

Taka 5 cr embezzlement cases against 22 in Sylhet region

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 14: Cases for embezzlement of about Tk 5 crore in cash and kind have been started against government officials and people's representatives in four districts of greater Sylhet region in 93.

The Bureau of Anti-corruption filed 103 cases for misappropriation of the funds.

The persons indicted on charges of embezzlement include 12 government officials and 10 people's representatives.

Of the cases, 23 are in Sylhet, 12 in Habiganj, 21 in Moulvibazar and the rest 47 are in the district of Sunamganj.

In Sylhet district, cases include misappropriation of wheat worth Tk two lakh against Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Sekandar Ali of

Companyganj misappropriation of wheat worth Tk one and a half lakh against a UP member of Tk two lakh worth of wheat against UP chairman Luthfur Rahman, wheat worth Tk One Lakh and a half against UP chairman Habibur Rahman in Gowainghat thana and misappropriation case against UP member Abdul Noor and wheat worth Tk 8 lakh against Chairman Asadddar Ali of Golapganj thana.

In Habiganj district, major cases are against Moulana Shamsul Huda Superintendent of Kumripur Girls Madrasah for misappropriations Tk 30,000 UP member Alam Miah of Baniachang thana for misappropriations project wheat worth Taka three lakh and case UP member Abul Kalam of the same thana for misappropriating project wheat worth

Taka three and a half lakh.

In Moulvibazar district, the major cases are against Md Nasir and Shamsul Alam, Store-keeper and Pharmacist Shamsul Hossain of a Hospital, Narayan Chakravarty, Store-keeper of Rajnagar thana Health Complex, misappropriated Taka 35,000 and Syed Ahmed, Senior Officer, Rajnagar branch of Sonali Bank misappropriated Tk 1.5 lakh.

The highest number of cases lodged were in Sunamganj district, these are against Tanjila Begum, women affairs Officer of Patharia Women Development Project for Taka two and a half lakh, Nasiruddin Chowdhury, ex chairman of Deral Upazila Parishad for Taka ten lakh, Anik Lal Das and M M Shamsul Haque, Officer-in-Charge and Inspector of Dharmapasha Food Godown for

Taka 25 lakh, Birendra Lal Dey, Officer-in-Charge of Food Godown at Sachina under Jamalganj thana for Taka seven and a half lakh, Abu Khaled Chowdhury, ex-chairman, Jagannathpur Upazila Parishad for Taka five lakh and half, Imdadul Haque, Thana Food Fishery Officer, Jagannathpur for Taka six lakh and a half, and Nazrul Islam, Assistant Engineer Sylhet Paper and Pulp Mills, Chhatak, Parvin Begum, Customs Inspector, and Contractor Abdur Rab for misappropriation of Taka three lakh and a half.

The government had started case against the District Anti-Corruption Officer, Sunamganj, Md. Kutubuddin, on charge of concealing the documents of a misappropriation case of Chhatak Cement Factory. He is under suspension now.

Musclemen are at large in Barguna

From Our Correspondent

BARGUNA, Sept 14: Mastans or musclemen are alleged committing various crimes in the district town and other thana headquarters.

Police occasionally round up criminals as they failed to bring specific charges against them.

The victims of the so-called mastans have to remain silent in most of the cases in fear of being harassed" an inhabitant of the town said.

Some inhabitants of the town alleged that mastans were committing crimes under the shelter of influential and vested quarters, who often use them for their own interest. They are usually hired by the quarters to take possession of disputed houses and property.

The areas where mastans are active are reportedly Charkolony, Townhall, College Road, and DPK Road.

About 50 clubs that have sprung up in different areas at the town have in fact, become dens of mastans, it is alleged.

Asked about this a competent source said, no step to defect such clubs was taken yet although the agency concerned was directed to do so.

As a result, mastans have continued their activities such as snatchings, hijackings robberies extortion of money and even teasing.

Extortion of money is known to be the major source of their income, it is alleged.

They use firearms, especially country made, the affected people said.

When contacted a high-ranking police officer said that they were aware of anti-social activities of the mastans.

Police constable hangs himself

PABNA, Sept 14: Abul Hosain, 35, a constable of Mymensingh police line committed suicide by hanging himself at the Pabna Mental Hospital. Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said that Hosain from Delduar thana of Tangail district, committed suicide by hanging himself in the toilet of the hospital at 12:00 noon.

His body was sent to the Sadar hospital for post mortem. A case was lodged with Sadar police.

Another report says: Shilpi Khatun, 30, wife of Kazi Rabul Islam, ASI of Aigharia thana in Pabna died of electrocution while she was cooking in a heater in her kitchen at about 1:00 pm Tuesday.

Two separate cases were filed with the local police.

Out in men's world

From Our Correspondent

COXS BAZAR, Sept 14: The scene is unprecedented for the district. As the traditional household job opportunities for women fading away, more and more women are participating in the works considered to be their counterparts for ages.

Recurring cyclones, floods, droughts and other natural calamities for the past few years have been rendering small and marginal farmers jobless, especially the women-folk.

Women are coming out in thousands of their traditional working place to look for work in construction sites, earth works and brick fields.

According to social welfare and labour leaders of the district, unmarried girls and divorcees constitute the majority of the women labour force.

The leaders called upon the government to create job opportunities for the distressed women by extending soft credit facilities for small and cottage industries in order to make them self-reliant.

There are about 5000 female labourers in Sadar thana, Ramu, Mohekhali, Teknaf and Ukhiya thanas of the district, according to unofficial sources.

Tk 3 lakh local currency recovered

SATKHIRA, Sept 14: Bangladesh Rifles recovered Tk 3 lakh from a country boat in river Ichhamoti near Haroddoha border in Debhata thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

According to BDR sources, the boat was coming from Indian side which made them suspicious. But when they chased the boat the inmates jumped into the river and managed to escape. BDR later recovered the amount from the boat.

It is suspected that they were returning home after selling smuggled goods.

Later, the money was deposited with the local customs officials. A case was lodged with Debhata police.



SYLHET: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman addressing a public meeting in Sunamganj town recently. — Star photo

Opposition raising unjustified demands, says Saifur

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 14: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said that, a democratically elected government can never be ousted through hartals or sieges. The BNP came to power by attaining the mandate from the people. The opposition was now raising unjustified demands to harass the present government, he said.

The finance minister was addressing a public meeting in Sunamganj town Wednesday afternoon. The meeting arranged by District BNP was addressed, among others, by Nozir Hossain, MP, Abul Haris Chowdhury, Arpana Barman, Nader Ahmed, ex-BSD leader Shahnewaj Chowdhury, ex-Ganatantrik Party leader Humayun Kabir Chowdhury while Fazlul Hoq Aspia, Advocate presided.

He said change of power can be achieved only through an election. Regarding the demand for a caretaker government, the minister said, the opposition would have to

raise the bill in the parliament. He called upon the political parties and others to come forward with fair political programmes which could bring welfare for the people. BNP had brought a major change in the field of development in the country during the last three years. The people started getting the results of these activities, he added. None of the past governments took such endeavour, he said.

Regarding the regional development he said, the present government had spent about Tk one hundred crore during the last three years for different development projects in the district of Sunamganj. Construction works of the bridge at Ahsanmara on Sylhet-Sunamganj road would be completed by the next financial year. The thana headquarters of Tahripur would get electricity facilities by the January '95, finance minister added. A major scheme had been taken for development of

educational institutions in the district, he added.

The minister also laid the foundation stone of the new building of Sunamganj District Bar Association. While addressing a gathering arranged on the occasion held with Advocate Nurul Islam, the minister said, an independent judiciary was essential for ensuring the rule of law, and protecting the democracy. The government was trying its best in this regard, he added.

Saifur Rahman later handed over cheques among the boat labourers who had taken loan. The BSCIC had sanctioned an amount of Tk 30 lakh for distribution among the boat labourers of Sunamganj district during the current year. The minister at the function at Balur Math allotted more money about Tk 50 lakh for loans among the labourers. The whole amount of loan would be given as self-employment programme, said an official.



Colourful rallies were brought out in Noakhali (L) and Sylhet districts recently marking the International Literacy Day. — Star photo

Deplorable condition of roads in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Sept 14: Two main roads in sadar and Kalkini thanas are in deplorable condition affecting greatly the movements of vehicles, reports UNB.

Two bridges between the roads are in bad shape also.

According to local people, the seven km long road from Pathoria ghat in Kalkini thana to sadar, is the only way of communication linking six unions of the thana. The road constructed during the British rule is still kutcha and no step has yet been taken to improve it.

Another road from Kulpuddi-Madra Bazar of Kalkini thana to the Sadar thana is only easy communication link of another five unions. The road is now in extremely bad shape as the bricklaying road was constructed 30 years ago.

The road developed cracks and potholes at different points due to damage of the bricks over the years. No renovation works were taken up after the devastating flood of 1988.

Local leaders urged the authorities concerned to take immediate measures to renovate the roads for the greater interest of the villagers.

Tk 25 cr sanctioned Water supply crisis in Sylhet to be removed

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 14: With a view to solving the existing water supply crisis in Sylhet Pourashava area the authority has taken up a scheme involving an amount of Tk 25 crore 46 lakh. Works on the five-year scheme would be started by December this year, it was informed.

A F M Kamal, Chairman of Sylhet Pourashava informed this correspondent that, Asian Development Bank (ADB) would finance the scheme under its "nine-town water supply and sanitation project". Of the total amount, 50 per cent grant has been already while the rest of the 50 per cent would be considered as loan. The loan would have to be returned in 15 years after completion of the scheme, the source added.

The town dwellers have been suffering a lot for necessary supply of water for long. The pourashava can not even supply one third of the total demand. The authorities have been supplying only 18 lakh gallons of water against its minimum requirement of 64 lakh gallons. Moreover, with the recent expansion of the pourashava areas, the total

demand would rise to one crore thirty lakh gallons, the source said. The area would be 29.14 square kilometres from the existing area at 8.41 square kilometres, he added. The population of town would also be at about five lakh.

Executive Engineer of Sylhet Pourashava informed that, under the scheme two new deep tubewells will be installed, two water treatment plants would be set up while three old deep tubewells would also be renovated. Besides, new water supply lines would also be constructed in both the old and expanded areas of the pourashava, he said.

The Department of Public Health Engineering has been given the task of extending technical assistance for the project, the source added.

Works on the project would be completed by the year 1998-99. Successful completion of the project would ensure water supply of one lakh fifty thousand gallons in the town, the source added. It would positively meet the increased demand of the people of this town, the source hoped.

One killed, two injured in road mishap

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 14: A man was killed and two others were injured in a road accident near Gattura village in sadar thana on Brahmanbaria-Sylhet highway Wednesday morning, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Mohammad Faruk Mia, 22, of Ulichapara village in Sadar thana died on the spot when a Brahmanbaria bound truck collided with another truck at the point.

Ershad's release demanded

MAGURA, Sept 14: Activists of the district unit of Jatiya Party brought out a procession in the town on Monday demanding release of their leader former president H M Ershad, reports UNB.

Led by Advocate Hasan Siraj Sajju and Khan Ziaul Haque, the president and general secretary of the district JP respectively, the processionists paraded the main roads of the town and chanted slogans in favour of their demand.

They also called upon the government to accept the demand of caretaker government to pave the way for holding free and fair general elections.

River erosions threaten existence of 4 primary schools in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Sept 14: Continuous erosion of the rivers Padma and Ariakhan has threatened the existence of four government primary schools in Shibchar thana, reports UNB.

According to official sources, Magurkhandia Government Primary School, Tarpasha Primary School, GK Primary School at any time may be washed away by the river Ariakhan.

Steps have been taken to shift another school to safer place but no measures have yet been taken, to save the other schools.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to take immediate measures in this regard.

Another report adds: Dwellers of Madaripur town and adjacent areas have suffering badly for a long time due to absence of postal service in the evening.

The business community and NGO officials said that after completion of their day's work they need correspondence and postal transactions to various parts of the country. But in the absence of a service in the evening they are facing difficulties.

Scores of people from adjacent villages come to the district headquarters daily for posting letters — domestic and overseas.

Local leaders have urged the authorities concerned to

take immediate steps to solve the problem.

Another report from Madaripur says: Two government high schools in Sadar thana of the district have been facing various problems including shortage of teachers and accommodation.

The schools are United Islamia Government Boys High School and Donovan Government Girls High School. Both the schools have been facing acute accommodation problems as the number of students are increasing day by day.

Absence of playground and auditorium are the common problems in both schools. The toilets of these schools are dirty and emit bad odour polluting the environment.

Moreover, the teachers are to attend their classroom duties from far away facing problems due to absence of government quarters.

The United Islamia High School established in 1950 was nationalised in 1968. Since then, no initiative has been taken for the development of the school where about 1,000 students are studying.

The two storied incomplete building has developed cracks in the roof and walls and the doors are in a dilapidated condition.

Moreover, the land of the school is being grabbed by the

outsiders in the absence of boundary walls. The hostel of the school are also in deplorable condition.

Education in the girls school is being hampered due to shortage of teachers. Several posts of teachers including the post of Headmistress have been lying vacant for a long time. At present about 900 students are studying in the school.

The school could not provide transport facilities to the students due to fund shortage, it is learnt. Moreover, there is no night guard for the security of school property.

Local guardians and elite have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to solve the problems of these schools to ensure better education of the students.

Problems of pryd programme

Another report from Kushtia says: Most of the government and non-government primary schools in six thanas of the district have been facing manifold problems in implementing primary education programme.

Officials said, there are 549 primary schools in the district. Most of them have been facing accommodation problems as the number of enrollments in every academic session increasing.

15,000 suffering from mal-nutrition

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Sept 14: About fifteen thousand children in Chandpur district are suffering from mal nutrition, jaundice and other intestinal diseases due to lack of proper medical facilities.

According to doctors, normal growth of these children are being hampered for want of vitamins. About sixty per cent children are the victims of intestinal and skin diseases. And cases of mal nutrition are increasing day by day due to lack of a balanced diet. Scar-

city of necessary medicines in all seven health complexes of the district is a common feature.

People complained that the modernised hospital at district headquarters and health complexes at thana levels are not equipped with proper medicines to provide treatment to the affected children.

It is alleged that about thirty per cent school-going children have been suffering from mal nutrition.



SYLHET: Abu Siddique Chowdhury, additional district magistrate, speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of the International Literacy Day at Jalalpur of sadar thana recently. — Star photo