

From rags to riches on political clout

Allegation of corruption, toll collection against Satkhira BNP leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

The party in power came as a magic lamp for once unemployed Abdul Alim.

He became a millionaire after becoming a BNP leader and a Union Parishad chairman.

Fortune smiled on him by virtue of being close to the then advisor to the commerce ministry and a former BNP lawmaker from Tala-Kalaroa constituency during the BNP-Jamaat government.

Alim, president of Satkhira Sadar upazila BNP and chairman of Labsa Union Parishad (UP), is on the run now to evade arrest.

Police sources said Alim is on their arrest list for his alleged corruption and protecting musclemen and listed terrorists. Police raided his house several times, the sources said.

Alim, who inherited two bighas of paternal lands, now owns assets worth about Taka one crore, the sources said. These include lands,



Abdul Alim

two buses, a luxurious private car. His thatched house in his native Khejurdanga village in Sadar upazila was replaced by a fashionable building.

He amassed resources by establishing himself as an influential BNP leader with the blessing of the two party bigwigs, sources claimed.

They alleged that Alim's main source of income was toll collection from shrimp enclosures, tender manipulation and 'commission' from government projects.

Allegations have it that he also earned from transfer and promotion of officials government departments by using the name of the then commerce advisor who was also the minister-in-charge of Satkhira district.

Alim also organised a cadre group, which realise toll from businessmen, contractors, shrimp cultivators and transports.

On November 23 last year, his cadres assaulted the general manager (GM) of Sundarban Textile Mills, the lone large scale industry in the district, as he did not appoint his men as labourers.

Nitai Chandra Muhuri of Magura village alleged that Alim's cadres grabbed his one acre land through a false deed in 2003.

Local people brought out processions and held rallies against

the UP chairman Alim demanding return of the land and submitted a memorandum to the district administration for action. But the administration could not do anything as Alim had links with Hawa Bhaban in Dhaka, sources claimed. He used to visit Hawa Bhaban, they claimed.

He also harassed innocent people by implicating them in false cases and realised money from them, some of the victims alleged while talking to the correspondent.

Former Labsa UP chairman Shahadat Hossain, Nazrul Islam of Debnagar village and some others in the union submitted a complaint to law enforcers recently to probe Alim's alleged corruption and his assets.

When contacted over cell phone, Abdul Alim refuted the allegations and said his political opponents are spreading false propaganda to malign him. He spoke from an undisclosed place.

Allegation of torture for dowry against RU teacher

RU CORRESPONDENT

A teacher of Rajshahi University physically tortured his wife for dowry, the wife told a press conference here yesterday.

Shamsur Nahar, a teacher at Katakhal College made the allegation against her husband Yearjong Ali Imam, a teacher at the Department of Accounting and Information Management.

At the press conference at university central cafeteria, she said she filed a case against her husband with Boalia police station Sunday evening.

She said that she was the second wife of her husband and that after marriage she gave Tk 10 lakh as dowry.

He again demanded Tk one lakh recently and tortured her for the money.

She also said that on April 1, her husband tortured her and she was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Earlier, she submitted written complaints to RU Vice-chancellor and department chairman to desist him from demanding more money.

She urged the university authorities to take action against her husband and save the family.

This correspondent tried to contact Imam over cell phone but he did not receive any phone call.

Falu, Salaudin shifted to Kashimpur jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Former state minister Salahuddin Ahmed and former lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu were shifted to Kashimpur jail in Gazipur from Khulna district jail Sunday night.

According to Khulna Jail Superintendent Aatur Rahman, Salahuddin Ahmed had mild heart attacks twice since last two weeks and was under treatment of Dr Mizanur Rahman and Dr Bishwajit Basu, who advised him better treatment.

Mosaddek Ali Falu has been shifted to Kashimpur jail for interrogation by the joint interrogation cell (JIC). They were brought to Khulna Jail on the night of February 12 from Dhaka Central Jail.

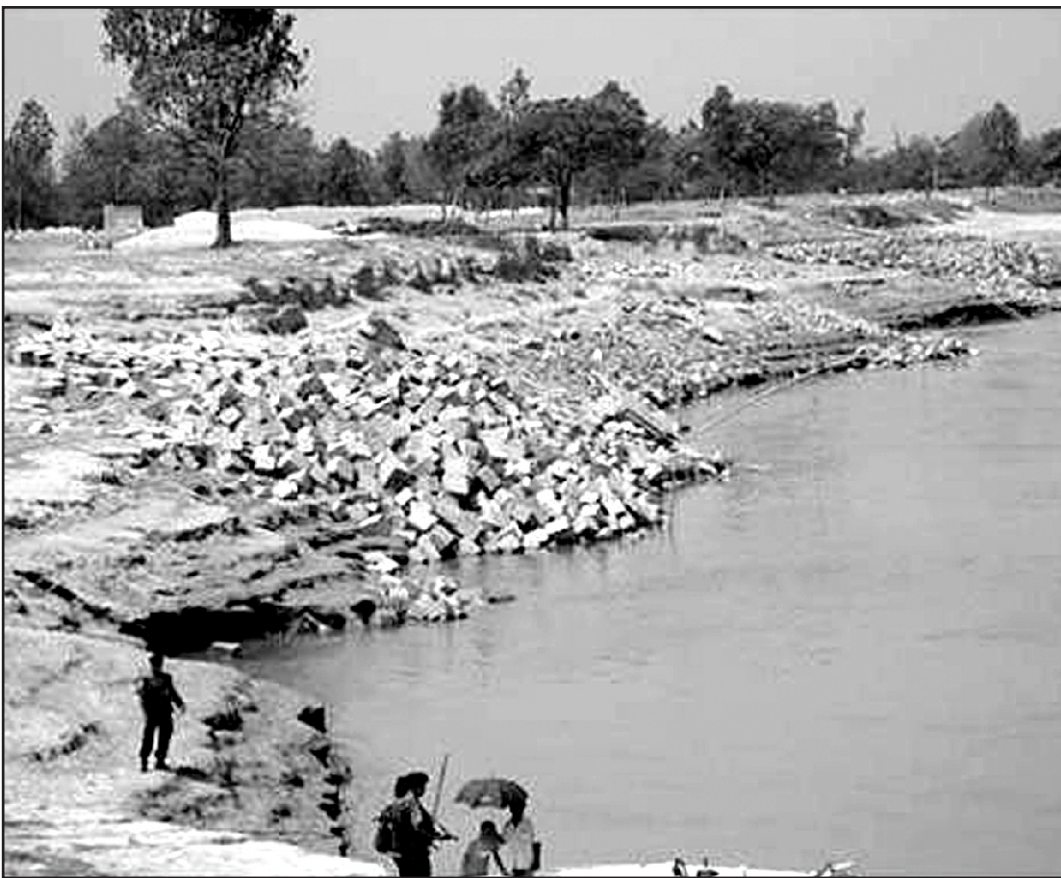


PHOTO: STAR

Part of the 7 kilometre embankment near Sirajganj town washed away by the Jamuna.

Dam to be built soon to protect Sirajganj town

Water resources adviser visits vulnerable areas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sirajganj*

An embankment will be built covering five vulnerable points on the western bank of Jamuna at a cost of Tk 10.5 crore to save Sirajganj town and adjoining areas from erosion and flood, Water Resources Advisor Maj. Gen. (retd) Dr ASM Motiur Rahman said here yesterday during a visit.

The amount will be sanctioned from government's revenue budget and the work will begin soon so that it can be completed before the coming monsoon, he said while visiting the Ranigram Hard Point area in Sirajganj.

Steps would be taken next for construction of a seven kilometre permanent dam from Ranigram to Shimla involving Tk 252 crore, the advisor said.

He asked officials to submit papers in this regard soon.

Water resources secretary Sayed Mohammad Jobayer Hossain, Water Development Board (WDB) officials Husain Shahid Mozaddad Farukh and AQM Badruddozza, WDB Executive Engineer Shamsul Alam Talukder and Sirajganj Deputy Commissioner Ibrahim Khalil accompanied the advisor during the visit.

Over seven kilometres of Bramhaputra Flood Control Embankment from Ranigram to Shimla went into the river during last year's flood allegedly due to lack of initiative by authorities.

Sirajganj district town and about 50 villages in Sirajganj Sadar, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Shahzadpur and

Chowhali upazilas are threatened by the Jamuna. People of the villages staged demonstrations several times demanding construction of an embankment from Ranigram to Shimla.

Meanwhile, Jamuna is swelling during the current summer season, causing massive erosion along the western bank. The river swelled by about two feet in the last seven days due to high tide and full moon, locals and WDB officials said.

According to WDB sources, at least 200 homesteads and over 100 acres of cropland in 30 villages in the five upazilas were devoured by the river in about a week.

Jhalakati AL leader held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Awami League leader and former chairman of Nalchhity municipality Taslimuddin Chowdhury, a ward commissioner Jahangir Hossain and accounts officer Abdur Rob were arrested yesterday on corruption charge.

Sources said, Masud Hossain Molla, former clerk of the municipality was temporarily suspended on a criminal charge on August 1997. After acquittal from the case his suspension order was withdrawn and he joined in the municipality on November 2002. After joining, Masud Molla demanded his arrear salary of Tk 1, 57, 143.

The then municipal chairman, ward commissioner and accounts officer demanded fifty percent of the amount from Masud Molla to get the arrear salary. Masud Mollah paid them Tk 75, 000 and then complained to joint forces.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Fire fighters dousing fire at a godown at Adamjee EPZ in Narayanganj yesterday.

Killers now file 'false' robbery case

Victim's wife tells newsmen in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

After three months of the gruesome murder of Azibar Rahman, a 'false' robbery case was filed with Sadar police station on Sunday accusing the victim's elder and younger brothers and also witnesses of the case, allegedly with a motive to divert the murder case.

The 'false' case has been filed by a vested quarter to save the killers, slain Azibar's wife Mariam Begum told a press conference at Satkhira Reporters Club yesterday.

She sought intervention of the Chief Advisor of the caretaker government to ensure justice and security of her family.

She alleged that a group led by central education secretary of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal and Dhulihar Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Modasserul Haque Huda, UP member Amin uddin, Biswa Nath Dhali and Dipak Master abducted her husband Azibar Rahman, Kashem, Khokon and Hasan from their homes at Matiadanga village on the night of January 5 and took them to a nearby beel (water body).

The abductors tortured them, killing her husband and critically injuring three others, she alleged.

On the following day, she filed a case with Sadar police station. Assistant Police Superintendent (ASP) Delowar Hossain of Sadar Circle, the then Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge Nawsher Ali visited spot.

After their visit, a murder case was recorded with the Sadar police station accusing Jubo Dal leader Modasserul Haque Huda, Amin Uddin, Biswa Nath Dhali, Bikram Gain, Indrajit Gain, Nikhil Gain, Raghu Nath Gain, Prabir Gain and Dipak Kumar of Khariadanga village in the Sadar upazila.

She said, one Saiful Islam, a

relative of accused Amin Uddin, filed a complaint with Sadar thana against Kamrul, Kamal and others, accusing them of torching his house on January 7.

The then OC Nawsher Ali visited the spot found the allegation not correct.

On the following day, one Ashok Roy of Khariadanga village filed a case with a court at Satkhira against Abul Kashem, Hasan and Khokon, who were tortured by the accused on the night of January 5, Habibur Rahman and Kamrul. The court after hearing asked Sadar thana OC Nawsher Ali to investigate the matter and submit a report, she said.

SI Akhtaruzzaman of Sadar thana investigated the matter and submitted a report to the court on February 18. The complainant submitted a 'naraji' petition before the court on February 19.

"Thereafter, the accused threatened me and my relatives on several occasions to withdraw the case or to face dire consequences", she told the press conference.

"They also threatened my husband's elder brother Habibur Rahman, UP member Monsur Ali and other witnesses as they are helping me to get justice", she said.

Mariam Begum said she filed two general diaries (GDs) seeking security.

After hearing of the naraji petition filed by Ashok Roy, the court on February 25 again asked police to reinvestigate the matter but police recorded the 'false' case against the victim's elder and younger brothers on April 7, she alleged.

She alleged that the vested quarters also harassed Dhulihar UP member Monsur Ali by implicating him in a false case and getting him arrested.



PHOTO: STAR

ACC Chairman Hasan Mashud Chowdhury addressing a meeting of officials at Nilphamari yesterday.

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