

4 ex-MPs among 18 leaders on the run in Jhenidah

They face corruption charges, say police, ACC

HOSSAIN SERAJ AND AZIBOR RAHMAN *from Jhenidah*

Three former BNP lawmakers including a whip and 13 other front ranking leaders of BNP and Awami League (AL) and their front organisations in Jhenidah are on the run to evade arrest, according to police and intelligence sources.

The 16 include 11 BNP leaders and five AL leaders.

Besides, a ward commissioner of Jhenidah municipality and a Union Parishad (UP) chairman in Sadar upazila are also on the run to evade law enforcer's dragnet, the sources said.

There are allegations of crime including misappropriation of relief goods, toll collection and tender manipulation and land grabbing against them, the sources said.

Leaders who went into hiding following declaration of emergency on January 11 include BNP central organising secretary and former whip Moshir Rahman and former party lawmakers from Jhenidah-3 and Jhenidah-1 Shahidul Islam Master and Abdul Wahab. Moshir Rahman was elected from Jhenidah-2 constituency in 2001 election.

Shahidul Islam Master is accused in two cases lodged with Maheshpur police station—one grabbing relief goods including CI sheets, blankets and Sarees (case no.26 date 22-02-07) and the other (case no. 23 date 23-02-07) is for building his chamber with the relief CI sheets.

Sub-Inspector Monirul Islam (SI) and SI Murtoja Ali are the plaintiffs in the cases, police said.

Kaliganj thana AL secretary Anwarul Azim is accused in two cases lodged with Kaliganj police station. One is for his alleged involvement in a murder and another was filed under the Explosive Materials Act.

Cases are yet to be filed against Moshir Rahman and Abdul Wahab but they are hiding as joint forces raided their houses several times, police said.

"Although specific cases are yet to be filed against Moshir Rahman and Abdul Wahab, we have in hand a good number of allegations against them", a high police official in Jhenidah told The Daily Star preferring anonymity.

"You will see how many cases are filed against them after their arrest", the police official said.

"Plaintiffs in the would be police", he said.

Each of the leaders now on the run is on the list of law enforcers and face cases filed with different police stations in the district, according to police sources.

When asked, Jhenidah Police Superintendent Zillur Rahman said, besides police, joint forces and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) are also hunting for them.

"We will arrest them if we can detect their whereabouts or if anybody gives a clue", he said.

"We have listed them for their alleged involvement in corruption, tender manipulation, relief misappropriation and sheltering criminals and musclemen. Joint forces raided their residences several times and they are under watch for arrest", the SP said.

"I think, at the moment, they don't dare to stay at least in Jhenidah district", he claimed.

Eleven BNP leaders, five belonging to AL a commissioner of Jhenidah municipality and a UP chairman are now on the list of arrest, police sources informed.

Sources in Jhenidah Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) also said that they received allegations of

crime and corruption against those leaders including the three former lawmakers. The allegations have been sent to ACC higher authorities for directive, they said.

According to police sources, the leaders in Jhenidah-1 on the run are former BNP lawmaker Abdul Wahab, Shailakupa thana AL secretary Mosharraf Hossain alias Sona, organising secretary Idris Ali, Shailakupa thana BNP secretary Amjad Hossain and Shailakupa municipal unit BNP secretary Mijanur Rahman Bablu.

In Jhenidah-2 constituency, former lawmaker Moshir Rahman, district BNP joint secretary Abdul Alim, party leader Asadur Rahman, district Jatiyotabadi Jubo Dal president Zahiduzzaman Mona, secretary MA Majid, organising secretary Kamal Azad Nannu, Jhenidah municipal commissioner Anisur Rahman and the chairman of Taher-Huda UP in Sadar upazila Mofazzal Hossain are hiding, police said.

Jhenidah-4 constituency, Kaliganj upazila AL secretary Anwarul Azim and Jatiyotabadi Chattra Dal (JCD) president Abdul Hamid are evading arrest, police sources said.

16 AL men sued for extortion in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

An extortion case has been filed against 16 Awami League leaders and activists in Durgapur upazila in Rajshahi district.

Durgapur upazila AL secretary and former Union Parishad chairman Tofazzal Hossain is the prime accused in the case filed by Satya Narayan of Pananagar village on Sunday.

According to the case, Tofazzal Hossain demanded Tk 200,000 toll from Satya Narayan.

As he refused to pay, a group of AL activists led by Tofazzal Hossain looted fishes from Satya Narayan's pond Saturday night.

As local people protested, the AL activists threatened them by brandishing arms.

Tofazzal and his men looted fishes worth Tk 80,000 and escaped before arrival of police, according to the case.

Others accused in the case are party activists Adhir Chandra, Hasan Ali, Mohsin, Dakat Mozammel, Mitsa, Gopal, Amit, Shekhar, Farhad, Minarul, Aftab, Afzal, Faruque, Belal and Ujjal.

Former PP held for bribery in Kulaura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Former special Public Prosecutor (PP) Jaynal Abedin was arrested by joint forces in Kulaura yesterday for bribery.

An amount of Tk 30,000 which he allegedly took as bribe from a client was also recovered during the arrest, police said.

Kulaura police said Jaynal Abedin allegedly took bribe from clients in the name of bale. Being informed, joint force kept an eye on him and some of his associates.

Police sources said, one Abdul Wadud Jalal of Karmadha village made a deal with PP Jaynal Abedin to pay him Tk 70,000 for bail of a person.

Wadud earlier informed joint force about the deal, who caught Jaynal when he was given Tk 30,000 at Chawmuhana in Kulaura pourasava yesterday evening.

Jaynal Abedin is nephew of Mofazzal Karim, adviser to BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, sources said.

Jaynal was appointed special PP to Woman and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Moulvibazar but his appointment was cancelled last month.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Barges salvaged earlier kept almost in abandoned condition at Chittagong port channel, risking movement of vessels.

Joint team visits Indian enclaves in Lalmonirhat

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A high level joint Indo-Bangla team yesterday morning started visiting enclaves of both the countries to have a first hand knowledge on problems of the people of enclaves.

Another objective of the visit is to exchange enclaves of both the countries, official sources said.

A 11-member Bangladesh team, consisting of officials of home, foreign and land ministries, is being led by the Home Ministry joint secretary Mazibar Rahaman.

The nine-member Indian team, comprising officials of home, foreign and land ministries, is being led by Indian Foreign Affairs Ministry joint secretary Manoj Kumar.

Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rafiqul Islam joined the Bangladesh team while Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Pinak Ranjon Chakraborty accompanied the Indian team.

The team visited three Indian enclaves including enclaves-1, 2

and 3 inside Bangladesh territory near Tin Bigha Corridor under Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat district.

The team will visit today four Bangladeshi enclaves including Kuchlibari, Balapukuri, Jot Nijama and Dhabolsuti inside India near Jolpaiguri district.

On completion of the visit, the joint team will brief journalists at Burimari Land Port in Partgram upazila, said Lalmonirhat DC.

Vast areas inundated as dam collapses in Shyamnagar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A portion of the Kholpetua river embankment collapsed at Patakhali point in Shyamnagar upazila Monday night, inundating vast croplands and displacing at least 25 families.

Cracks have developed at several other points in embankments of Kholpetua and Kobadak rivers in Shyamnagar, threatening more areas including shrimp farms, local people said.

Local people were trying to mend the breached portion of Kholpetua river embankment at Patakhali yesterday.

They said they approached the Water Development Board (WDB)

officials several times earlier to renovate the vulnerable embankment, but to no effect.

The Khepatua river has already devoured croplands in the area due to unabated erosion, they said.

Padmapukur Union Parishad chairman Amjadul Islam said over 100 yards of the embankment at Patakhali collapsed into the river Monday night due to high tide of the river.

Local people are trying to repair the breached portion of the embankment, he said.

Many families in the area have shifted their houses to safer places as erosion turned alarming in last 3-4 days, he said.

Cracks have developed at

Chaukhola, Chandipur, Kamalkati and Banyatala points in Kapotakha river embankment, which may breach any time, he said.

At least 12 villages and over 250 shrimp enclosures in Padmapukur union will be affected if the Kapotakha breaches its embankment, the UP chairman told this correspondent.

On contact, Satkhira WDB Executive Engineer AKM Mujibar Rahman said they can not repair the embankment due to lack of funds.

He however said, higher authorities have been informed of the situation through a fax message and funds sought to repair the embankment.

CORRUPTION CHARGE Madrasa principal held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Joint forces yesterday arrested the principal of Satkhira Alia Madrasa on charge of misuse of fund and certificate forgery, police said.

Principal Maulana Samsur Rahman was picked up from his office at about 1-30 pm, police said. He hailed from village Agardari in Sadar upazila.

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station against him under Emergency Powers Act.

On contact, Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Safiqur Rahman confirmed the report.

The madrasa principal allegedly distributed certificates in exchange of money and enrolled students of other madrasahs as students of his institution. He also sent up students of other madrasahs illegally to sit for examination.



PHOTO: STAR

Joint forces cordoned Barisal City Corporation office during search that began in early hours yesterday and continued till the afternoon.

Tk 3.9CR UNPAID

Sugarcane farmers demonstrate for arrear payment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Thousands of sugarcane farmers yesterday brought out a procession in Bheramara town and locked the sub-zone office of Kushtia Sugar Mill demanding payment of their dues.

Mill sources said an amount of Tk. 3.9 crore remained unpaid to farmers under the sub-zone as sugar worth Tk.25 crore still remained unsold. The amount is Tk 1.9 crore in the 2005-06 crush-

ing season, they said.

Farmers, at a rally held at Bheramara Sub-zone Office, declared continuous agitation until fulfillment of their demand. Farmer Azam Ali Mollah was in the chair. Among others, farmers Abu Yusuf, Haider Ali, Jahangir Hossain and Abu Taleb addressed the rally.

Kushtia Sugar Mill Deputy Managing Director Faruk Ahmed confirmed the report saying they are trying to resolve the issue.

Create awareness to protect child rights

Seminar told in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday called for creating public awareness to protect child rights.

The seminar on Protection of Child Rights and Safeguarding Juvenile Delinquents was organised by Bangladesh Retired Police Officers Welfare Association (RPOWA) with assistance from World Vision, Bangladesh Phulpur Area Development Project (ADP). It was held at Phulpur Upazila Parishad auditorium.

The seminar was attended by representatives of different professionals, officers-in-charge of all police stations of the districts, lawyers, Union Parishad chairmen, municipality chairman and ward commissioners, teachers, journalists, marriage registers and local elite.

The speakers called upon police

officers as well as authorities concerned to protect child rights by enforcing existing laws.

Children should be corrected instead of being punishment to build a society free from all evils, they said.

It was addressed by Mymensingh Deputy Commissioner Md Shamsul Alam as chief guest. Police Superintendent Md. Rafiqul Islam was in the Chair.

Among others, Phulpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md. Abdul Awal; retired IGP Dr. M Anamul Hoque; retired AIG Mrigen Hagidak; RPOWA officials Rafiqul Alam and Abdul Jabbar Talukder; World Vision officials Anthani Nakrek and Prof. Anamika Lily Hoque and Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department Md. Kamrul Islam addressed the seminar.

An open discussion, participated by people from among the audience, was also held.

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4x3

9.5x3