

Former Bogra MP Lalu faces another 'extortion' case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Another case filed with a Magistrate court in Bogra against former BNP lawmaker Helaluzzman Talukder Lalu and 37 others yesterday charging them with extortion and other crimes.

Earlier, Bogra police filed two cases against the former lawmaker from Bogra-7 constituency (Gabtoli) for setting up an alleged 'unauthorised warless communication' and misappropriation of government relief funds.

One Mohammed Akkas Ali, son of Mohammed Afzal Hossain of Mohisaban village in Gaptoli upazila, filed the alleged extortion case, saying Lalu had demanded Tk 5 lakh on August 1 after the general election of 2001.

In the complaint Akkas claimed that he paid Tk two lakh but Lalu demanded more Tk 3 lakh. He declined to pay the amount, he said. After that Lalu's followers filed 20 cases against his younger brother.

Lalu and his followers also misappropriated CI sheets sanctioned as relief for Mahisaban Union Parisad office and other government property worth about Tk 3,70,000, the complaint said.

CORRUPTION SUSPECTS IN JAMALPUR

ACC refuses to accept wealth statements of five sent by wives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) in Jamalpur did not accept statements of assets of five Awami League and BNP leaders on Monday as they did not go to the office to submit statements.

The ACC however accepted the wealth statement of district BNP secretary and Jamalpur municipal chairman Wares Ali Mamun yesterday as he went to the office and submitted his statement.

Mamun received ACC notice on Sunday.

Sources said ACC listed 'corruption suspects' Melandaha municipal chairman Didar Pasha's wife Nargis Fatema, district AL secretary Faruque Ahmed's wife Anjumand Ara Hena, district BNP publicity secretary Mosharaf Hossain's wife Tashlima Akhter Bely, Alona union (Sarishabari) AL convener Belal Hossain's wife Zulekha Begum and Sarishabari upazila Jubo Dal vice-president Golam Rabbani's wife

Tanzila Parvin went to the ACC office Monday morning to submit statements of assets on behalf of their husbands.

When contacted over phone yesterday, Jamalpur ACC Deputy Director Mahmud Hassan told The Daily Star that wealth statements of the five AL and BNP leaders were not accepted as they did not come to the ACC office to submit their statements.

"As per rules the persons will have to come to ACC office to submit their wealth statements," the DD added.

Jamalpur ACC on Sunday asked eight out of 12 listed 'corruption suspects' in the district including the five to submit their statements of assets. Their names were published by the ACC on March 12.

They also face charges of abuse of power, corruption, sheltering criminals, land grabbing and tender manipulation.

The ACC will publish more lists of 'corruption suspects' in the district in the second phase after investigation, the sources said.

Of the 12 on the list, Jubo League

central secretary and former lawmaker from Jamalpur-3 (Melandaha-Madarganj) Mirza Azam and Jamalpur district BNP President and former lawmaker from Jamalpur-1 (Dewanganj-Bakshiganj) Rashiduzzaman Millat were given notices by a Task Force in Dhaka to submit wealth statements.

On the other hand, ACC in Jamalpur sent notices to former state minister for power and LDP leader Anwarul Kabir Talukdar's younger brothers Azizul Kabir Talukdar Humayun and Faridul Kabir Talukdar Shamim on Monday to submit their statements of assets by 72 hours. The notices were sent through Jamalpur district jail authorities.

Now LDP leader Azizul Kabir Talukdar Humayun is former president of Sarishabari upazila Jubo Dal and his brother Faridul Kabir Talukdar Shamim is Sarishabari municipal chairman and secretary of upazila BNP. Their names were also on the ACC list.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Police in raids in different areas of Sherpur town in the early hours of yesterday arrested 13 alleged members of Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

ALLEGED ATTACK ON REB OFFICE FOR TOLL

25 AL, JSD men sued in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Patkelghata Rural Electrification Board (REB) authorities have filed a case against 25 local leaders and activists of Awami League (AL) and JSD including Satkhira JSD district secretary Obaidus Sultan Bablu for allegedly attacking and ransacking the REB office on June 18 last year for not paying Tk one lakh toll.

The toll was demanded from the then REB manager, according to the case filed with Patkelghata police

station Monday evening by local REB coordinator Abdul Wadood, police said.

Satkhira district JSD secretary Obaidus Sultan Bablu, arrested by joint forces on January 14 also on other charges, is now in jail.

The other accused include district Awami Olama League president Sheikh Ansar Ali and JSD leader Abul Kashem.

The complainant said a group of leaders and activists of AL and JSD (Jatiya Samajrantrik Dal) led by

Bablu attacked the REB office on June 18 last year. They pelted stones and damaged the gate and furniture inside.

They also demanded a toll of Tk one lakh from the then local REB general manager Arif Ahmed and threatened him with death for non-compliance, the complainant said.

He did not file the case earlier fearing retaliation, the complainant said.

On contact Patkelghata police Station officer-in-charge Abdul Malek confirmed filing of the case.

CORRUPTION

Shuja's Khulna residence raided by ACC men again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A four-member Task Force of Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) raided the Khulna residence of Awami League leader Mostafa Rashidi Shuja again yesterday.

His wife Khodeja Rashidi Shuja and daughter Turki were present at the house at that time. They came to Khulna yesterday morning from Dhaka following a to call from the Task Force.

Sources in Khulna Metropolitan Police said that statement of Shuja's wealth submitted to Dhaka ACC office by his wife last month did not tally with his real assets.

"The statement submitted by his wife is not correct", a source said.

Members of the Task Force headed by ACC Deputy Director Moniruzzaman asked his wife not to leave the residence without permission because they did not find her statement correct after thorough verification, the sources said.

Khulna district Awami League secretary and former lawmaker Mostafa Rashidi Shuja is absconding since his name appeared on the list of 50 'corruption suspects'.

3X2

3.5X2

2.5X3

4X3

9 'corrupt' leaders of Pabna AL, BNP on detention

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The nine arrested front ranking leaders of Pabna Awami League and BNP including two former lawmakers were sent to jail Monday evening with 30 days' detention.

The detention order was given after they were produced before court on expiry of seven days' remand.

Joint forces arrested the nine on charge of corruption and sheltering criminals.

They are Pabna AL president and immediate past lawmaker from Pabna-4 constituency Shamsur Rahman Sharif Dilu, BNP president and former lawmaker Sirajul Islam Sardar, Pabna municipality chairman and Pabna district AL organising secretary Kamrul Hassan Mintu, Ishwardi municipal chairman and BNP leader Mokleshur Rahman Bablu, central vice-president of AL's workers front Sramik League Rashidullah, Pabna Sonali Bank CBA (collective bargaining agent) president Abul Ehsan Bappi, Bharara Union Parishad chairman and AL district committee leader Abu Sayed, former chairman of Hemayetpur Union Parishad and influential BNP leader Alauddin Malitha and former UP chairman Shafiquil Islam Shafi.

They were arrested under the Emergency Powers Act. Seven of them were arrested on April 10 and

two on April 11.

The court later placed them on seven days' remand for interrogation.

Shamsur Rahman Sharif Dilu, Sirajul Islam Shardar, Moklesur Rahman Bablu, Rashidullah and Shafiqul Islam were produced before Magistrate Siddiquir Rahman of Cognisance Court-2.

Kamrul Hassan Mintu, Abu Sayed, Alauddin Malitha and CBA leader Abul Ehsan Bappi were produced before Magistrate Nadira Rahman of Cognisance Court-1.

Pabna BNP president Sirajul Islam Sardar was elected from Pabna-4 in 1991 election on BNP ticket. He faces allegations of corruptions done during the 4-party alliance rule, sources said.

Allegations have it that being governing body chairman of several educational institutions in Ishwardi, he abused power to earn money in the name of giving jobs in schools and colleges.

A probe committee is now investigating allegations of misappropriation of funds of Dashuria College by him. Assistant Commissioner (Land) in Ishwerdi Md Giasuddin heads the probe body.

"We are investigating the allegation", Giasuddin told this correspondent yesterday.

One Dolly Khan also lodged a case against Sirajul Islam with Ishwardi police station in 2005 alleging that he took money from her relatives in the name of giving jobs.

Ishwardi municipality chairman Moklesur Rahman Bablu faces 11 cases and is also accused for planning the attack on Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in Ishwardi in 1995.

He also faces allegation of misappropriating funds of Tk four crore town development projects in collusion with contractors, sources claimed.

Bharara Union Parishad chairman and district Awami League leader Abu Sayed is accused in seven cases. He was arrested by army along with a AK-47 rifle during the 'Operation Clean Heart', police said earlier. It was alleged that Sayed sheltered outlaws and criminals.

Former chairman of Hemayetpur Union Parishad Alauddin Malitha is accused in 19 cases.

40 hurt as jute mill workers clash with police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least 40 people persons including 10 policemen were injured in clashes between jute mill workers and security forces at Khalishpur yesterday.

Police lobbed tear shells and fired rubber bullets to quell the violence by agitating jute workers for their 18 weeks' arrears salary and wages, sources said.

According to police and eye witnesses, the law enforcers swung into action when workers hurled stones and brickbats.

The workers launched agitation yesterday for dues and in demand for removal of 'corrupt' officials of eight state-owned jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belts.

The injured policemen include Assistant Police Commissioner Humayun Kabir of KMP.

The situation may deteriorate as workers are yet to release some policemen allegedly held hostage at two spots at Khalishpur, police said yesterday evening.

13X4