

Party men for punishment of outlaw-turned BNP leader

Arrested Magura BNP secretary Ali Ahmed faces 16 cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

The party in power came as a magic lamp for outlaw-turned BNP leader Ali Ahmed Biswas. With alleged backing of the then lawmaker from Magura-2 constituency, Ali Ahmed, once a 'regional leader' of outlawed Sarbahara Party, amassed wealth through illegal means but remained out of law enforcers' dragnet despite having at least 16 cases against him. Ali Ahmed is being tried by the Special Trial Tribunal- 7 in Dhaka. He was arrested from Milkvita factory on February 12 in connection with a case filed with Shah Ali police station in Mirpur in Dhaka. Ali raised the infamous 'Ali Bahini' and managed to secure the post of Magura district BNP secretary. He



STAR: FILE PHOTO

BNP activists staging a demonstration in Magura town last year demanding removal of Ali Ahmed Biswas from party.

Ex-Khulna city Jubo Dal president held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Joint forces yesterday arrested former president at Khulna city Jubo Dal Sheikh Tariqul Islam Jahir from his father's residence at Municipal Road under Khulna Sadar thana. According to police, he was wanted in several criminal cases including extortion and murder of Jubo Dal leaders Altaf Hossain and KI Sohel Ahmed. Several general diaries were filed against him by shrimp traders in Natin Bazar and contractors of Rupsha Bridge Construction Project and Khulna City Corporation allegedly for realising tolls during five years of BNP-led government, police said. The former Jubo Dal leader went into hiding after declaration of emergency. He was being interrogated by joint forces at Khulna Sadar thana when the report was filed yesterday evening.

Agoiljhara Jubo Dal leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

A Jubo Dal leader has been arrested from his residence at Agoiljhara upazila town. Police arrested Agoiljhara upazila Jubo Dal secretary Shah Md Bakhtiar Sunday night terming him a 'listed' criminal in the area. Agoiljhara Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Golam Rahman said Bakhtiar was sent to jail on Monday afternoon under Section 54. Joint forces arrested Bakhtiar earlier but he was freed from jail on bail.

VIOLATION OF COURT ORDER Arrest warrant against cop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

A warrant of arrest has been issued against a police official for failure to appear before a court as witness in connection with a child murder case. Barisal Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal judge Rabiul Hassan issued an order of non-bailable warrant of arrest on Sunday against Shahrul Khan, former Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Barisal Kotwali Police Station. He is now working in Khulna range. The order was issued for failure of the former OC to appear before the tribunal for examination as witness in the sensational Child Tamim Murder Case. Although the court summoned Sharul Khan repeatedly to appear before court repeatedly but he did not turn up. The next date of examination of witness of the case was fixed on July 8.

also became chairman of Raghobdair Union Parishad (UP) in 2004 by allegedly using musclemen. Allegations have it that the 'Ali Bahini' created a reign of terror in the area during the four-party alliance rule. Most of the party leaders now disown Ali Ahmed and demand his punishment for alleged crimes and corruption. They also blame the former lawmaker for patronising Ali. The party men had brought out processions against the then lawmaker and his cohort Ali during the tag end of the four-party alliance government. The 16 cases against Ali are for murder, kidnapping for ransom, toll collection and arms looting from police, filed with different police stations in Magura, Jhenidah and

Faridpur district. He was arrested by joint forces along with a foreign pistol by from a garments factory in Dhaka in February. He is now in Dhaka Central Jail, police sources here said. Ali was also arrested in 2002 during the army-led 'operation clean heart' and a shutter-gun was recovered from his possession, police said. "The then lawmaker inducted terrorists in the party and placed Ali in a top position in the district committee. When they fell apart, the lawmaker as supreme leader of the district committee, took initiative to dissolve the committee", said a front ranking leader seeking anonymity. The former lawmaker did not visit Magura since proclamation of

emergency. This correspondent repeatedly tried to contact him over cell phone but it was found switched off. Local BNP sources claimed that Ali's three younger brothers who led the 'Ali Bahini', now possess illegal arms of the cadres. They formed a syndicate styled 'negotiation committee' and amassed huge money by tender manipulation. They virtually distributed works for development projects among their chosen contractors. "We had no entry to Magura LGED office to buy or drop any tender schedule without permission of the syndicate", a contractor told this correspondent. A BNP leader seeking anonymity claimed that Ali and his family members amassed at least Tk seven crore assets in cash and other property. He demanded investigation of their assets. Ali owns a house at Mirpur in Dhaka, six trucks, a car, eight motorbikes and a huge land property, the BNP leader claimed. "The party high command finally realised that Ali's activities tarnished the image of the party and dissolved the district committee in October last year following demands by leaders and activists", said Akter Hossain, joint-convenor of district BNP. "Ali is an identified criminal and was arrested during 'operation clean heart' when our party was in power. He should be expelled from the party and tried for crimes and amassing wealth illegally", said former secretary of district BNP advocate Ahmed Hossain. According to intelligence sources and police records, Ali Ahmed joined the underground outfit Gana Bahini in early 1990s. After procuring illegal arms, he joined Sarbahara Party and became its 'regional leader'.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Farmers crowd in front of Madarganj upazila agriculture office in Jamalpur for fertiliser yesterday.

Iranian vessel now safe in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

The Iranian vessel MV Mir Damad is now out of danger as about 75 per cent of water has been pumped out of its engine room by the crew, said Mongla Port Authority Member (operation) Lutfur Rahman of. He is monitoring the situation. The 100 metre long Iranian vessel bound for Channai port of India left Chittagong port on the night of June 28 carrying 91 containers. The vessel had to anchor in the Bay of Bengal, 108 kilometres from the Hiron Point when water entered into its engine room following cracks at the bottom. Lutfur Rahman said the captain of the vessel sent a 'distress message (DM)' at 7-20 am on July 1 seeking help. Accordingly, messages were sent to Mongla Harbour Master and Navy to take quick steps to salvage the vessel and rescue its crew. MV Karotoa and BNS Turag rushed there and found that crew of the vessel were pumping out water, Lutfur Rahman said. The vessel will be able to sail for either for Mongla port or Channai after repair of the cracks, sources in Mongla port said.

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Journo jailed for bribery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

A local journalist was sentenced to four years rigorous imprisonment for taking bribe in Satkhira yesterday. The convict Raghu Nath Kha of Katia of the town was the staff reporter of the local daily the Patradut. Court sources said Raghu Nath demanded Tk 5000 as bribe to Eman Ali, a driver of Tala upazila parishad and threatened him to publish news against him on alleged corruption of non-compliance if he does not give the money. Eman Ali informed the matter to the army officials and the army led joint forces arrested him while he was taking money from Eman Ali on May 14. A case was filed against him under the Speedy Trial Act. Magistrate Hemayet Hossain of the speedy trial court yesterday awarded him the punishment.

2 fish traders rescued from pirates on Meghna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Two fish merchants have been rescued from the clutch of pirates in the Meghna. Police said pirates attacked four trawlers near Majhir Char in the Meghna and injured at least 20 Hilsha fishermen on Saturday. They looted fish and valuables worth Tk. 20 lakh from the trawlers. They also hijacked two other trawlers along with fishermen on board. Another gang of pirates led by Manju Bepari attacked a fish unloading centre along the Meghna the same night. They looted Hilsha worth about Tk 10 lakh and abducted fish merchants named Jasim Majhi, Kamal and Dhilon. When the pirates went to raid another fish unloading centre at Ramgoti in Laxmipur district, local people and fishermen jointly resisted them and besieged two trawlers of pirates and caught one of them named Billal. Later, the pirate was handed over to police. On information, Bhola police conducted a raid on the pirates and rescued two fish merchants on Sunday night.

JEWEL MURDER IN SATKHIRA Outlaw Pulin Sarkar among 10 chargesheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Ten people including Pulin Bihari Sarkar, a 'regional leader' of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party (PBCP Janajuddha) were chargesheeted yesterday in Jatiyatabadi Matsjibi Dal Mirza Masud Jewel murder case. Investigation officer (IO) of the case Sub-inspector (SI) Humayun of Patkelghata police station submitted the charge sheet to a magistrate court in Satkhira after over 11 months of the incident. Sources close to the IO said they are convinced that the accused were involved in the sensational

murder. The accused have been charged under Section 302/104 of BPC (Bangladesh Penal Code). Other chargesheeted accused are Ananta Sarkar, Kali Pada alias Kalu Sarkar, Bimal Mondal, Jhantu Sheikh alias Mamun Sheikh, Gafur Gazi, Debabrata Mondal and Sanjoy Mondal of Dudli village in Tala upazila; Maru Gain of Khariadanga village in Satkhira Sadar upazila and Sanjib Kumar Adhikari of Raruli village in Paikgachha upazila in Khulna. Pulin Bihari Sarkar hails from Goadanga village in Tala upazila. All the accused are absconding

since the murder of Jewel, president Satkhira Jatiyatabadi Matsjibi Dal, fishermen's front of BNP. Court sources said, the killers belonging to PBCP waylaid Jewel when he was returning home from his shrimp farm in his village at about 12:30 pm on July 8 last year. They opened fire and blasted three bombs, critically injuring Jewel. He was rushed to Satkhira Sadar Hospital where he died on the same night. The victim's mother Rokeya Khanam filed a case with Patkelghata police station on July 9 naming 10 accused.

Top outlaw Abdur Rahman brought to Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Wanted outlaw Abdur Rahman, arrested in Dasgram in Bianibazar upazila in Sylhet Sunday night, was brought to Khulna at noon yesterday. A contingent of police headed by SI Ajmol Huda of Rupsha thana brought him here. Abdur Rahman was a regional leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Jonajuddha), police said. The fugitive extremist who hails from Shamontashena village in Rupsha upazila of Khulna district went to Bianibazar three months ago with his wife Noori Begum. He opened an account with Bianibazar branch of AL Arafah Bank, identifying himself as Abdul Hannan. Police said the arrested extremist was wanted as an FIR-named

accused in twenty criminal cases including twelve for murders, filed with Rupsha police station in Khulna district and Fakirhat police station in Bagerhat district. The Officer-in-Charge of Rupsha police station said Abdur Rahman was directly involved in murders of Sub Inspector Shamsul Huq and Havilder Abu Bakar Siddique on July 4 in 2004 at Bamandanga under Rupsha upazila. Besides, he was also involved in murders of bank employee Noor Islam, freedom fighter Sattar Shikder, Fakirhat Union Parishad chairman Ator Ali, transport workers' leader Atiar and Shafi, Jubo Dal leader Masum Sheikh and PBCP (M-L) cadre Kabir Hossain. Abdur Rahman was staying at the house of his younger brother who is a Muazzin of a mosque at Beanibazar,

said SI Ajmol Huda who led the operation to arrest him. His wife Noori Begum managed to escape. Police recovered some documents from his possession. One of the documents is a certificate issued by a Union Parishad Chairman certifying the dreaded terrorist as a good man and his wife Noori Begum as a woman of conservative family. Extremist Abdur Rahman used this certificate to move at large at Bianibazar where he opened a grocery shop to earn his livelihood after leaving Khulna in the face of joint forces operation, OC of Rupsha police station said. He was being interrogated when the report was filed yesterday afternoon.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Khulna police yesterday recovered 33 pieces of relief CI sheets from a school named after the mother of former MP Ali Asgar Lobby.

Another extortion case against ex- Pabna BNP MP Anwarul

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Wares Ali alleged that Anwarul Islam demanded Tk 5 lakh for lease of an eight-acre water body in Bribaoalia in Bhangua upazila in 2003 during the 4-party alliance government. The complainant paid the then lawmaker Tk 3.91 lakh but did not get lease of the water body. Wares Ali said in the complaint that he could not file case earlier fearing retaliation by the lawmaker's musclemen. Earlier on June 25, Wares Ali filed an extortion case against Anwarul Islam, his wife and Rezaul Haque with the same court alleging

Another extortion case has been filed against former BNP lawmaker KM Anwarul Islam. Local BNP leader Wares Ali filed the case with Pabna Cognisance Court-2 on Sunday. This is the third extortion case filed in about two weeks against Anwarul, elected from Pabna 3 constituency in 2001. Anwarul's wife Shiddika Anwar, senior vice-president of Chatmohar upazila BNP Belalur Rahman and Bhangua BNP leader Rezaul Karim were also accused in the case.

When contacted over cell phone, Anwarul Islam said rivals in the party filed the 'false' cases to harass him. The court ordered investigation into the allegation. Joint forces on February 17 recovered some CI sheets from a poultry firm owned by the lawmaker's son. When contacted over cell phone, Anwarul Islam said rivals in the party filed the 'false' cases to harass him.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Rains swamped streets in Khulna city yesterday morning, creating water-logging as most drains are clogged by encroachers.

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