

VIOLATION OF COURT ORDER

UNO, ex-Jamaat MP's son get 3 yrs' jail in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

A court in Satkhira has sentenced former Assassuni Upazila Nirbahi officer (UNO) Nurul Amin Khan and former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker's son Nurul Afsar to three years' imprisonment for violating a court order.

Assistant Judge Zakaria Hossain of Assassuni Assistant Judge's court pronounced the verdict on Sunday.

The court also ordered former Assassuni UNO Nurul Amin Khan (now posted at Sandeep in Chittagong) to appear before the District and Sessions Judge's court in Chittagong and Jamaat leaders son Nurul Afsar to appear before the District and Sessions Judge's court at Satkhira within two months.

The convicts can appeal to higher court against the verdict within 30 days, the court order said.

The court also ordered officials concerned to send copies of the verdict to the ministry of establishment, District and Sessions Judges' courts in Chittagong and Satkhira and offices of deputy commissioners of the two districts.

According to court sources, Abdur Rashid, son of Abu Taleb Moral of Bichhat village in Assassuni upazila, as president of Eksara Juba Samabaya Samittee leased Garuimahal water body covering 19.56 acres from the governemnt for five years in 2004 on condition of annual renewal of contract.

Former Jamaat lawmaker Maulana Riasat Ali's son Nurul Afsar was hatching conspiracy to lease the water body by getting the Abdur Rashid's lease cancelled with the help of former Assassuni UNO Nurul Amin Khan, according to the case.

Abdur Rashid filed a case (no 109/5) with Assassuni Assistant Judge's Court accusing 23 people including UNO Nurul Amin Khan and Nurul Afsar in 2005.

The court issued show cause notices asking the UNO to maintain statusquo.

But former UNO as president of Upazila water body lease committee, violating the court order, cancelled Abdur Rashid's lease on behalf of the Samittee.

The plaintiff then filed a case (no. 10/06) with the same court accusing 23 people for looting fishes and cutting embankments of the water body by violating the court order.

The court however acquitted the rest 21 accused.

Jamaat leader Maulana Riasat Ali was elected from Satkhira-3 (Assassuni) constituency in 2001 elections as a candidate of BNP-led four party alliance.

Free politics from corrupt politicians

Sylhet freedom fighters demand at rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Freedom fighters at a rally at the district counmcil auditorium in the city yesterday demanded 'cleansing the country's politics' and said they would join the 'war on corruption' launched by the caretaker government.

About 400 freedom fighters joined the rally.

Commander of Sylhet district unit of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Subrata Chakravarty Jewel chaired the rally addressed by among others,

former lawmaker Muhammad Ashraf Ali, Saad Uddin Ahmed, Sirajul Islam, Sirajul Haque and Sheikh Abdus Sobhan.

They said, the government should take some steps so that corrupt politicians can not come back to politics in future. Awareness should be created among people so that they remain alert and conscious about this, the speakers said.

The freedom fighters also criticised the recent 'heinous activities by certain quarters' in

the name agitation after peaceful solution to the unwanted incident that took place on Dhaka university campus.

All these were designed to create anarchy in the country, they said. They demanded punishment of those responsible for spreading lawlessness.

The freedom fighters called upon the caretaker administration to take steps for trial of Rajakers and collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War.

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Ex-BNP MP's nephew admits murder for toll

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Rannan Malitha, nephew of former BNP lawmaker from Kushtia-2 Sahidul Islam, yesterday gave confessional statement to a First Class Magistrate regarding his involvement in the murder of businessman Sahidul.

Magistrate Jalal Saifur Rahman recorded the statement under Section 164 CrPC.

In his statement, Rannan admitted that he along with two accomplices Chidul and Avaz slaughtered businessman Sahidul on February 5 and dumped the body in a shoal in Padma Char.

Police recovered Sahidul's body on February 23 from Padma Char under Moslempur village in Bheramara upazila in the district.

Sahidul was a cattle and betel leaf trader.

According to court sources, Rannan and his gang killed the businessman as he denied to pay them toll.

Police sources said Rannan led a gang of toll collectors.

Police arrested Rannan on Thursday. He is son of Ishaq Malitha, elder brother of former BNP lawmaker Sahidul Islam.

BSF abducts one in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) abducted two Bangladeshi cattle traders from Mohammad border point in Daulatpur upazila in the district on Sunday.

The victims are Enarul Islam and Nannu of Mohammadpur village in the upazila.

According to sources in 35 Rifles Battalion, a BSF team from Zalangi camp in Murshidabad district in West Bengal picked up the Bangladeshis from Padma river when they were coming from adjacent Chilmar Bazar in a boat after selling cattle there.

BSF men came in a trawler, stopped the boat and picked up Enarul and Nannu.

Families of the victims informed Mahiskundi BDR camp on Sunday evening.

Anwar Hossain, Company Commander of BDR said they sent a protest note but BSF did not respond to it till 4pm yesterday.

Earlier on Thursday, BSF of Shikarpur camp abducted another Bangladeshi from Thakurpur border in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga.

The victim-Emdadul Haq of Tahkurpur village in Chuadangawas produced before a court in India, which sent him to jail, BDR sources said.

BSF abducted at least 150 Bangladeshis from different borders in Kushtia, Meherpur, Jhenidah and Chuadanga in last eight months, BDR sou4rces said.

A few of them were released and the rest are in different Indian jails, the sources said.

'Police have to earn people's trust'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Police are friends of the people and following the complaint of the victims they will take necessary steps to reach the services at the door steps of the people, Mymensingh police superintendent told this in a open discussion at Kotwali police station yesterday.

He also said police have to gain trust of the people to make the society free from crime and corruption.

In the meeting he declared that 'open discussion' would be held on first Monday of every month to hear allegations from public and to evaluate their services to the people.

A d d i t i o n a l P o l i c e Superintendent, Assistant Police Superintendent of Kotwali police station and Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali police station, union parishad chairman and local elites were present in the discussion meeting.

Operation Alokito Uttor launched in Pabna

Energy saving bulb to save 125 MW power daily in 10 dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

A new energy saving device was introduced at remote Agsuail village in Chatmohar upazila in Pabna district yesterday.

Consumers in the village would save power only by using energy saving bulbs. A 23 watt bulb will now give the light which was available by using a 100 watt bulb earlier, which will save energy, sources said.

The new device was inaugurated at a simple function where Agsula was declared 'energy saving model village'. It is part of a programme styled 'Operation Alokito Uttor', initiated by the army with cooperation of Power Development Board (PDB), Rural Electrification Board (REB) and West Zone Power Distribution Company, the sources said.

Ten districts will be brought under the 'Operation Alokito Uttor' in phases. The districts are Pabna, Natore, Rajshahi, Sirajganj, Na o g a o n , J a y p u r h a t , Chapainawabganj, Kushtia,

Meherpur and Chuadanga, the sources said.

GOC 11 Division Maj Genl Mohammed Shamim Choudhury inaugurated the programme as chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, he said use of energy saving bulbs will save about 125 megawatt electricity daily in the 10 districts. This will be of great relief to the energy starved country and the power thus saved could be used for agriculture and small industries in the 10 districts, he said.

Pabna Deputy Commissioner Md. Golam Moula presided over the function, also attended by EB Chief Engineer Sayed Abu Abdullah, general manager Md. Shahiduzzaman andf director of REB-1 Md. Abdus Salam.

A consumer will save at least Tk 30 on a bulb in a month by using the energy saving bulb, REB Chief Engineer Sayed Abu Abdullah told the function.

The bulb is now assembled in Bangladesh with imported spares, REB sources said.



The Foundation for Women and Child Assistance, an NGO, brought out a procession in Rajshahi city yesterday marking the International CEDAW Day

Fully ratify CEDAW Charter

Workshops in Rajshahi, Gaibandha told

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Speakers at a discussion meeting here yesterday urged the government to fully ratify the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and withdraw its reservation on some provisions.

Rajshahi district unit of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Borandra Unnayan Forum jointly organised the discussion meeting marking the CEDAW Day. It was held at the district council auditorium, our RU Correspondent reported.

The speakers said Bangladesh is a signatory to the charter but it is yet to be fully ratified and implemented. Among developing countries, Bangladesh played a commendable role in framing the CEDAW Charter and committed to implement it fully, they said.

But the previous government did not give legal effect to Section 2 and Part 1(F) of Section 16 of the Charter, the speakers said. The two clauses of the CEDAW Charter emphasises framing laws for elimination of all types of discrimination against women, ensures same gender status to man and woman in matrimonial relation and divorce, they mentioned.

The speakers also said that the previous government did not also implement the provisions that were ratified. Rather, it brought amendment to the National Women Development Policy, which is against the spirit of the main principles of CEDAW, they said.

They stressed the need for coordination among different ministries and non-government organisations for implementation of the CEDAW Charter. The National Women Development Policy was prepared under the light of CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action.

general secretary of presented his inauguration speech on CEDAW. Boradra Unnayan Forum president Hasinul Islam presided over the discussion.

The speakers included Boradra Unnayan Forum secretary

Faizullah Chowdhury, language movement veteran Abul Hossain, director of Steps Towards Development Shahin Rahman, Rajshahi district secretary of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad Kalpona Roy, BLAST Coordinator advocate Abdus Samad, Rajshahi Journalists Union president Hassan Millat, senior journalist Mustafizur Rahman Khan, Bangladesh Jatiya Mohila Ainjibi Somiti Coordinator Dil Setera Chuni, Piker Project Coordinator Abdus Sobhan and Aktarul Islam. Shamim Ara moderated the discussion.

Officials of nine NGOs and rights activists also attended the function.

In Gaibandha the CEDAW day was observed with a fresh vow to remove discrimination against women in all spheres of national

life.

On the occasion, a discussion meeting was organised jointly by Social Endeavour Group, Gaibandha Development Network and Steps Towards Development. It was held at Gaibandha Public Library Hall.

The speakers said the government approved the CDAW but sections 2 and 16-1(Ga) of the charter are yet to be approved.

They demanded of the caretaker government full ratification of the charter to remove gender discrimination in the country.

Presided over by Prof Jaharul Kaiyum, convener of Social Endeavour Group, the meeting was addressed by, among others, Jahan Ara Begum, Sabiha Sultana Lucky, Gobinda Lal Das and Gaibandha Press Club President Abu Zafar Sabu.

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