

# Extortion case against four former Satkhira lawmakers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

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 Safiul 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 Lutuzaman 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.

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 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 Abdulla 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.

Sylhet editor acquitted in extortion case  
3 other journos 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.

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