

SATKHIRA BNP LEADER MURDER CASE TAKES NEW TURN

Jubo Dal leader confesses to involvement, names 16 others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Tala thana BNP president ABM Altaf Hossain murder case has taken a new turn following statement by a Jubo Dal leader confessing to his involvement in the incident.

Former Tala upazila Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal president Badruzzaman Badru, a accused in the case, in his statement before a Magistrate Thursday night confess to his involvement in the murder, investigation officer of the case Inspector Hari Pada Biswas told this correspondent yesterday. The statement was made under Section 164 of BPC.

He (Badru) also disclosed names of others involved, the IO said but declined to disclose their names in the interest of investigation.

"The case has taken a new turn after the statement. Wait, you will get all the information soon", the IO told this correspondent over cell phone yesterday.

Tala upazila BNP president ABM Altaf Hossain was killed at Panchrasta intersection at Patkelghata Bazaar in the upazila

in a bomb attack on the night of May 4, 2004.

The murder triggered public protests in Tala upazila and created rift in the then ruling BNP in Satkhira.

Joint forces arrested Badruzzaman Badru, a close aide to former BNP lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib, from Patkelghata on December 30. Badru is also known as a top terror in the area.

During primary interrogation, he told law enforcers that he along with others killed Altaf Hossain on the night of May 4 in 2004.

Later he was handed over to the investigation officer (IO) of the case Inspector Hari Pada Biswas of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), who produced him before the court of Magistrate Saidur Rahman. The magistrate recorded Badru's statement.

"We killed him (ABM Altaf Hossain) due to political rivalry," he said in his statement, according to the IO.

Badru also disclosed names of 16 others involved directly or indirectly in the murder, other sources said.

They include a principal of a college, a joint secretary of Satkhira district BNP, a Union Parishad chairman, a BNP activist and two outlaws, according to the sources.

Slain Altaf Hossain's wife Rehena Khanam at a press conference on November 2 last year alleged that intra-party feud in BNP led to the murder of her husband.

"He was killed as per a plan by some BNP leaders including former lawmaker Habib.

"To save themselves, the killers and masterminds got a case filed by Abdur Rahman, son of Fazar Ali of Senergati village, as the complainant. Abdur Rahman is an accused in several cases for theft and extortion. The case was filed without taking our permission", she told the press conference.

"Some innocent people including businessman Biswajit Sadhu, president of Satkhira district Krishak League and Juba League leader Hillol were named as accused in the case filed with Tala thana", she said.

The slain leader's mother Mariam Begum, at another press conference on November 5 at

Patkelghata, also accused Satkhira district BNP convenor and immediate past lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib as the mastermind behind her son's murder.

"I could not demand justice and punishment of the killers of my son during the rule of BNP-led four-party alliance government fearing retaliation by the former lawmaker and his accomplices", she alleged at the press conference.

"Godfathers are still active to save the killers and hinder justice", 75 year-old Mariam Begum said.

After the murder, local people brought out several processions and held rallies demanding arrest and punishment of the killers.

On contact, Habibul Islam Habib denied the allegation and said that during his tenure, he tried his best to complete the investigation and demanded punishment of the killers.

The accused college principal and the UP chairman refuted the allegations of involvement in the murder. They claimed that a vested quarter was trying to implicate them in the case to harass them.

PHENSIDYL SMUGGLING 2 cops held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Two absconding policemen of Satkhira Police Line against whom a case of drug peddling was filed on January 18 were arrested on Thursday night.

The arrested are sub-inspector (SI) Sakmol Hossain and constable Mostafizur Rahman, police said.

Earlier, police filed the case against them following recovery of a sack of Indian Phensidyl syrup from an abandoned car on the Satkhira-Kaligonj Road at Itagachha in the town on January 18.

After arrest of the car driver, Babu Gazi, police came to know from his confessional statement that the two aforesaid policemen hired the vehicle and brought the sack of Phensidyl from Kulia in Debhata upazila.

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station accusing the three. Since then SI Sakmol and Mostafiz were absconding. They were also suspended from their posts temporarily for their alleged involvement in drug peddling, police said.

On contact, Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Nawsher Ali confirmed the incident.

10 hurt in Pabna bus dacoity

A CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

At least 10 bus passengers were injured and cash and valuables worth Tk 5 lakh were looted from a Dhaka bound bus at Ataikula on Friday night, police and locals said.

A gang of armed robbers climbed into the bus in guise of passengers from Pabna Bus Stand from where the bus started its journey towards the capital destination at about 4:50 am. As soon as the bus arrived Ataikula, the robbers took control of the bus at arms point and started beating the passengers. They looted Tk 5 lakh in cash and valuables from the passengers at gunpoint. After committing the crime, the robbers got down from the bus at Bonogram village. Of the injured passengers, Nasim was shifted to Pabna General Hospital for treatment.

56 'criminals' held, 11 bombs recovered in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

Joint forces arrested 56 alleged criminals and recovered a locally-made pistol, one round bullet and 11 live bombs following raids conducted in different parts of the district in the last 24 hours.

Kotwali police arrested Golzar Hossain Babu from Islambag area in the town. Following his confessional statement, police recovered a home-made pistol and one round

bullet from Dhap in the town.

Pirgachha police recovered a briefcase and 11 live bombs from the house of a rickshaw-puller named Sahidul in Sharif Sundor area of Parul union.

Sahidul said, an unidentified man and a woman, introducing as couple, sought shelter in his house on Friday night. On refusal, they went away keeping the briefcase in his room.

Being informed, police recovered the bombs the next morning and defused the bombs at the police station in the afternoon. Twenty-two more were arrested from the town while four others from Gangachara, three from Taraganj, five from Badarganj, nine from Mithapukur, seven from Pirganj, two from Pirgachha and four from Kaunia area.

Police said, they were listed criminals and most of them were wanted in several cases.



A building built by encroaching the Victoria Canal in Tangail town being demolished by the district administration yesterday. At least 200 illegal structures were knocked down in the town on the day.



The Iswardi Agriculture Research Institute has evolved a high yielding and improved variety of tomato. Researchers claim the yet-to-be-named variety will yield up to 300 maunds per bigha.

Removal of ASP demanded in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

Ramgour Upazila Awami Leauge (AL) yesterday demanded immediate removal of the assistant superintendent of police (ASP), Belayet Hossain from the hill district for his biased role towards BNP leaders and activists in Ramgour upazila.

Ramgour upazila AL president Kazi Ruhul Amin recently handed over a memorandum to the superintendent of police (SP), on behalf of the party, containing the demand for removal of the ASP.

In the memorandum, he narrated the misdeeds of the ASP saying he always showed indifference to BNP activists' misdeeds. He always protected them and acted against AL workers, the memorandum said. He never took action against any BNP activist, the memo said. He always protected the interest of BNP, the memo added.

Ramgour upazila AL president further said we need protection from the clutch of the ruthless ASP. This is why we demand his immediate removal from the hill district, he said.

Imams join villagers to resist acid violence in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

It was a different day for the people of Langaljhara, a remote village in Kalaroa upazila where over 500 people including 'Imams' (religious leaders) of mosques joined hands in a rally to resist acid violence.

Sodesh, a local NGO, and Action Aid Bangladesh, a major NGO, jointly organised the rally which was held at Langaljhara Union Parishad (UP) auditorium on Friday.

Keragachhi Union Parishad (UP) acting chairman Zulfikar Ali chaired the rally. Tailkupi Jame Mosque 'imam' Maulana Matiur Rahman was the chief guest and Mahmudpur Jame Mosque 'imam' Maulana Hossain Ali was present as special guest.

Speakers stressed on public motivation to resist acid violence. They urged all to stand beside the victims so that acid attackers are punished.

They said the incidents of acid violence increased alarmingly across the country because the culprits escape punishment through legal loopholes.

They said that 'imams' of local mosques can play a vital role to

free society from acid violence, a heinous crime against humanity. 'Imams' can create awareness among people about the bad effects of acid violence, speakers said.

They appealed to all, especially the religious leaders, to stand beside the acid survivors and help them lead a normal life.

They called upon the authorities concerned for tougher laws to punish the culprits. They stressed on proper treatment and rehabilitation of acid survivors.

While addressing, the 'imams' declared acid attackers as enemies of society and expressed their determination to resist acid attack even at the cost of their lives.

They also call for boycotting those involve in acid violence and crimes against women.

Among others, Maulana Abu Solaiman, Maulana Deldar Rahman, UP members Mozammel Haque, Amiruzzaman and Abdur Rashid, Sheikh Selim Biswas, acid thrower Ananda Mohon Biswas and agriculturist Uttam Kumar Majumdar addressed.



Students of Fine Arts at Rajshahi University yesterday held a daylong 'cake festival' at their department.

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