

Extortion case against four former Satkhira lawmakers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

An extortion case has been filed with Khulna Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court against 10 people including three former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmakers—Abdul Khaleque, Riasat Ali and Gazi Nazrul Islam—and former BJP (Naziur) lawmaker Kazi Alauddin and three police officials.

Jamaat leaders Abdul Khaleque, Riasat Ali and Gazi Nazrul Islam who were elected from Satkhira-2 (Sadar), Satkhira-3 (Assassuni) and Satkhira-5 (Shyamnagar) constituency respectively in 2001 election. Kazi Alauddin was elected from Satkhira- 4 (Kaligonj-Debhata) constituency.

Gazi Nazrul Islam is now in jail.

Abdus Sattar Moral, a resident of Sher-e-Bangla Road in Khulna city, filed the case on Wednesday.

The other accused are retired assistant police superintendents Mostafa Abdul Halim and Akhtaruzzaman, police sub-inspector (SI) Ruhul Amin Mollah, Sheikh Abdul Khaleque, Azadul Islam Mollah and Safiqul Islam Milon.

In the case Abdus Sattar Moral alleged that the accused in collaboration with each other implicated him in false cases and threatened and tortured him by using their political influence.

He alleged that the accused demanded Tk 5 lakh toll from him on February 11, 2004 and threatened him with 'dire consequences' for non-compliance.

As he refused to pay the money, SI Ruhul Amin Mollah, on orders from the four lawmakers, raided his house and took away Tk 3,75,000 and four land deeds on February 15, 2004.

Later, SI Ruhul Amin arrested and tortured him physically when he went to him on March 3, 2004 to get back the land deeds.

The SI also realised from him Tk 30,000. He was arrested and sent to jail on March 6 on a false charge, Abdus Sattar alleged.

After released on bail, he submitted a complaint to the then Satkhira police against SI Ruhul Amin but no action was taken, he stated in the case.

ASP Akhtaruzzaman was made

the investigation officer (IO) of the case filed against him as SI Ruhul Amin transferred.

He informed him that former state minister for home Lutuzzaman Babar and minister in charge of the district Aman Ullah Aman are dealing the case.

"ASP Akhtaruzzaman demanded Tk 5 lakh and I gave him Tk 30,000", Abdus Sattar said.

After hearing, Khulna Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Zamal Uddin Ahmed ordered the Sonadanga police station to investigate the case.

When contacted yesterday, Abdul Khaleque, Riasat Ali and Kazi Alauddin said the extortion case is false, filed to defame them and spoil their political career.

Lightning kills 3 in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

Lightning killed three people including a minor boy and injured seven others in two separate incidents here yesterday.

The dead are Rubel, 4, of Islampur in Mithapukur upazila, Khogen Chandra, 40, and Mofa, 35, of Onantarampur in Pirgachha upazila. Police and locals said, Rubel, son of Rafiqul Islam was killed when struck by lightning while he was playing at his house at about 12:45 pm.

HSTU classes start on July 15

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Classes of July-December semester at Hajeer Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) will start on July 15, a HSTU press release said.

Schedule of classes of Agriculture, Fisheries, Agro Industrial and Food Process Engineering, Business Studies and Computer Science and Technology faculty will be available at respective departments.

EXTORTION CASE Charge framing against Naser Rahman, Ariful Haque now on July 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

The District and Sessions Judge's court here has fixed 22 July for charge framing of the Tk 2 crore extortion case against former finance minister M Saifur Rahman 's son Moulvibazar district BNP chief and former BNP Lawmaker Naser Rahman, Sylhet city BNP chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury and five others.

The judge on Thursday shifted the date as most of the accused could not be produced before the court on that day. Naser could not be brought to Sylhet as he was remanded in another case in Dhaka.

Both Naser Rahman and Ariful Haque Chowdhury are on Anti Corruption Commission's list of corruption suspects. Contractor Nuruzzaman filed the extortion case against Naser



NASER RAHMAN
Rahman and seven others including Ariful Haque Chowdhury, Moulvibazar Pourashava Chairman and district BNP secretary Foizul Karim Moyun, and some Roads and Highways officials.

that on October 10, 2003, Naser in connivance with the other accused demanded Tk 2 crore toll.

Ariful and Moyun, both close aides to the former finance minister is in jail hajat. Detective Branch police filed charge sheet against the seven accused.

On the other hand, contractor Nuruzzaman had also been in jail hajat in another case filed with Gowainghat police station.

Nuruzzaman is the principal accused in the case filed in connection with the murder of a school boy on December 13 during a clash between rival groups over possession of a stone quarry.

Joint forces caught contractor Nuruzzaman February 22 on charge of grabbing government lands. He was handed over to Sylhet Kotwali police, who brought charges under Special Powers Act.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Though banned, boats carry people to Firingibazar ferry ghat in Chittagong every day, risking life.

Sylhet editor acquitted in extortion case 3 other journo's jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

The Speedy Trial Tribunal here on Thursday acquitted editor of a local daily and general secretary of Sylhet Press Club Ahmed Noor in an extortion case. The court gave varying jail terms to three other journalists for extortion.

Magistrate Devjit Sinha delivered the verdict.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) picked up Sylhet bureau chief of Dhaka based daily Khabar Sajal Das from his office on April 7 and recovered Tk 10,000 from his possession after stone trader Anwar Hossain of Companiganj filed an extortion case against earlier on the day.

Hours later, acting on the statement of Sajal Das, Rab picked up Sylhet correspondent of Dhaka based daily Ajker Kagoj and chief reporter of local daily Jugabheri Apurba Sharma and general secretary of Sylhet Press Club and editor of local daily Protidin Ahmed Noor from their offices.

Police submitted charge sheet against them.

The court after examining witnesses gave five years RI to Sajal Das and another local journalist Abdul Hakim and fined them Tk 10,000 each. Abdul Hakim is absconding, police said.

The court also gave Apurba Sharma two years RI and acquitted Ahmed Noor.

Journalist jailed for extortion in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

A court here sentenced a local journalist to five years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for extortion.

Judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Mahmudul Alam, pronounced the verdict in a crowded courtroom on Thursday.

The convict is Abdullah Al Ridoy, a correspondent of The Daily Bhorer Chetona and son of Ali Newaj of Jalalpur in Sadar upazila. He was also fined Tk 8,000, in default, to suffer six more months in jail.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that Ridoy had demanded Tk 8,000 from a fish trader, Yunus Mia, on May 16. Yunus informed the matter to the local anti-corruption office. Ridoy was caught red-handed while taking money from Yunus.

A case was filed against Ridoy in the Speedy Trial Tribunal in this connection.

After examining the witnesses and documents, the court delivered the verdict.



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Lonely tigress Purnima at Chittagong Zoo after losing her companion Chandra who died two days ago.

PEOPLES JUTE MILLS IN KHULNA Workers defy order to vacate mill colony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Workers and employees of closed Peoples Jute Mills in Khulna have refused to vacate their houses in the labour colony until they get arrears wages, salaries and other benefits.

General manager of the mill Mahabubul Alam on Thursday ordered 650 permanent workers and 200 employees to vacate their houses.

State owned Peoples Jute Mill, laid off on April 19, was finally closed down on July 19 and all the 3400 workers and employees were terminated on ground financial crisis.

Some of the workers and employees told this correspondent yesterday that they have no alternative to stay in the labour colony till they get all their arrears. They said they have no money to shift elsewhere.

General Manager of the mill told this correspondent that they have no right to live in mill quarters free of cost as the mill has been finally closed.

He refused to make any comment when asked if force would be applied to vacate the houses.

Zonal Coordinator of Bangladesh Jute Mills

Corporation (BJMC) Shamim Ahmed said that 14,000 more workers and employees of seven other state-owned jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt are likely to be terminated.

He said all the mills are heavily burdened with bank loans. Operation of the mills and payment of arrears need a huge amount of fund from government.

Shamim Ahmed said severe financial crisis, frequent power outage and loss of markets at home and abroad are the main reasons for closure of the mills with accumulated losses.

PIREN SLAM MURDER IN MODHUPUR Court order to record case after three years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A court in Tangail has order the Officer-in-Charge of Modhupur police station to record Piren Slan murder case.

Riaz Ahmed, OC of Madhupur police station, told The Daily Star yesterday that he received the court order on Thursday.

Magistrate Dewan Mahmudul Haque passed the order after haring the 'naraji' petition, filed by Piren Slan's father against the probe report on the incident, court sources said.

Lawyer of the complainant and coordinator of Bangladesh Legal

Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) Abdul Karim Miah said indigenous youth Piren Slan was killed when police and forest guards opened fire on a procession of indigenous people in Jalabada on January 3, 2004, brought out protesting construction of a boundary wall for a proposed Eco Park in Modhupur forests.

Piren's father Nezendra Nokrake filed a case with a Tangail court on January 14 the same year.

The court ordered a judicial enquiry into the incident. The probe report submitted by a magistrate on November 17, 2004 said police and forest guards were not responsible

for Piren Slan murder.

Piren's father filed a 'naraji' petition on the same day. Hearing of the 'naraji' petition was deferred 16 times.

The then Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) in Tangail Abu Hanif Patwari, Assistant Forest Conservator (ACF) in Modhupur Zahurul Haque, Range Officer Kamrul Mujahid, Bit officers Amitav Basu and Abdur Rob, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Modhupur police station Zafar Alam Chowdhury, Havilder Idris Ali, and forests guards Golam Mostofa and Abdul Barek were accused in the case.

7x3

Students recover school land in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

The students of Juri High School in Juri upazila have recovered four decimals of land of their institution from illegal occupation.

They demolished four godowns and an ice factory built illegally on the school land and hanged a signboard of their institution on it.

Juri upazila BNP president Asad Uddin Batal, vice-presidents Saleh Uddin and Maiz Uddin and their brothers allegedly grabbed the land and built those establishments illegally and rented to others, said Juri High School headmaster Khalilur Rahman.

Earlier, Haji Amir Uddin and Haji Badar Uddin of Beanibazar upazila donated 17 decimals of land to the school authorities on October 18, 1978, the headmaster said.

In a land survey conducted on February 6, Juri upazila assistant commissioner (Land) Zahirul Islam detected that the aforementioned BNP men illegally occupied four decimals of the land.

After the survey, Juri Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mahbubul Alam served a notice to the land grabbers to remove their structures from the school land on May 21 but they did not pay heed to the notice.

In such a situation, the students demolished the illegal structures from the school land and hung a signboard of the school on Wednesday.

Saiful Islam, a student of the

school told this correspondent that they had been facing an acute shortage of accommodation for a long time. So they were compelled to demolish the illegal establishments from their school land.

During the demolition drive, the headmaster was not present at the school. On information, he came to the spot and found that the land had been recovered.

Juri UNO visited the spot after demolition of the establishments by the students.

Juri Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Md Shahjahan said the students left the spot soon after arrival of police.

However, upazila BNP president Asad Uddin Batal and upazila BNP vice president Maiz Uddin could not be contacted for their comments as they were staying in USA and UK.

Maolana Sayef Uddin, a brother of the BNP leaders said they did not grab the land illegally as their father had purchased the land from late Hazi Amir Uddin and late Hazi Badar Uddin of Beanibazar upazila (who donated the land to the school). But the land was mistakenly recorded in name of the school, he claimed.

In reply to a query, Sayef Uddin acknowledged receipt of the UNO's notice saying they have already replied to the notice on June 3. In their reply, they narrated about ownership of the land, he added.

8x3