

From grocer to millionaire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

The party in power came as a magic lamp for once grocer and former Shibir activist Mirza Haider Ali. He became a millionaire by virtue of being the assistant private secretary (APS) to former state minister for home affairs.

He now owns one acre of land worth about Tk one crore behind the Netrakona Roads and Highway office, seven housing plots in Newas Nagar worth about Tk 80 lakh, built a big fashionable house in his native Baribadara village in Madan upazila.

Intelligence sources also said Hider is business partner of two foreign companies and his assets and properties are worth several crores of taka. He also owns 'flats' in the capital, Fazal said.

Absconding Haider Ali is on the arrest list, Detective Branch



Mirza Haider Ali

(police) Inspector Abul fazal told this correspondent yesterday.

His main source of income was realising money from job seekers and 'commission' on projects of different government departments, the sources said.

Netrakona police said, he arranged jobs for over 1500 people in police department, health department, primary education, fire service and other government departments during BNP-Jamaat rule in exchange of money ranging from Tk one lakh to five lakh from each.

Allegations have it that he also earned money from toll collection, transfer and promotion of government officials in different department in Netrakona, done by using the name of former state minister for home affairs.

Haider was a student of Dugia Dakhil Madrasha in Netrakona Sadar upazila. He passed Dakhil examination in 1982. During his student life he was a Shibir activist. He started life with a grocery at Madan Bazar in 1990, which he held till 2001.

After BNP-Jamaat alliance

came to power in 2001, he was made APS to the state minister for home.

Haider organised a cadre led by a local body leader in Chakura and a cousin of the former state minister for home. They realised toll from government offices and businessmen in Netrakona district, sources alleged. The home minister's cousin has been arrested and sent to jail.

Exercising power and political influence, Haider Ali also occupied some water bodies in Khaliajuri upazila from where he earned huge amounts of money every year. Chunar Haor, Maradhanu, Dhalimati, Gazaria, Katharjani, Banchapur and Ruail Bill in Khaliajuri upazila are still in his "illegal" possession, sources said.

Ex-JP MP Mondol among 59 sued for land grabbing in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

The Mithapukur Range of Forest Department has filed a case against former Jatiya Party (JP) lawmaker Noor Mohammad Mondol and 58 others including a local BNP leader and Union Parishad (UP) for grabbing forest lands.

The accused BNP leader is Siful Islam, president of the party's Pirganj upazila unit, sources said.

In the case filed on Sunday by Mithapukur forest officials, it was stated that Noor Mohammad Mondol illegally occupied about

5.8 acres of forestland and Saiful Islam and his men another 10 acres.

Cutting a large number of trees, Mondol dug a big pond in Kaderabad forestland in Mithapukur Range and built a hatchery there.

Deputy Ranger of Mithapukur Forest Range, SM Kaikobad, alleged that Noor Mohammad and his men grabbed about 60 acres of forestland.

In the FIR, it was stated that the lands were grabbed 10 years ago but legal action could not be taken as Noor Mohammad was the

lawmaker from the area (Rangpur-6 constituency), he said.

Siful Islam and his men grabbed the land in the name of playground styled 'Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Stadium.'

Earlier, a forest official was stand-released as he filed a case against Saiful in 2003, Kaikobas said.

Kaikobad said, "Instead of taking action against Saiful and other accused, the local administration influenced high-ups to punish the official."

An official of Mithapukur Forest

Range on condition of anonymity told this correspondent that miscreants allegedly sheltered by the lawmaker and the BNP leader took away trees from Kadirabad forest during daytime but police could not take any action.

When asked, Noor Mohammad said, he has not grabbed any forest land. The lands claimed by the forest department could be on the banks of his pond, he said.

Saiful could not be contacted despite repeated attempts over cell phone. Some sources said he is absconding for about one month to avoid arrest.



PHOTO: STAR

The big pond (left) and the house built on its bank by former JP MP Noor Mohammad Mondol allegedly by grabbing forest lands in Rangpur.

KUSHTIA MURDER

Press conference of victim's family attacked *Newsman abused, threatened*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Criminals accused in a murder case yesterday attacked a press conference being addressed by the victim's family demanding arrest of the killers.

The attackers assaulted the family members and abused newsmen.

The incident took place at Bongram Bazar in Khoksa upazila in Kushtia district in the afternoon.

Abdul Mazed, a farmer at Bongram village in Khoksa upazila was killed in August 4, 2004.

A gang of eight allegedly led by local BNP leader and chairman of Betbaria Union Parishad (UP) Abdul Aziz swooped on Mazed's house when he was taking meal at night and drugged him out. They took him to a nearby place and shot him from point blank range, killing him on the spot.

On August 7, 2004, Mazed's wife Rahela Khatun filed a case accusing Aziz and 15 others.

Police could not arrest any of the accused as they allegedly belonged to the local lawmaker, sources said.

Rather, the alleged killers continued to threaten the plaintiff to withdraw the case, the victims family told newsmen earlier. The said they repeatedly urged police to arrest the culprits, but to no effect.

Yesterday, the family of slain Mazed called a press at Bongram Bazar, 30 kilometers off the district town. A group of journalists from Kushtia town went there to attend the press conference.

All of a sudden, when the press conference was going on, a gang led by one Bachhu, an accomplice of UP chairman Aziz, attacked the press conference at about 4.30pm.

The criminals beat up Mazed's son Milon and other family members. They also abused journalists and attempted to assault them. The gang threatened journalists to leave the place immediately or to face dire consequences.

When contacted later, Officer-In-Charge (OC) of Khoksa police station said the case is still under investigation. "We will take action after investigation", he said.



PHOTO: STAR

The Roads and Highways Department yesterday began bulldozing illegal structures at Tongibari bazaar in Munshiganj.

Jamuna, Zia urea factories silent again

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Jamuna Fertiliser Factory (JFF) in Jamalpur and Zia Fertilizer (ZF) in Ashuganj, the two major producers of urea fertiliser, are silent again.

The JFF, the biggest urea factory in the country stopped production after the boiler in its urea plant burst at about 9 pm Sunday, factory officials told our Tangail Correspondent over phone yesterday.

The suspension in production will aggravate the present short supply of urea in 19 districts under its command area during the peak season of Irri-Boro cultivation, farmers and traders said.

The engineering department of the factory immediately identified the problem behind the boiler burst and started repair work Monday morning. JFF officials said but could not confirm when production would resume.

Earlier, technical glitches on February 3, October 18 and December 22 last year and January 30 this year kept the factory idle for several days.

After the January 30 glitch, a 27-member team of Chinese experts with the help of local engineers repaired the fault in seven days.

The glitch took place one year

after the factory was overhauled at a cost of Tk 13 crore, sources said.

Urea supply from the factory was interrupted eight times in last one year (February 3, 2006 to February 25, 2007) due to mechanical fault twice, political turmoil and porters' strike.

JFF produces 1,700 tonnes of urea a day, which is supplied to farmers through 1,823 government-approved dealers in 15 northern districts and four districts in greater Mymensingh under its command area.

The Zia Fertilizer factory in Ashuganj stopped production Monday midnight due to leakage in its boiler tube, our Brahmanbaria Correspondent reports. The factory faced production suspension 10 times earlier during the current fiscal year due to technical problem, according to sources there.

Production disruption has virtually become a monthly feature now, they said.

So far, the factory remained silent for 67 days till yesterday from July 10 despite overhauling, causing a production loss of one lakh tones of urea in the current financial year, sources said.

It remained inoperative for 35 days from July 10 to August 13 for

overhauling and the rest for technical problem.

Factory officials said the frequent problem is due to the 'dilapidated condition' of the factory. The ZF underwent a thorough overhauling at a cost of Tk 60 crore.

Some sources claimed that disruption takes place frequently as the cooling tower damaged by a storm in 2004 and the dilapidated tubes of ammonium plants could not be properly repaired.

The BCIC has given the factory a production target of 4,50,000 tonnes of urea for the current financial year, which will be hard to achieve, sources said.

In 2005-2006 financial year, the factory surfaced a production loss of 1,25,000 tonnes as it remained inoperative for 73 days. The production target was 4,20,000 tonnes. The factory could not achieve its production in 2004-2005 also.

When contacted, its Managing Director Md. Gulam Kibria has said that the factory is facing frequent shutdowns after overhauling due to dilapidated tubes and some other parts. The factory might resume operation on March 1 or 2, the MD added.

8x3

5X2

10x3