, said Kamal Uddin, assistant forest conservator of Sharankhola range.

The rest poachers were held in Dhabir canal area early Monday, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Five poachers arrested with deer skins, venison and traps at Dimerchar area of Sundarbans yesterday.

According to forest department sources, the activities of poachers, who catch fish by using pesticide, become rampant in the monsoon. They enter the forest in very small groups, in disguise of common fishermen.

Whenever they get opportunity, they gather on rivers with small boats and mix certain pesticide with water during low tide, result-

ing in oxygen deficit in the water.

At one stage, they set the net in the canal to catch the fishes that come out for having oxygen from the upper level of the water.

Three cases were filed in connection with the incident, said forest officer Kamal Uddin, adding that the arrestees were produced before a court which sent them to jail yesterday.

19 BNP men sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A court here on Sunday sent 19 BNP men to jail, rejecting their bail pleas in a case.

Senior Judicial Magistrate ATM Tofail Ahmed passed the order when the charge sheeted accused were produced before the court at noon.

They are Abdul Mannan, president of Sherpur upazila unit BNP, its secretary Shahidul Islam Bablu, former organizing secretary Rafiqul Islam Mintu, upazila unit BNP leader Zahidur Rahman, secretary of Juba Dal upazila unit Abdullah Al Mamun, president of Sherpur town unit president Nahidur Rahman, activists Badiuzzaman, Abdul Hamid, Golam Faruque, Shahadat Khandakar, Md Ripon, Ashafuddaulla, Atiqul Islam, Golam Rabbani, Nijam Uddin, Abu Hanif, Shajahan Ali, Asad Mia and Abdul Barek.

On January 18 this year, a case was filed with Sherpur police station against 21 BNP on charge of possessing bombs in the party office of Sherpur upazila following the January 5 national election, said court sources.

After investigation, inspector Mizanur Rahman of the police station submitted charge sheet against the accused before the court on June 30.

Police were raiding different areas to arrest the two fugitive accused in the case-BNP activist Abdul Khaleque and president of JCD Sherpur upazila unit Abdur Razzak.

'Torture, killing' of Duranta protested

Procession in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khagrachhari

Leaders of PCJSS student wing Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) at a protest procession yesterday demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits who killed Duranta on Sunday.

The procession was taken out from a local government college and followed by a rally at Changhi Square of the district town at noon.

Condemning the incident, the participants alleged that some security personnel tortured and killed Duranta and later his body was cremated at dead of night to hide the matter.

Organising secretary of Khagrachhari College PCP unit Alton Chakma, its general secretary Jasim Chakma, office secretary Reyah Chakma and finance secretary of Progatishil Marma Chhatra Samaj Uzzal Marma spoke.

On Sunday last, Timir Baran Chakma alias Duranta, 52, son of Aungo Chakma of Rangamati district Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (M N Larma faction) was found dead after a drive by security personnel in Matiranga upazila of Khagrachhari district.

Sources said, being

informed, security personnel raided Indumoni Karbari Para in Matiranga upazila early Sunday and arrested Duranta Babu Chakma along with his aides Nishi Moni Chakma, 40, Amar Kanti Chakma, 18 and Riyal Tripura, 34 from a hut in the area and seized a few military dresses and toll collecting receipts from their possession.

They said, Duranta 'Babu' was taken to Rubber Bagan area to recover arms but at one stage he tried to escape and jumped from the hill. Seriously injured, he was rushed to Matiranga Upazila Health Complex around 10:00am on Sunday where he succumbed to injuries at noon. All the arrestees were activists of PCJSS MN Larma faction.

Contacted, officer in-charge of Matiranga police station Mainuddin Khan said, as the body of the deceased had started to decompose, it was cremated at Muslimpara Crematorium in Khagrachhari district town in presence of Khagrachhari Municipality Mayor Rafiqul Islam on Sunday night on completion of autopsy.

The rest of the arrestees were handed over to Guimara police at noon on the same day on extortion charge.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Youth stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A youth was killed and another injured allegedly by the cohorts of his friend's brother-in-law at Mohammadia Dakhil Madrasa in Charjabbar area under Subarnachar upazila early yesterday. The deceased is Md Jashim Uddin, 22, son of Md Fayed Ahmed of Charjabbar village under Subarnachar upazila. Family sources said one Israfil Suman's sister Runa Akthar, 25, was driven out from her husband Md Nurul Haque's house for Tk one lakh dowry a few days ago and since then she stayed at the home of her parents. Israfil and his friend Jashim engaged in an altercation with Md Nurul Haque and his cohorts over the issue. At one stage of altercation, they stabbed Israfil and Jashim. Jashim died at a private clinic in the morning. A case was filed in this connection, said police.

Ring leader of robbers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Police arrested an alleged ring leader of a robber gang from his house in Banskhalhi upazila of the district on Monday. The arrestee is Abdul Hakim alias Baishya, 40, of Chanua village. He was accused in 16 cases, including for murder, robbery and extortion, said SP AKM Hafiz Akhter. On secret information, a police team raided the house at night and arrested Baishya, said Rafeeq Chandra Kowshik, sub-inspector of Banskhalhi police station.

Man held for attacking UP member

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested an accused in a case for attacking a female UP member and local Awami League leader Nurjahan Begum in Tikori Bazar area under Shibganj upazila. The arrestee is Mohammad Nahid, 25, son of Azizur Rahman of the village, said Rab officials. On January 22 this year, a gang attacked Nurjahan Begum, 45, a member of Mobarokpur union parishad in Dhoppukur area under the upazila. They also cut the tendons of her right hand and left leg. Later, a case was filed with Shibganj police station, accusing 38 BNP men, including Touhidur Rahman, chairman of Mobarokpur UP.

Sister-in-law beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A man along with his accomplices beat his sister-in-law dead over a family feud at Pukuria village in Shibganj upazila on Monday. The deceased is Golapi Khatun, 35, wife of Ekramul Haque of the village. Rajob Ali, sub-inspector of Shibganj Police Station quoted the family members as saying that Jahangir had an altercation with his cousin Ekramul's wife Golapi over a family feud on Monday. Enraged, Jahangir a long with his two to three accomplices entered Golapi's house around 11:30pm and beat her up mercilessly, leaving her dead on the spot and fled the scene, added the SI. Being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Three houses gutted in Ctg fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least three dwelling houses were gutted when a fire broke out in Dighirpar area in Lohagara upazila early yesterday. Fire Service sources said, the fire originated from the oven at one of the houses around 3:30am and soon engulfed the adjacent two houses. On information, a fire fighting unit from Satkania Fire Station rushed to the spot and doused the flames after a hectic effort of nearly two hours, added the source.



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers form a human chain beside Kurigram-Chilmari road in Kurigram town yesterday protesting cancellation of 24 of the 243 posts of sub assistant engineers in the district. The move will affect services in the agriculture-based area, said the protesters who later submitted memorandums to the prime minister and the agriculture minister through the deputy commissioner.

Woman hurt in bomb blast

UNB, Kushtia

A woman was injured as a bomb exploded while some children were playing with it taking it for a ball in Narikletola area on Monday morning. The injured was identified as Muslima Khatun, 35, wife of Aminur Rahman in the area. Robiul Islam, officer in-charge (investigation) of Kushtia Model Police Station, said some children found a packet containing three handmade bombs in an abandoned condition under a coconut tree beside their house and started playing with it taking it for ball. All of a sudden, one of the bombs from the packet went off in front of Muslima, leaving her injured.

Sued for marrying kid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

President of a school managing committee has been sued on charge of marrying a fifth grader forcibly in Sadar upazila. Habibur Rahman, chairman of Mogholhat union parishad, on Monday filed a case with Sadar police station, said officer in-charge Mahfuzur Rahman. The accused is Abdur Rahim, 31, of Char Kharuya village and president of Kharuya Government Primary School managing committee. On June 26 this year, the girl, a Class V student at the school, was married by Rahim, also the father of two children, by force and since then she stopped going to the school, said the plaintiff. "I was forcefully married off with the president of the school managing committee, who convinced my day labourer father in this regard", said the victim.



PHOTO: STAR

Padma devouring homesteads and croplands at Naruhati village under Satbaria union in Sujanagar upazila of Pabna. The photo was taken on Friday.

Padma devours over 200 homesteads in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Erosion by the River Padma devoured more than 200 homesteads and 300 acres of cropland in Nazirganj and Satbaria unions under Sujanagar upazila in the last two weeks.

Meanwhile, flood protection dam, Nazirganj ferry ghat, Goaria Bazar and over 500 other houses are facing threat of erosion, said chairmen concerned of the union parishads.

During a recent visit to the areas, this correspondent found many villagers

leaving their homesteads for safer places in fear of further erosion.

"If the erosion continues for some more days, my house may go into the river anytime as I am too poor to bear the cost of shifting it," said hapless Paresh Hawlader of Naruhati village in Satbaria union.

This year, I lost two bighas of land due to the erosion, said Rajkumar, a farmer of Nazirganj village, adding that if immediate steps were not taken to check the erosion, his

another three bighas of land may be devoured by the river anytime.

Despite repeated pleas, Water Development Board (WDB) authorities are yet to take any steps to prevent the erosion, said Md Moshiur Rahman, chairman of Nazirganj union parishad.

During a recent visit to the erosion-hit areas, local lawmaker Azizul Haque Arzu assured the villagers of taking necessary steps to thwart the erosion but yet to take any measure in this regard, said the chairman.



PHOTO: STAR

Stakeholders accompanied by locals form a human chain on Station Road in Gaibandha town yesterday protesting a local influential person's alleged attempt to evict 12 Hindu families from their ancestral land to construct a market there.

Eviction of Hindu families protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

People of Station Road area in Gaibandha municipality yesterday formed a human chain and brought out a procession protesting the eviction of houses and shops belonging to 12 Hindu families.

At the programme, the speakers said, 86 decimal land was owned by one

Sushila Sundari under Gobindapur mouza. Twelve Hindu families had been residing on the land for over a century after paying taxes accordingly.

Although three cases had been pending with the judge court and High Court over the ownership of the land, one Ashrafal Alam Nayan, on behalf of late Abbas Ali, claimed that the latter is the owner of 45

decimals of that land.

Nayan, without any prior information, went to the area yesterday morning and allegedly tried to evict the victims forcibly, which triggered the angry protest, locals said.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police in the district.

Goons of grabbers active again at Dulali Beel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Villagers, most of them Hindus, were obstructed from catching fishes at Dulali Beel, a water body of which around 800 bighas are owned by Hindus, at Falimari village under Bhelabari union at Aditmari upazila on Monday noon.

A gang of 10 to 12 local influential men became active again to grab the water body for fish farming illegally.

About 50 to 60 hired goons chased the villagers while they were catching fishes.

Now the Hindu land owners are not daring to go to their croplands in the area in fear of attack.

Villagers said, they started catching fishes in the Beel on Tuesday last, removing the illegal banas (bamboo fencings) put on two ends of the beel for fish farming, following a suo moto court order.

"We didn't face any difficulty in catching fishes in the beel till Monday morning. But suddenly a gang obstructed us at noon," said a land owner adding they did not dare to go to the beel from June to 5 August due to an illegal fish project there by a group of local musclemen.

"If we didn't leave the beel immediately, we might have been beaten up by the gang members," said Rajani Kanta Barmon, 48, of the village.

Local Hindu farmers Kartik Chandra Roy, Hare Chandra Roy, Vila Ram Barmon, Kamoleshwar Barmon and others in the village alleged that the musclemen would again grab the beel for illegal fish project as the bamboo poles were still there in the water body.

"Illegal banas were removed after the court order on 4 August but Aditmari police did not remove over a hundred bamboo poles due to illegal deal between OC and musclemen," a farmer alleged.