

Party men demand punishment of ex-BNP MP in Jhenidah

Moshiur on the run since emergency, faces extortion charge, complaints lodged with ACC

HOSSAIN SERAJ AND AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah



Moshiur Rahman

Party men now demand punishment of former BNP lawmaker from Jhenidah-2 constituency Md. Moshiur Rahman, accusing him of tarnishing the image of the party.

They are raising voices for action against Moshiur after he was sued Sunday for (September 16) for extortion.

The correspondents talked to several front ranking leaders of Jhenidah district and upazila BNP committees, who demanded punishment of the former lawmaker for his alleged involvement in extortion, corruption and irregularities during five years of BNP-Jamaat government.

"Moshiur formed a 11-member syndicate for tender manipulation and other illegal activities and earned huge amounts of money through extortion", said Alao Haq Alo, president of Sadar upazila BNP.

"The party should give him exemplary punishment because he tarnished the image of the popular organization", he said.

Echoing the same sentiment, Sadar upazila Asif Iqbal Makhon said, Moshiur is responsible for disorganising and defaming the the party in the district. Party men will not own the irregularities done by his cronies, he said.

President of district Jatiyotabadi

failed to arrest him despite several raids, police said.

Allegations have it that Moshiur's syndicate manipulated tenders of development works in government departments including LGED (local government and engineering department). They occupied water bodies and established supremacy in local markets in the name of lease.

Sources in BNP and different government offices alleged that Moshiur distributed works for development project among some chosen contractors in exchange of 10 per cent of estimated project and amassed huge wealth.

"In last five years, we had no scope to buy and drop schedules without permission of the syndicate led by Moshiur Rahman, several contractors in Jhenidah town complained while talking to this correspondent.

Several complaints have also been lodged with Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) against Moshiur and his men for his alleged involvement in extortion and other crimes.

"We received several allegations regarding former lawmaker Moshiur's alleged involvement in extortion and other offenses and those have been sent to higher authorities for directive", ACC Deputy Director in Jhenidah Abdul Gaffar said.

It was also alleged that by using the position of member of parliamentary committee on ministry of health and family planning, Moshiur realised money in appointment of people in 36 posts in district health sector last year. The appointments were made in nine posts of health assistant, one store keeper, two junior mechanics, two MLSSs, five gardeners, five night guards, five cooks, six sweepers and one 'dome' (person who takes care of dead bodies before and after autopsy).

"At least Tk one crore was realised for appointments in the 36 posts for which 15,556 candidates applied and Moshiur Rahman took the major portion of the money", former lawmaker from Jhenidah-4 constituency Shahiduzzaman Beltu alleged.

Moshiur paid Tk 1.7 crore income tax in 2006-07 financial year, which was only Tk 5,000 in the previous year (FY 2005-06), it was gathered.

It is now a talk of the town why his income tax rose to such a phenomenal height only in one year.

Moshiur is also on the list of corruption suspects sent to commercial banks by Bangladesh Bank's (BB), asking for details of their accounts and transactions, official sources said. The list reached Jhenidah last month, the sources said.

Outlaw held in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested the regional leader of the outlawed Srombiji Mukti Andolon at Valki Bazaar in Harinkundo upazila, Rab sources said.

Acting on tip-off, a team of the elite force raided the bazaar at dead of night and arrested Shariful Islam Shari Kala, 40, son of Abdul Gafur. At that time, Shari Kala was holding a meeting with his close aides.

On interrogation, a pistol and a shutter gun were recovered from his house.

On contact, Major Aslam of Rab said the arrestee was still being interrogated under their custody.

ARNAB MURDER CASE All 22 PWs examined, next hearing Sept 26

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

One more prosecution witness (PWs) of the sensational Arnab murder case was examined by a court here yesterday.

Judge Ashish Ranjan Das of Satkhira District and Sessions Judge Court recorded the statement of the witness and fixed September 26 as next date of hearing.

The witness is Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ashok Deb Nath now posted at Kushtia.

Trial of Arnab murder case of Kaliganj upazila began here with deposition of complainant Nishan Chandra Das on June 11. It began after six years and nine months of the gruesome murder.

With this witness, the court examined all of the 22 prosecution witnesses.

They are: Samir Kumar Das, Murari Mohor Sarkar, Dr. Abdul Hossain, Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Saidur Rahman Sardar, Fazlur Rahman, Nur Mohammad, a classmate of Arnab, the then first class magistrate ANM Ahmad Ali, now Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Barisal, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP)

Diarrhoea spreads in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

As water is receding, diarrhoea and skin diseases have broken out in different flood affected areas of Sirajganj district.

The diseases are spreading due to scarcity of drinking water and inadequate treatment facilities in remote areas due to communication problem, officials said yesterday.

The poor and helpless people are not getting expected services from the different health complexes for want of doctors, saline and other necessary medicine, many patients complained.

Over 2000 people including children and elders in flood hit nine upazilas of the district have been attacked with diarrhoea, pneumonia and other water born diseases in the last three days, they said. Of them, about 250 are in Sirajganj Sadar, 300 in Belkuchi, 350 in Kazipur, 300 in Chowhali, 250 in Shahzadpur, 100 in Kamarkanda, 100 in Ullapara, 200 in Tarash and 150 are in Raiganj upazila.

Sources said, 30 to 35 diarrhoea patients are going to different hospitals a day.

Civil Surgeon office sources said 97 medical teams are working in remote areas of the district to combat the diseases.

Sources at district relief office said 167 flood shelters were opened in the district, most of them in remote areas.



PHOTO: STAR

A sick elderly woman being taken to hospital on a rickshaw-van plying through waist-deep floodwater in Sirajganj town yesterday.

ALIM JUTE MILLS

Workers reject privatisation move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Workers and employees of state owned Alim Jute Mills in Khulna yesterday demanded allocation of fund for purchase of raw jute and payment of arrears including 32 weeks wages, nine months' salary, gratuity and provident fund.

The demands were made at a press conference held at Khulna Press Club. President of mill workers' union Abdus Salam spoke.

He said 893 out of a total 900 workers applied to the management last month for voluntary retirement. But the management is yet to take any decision on this issue. Workers and employees have been passing days with families in extreme misery, he said.

The CBA leader said workers and employees of the mill rejected a government move to privatize the jute mill as it is still earning profit.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN HAJI DANESH UNIVERSITY

Memo to CA for punishment to culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Professionals in Dinajpur demanded punishment of the persons who allegedly misappropriated Tk 25 crore of Dinajpur Haji Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) by employing manpower through bribery and awarding works unlawfully in the name of development.

In a memorandum recently submitted to Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed through the Dinajpur deputy commissioner, they said the alleged corruption in the university started in 2001 when BNP-led four-party alliance government came to power and Tk 25 crore was embezzled during the following years.

Signatories to the memorandum, including Dinajpur Bar Association

president Nurul Islam, Dinajpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Rafiqul Islam, Dinajpur Press Club President Chitta Ghosh, government and non-government service-holders, businessmen, lawyers and journalists urged the caretaker government to bring the offenders to book after a thorough and impartial probe.

They said rampant corruption, embezzlement of funds in the name of development work, political appointments and nepotism during the period ruined the academic atmosphere of the university.

Some 400 people including 57 lecturers were recruited on political considerations and through exchange of about Tk 2 crore in bribe during the tenure of the former vice-

chancellor, goes the statement that became available to this correspondent yesterday.

Earlier in January this year, the leaders of teachers and employees' associations of Hajee Dadesh Science and Technology University in a statement to the education adviser to the caretaker government urged probing of the university authorities' alleged corruption and irregularities during April 2002-August 2006.

Contacted over cell phone, former VC Dr Mussaraf Hossain Miah, who is now Vice Chancellor of Mymensingh Agriculture University, said nothing happened during his period that can be treated as corruption, as everything was done according to the decisions of the regent board meetings.

12.5X3

4X2

10X3