

EXTORTION CASE AGAINST 4 SATKHIRA EX-MPS, 3 COPS

No progress in probe in eight months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

There is virtually no progress in investigation of the extortion case against three former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmakers, a former BJP lawmaker and seven others, eight months after its filing.

The accused former lawmakers are Maulana Abdul Khaleque, Maulana Riasat Ali and Gazi Nazrul Islam of Jamaat and Kazi Ala Uddin of BJP (Nazir).

The seven others are retired assistant police superintendents Mostafa Abdul Halim and Akhtaruzzaman of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), sub-inspector (SI) Ruhul Amin Mollah of Satkhira detective branch (DB), Sheikh Abdul Khaleque, Azadul Islam Mollah and Saiful Islam Mollah.

Sonadanga police station in Khulna city recorded the case on December 31 last year, five months after its filing with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court there on July 8 last year.

Jamaat leaders Abdul Khaleque, Riasat Ali and Gazi Nazrul Islam were elected from Satkhira-2 (Sadar), Satkhira-3 (Assassuni) and Satkhira-5 (Shyamnagar) constituencies respectively and Kazi Ala Uddin was elected from Satkhira-4 (Kaligonj-Debhata) in 2001 election as BNP led 4-party alliance candidates.

Gazi Nazrul Islam is now in jail. Abdus Sattar Morad, a resident of 8, Sher-e-Bangla road in Khulna, filed the extortion case with Khulna Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court on July 8 last year.

In the case, the plaintiff alleged that all the accused in collaboration with each other implicated



Riasat Ali of Jamaat



Gazi Nazrul Islam of Jamaat



Abdul Khaleque of Jamaat



Kazi Ala Uddin of BJP

him in false cases and threatened him using their political influence.

He alleged that the accused demanded Tk 5 lakh toll from him on February 11, 2004.

As he refused to pay, 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

SI Ruhul Amin but no action was taken, he stated in the case.

ASP Akhtaruzzaman was made investigation officer (IO) of the case filed against him as SI Ruhul Amin was transferred.

The ASP informed him that the then state minister for home Nuruzzaman Babar and minister-in-charge for Satkhira Aman Ullah Aman were interested in the case.

"ASP Akhtaruzzaman demanded Tk 5 lakh and I gave him Tk 30,000", Abdus Sattar said in the complaint.

Later, ASP Akhtaruzzaman was transferred and ASP Mostafa Abdul Halim was made the IO, he said.

Abdus Sattar alleged he also gave Tk 17,000 to ASP Akhtaruzzaman on October 17, 2006.

After hearing, Khulna Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Zamal Uddin Ahmed on July 8 last year asked the officer-in-charge of Sonadanga police station to investigate the case and take action but police did not record the case.

After separation of the judiciary on November 1 last year, police recorded the case on December 31 on orders from Metropolitan Judicial Magistrate Mahbubur Rahman.

Contacted over cell phone, all the four former lawmakers

refuted the allegation and said the extortion case is false, filed to defame them and spoil their political career.

Sonadanga thana OC Shahidul Islam in Khulna city, when contacted, however said the case is now under investigation and action will be taken against the accused if they are found guilty.

Mayor Tayebur faces another extortion case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Detained Khulna City Corporation mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman has faced another extortion case.

Fish trader Hafez Sheikh of Khulna Evening Kitchen Market filed a petition with the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Md Mahabubur Rahman on Sunday afternoon.

The CMM sent the petition to Khulna Sadar Police Station yesterday for taking necessary action after a thorough investigation.

Complainant Hafez Sheikh said in his petition that mayor Tayebur and twelve of his accomplices demanded one lakh taka from him as toll on May 15 last year.

"I had to pay Tk 50,000 on the spot and make commitment to pay the remaining amount on a later date," he said.

The complainant mentioned in his petition that two of the mayor's accomplices snatched Tk 22,200 from him on August 5 in the same year and threatened to kill him if he files any case.

Twelve other accused are Khairuzzaman Sajib, Nuruzzaman, Idris Howlader, Nizamuddin, Mozaffar, Shahidul Islam, Shajahan Howlader, Hannan Howlader, Faruque Munshi, Yunus Howlader, Yasin Howlader and Babul Sheikh.

Khulna Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Zakir Hossain said he has started investigation into the allegation.

Gang leader beaten dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishida

A gang leader was beaten to death at Harishankarpur in the town early yesterday.

The dead, Akhter Hossain 38, was leader of infamous Akhter Bahini at Charnilpara in the town, and an absconding accused in five cases including two for murders, police said.

Recently he came to the area and demanded toll from a few businessmen, contractors and rich people of the town.

Akhter demanded Tk 2 lakh to Isarul Islam, owner of Bismillah Hatchery at Harishankarpur in the town several days ago.

Along with three accomplices, Akhter went to Bismillah Hatchery at Harishankarpur in the town at about 2:30am to realise Tk 2 lakh from owner Isarul Islam, when people started beating them with hockeysticks.

Akhter died on the spot while his accomplices managed to flee.

Bhola-Laxmipur ferry service formally opens today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Ferry service on Bhola-Laxmipur route would be formally inaugurated today after successful trials since February 26.

Communications adviser Maj. Gen. (Rtd.) MA Matin will inaugurate the long-desired service. This will open Barisal-Bhola-Laxmipur road link, established at a cost of Tk 78 crore.

BIWTA sources said regular dredging of the Meghna river at certain points have to be done to keep the route operational as there are numerous under water shoals.

Besides, the present ferry terminal should be shifted to Moti Hut from Monju Chowdhurir Hut on Laxmipur side by constructing a five-kilometre road to maintain regular ferry service.

Sources in BIWTA and BIWTC however said teams would regularly monitor the route and take decisions.

Sources said the ferry service will link Khulna and Mongla with Chittagong and Barisal, opening up new scopes for three crore people of 21 districts southern and southern districts including Bhola.

Students demand removal of college teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Students of botany in Sirajganj University College brought out a silent procession with black badges on the college campus yesterday demanding removal of the head of the department.

The students also submitted a memorandum to the principal demanding his immediate removal.

The students' procession marched the college campus protesting corruption, irregularities and mismanagement by department head Wazed Ali Mian, police and college sources said.

Students alleged that the teacher had been realising additional fees on several occasions including form fill up.

The students also locked up his office room and damaged furniture there.



Women working in a wheat field in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Thakurgaon farmers expect bumper wheat production

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The farmers of five upazilas in Thakurgaon district are expecting a bumper production of wheat in the current season.

They are getting interest in wheat cultivation due to its increasing demand, high price, favorable weather and its lower production cost than IRRI-Boro paddy.

The farmers have cultivated 47,800 hectares of land against the target of 46,262 hectares with the

production target of 97,150 tonnes in the district, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) officials said.

The cultivation process of wheat is easy and production cost less than that of IRRI-Boro paddy, they said, adding that the production target will be exceeded if the favourable weather continues.

Shahidul Islam, 40, a farmer of Farabari in Sadar upazila told this correspondent that they had taken to wheat farming due to its growing demand and high price

in the market.

Cultivation of wheat, requiring only three times irrigation, is easy whereas paddy cultivation is hard and costly, Babul of Nargun union in Sadar upazila said.

Production cost of wheat on per bigha (0.3306 acre) land is maximum Tk 4,000 while it needs around Tk 7,000 to cultivate IRRI-Boro crops, he said.

The farmers are expecting to get 12-14 maunds (one maund is equal to 37.32 kg) of wheat from per bigha.

14 bombs recovered in C'nawabganj

A CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Sunday night recovered 14 bombs at Terorashia village of Islampur union in Sadar upazila, police said.

On a tip-off, a Rab team went to the village at about 10:30 pm and recovered the bombs from a bamboo cluster in abandoned state. Later, the bombs were handed over to police.

However, none was arrested in this connection.

Gangni Poura chairman suspended

A CORRESPONDENT, Meherpur

Gangni Pourasabha chairman Ahmed Ali who is now under arrest has been suspended from chairmanship of the municipality.

The deputy commissioner (DC) of Meherpur suspended him on Sunday on receipt of a fax message signed by Shahina Akhter, senior assistant secretary, Ministry of Local Government.

The government suspended him under Section 136(1) of Pourasabha Ordinance 1977. Police said there are three cases against him including those of murder, patronisation of criminals and corruption at Gangni police station.

Joint forces arrested Ahmed Ali on January 13, 2007. But he was released on bail after two and a half months. Again he was arrested on July 8 last year.



Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association forms a human chain on the premises of Ashwini Kumar Hall in Barisal town yesterday protesting filling up of Rakhal Babu's pond.

PHOTO: STAR

AL LEADER MANJURUL IMAM MURDER

Wife demands fresh probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Wife of slain Awami League leader advocate Manjurul Imam, Mosammat Meherunnessa has demanded that the government include her husband's murder case in the monitoring cell of the Ministry of Home Affairs and its reinvestigation.

She made the demand in a petition sent by registered post addressing the home adviser and the inspector general of police on Sunday.

The petition also contains signatures of her eldest son Abdullah Harun Rumi and young

gest son Abdullah Al Mamun Jami, who is complainant of Manjurul Imam murder case.

Meherunnessa said in the petition that former whip Mostafa Rashidi Shuja and his younger brother Moazzem Rashid Doja, incumbent general secretary of Khulna city Awami League Mizanur Rahman and ward commissioner Imam Hasan Chowdhury Moina were planners and financiers of the murder.

Planners and financiers of the murder never supported her husband's leadership and his candidature in the 1996 parliamentary elec-

tion to contest from Khulna-2 constituency, she said in the petition.

"The intra-party squabbles took an alarming turn when my husband was made a member of AL central presidium on December 25 in 2002. In 2003, former whip Shuja and his younger brother Doja gave advocate Manjurul Imam death threat in two meetings of the party held in ward No 28 and 30," Meherunnessa said in the petition.

"My sons and I came to know it later that Shuja and Doja hired extremists to kill Manjurul Imam," she added.

ATTACK ON MINORITY PEOPLE IN AGAILJHARA ASP transferred for playing biased role

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Akhterul Islam, assistant superintendent of police in Gournadi circle of Barisal district, has been transferred to Bogura and his salary increments postponed for negligence and misuse of power.

The actions were taken for his failure to take action against the attacks on minority community at Askor-Dusmi village in Agailjhara upazila in Barisal district on May 5 and May 19 last year and protecting the attackers by playing a biased role.

The allegations were proved in a departmental investigation, police sources here said yesterday. DIG of Barisal Range Aminul Islam said

High police officials and human rights activists visited the area after the incidents were reported in the media.

Yunus Ali Howlader, officer-in-charge of Agailjhara police station, sub-inspector Aftabuddin and constable Abdur Razzak were suspended for their failure to take immediate action against the attackers.

Later police arrested 19 people including the gang members of JCD cadre Qaim Bahini. Most of them got bail from court due to improper police investigation even after submission of charge sheet of the case by CID late last year.

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Al-Hajj Abdul Majid

Chehlum

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Chehlum of Al-Hajj Abdul Majid, an educationist of Gazipur, will be held at his village home at Kalapadma under Kaliganj upazila on Friday.

Majid died in Dhaka city at the age of 83. He left behind his wife four engineer sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Majid was former headmaster of Kaliganj Pilot High School and Ghorasal Power Development High School, says a press release.



Mostafizur Rahman Millat

Khagrachhari BNP leader sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Organising secretary of Khagrachhari district BNP Mostafizur Rahman Millat was sent to jail yesterday when he surrendered to the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate here.

Sources at Khagrachhari Sadar police station said Millat, a wanted criminal, appeared before the court of Judicial Magistrate Abul Bashar Munshi at about 11 am.

The judge rejected his bail prayer and sent to jail.

Millat faces allegations of tender manipulation, murder and anti-social activities, done during five years' BNP rule.

But neither the district administration nor police took any action against him.

Though cases were filed against him, investigation officers dropped his name, many victims claimed.

Millat was allegedly involved in the murder of local Awami League leader Nurul Islam. He was killed on November 9, 2006.

When asked, ASP Tareq Ahmed said Millat was on their arrest list. Police raided his house several times to nab him but he was absconding since the arrest of district BNP chief Wadud Bhuiyan on February 4 last year.



Students of Sirajganj University College bring out a silent procession demanding removal of a botany teacher for his corrupt practices.