

CHINA KHATUN MURDER CASE IN SATKHIRA

Probe into former Jamaat lawmaker's role ordered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Documents of sensational China Khatun murder case were sent back to police yesterday for reinvestigation as court found that former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Maulana Abdul Khaleque Mondal allegedly influenced the complainant and tried to divert the case merit.

The court also asked police to investigate role of the former Jamaat lawmaker in the case. The court suspected that victim's relative Nazrul Islam was accused to save the real killers and conceal the actual motive. The case was filed with Satkhira Sadar police station.

Judge Motazidur Rahman of Women and Children Repression Preventive Court passed the order on July 30, the date earlier fixed for delivery of verdict. The case documents were sent to police on completion of formalities.

Maulana Abdul Khaleque Mondal was elected from Satkhira-2 (Sadar) constituency as a candidate of BNP-led four-party alliance in 2001 election.

The court also asked the authorities concerned to appoint a senior CID (criminal investigation department) official of the rank of an assistant police superintendent (ASP) as Investigation Officer (IO) of the case.

The judge also asked the authorities to send copies of the court order to the home secretary, inspector general of police (IGP), deputy



ABDUL KHALEQUE MONDAL

inspector general of police of Khulna range and Satkhira district magistrate.

According to court sources, local people on the night of February 16, 2002 found the body of 18 year-old China Khatun lying on the floor of her house. Pregnant Chaima Khatun was the wife of Azad Hossain of Machkhola village in Sadar upazila.

On the following day, the victim's father-in-law Abdul Aziz filed a UD (unnatural death) case with Satkhira Sadar police station.

After ten days of the incident, the victim's mother-in-law Mariam Begum submitted an allegation to the same police station with comments of Maulana Abdul Khaleque Mondal asking police to take action against the culprits.

Acting on Khaleque Mondal's recommendation, the then officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar police station Ruhul Islam Malik filed a murder case accusing Nazrul Islam, a relative of the victim, under Section 9(2) of Women and Children Repression Preventive Act.

Mariam in her complainant alleged that Nazrul entered Chaima Begum's room and killed her after rape on February 16.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case Sub-inspector (SI) Golam Mostafa of Sadar police station submitted charge sheet against Nazrul Islam.

After a long hearing and cross-examination of 11 witnesses, the court fixed July 30 for pronouncement of verdict.

After examining the ejahar, charge sheet, postmortem report, UD case filed by the victim's husband and statements of witnesses including the victim's parents, the court later postponed delivery of verdict and ordered re-investigation of the case and investigation into former Jamaat lawmaker's role in the case.

The court also mentioned that rape before murder was not found in autopsy report.

'Former Jamaat lawmaker Khaleque's activities was not proper in dealing with the case as he influenced the complainant to file the case against Nazrul Islam by concealing the actual motive and the killers. He also tried to divert the

case merit, which is an offence punishable under Section 201 BPC (Bangladesh Penal Code)', the judge said in his order.

'It is clear to the court that complainant Mariam Begum filed the case as per advice of the former lawmaker and she (Mariam Begum), victim's father-in-law Abdul Aziz and husband Azad tried to conceal facts in a planned way', the court observed.

On the other hand, the victim's parents claimed before the court that China Khatun was killed by her husband, father-in-law and mother-in-law, the court said.

'It is necessary to take legal action against those who tried to divert the case merit by concealing the motive and the killers', the court said.

On contact, Officer-in-charge (OC) Abdul Kader Beg of Sadar police station acknowledged receipt of the case documents and said they will go by the court order.

Contacted, former Jamaat lawmaker Maulana Abdul Khaleque said, as a public representative, he recommended the ejahar on good faith as the complainant alleged that police were dilly-dallying in recording the case.

'I know nothing more than this regarding the case', he said.

CORRUPTION CASE
Patuakhali poura chairman held in Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

BNP leader and chairman of Patuakhali Poursabha has been arrested in the capital city in connection with four cases including two for corruption.

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested district BNP leader and Patuakhali Poursabha chairman Mostaq Ahmed alias Pinu from the office of Soikat Printing Press in Paltan area in Dhaka on Thursday. He was on the run since promulgation of state of emergency across the country on January 11.

After arrest, Mostaq was sent to Barisal and then to Patuakhali on Friday.

Rab sources said Mostaq was an accused in four cases including two corruption cases here. He was a listed 'godfather.' He led a gang of criminals named 'Bhaijan Bahini.' There are allegations of illegal toll collection, tender scam and other irregularities against him. He was an influential leader during the BNP led 4-party Alliance government rule. It has been alleged that he maintained a close link with Hawa Bhaban.

Meanwhile, the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), in a gazette notification published in July, asked to investigate the cases against Mostaq. According to the gazette, a charge sheet would be submitted within next 30 days, Rab sources said.

BCC disowns 'arbitrary' decisions of Mayor Sarwar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barisal City Corporation (BCC) authorities have decided to disown some decisions taken arbitrarily by Mayor Advocate Majibor Rahman Sarwar at eight emergency meetings attended by a few ward commissioners loyal to him during the last four years.

The BCC authorities took the decision at a meeting held at Nagor Bhaban here on Thursday. Acting Mayor Awlad Hossain Dilu presided the meeting while it was attended by some ward commissioners and corporation officials.

The meeting also formed a three-member investigation committee led by BCC chief executive officer Mehdi Hassan to investigate the justification of the meetings.

Other members of the committee are superintending engineer Nurul Islam and ward commissioner Altaf Mahmud Sikdar.

The probe committee was asked to submit its report in the next meeting of the corporation.

The meeting said Mayor Sarwar imposed some decisions in an irregular manner, illegally and forcibly ignoring the greater interest of both the corporation and the citizens.

Mayor Sarwar took the decisions for distribution of development work worth Tk 31 core, construction of two markets and regularisation of appointment of 124 employees and staff of BCC.

After reviewing the overall situation of BCC, the meeting said the appointment of 124 materroll employees and staff is being investigated by the government for alleged irregularities and corruption. Payment of their salaries has been held up till submission of the inquiry report and declaration of their appointments legal by the authorities concerned.

The meeting decided to stop

construction of two markets on the land of the District Council at Marokkhola and on the land of the Public Works Department (PWD) in Sagordi area of BCC for not taking prior permission from the concerned authorities.

The meeting also decided to pay lease money to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) for construction of the City Multipurpose Market on BIWTA land on Bandh Road in the city.

In the meeting, some ward commissioners alleged about disparity in allotment of development work under Mayor Sarwar. The development work was implemented only in the areas of the ward commissioners who were loyal to him. The meeting also decided to implement the development projects by giving priority on greater interest and urgent need of the citizens.

EMBEZZLEMENT

ACC sues 3 Sylhet bank officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed a case against three officials of Sylhet branch of Jamuna Bank for allegedly misappropriating Tk 66.10 lakh from seven savings accounts.

The accused are former senior executive officer Neher Akhtar Arzu (now dismissed), executive officer Md. Zahidul Alam and former executive officer Chowdhury Abul Kalam Parvez (now principal officer of Trust Bank Ltd in Sylhet).

Sylhet ACC Deputy Director Md. Nasir Uddin filed the case with Sylhet Kotwali police station Tuesday night.

In the case it was stated that the three persons in connivance with each other misappropriated Tk 66.10 lakh from seven savings accounts. They drew the amount through 26 cheques during the period from July 2 to July 27 last year. The officials issued fresh cheque books in the name seven customers and drew the amount from different branches of the bank through forged signatures. They also allegedly tempered records, the complainant said.

A police official said, though the case was filed with Kotwali police station, ACC will do the investigations.

DUMKI HEATH COMPLEX

Show cause on doctor, five others for 'bribery'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Six staff including a doctor of Dumki Upazila Health Complex have been issued with a show cause notice for their alleged involvement in taking bribe from the patients.

Dr Refayetul Hayder, MO (Medical Officer), Mostafizur Rahman, office assistant, Lajju Akter, treasurer, Abdur Rashid, laboratory assistant, Md. Shahin, X-ray assistant and Nasir Uddin, ambulance driver of the health complex were served with the show cause notice by

Patuakhali civil surgeon (CS) Dr Humaun Kabir on Thursday. They have been asked to submit a reply to the notice within seven days of its receipt.

CS office sources said all used to take money from the patients illegally. A team of joint forces detected their corrupt practises during a recent visit to the complex.

The CS issued the show cause notice after being instructed by joint forces to take action against them.

VOTER ROLL ANOMALY

2 data collectors sacked in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Two data collectors have been sacked for alleged anomaly in preparing voter list in ward no 30 in Rajshahi city covering Rajshahi University, Meherchandi, Binodpur and Budpara areas.

Election office sources said Gazilul Haque and Salauddin were dropped from the work for enrolling Islami Chhatra Shibir activists of Rajshahi University in voter list.

The action was taken after allegations were proved that they illegally enrolled students of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman Hall in the voter list, the officials said. Local people earlier lodged complaints against them.

When contacted, Election Officer Nazim Uddin said the two persons were replaced by Shafiqul Islam and Gias Uddin and the district election office and others concerned informed of it.

Earlier on Sunday, RU Shibir cadres assaulted four journalists and kept two of them confined at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall for three hours when they went there to probe whether Shibir cadres were enrolling students in voter list.

Sramik Dal leader arrested for 'extortion'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A Sramik Dal leader has been arrested from Bandarban town on charge of extortion and other criminal activities, official sources said.

Joint forces arrested Bandarban town Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal president Abu Taher from his Balaghata residence here Thursday evening.

Later, the arrestee was handed

over to police. He is now being interrogated, security sources said.

Meanwhile, joint forces also arrested Aziznagar Union Parishad (UP) member Mohammed Hasan in Lama upazila, police said. He was a fugitive accused in a forest case, police said.

Later, he was produced him before a court here from where the magistrate sent him to jail.

10 of a family get life term for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Ten people of a family were given life term for a murder in Habiganj on Thursday.

The convicts are, Haji Abdur Rashid, Idris Miah, Roab Ullah, Surat Ali Masrab Ullah, Thanda Miah, Lal Miah, Zahid Miah, Kuti Mia and Hira Miah. Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Shafiqullah delivered the verdict. Two of the convicts—Hira Miah and Kuti hadare abscond-

ing. Court sources said Shamsuddin was killed on the spot as rival groups led by Abdur Rashid and Abdul Ali clashed at Abda Narayan village in Bahubal upazila over fixing the honorarium of an Imam at a Eid congregation on May 22 in 1994.

Shamsuddin's brother filed a case with Bahubal police station accusing the 10 people.

Twenty-two witnesses were examined during the trial.

SCORES SCRAMBLE FOR SUCCOUR



PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU/ FOCUS BANGLA

(Clockwise) A child sheltered at North Bengal Medical College hostel in Sirajganj attacked with skin disease, too many hands for a dole in Goanghat in Sylhet, victims at a flood shelter in Boror Chandra in Mymensingh Sadar upazila yesterday. BRAC staff distribute packets of relief materials to flood victims in Srinagar, Munshiganj, on Thursday.

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