

# Tk 56 lakh postal fraud in Nilphamari

## Cheque forgery detected; 3 staff accused, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Nilphamari

An amount of about Tk 56 lakh has been misappropriated from savings accounts of the Postal Savings Bank in Nilphamari Head Post Office through forgery.

A five-member team headed by Additional Director General Mofasserur Rahman, which probed the matter since Sunday, accused three persons of the scam yesterday.

They are Assistant Post Master Nurul Islam Munna, Ledger Operator Ahmedul Islam Raju and

Postal Operator Taslimuddin. Munna and Raju were arrested yesterday after the probe team filed a case with Nilphamari thana. Taslimuddin is absconding, police said.

Sources in the team said defalcation of Tk 56 lakh has been detected after checking some accounts following complaints by the account holders.

They said they have submitted their report to higher authorities.

More investigation will be done later, they said.

The amount was defalcated through forged cheques at different

times since 2000.

The Rajshahi Divisional Post Master General Nasir Uddin also joined the probe team yesterday.

They said they found 'gross irregularities in accounts'. There are about 14000 accounts with the postal savings bank.

Sources at the post office said amounts were shown in some 'inoperative accounts' and then those were drawn through false cheques but not recorded in the ledger book since the year 2000.

It was also found that audit teams had audited the bank accounts twice a year as per rule but the

irregularities were not detected earlier.

These came to light when the Post Master General directed for inquiry as some account holders lodged complaints.

Postal Operator Taslim Uddin is missing since Monday, when he submitted his statement before the inquiry committee.

Post Master of Nilphamari Head Post Office Torab Uddin told this correspondent that Taslim Uddin did not submit any leave application.

Meanwhile worried account holders are crowding the post office every day to know about their



PHOTO: STAR

Vehicles crossing the rundown Teesta bridge amid risk of accident any moment.

## Teesta bridge now risky

RAFIQUE SARKER back from  
Lalmohirhat

Rangpur: Teesta Railway Bridge is in a deplorable condition. The rail and road communication from Kurigram and Lalmohirhat to other parts of the country may be snapped any time.

Trains and motorised vehicles now cross the bridge with great risk.

All slippers over the bridge have been damaged. Sometimes, vehicles have to wait hours to cross the bridge due to traffic jam created by the deplorable condition of the bridge.

Built during the British period, the bridge was opened for vehicles in 1978. Since then both trains and vehicles use the bridge. Everyday, thousands of vehicles cross it.

Every year rail way authorities repair the bridge spending a big amount of money, but every year it gets damaged due to heavy traffic on it.

Transport owners in Kurigram and Lalmohirhat have threatened that they would stop paying toll for crossing the bridge if it is not repaired soon. But nothing has been done.

Meanwhile, people of Kurigram and Lalmohirhat have demanded construction of a road bridge along the old railway bridge to ease traffic.

## Patuakhali WDB contractors' 11-pt demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Contractors enlisted with Water Development Board (WDB) yesterday put forward a 11-point demand including removal of Executive Engineer Abdul Mazid Mollah for alleged irregularities in distributing WDB work and cancellation of all work orders given recently.

They made the demands at a press conference held at Patuakhali Press Club.

Contractor SM Abdur Rob read out a written statement at the press conference.

Their other demands include investigation into the alleged irregularities by higher authorities, fresh tendering, opening of bids in presence of a magistrate and issuance of fresh work order.

They said they will launch tougher agitation if the demands are not met within seven days.

Earlier, they alleged that Tk 20 work of WDB was distributed by the Executive Engineer among some selected contractors.

# IU appoints more teachers, staff than advertised for

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Allegations of irregularities have been made by different quarters regarding appointment of 40 people including 12 teachers at the Islamic University in Kushtia.

Most of the appointees are men of ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, some having records of being involved in crimes including murder, sources in the university said over telephone yesterday.

They said the university authorities have appointed 12 teachers, 20 officials and eight third and fourth-class employees in different departments against only 17 posts advertised for. They all joined on April 1.

The 20 officials were appointed against only nine vacant posts, while a good number of employees were waiting for promotion to these posts, the sources claimed. As per rule and practice, these nine posts should have been filled up from among eligible aspirants, they said.

The authorities had advertised for four lecturers to fill up four vacant posts in Applied Food and Nutrition Department, where four lecturers were already serving on ad-hoc basis. The authorities made services of the existing four (those working on ad-hoc basis) permanent and appointed four more lecturers.

On the other hand, eight third and fourth class employees have been appointed against only two posts advertised for.

According to the sources, the persons appointed in different posts were either leaders or activists of BNP or Jamaat.

Abdul Mueyed Babul, president of Kushtia district Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), accused in several cases, has been appointed Section Officer.

The other appointees include Samim Akter, joint secretary of Islamic University (IU) JCD, who is accused in several cases; Hafizur Rahman, former general secretary of IU JCD, also accused in several cases; Golam Mahafuz, organising secretary of IU JCD; Afroz Ara, sister of JCD IU unit secretary Humayun Kabir Firoj; Walur Rahman, former president IU JCD; Golam Mawla, former vice-president of IU JCD; and JCD leaders Mir Sirajul Islam; Zahir Uddin; Sahidul Islam; Risanuzzaman and Rawsanuzzaman. All of them have been appointed to posts of Section Officer.

Four other JCD leaders--Ashrafuzzaman, Zakia Akter, Khursida Jahan and Abdul Kader have been appointed doctors at the JU Medical Centre.

Abu Zafar Adam, Jahangir Alam and Moazzem Hossain, all activists

of Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), have been appointed to the post of Section Officer, the sources said. Adam was suspended twice as he faced charges of being involved in murder and assaulting teachers.

Besides, eight of the recruited teachers were activists of ruling BNP or Jamaat, the sources claimed.

Different organisations including the Alliance of Progressive Teachers criticised such recruitment.

Prof M Alauddin, president of IU Bangabandhu Parishad said such politically motivated appointments will only vitiate the academic atmosphere on the campus.

"When the university is facing a huge budget deficit, such appointments will put an extra burden", Prof Alauddin said.

Other sources said the IU has a budget deficit of about Tk 10 crore.

IU Vice Chancellor M Rafiqul Islam could not be contacted as he is out of the country since April 1.

When asked, Registrar Dr. Moslem declined to comment, saying "The VC knows everything".

Sources said there is a board for recruitment. Once approved by it, names are sent to the Syndicate for final approval. But the two bodies rarely challenge the VC, they claimed.

## 'Robber' lynched in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

One alleged robber was lynched by a mob in Maha Mayaer Pole area in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Witnesses, victims and police sources said a gang of armed robbers entered the house of one Yunus Molla in the area by creating a hole in the floor at about 2-30 am Wednesday.

Yunus, a land administration employee working at Khepuparara in Patuakhali districts, was not at home.

The robbers hacked and injured the inmates including Yunus' wife Hosnerara Monju, son Rumen and daughter Panna.

The inmates' screams drew neighbours, who cordoned the house and raised a hue and cry.

When others came and tried to nab the robbers, they also hacked some of indiscriminately and attempted to flee.

The mob caught one of the dacoits, aged about 40, and lynched him. Others managed to flee.

Five persons were injured in the incident. They are being treated at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Later in the morning police recovered some sharp weapons, torchlights and other instruments used by the robbers and sent the dead body of the lynched robber to hospital for autopsy.

Hosnerara Monju has lodged a case with Barisal Kotwali police yesterday afternoon.

## Manikganj Jubo Dal refutes allegations

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Activists of Manikganj unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal yesterday brought out a procession in the town protesting the allegation of corruption brought against their president Motaleb Hossain and secretary ASM Iqbal Hossain.

The procession started from the BNP district office and terminated in front of Deputy Commissioner's office where the rally was held.

Local Jubo Dal leaders Kazi Malek Hossain Dipu, Khorshed Alam Rana, Abdul Motin Biswas, Masudur Rahman, Riaz Mahmud Harez, Samsuddin Ahammed and Abdul Kuddus and Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal convener Abdul Muttalib addressed the rally.

They said the allegation brought against their president and secretary is not true. They alleged the leaders and activists who brought out a procession and held rally on Tuesday against the Jubo Dal president and secretary are involved in drug peddling and other crimes.

They said the district unit of Jubo Dal was elected at a council on September 23, 2003.

## Sec 144 on AL's meeting venue in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Awmi League's scheduled public meeting at Abhiram Karimia Senior Madrasa ground in the sadar Upazila was not held as the administration clamped Section 144 at the venue to avert "possible clash between rival factions of the party".

But AL leaders claimed that the district administration foiled the meeting on a false apprehension.

Police said, the administration imposed Section 144 at the ground from 1:00 pm to 12:00 pm yesterday.

Officer-in-charge of Kotwali police station said, a magistrate and a large number of police men were deployed there.

A magistrate on condition of anonymity said two rival AL groups called meeting at the same venue at the same time.

Rangpur AL Secretary Elias Ahmed told newsmen at Rangpur Reporter's Club that there was no division in the party in the district and so there was no question of clash.

## Satkhira AL council tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The council of Satkhira district Awami League (AL) will be held tomorrow after nine years.

The last council was held in 1996 when Sayed Kamal Bakht and Monsur Ahmed were elected president and general secretary.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina dissolved the district committee on August 11, 1998 for alleged 'anti party role' by some of the members.

In the same year, district committees of AL's fronts Chhatra League and Jubo League were also dissolved on the same charge.

On March 21, 1999 the party chief formed a convening committee headed by Sayed Kamal Bakht and Engineer Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as convener and joint convener respectively to hold a council within 90 days.

Sayed Kamal Bakht died in 2000.

# 'Allow Woman UP leaders to play their vital role'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A day-long workshop on 'Active participation of elected woman members in local development' was held at Brahmanbaria Zila Parishad auditorium here yesterday.

It was jointly organised by Khan Foundation, a local NGO and the local administration with assistance from USAID.



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at the workshop on the role of woman Union Parishad leaders in development activities, held in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Brahmanbaria Deputy Commissioner Md Jahurul Haque was the chief guest in the workshop presided over by Md. Bahauddin Buiyan Milton of Khan Foundation.

Police Superintendent ATM Tareque; Sofiqul Islam, Executive Director of BDC, Brahmanbaria and Ex-MP Asiya Rahman were special guests.

About 110 Union Parishad mem-

bers and former local body leaders including women, NGO officials, government officials and journalists took part in the workshop. Md Omar Khaiwan of Khan Foundation presented the key-note paper.

The speakers said the all elected UP woman members should be active in their respective duties, which will accelerate development. They also urged all Union Parishads to allow woman UP members to take part in all kinds activities.

The workshop also suggested that the UP members, specially women members, have a vital role in stopping dowry, acid attack on women, child marriage and trafficking and in promoting women's education.

The discussion was moderated by ex-MP Aseefa Rahman, Chairman of Brahmanbaria unit of Jatiya Hahila Sangsta.

The DC told the workshop that women UP leaders can intervene and stop any child marriage even if marriage registrars attempt to solemnise those. The administration will back them in such efforts.