

AL leader Manjurul was often threatened by four party men

Three party leaders tell Khulna court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three of the eight Awami League leaders named by slain party leader Manjurul Imam's son for their alleged involvement in his father's murder yesterday said in court that Imam often told them that he might be killed by four party men.

The four named in the court are former Whip Mostafa Rashidi Shuja, his younger brother Moazzem Rashidi Doza, Khulna city AL secretary Mizanur Rahman Mizan and Sraniak League president Alauddin AL Azad Milon.

They told the Khulna Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal that they were not aware of the murder plan. But Manjurul Imam often remained panicked and said that he was threatened by the four party men, they said.

Seven out of eight party leaders yesterday appeared before the tribunal as court witnesses in connection with trial of the sensational murder case.

The court had issued summons to eight local Awami League leaders on February 26 to appear before it on March 2. The date was shifted to March 4 due to death of senior lawyer Shamsur Rahman in a heart attack on Thursday last.

The seven AL leaders who appeared before the court for deposition are incumbent president of Khulna city AL and former state minister Talukder Abdul Khaleque, former lawmaker Begum Mannujan Sufian, Bagerhat district AL secretary freedom fighter Kamruzzaman Tuku, Khulna Sadar AL president Ajmol Ahmed Tapan, Sonadanga thana AL president Abdul Kalam Azad, Khulna city Sraniak League president Alauddin AL Azad Milon and ward level party leader Biren Ghosh.

Prominent party leader and former mayor of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Kazi Aminul

Huq, also named by Imam's son could not appear before the court as he has been absconding since his name appeared on the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) list of corruption suspects for concealing wealth information.

The court issued summons to the eight AL leaders as Manjurul Imam's son Abdullah Harun Rumi, eldest son of slain Manjurul Imam and a prosecution witness, in his February 25 deposition named them and alleged that they were aware of the plan made by four party leaders to kill his father.

Rumi named four AL leaders as the 'main masterminds' in his father's murder. They are former Whip Mostafa Rashidi Shuja, his younger brother Moazzem Rashidi Doza, Khulna city AL secretary Mizanur Rahman Mizan and ward commissioner Imam Hasan Chowdhury alias Moina.

None of the four has been charge-sheeted by the investigation officer of the case. In his deposition, court witness

Kamruzzaman Tuku also accused former officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar police station Shibli Noman (now OC of Mohammadpur thana of DMP) and IO of the case SI Abdullah for damaging merit of the case.

Former state minister Talukder Abdul Khaleque blamed the four-party alliance government for failing to properly investigate the political murder.

Charge-sheeted accused of the murder case—Ganesh Banerjee, Ripon, Shahadat and Shukur Ali—were present in the court. Judge Abdul Salam Shikder fixed March 9 for the next hearing. Advocate Manjurul Imam, president of Khulna city Awami League was killed in bomb attack near his residence at Shamsur Rahman Road under Khulna Sadar thana in the morning of August 25, 2003 when he was on way to the judges court in a rickshaw along with lawyer Bijon Bihari Mondol.

Both advocate Mandol and rickshaw puller Shahidul also died in the bomb attack.



Wadud's aide held on surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagachhari

A district BNP leader was sent to jail yesterday on surrender before a court here with a bail prayer, court and police sources said.

District BNP press secretary Mohammad Nazrul Islam was sent to jail as he surrendered before judicial magistrate court here seeking bail, they said.

Nazrul was a wanted criminal and close aide to corrupt politician Wadud Bhuiyan, police said. Police failed to nab him despite several raids conducted at his house after arrest of Wadud on February 4.

Khagachhari police station officer-in-charge (OC) Kazi Helal Uddin said Nazrul is accused in at least four criminal cases.

Sylhet BNP leader Ariful, wife charge-sheeted by ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed charge sheet against former Sylhet city BNP chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury and his wife Shyama Haque Chowdhury for accumulating wealth worth over Tk 2 and a half crores through corruption.

Investigation officer of the case, ACC assistant director of Comilla regional office, Shahin Ara Momtaj filed it with the chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Sylhet on Monday afternoon. As many as 27 people, including the complainant, had been made prosecution witnesses in the case.

In reply to a notice from the ACC, Arif had concealed his wealth worth Tk one crore 4 lakh 99 thousand and 312. A close and trusted man to former finance minister BNP stalwart M Saifur Rahman, Arif was one of the first list of corruption suspects.

Being in hiding for weeks after the declaration of emergency in January last year, Arif surrendered to the joint forces in Sylhet on February 25 last year. Soon after several extortion cases started against Arif, who is also a ward commissioner of Sylhet



Ariful Haque Chowdhury

City Corporation (SCC) and the chief of development committee of the SCC.

Arif's huge property, accumulated through corrupt practices, includes huge landed property in his own name through 44 purchase deeds at Sylhet Sadar Sub Registry office, his bank account with Standard Chartered Bank, Sylhet

branch-Tk 4,86,000, joint account (in the names of Arif and his wife) in the same bank-Tk 7,53,000, savings certificate worth Tk 2 lakh bought from the same bank, one Toyota car worth Tk 8 lakh in Arif's name, a microbus worth Tk 4,25,000 and a private car worth 6 lakh taka bought in the name of his wife Shyama, a flat at Sylhet city's Garden Tower and a plot worth Tk 73,50,000 registered at Gulshan registry office in Dhaka in the name of their daughter, Tk 9 lakh in his name in three banks in Sylhet city, Tk 41,48,000 in a joint bank account (with his wife) in Sylhet city, another one lakh taka in a different bank account in his wife's name, savings certificates worth Tk 2 lakh bought from the Bangladesh Bank, Sylhet in his wife's name, 40 lakh taka share in Surma CNG filling station in Sylhet city and share worth Tk 5 lakh with Synthia developers.

The case will be sent to the Divisional Special Judge's Court.

Vow to resist crimes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Participants at a large rally of policemen, NGO activists and people from all walks of life on Monday vowed to do their best to root out criminal activities from the society and build a society free from drugs, corruption and violence.

Manikganj district police administration with the help of NGOs organised the rally on Bijoy Mela ground in Manikganj yesterday.

In the address as chief guest, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police in Dhaka Range Md Amir Uddin DIG Amir Uddin urged people to form social movement against the evil forces. Common people should help the community policemen to do their work successfully, he said.

As many as 1,288 community police committees involving 13,000 people from different walks of life have been formed in the district to check trade and use of drug, Manikganj, Superintendent of Police Imtiaz Ahmed said.



A woman with her kid on lap sitting in her ravaged homestead in Gidari union in Gaibandha Sadar upazila yesterday.

Nor'wester hurts 11 in three districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The first storm of the season caused damage of dwelling houses, crops and vegetables and trees in different areas of Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Chapainawabganj districts early yesterday.

The storm accompanied by heavy rain swept over about 37 villages including different shoals in Sirajganj Sadar, Kazipur, Raiganj, Tarash, Belkuchi, Ullapara, Kamarkhanda, Shahzadpur and Chowdhali upazilas of the district, reports our Sirajganj correspondent.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: A severe hailstorm early yesterday damaged over a hundred dwelling huts and standing crops in six villages under Gaibandha Sadar upazila caused power disruption for eleven hours.

The hour-long hailstorm damaged standing crops including

Boro and maize on about 200 acres of land and uprooted trees and electric poles, causing power disruption for eleven hours.

Eleven people including children and women were hurt as the houses collapsed.

Gaibandha Deputy Commissioner Abu Mohammed Yousuf and Major Jahangir of local Army camp visited the affected areas and distributed sari, lungi, blankets and cash among the victims.

Dwelling houses were destroyed and a number of big trees uprooted as a storm lasting for 20 minutes lashed several villages in three upazilas in Chapainawabganj early yesterday, reports a correspondent from Chapainawabganj.

Standing crops, vegetables and buds of mango trees were damaged by the storm, said Md Abul Kalam Azad, agriculture officer of Nalchole upazila.

Satkhira WDB, fishery officials sued for bribery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira.

A case was filed yesterday with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court here against four government officials including Satkhira Water Development Board (WDB) executive engineer Zulfikar Ali and Kaliganj upazila fisheries officer Sirajul Islam allegedly for taking bribe and cheating in the name of leasing land.

The other accused are assistant fisheries officer Kaliganj upazila Lutfor Rahman and WDB office assistant Sheikh Nurullah. Judge Ranu Biki Banu ordered a judicial probe into the case. Ansar Ali of Tentulia village in

Kaliganj upazila filed the case in which he alleged that the accused took Tk 30,000 from him as bribe but did not lease a land.

The complainant said that WDB authorities recently decided to lease 9.40 acres of the land in Tentulia, acquired by it early sixties. A group of landless people in the area formed a co-operative society and submitted prayer to WDB authorities to lease the land, he said.

But the WDB men demanded Tk 50,000 in addition of the lease money. The landless people gave Nurullah Tk 20,000 in presence of executive engineer Zulfikar Ali at his office on December 30 last

year, the complainant alleged. Later Nurullah again demanded Tk 20,000 in the name of Kaliganj upazila fisheries officer Sirajul Islam and assistant fisheries officer Lutfor Rahman saying that the lands could not be leased to them without their opinion, he claimed. He then gave Nurullah Tk 10,000.

But the land was leased to others taking more money, Ansar Ali he alleged.

On contact, WDB executive engineer Zulfikar Ali and Kaliganj upazila fisheries officer Sirajul Islam refuted the allegation. They had nothing to do as the land was leased as per decision of the lease committee, they said.

BDR, BSF trade fire in Thakurgaon

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) traded gunfire on Deurjari border under Baliaadung upazila of Thakurgaon early yesterday.

The BSF troops of Barabilla camp fired at least four rounds of bullets towards BDR members of Deurjari camp at 4:00am when the BDR retaliated by firing five gunshots, BDR sources said.

However, none was injured during the incident. BDR lodged a protest against the unprovoked firing by its Indian counterpart.

The BSF reinforced its strength at their camps along the border. A tense situation is prevailing at the bordering villages.

Abductor gets 14-yr RI

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A court here yesterday sentenced an abductor to 14 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for kidnapping a 12-year-old girl, court sources said.

The convict is Saiful Islam of Abad Chandipur village in Shyamnagar upazila. Judge Motazidur Rahman of Women and Children Repression Preventive Court here handed down the judgment in a crowded courtroom.

Police rescued the victim following filing of a case by her father with Shyamnagar police station on May 30. Police submitted charge sheet against the accused after an investigation.

4 fertilizer smugglers held in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Kamalganj police yesterday arrested four fertilizer smugglers at Shamsernagar in Kamalganj upazila.

The arrestees are Shawkat Ali, 28, Abdul Alim, 42, and Abdul Awal, 50, of Lakrapara village under Bahubal upazila in Habiganj and Madon Mohan Saha, a fertilizer dealer of Shamsernagar in Kamalganj upazila.

After arrest, Modon Mohan told police that he had purchased four sacks of fertilizer at Tk 1,400 from Joyal Miah another dealer of Shamsernagar.

However, Joyal Miah absconded. When contacted, Kamalganj police station officer-in-charge (OC) confirmed the incident.

One to die, another gets 14yr RI for acid violence

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A man has been awarded death sentence while another one 14 years RI for separate incidents of acid throwing in Pirganj upazila in Rangpur and Sundarganj upazila in Gaibandha district.

Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Thakurgaon yesterday sentenced Akramul of Shirail village in Pirganj upazila to death for throwing acid at two girls in 2001, reports a correspondent from Thakurgaon.

Akramul threw acid at Monsura Khatun, 16, and her younger sister Manjuna, 9, daughters of Abdul Hamid, when they were asleep with their grandmother at their house in Shirail village in Pirganj upazila at about 10:00pm on April 28 in 2001, goes the prosecution.

Earlier Akramul proposed to Monsura for marriage but her family refused the proposal.

Sub Inspector Abdul Goni submitted the charge sheet accusing Akramul.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2 in Gaibandha yesterday sentenced one person to 14 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) on charge of throwing acid on a college girl.

Tribunal Judge Md Sharif Uddin Azad also fined him Tk 10 thousand, in default he will have to suffer one year more RI.

On July 15 in 1997, Anjuara Begum, a student of Dharmapur college in Sundarganj upazila, was going to the college when Biplob threw acid on her and fled away, goes the prosecution.

KARALLACHHARI LAND DISPUTE Team visits area, assures peaceful settlement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagachhari

A team comprising administration officials and army officers led by Mohalchhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohammad Abul Hossen yesterday visited Maddyia Karallachhari to resolve the land dispute between indigenous and Bangalee people there.

The team told the locals that the dispute would be resolved after completion of the survey in 10 days. The survey is being done by Mohalchhari upazila Kanoongo (surveyor) and headman.

After the survey, the committee will listen to both indigenous and Bangalee people there. It will sit again on March 9 and resolve the

matter peacefully by protecting interests of all, the team told locals.

The team that visited the area included Mohalchhari Zonal Commander Lt. Col Nahid, Maj Awlad Hossen, Mohalchhari OC Alamgir Hossen, No-3 Keyanghat Union Parishad Chairman Bishshajit Chakma, its former chairman Sunil Jibon Chakma teachers Md. Shahzahan Pathway and SM Hemayet Uddin. Local journalists also accompanied the team.

Tension mounted between Bangalee and ethnic communities over land dispute in January this year. The district administration imposed Section 144 in the area on January 4 and asked both sides not to build any more structures.



Zonal Army commander Lt Col Nahid and Mohalchhari UNO Abul Hossen visiting Karallachhari yesterday.

Advertisement for Jangnath University, Dhaka, featuring a list of courses and fees. The text includes 'জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা' and 'অনার্স প্রথম বর্ষ ভর্তি পরীক্ষার (২০০৭-২০০৮ শিক্ষাবর্ষ) আসন বিন্যাস গ-ইউনিট'.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Government, featuring 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার' and 'ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি'. It lists various government jobs and their details.