

# Citizens' body demands probe into ex-Jamaat MP's assets, 'corruption'

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury headed managing committees of 13 colleges in Jaldhaka, recruited over 100 pro-Jamaat teachers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Jaldhaka Citizen's Rights Committee has demanded probe into assets of former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and alleged corruption and irregularities done by him. He is now in jail.

Former lawmaker from Nilphamari-3 constituency, Mizanur Rahman was arrested last week after joint forces recovered from his house 110 pieces of CI sheet allegedly misappropriated from government relief materials.

Demands have also been raised by some senior college teachers in the area for investigation into alleged irregularities made by the lawmaker to appoint pro-Jamaat teachers. Nilphamari-3 constituency comprises Jaldhaka and part of Kishoreganj upazila.

Once poor Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury turned into a millionaire after becoming a lawmaker, Citizen's Committee convener Golam Mostafa said while talking to this correspondent.

Mizanur Rahman's fortune is being questioned by many people in his constituency, Golam Mostafa said. Claimed himself to be 'very poor and distressed', Mizanur Rahman managed to leased 30 decimal government land in Jaldhaka town few years after the Liberation War. He raised a tin-shed there, part of which was used as residence and part of it as a

small medicine shop.

Now the tin-shed house has been replaced with a magnificent two-storyed building, said Golam Mostafa.

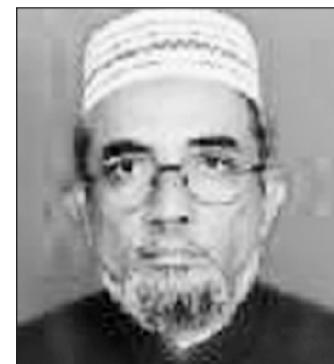
While surrendering to court, Mizanur Rahman told newsmen that he kept the CI sheets at his house to protect those from thieves.

In 2005, the French embassy in Dhaka detected passport forgery by the then lawmaker Mizanur Rahman for visa.

After the forgery was detected, the French embassy complained to the foreign ministry that passports of the lawmaker, his second wife Ismat Ara and son Mehedi were found 'tempered' by using ultra-violet scanning. It (French embassy) also requested the ministry for action for the forgery, according to earlier newspaper reports.

After the forgery came to light, Mizanur Rahman told newsmen that the passports were missing and those were tempered and submitted to French embassy by some people who wanted to defame him. He also showed a copy of a general diary (GD) and claimed that he lodged the GD after the passports were missing. But sources claimed that he had managed a post-dated GD to avoid criminal cases in connection with the passport forgery.

Golam Mostafa, who is also president of Jaldhaka Non-



Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, government College Teachers Association alleged that after becoming lawmaker, Mizanur Rahman became president of 13 non-government colleges in the area.

By exercising power, he created Jamaat-controlled managing committees in all the colleges and appointed at least 100 pro-Jamaat teachers in five years either by removing others or through fresh recruitment, Golam Mostafa claimed. Huge amounts of money were realized as donation for the jobs, he claimed.

The colleges include Mirganj

College, Koimari College,

Shimulbari College, Tengonbari

College, Jaldhaka Degree College,

Jaldhaka Mohila College, Ideal

College, Rabeya Chowdhury

College and Computer College.

Anisur Rahman, a senior teacher at Jaldhaka Degree College, told this correspondent that ignoring government rules, the then lawmaker terminated or suspended many teachers from those colleges as they were not Jamaat supporters.

The founder principal of Jaldhaka College, who was a freedom fighter, filed a case with a court in Nilphamari seeking justice

against his termination by the pro-Jamaat managing committee.

After becoming a lawmaker, he established Mizanur Rahman Krishi College after his name at his Balagram village. To set up the college, Mizanur Rahman deposited Tk 15 lakh to government treasury and purchased several acres of prime land along the road from Burimari land port to Jaldhaka.

It should be probed from where the money came to buy lands and construct several college buildings, Golam Mostafa said. Allegations have it that during the BNP-Jamaat government, fake development projects were prepared and lion's shares of the allocations were misappropriated to benefit Jamaat men. The irregularities were also protested by local leaders of BNP and its youth front Jatiyatabadi Judo Dal.

Jaldhaka Judo Dal president Rubel Hossain alleged that in last five years, no BNP man got any work under government's rural infrastructure development programme. Project committees were formed with Jamaat men as head. They misappropriated food grains and money allocated for projects, he alleged.

Citing two examples, other sources alleged that at least 200 tonnes of food grains were allocated every year for repair of two 4-km roads in Balagram and Kathali unions but the work is yet to be completed.

There were also allegations of repression on a number of minority community people by Jamaat men in last five years. Norendra Nath of Balagram village alleged that the MP's men occupied his land to construct a road. As Norendra resisted, he was implicated in a false case of stealing government trees but was acquitted by court.

## Outlaw escapes from custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An alleged outlaw belonging to Purba Bangla Communist Party (PBCP) escaped with handcuffs from police custody at nature Sadar Hospital yesterday.

Swapan Ali Joardar, son of Shawkat Ali Joardar of Bisha village in Atrai upazila fled away leaving his cloths in the early hours of yesterday as all four policemen engaged to guard him were sleeping, police sources said.

Nalanda police caught Swapan when he went collect a toll of Tk 1 lakh from school master Shahidul Islam on February 17.

After a beating, they handed him over to police, who admitted him to Natore Sadar Hospital.

Earlier on February 17, Swapan blasted a cocktail at Shahidul's house to threaten him to pay the toll.

Higher police authorities in Natore suspended the four policemen Nayek Zahidur Rahman and constables Tawhidul, Md Ali Zinnah and Anminul Islam.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

There was rush of tourists in Rangamati yesterday. The hanging bridge on Kaptai lake was one of the attractions in the scenic hills.

## Khulna ACC gets 700 complaints in two weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Hindu land owner -Madan Gopal- has lodged a complaint to Netrakona Superintendent of Police (SP) bringing an allegation of land grabbing against eight BNP cadres by evicting his family from Sarmushia village in Atpara upazila in 2001.

The BNP cadres are Nazimuddin, Akhil Mia, Islamuddin, Hashimuddin, Sabuj Mia, Faju Mia, Shantu Mia and Abdul Aziz of the same village, according to the allegation.

In the complaint lodged on February 12, Madan said he was compelled to leave his village in face of death threat and took shelter at Barabazaar in Netrakona town where he is living till the report.

He said he went to Atpara Police Station to file a case just after the incident, but in vain as police refused to take any case against the BNP cadres. The SP asked Atpara officer-in-charge (OC) to take action against the land grabbers.

On contact, sub-inspector (SI) Azizul Haque, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, confirmed the incident saying action would be taken against the criminals.

Complainants sought thorough investigations of the allegations.

But, Khulna ACC deputy director (DD) Abdul Karim said he is yet to receive necessary instruction from the head office for investigating the allegations.

He said his office is receiving the petitions since February 7. Most of the allegations were against government officials and policemen, he said.

Allegations were also brought against political leaders which included three former lawmakers.

The allegations are land grabbing, bank money defaulting and toll collection with the help of party cadres.

## CI sheets recovered, Krishi Bank official nabbed in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Joint forces on Thursday nabbed Babuganj Krishi Bank field inspector Probir Kumar while he was realising 'commission' for disbursement of agriculture loan.

Md Ibrahim, branch manager of the bank, lodged a case against Probir. He was arrested and sent to jail.

Sources said Probir demanded 10 per cent commission from Amir Bepari and Babul Bepari of Utteria village for Tk 5000 loan each.

As he paid them Tk 4,600 each after deducting his commission, plainclothed security men caught him red handed.

Another report from Jhalakati said joint forces recovered 97 CI sheets given as relief and some materials allocated for construction of a bridge from the house of Abdul Mannan, chairman of Ranapasha Union Parishad in Nalchandi upazila on Thursday.

Mannan was earlier given award as best UP chairman in

Jhalakati district.

The joint forces also caught Mannan from a toilet of local union community health center where he was hiding. He was sent to jail.

## 2 arms traders held at Benapole

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) nabbed two arm dealers from Dhannyakhola village near Benapole border yesterday.

BDR sources said they nabbed Jasimuddin, 30 and Atiar Rahman, 35, while they were returning from India after buying a pistol.

The arrestees confessed they had long been engaged in this business.

Police said they used to buy arms from India and sell those in different areas of the country including Dhaka city.

15X2



Joint forces yesterday recovered 173 undistributed CI sheets from the store room of Alamdanga municipality in Chuadanga and another 8 from the house of the brother of municipal chairman Mir Mohiuddin. Mohiuddin was arrested.

## Vow to fight corruption with Ekushey spirit

TIB holds discussion in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a discussion here yesterday vowed to fight corruption united from society with the spirit of Ekushey.

The discussion titled, 'Corruption is Contrary to Ekushey Perception,' was jointly organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Sachetan Nagari Committee (conscious citizen's committee) to mark the International Mother Language Day.

Held at Satkhira Bar Association Auditorium, the discussion was chaired by its convenor AKM Shahidullah.

Language veteran and Bangladesh Teachers' Associations Federation president Sheikh Amanullah was present as chief guest.

Paying glowing tributes to the

language martyrs, the discussants termed corruption against the spirit of Ekushey'.

They said that previously honest people were involved in politics but now-a-days corrupt people and black money holders control politics. Devoted politicians are ignored because black money is a major factor in winning an election, they said.

Speakers said, widespread corruption in every sphere of life is hampering the growth of development in the country. They stressed on participation of young people in uprooting corruption with the spirit of Ekushey.

They urged people, especially members of the civil society to uproot corruption from the society once for all.

They alleged that due to unhealthy politics, development of the country is being hampered greatly.

They blamed rich businessmen for vitiating the atmosphere of politics. Most of the political parties of the country nominate them to contest polls because they donate a major amount of money to the party fund, speakers said.

They said that corruption is increasing day by day in all spheres of life due to unhealthy trend in politics.

They called for containing corruption and all sorts of irregularities including price hike of essentials to protect the country from ruination.

They alleged that a politicisation of administration was behind massive corruption in the country.

Among others, Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar, Anisur Rahim, Pabitra Mohon Das and Palu Bashir addressed.

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