

AL MP, 13 others sued on war crime charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Fourteen people including advocate Muslem Uddin, an Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Mymensingh-6 (Phulbari) were sued here yesterday for their alleged involvement in war crimes during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Labour secretary of Phulbaria upazila AL and freedom fighter Jalal Uddin filed the case with Cognizance Court No-2.

The accused are -- advocate Muslem Uddin, MP, 76, Fayzal Bari, 61, Abdus Samad Master alias Tikka Khan, 75, Abdul Jabber, 60, Abdul Mandal, 80, Mofiz Uddin alias Mofi, 80, Reaz Uddin Fakir, 72, Abdul Jabber, 68, Mukshed Ali, 70, Amjad Ali Haji, 75, Ebadullah, 70, Mukshed Ali, 80, Wahed Ali Munshi, 80, and Sohrab Ali, 78. They all hail from different localities of Phulbaria upazila.

There are 14 witnesses in the case including ANM Nazrul Islam, ex-MLA from Phulbaria and principal Motiur Rahman, an AL lawmaker from Mymensingh Sadar and Md. Khondaker Abdul Malek Shahidullah, an ex-MP from Muktagachha upazila here.

According to the allegation, the plaintiff and his two brothers took part in the liberation war in 1971. Muslem Uddin, then elected MPA, joined the Razakars (an anti-liberation

force), and held many meetings with Razakar chief Abdul Hannan in greater Mymensingh.

In the case it was also alleged that Muslem supplied many secret documents of the freedom fighters in Phulbaria to the Pakistan occupation forces and helped them set the houses of AL leaders and freedom fighters on fire. The accused also outraged the modesty of several women.

The accused in collaboration with then Pakistan army looted the houses of the plaintiff and set those on fire on June 27 in 1971, it was also alleged.

They also looted and set on fire five houses of freedom fighters Abdur Razzaq, Abdus Salam and Abdul Mannan in Phulbaria.

The accused also killed many freedom fighters and people including Basu Chowdhury, freedom fighter Abdul Majid, Taleb Ali, Shekander Ali, Altali, Shahidullah Master and Samed Ali in Phulbaria in 1971 and threw the bodies into the rivers.

The news of such incidents were published in different newspapers during the War of Liberation, the plaintiff said in his complaint.

In the case the accused were mentioned as the local collaborators of anti-liberation forces Al-Badar, Al-Shams, Razakar etc. The plaintiff also sought order from the

court to issue warrant of arrest against the accused.

Accepting the case, magistrate Lutfur Rahman Shishir of Cognizance Court No-2, ordered the officer-in-Charge (OC) of Phulbaria police station to investigate the allegations against the accused including the AL lawmaker and to submit a report accordingly.

In Jhenidah, a case was filed on Tuesday against an alleged war criminal.

Freedom fighter Jumarat Hossain of Jugni village under Shaikupa upazila filed the case with Jhenidah Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court reports our correspondent.

The judge of the court ordered the OC of Shaikupa police station to take necessary steps after investigation.

The accused is Nazmul, son of late Hasem Ali of Kodalia village in Sadar upazila.

According to the case, FF Jumarat was residing at the house of Madhu carpenter under Shaikupa on August, 31 in 1971.

Infamous Rajakar of the area Nazmul handed over Jumarat and his maternal uncle Madhu to Pakistan occupation forces at about 2:30pm on the day.

The Pak army beat up Jumarat and his uncle and threw them in Kumar river presuming them dead.

However Madhu died but Jumarat miraculously survived.



Maleka Begum, member of a farmer family at Mandarbari village in Mohonganj upazila of Netrakona district wails after losing her boro paddy plants as flash floods inundated vast croplands in the area during the last couple of days.



PHOTO: STAR

Dike collapse worsens flood situation in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

With inundation of more haor areas in Kalmakanda and Madan upazilas, flood situation in Netrakona further deteriorated yesterday.

According to sources in Water Development Board (WDB), the situation in the haor areas is getting worse as flood protection embankment at Huldharia in Kalmakanda upazila collapsed early yesterday due to rise in water level in the river Dhanu.

The fresh affected areas are

Sunadhubi, Jangalia, Bishorpasha, Nagdohor, Harindhara, Kalaikandi, Ragurampur and Gujakulia haors (water bodies) in Kalmakanda upazila and Gobindashree, Gogda, Uchidpur and Uluhati haors in Madan upazila.

Netrakona Agriculture Extension department sources said, 1,76,000 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation in the district this year. Of them, 69 hectares are in haor areas of Khaliajuri, Mohonganj, Madan and Kalmakanda upazilas.

Flash flood caused by onrush of hill

water from across the border has so far damaged Irri-boro crops on 35 thousand hectares of land in the haor areas of the four upazilas, sources added.

Malaka Begum, mother of six children of Mandarbari village under Mohonganj upazila, broke down in front of local journalists, saying that she cultivated boro on five acres of land by taking 20 thousand taka in loan, but flash flood damaged the plants. She posed a question how she will maintain her seven-member family as she has lost everything.

Majnu Mia, 55, of Lepsia village under Khaliajuri upazila cultivated boro on six acres of land by taking loan from an NGO, but flood water damaged his all boro plants. He said, "How I will repay the loan and maintain my family."

Chairman of Khaliajuri Sadar Union told the correspondent that 50 percent boro plants had gone under floodwater in the last two days while the rest will damage if the situation aggravates further.



PHOTO: STAR

Two people sawing off a tree on the ground of Kachua-Dalima Government Primary School in Baufal upazila of Patuakhali district on Monday at the instruction of a ruling Awami League leader who plundered eleven trees from the place.

Ruling party men fell trees of govt school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Ruling party cadres felled 11 trees on the ground of a government primary school in Baufal upazila of the district on Monday.

Locals alleged that the cadres, led by Awami League leader Alauddin, arrived at Kachua Dalima Government Primary School field in the morning and started cutting down the trees.

They felled 11 eco-friendly trees worth about Tk one lakh and took them away, they said.

Alamgir Hossain, headmaster of the school, was on leave on the day. He submitted a writ-

ten complaint to the upazila education officer against Alauddin, also a former member of local union parishad, and his men yesterday.

Didarul Islam, chairman of the school managing committee, said Alauddin and his men cut down the trees and took them away in the name of renovation of a nearby mosque.

They also took away pipe of a dysfunctional deep tube-well from the school ground by digging soil recently, Didarul added.

When contacted, Baufal Upazila Education Officer Mostafa Kamal said, "We shall go for legal steps against the tree plunderers after proper investigation".

Deadlock persists at Ctg vet university

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Teachers, officials and employees of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) observed two-hour work abstention yesterday partially disrupting academic and administrative activities of the university.

During the work abstention, the university officers' association and employees union staged a sit-in in front of administrative building of the university from 10:00am while the teachers joined them at 11:00am and held a brief rally there.

At the rally, the teachers reduced the ultimatum time from seven days to three days, effective from today, to punish the agitating students who allegedly man-handled teachers, misbehaved with them and gave threat over phone.

Teachers' association convener Prof Goutam Buddha Das said they will submit a memo to the prime minister in a day or two giving details of the univer-

sity situation.

On the other hand, the leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally to press home their demand for resignation of the vice chancellor (VC).

Campus sources said classes were held at some departments yesterday with few students while some departments plan to take exams from today.

Most of the students are not going to the campus fearing untoward incident any time, they said.

CVASU BCL convener Kamol Kanti Majumder yesterday said they are firm to continue their agitation till resignation of the vice chancellor.

Vice chancellor Prof Nitish Chandra Devnath yesterday said he sees no sign of early improvement.

The officers' association and employees' union started the two-day abstention programme from Monday protesting alleged manhandling of the university's Poultry Research and

Training Institute staff Chamak Chandra and administrative officer Ajit Kumar on Saturday and Thursday by the agitating students.

Later, the teachers association expressed their solidarity with them and joined the work abstention yesterday.

The authorities closed the university *sine die* on December 14 last year following an indefinite strike enforced by General Students Forum and BCL demanding resignation of the VC on charge of corruption and nepotism.

The syndicate in an emergency meeting on Wednesday last decided to reopen the halls on Saturday to resume classes on Sunday.

But the BCL leaders staying in the hall defying syndicate orders demanded removal of the VC and decided to bar him from all administrative activities.

They put the VC office under lock and key confining him (VC) to the residence.



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion arrests Jubo League leader Robi Khan, the main accused in a rape case, with contraband items from Taratia in Tangail Sadar upazila yesterday.

Jubo League leader held on rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday afternoon arrested a top Tangail Jubo league leader, the main accused in NGO worker rape case, along with contraband phensidyl and liquor.

Acting on a tip off, a team from Crime Prevention Company-3 of Rab-12 led by its deputy additional director Salek Uddin, raided the brickfield of Robi Khan, 45, vice-president of Tangail district Jubo league in Taratia area under Sadar upazila and arrested him from the place, Rab sources said.

Rab also recovered 50 bottles of phensidyl and a bottle of foreign whisky and

three sacks of empty bottles of local and foreign liquor from there, they said.

Earlier, a female field worker, 28, of a reputed NGO filed a case with Tangail Sadar police station on March 27 against Robi.

The plaintiff alleged in her case that the Jubo league leader on March 25 last met her while she was returning from Bhatkura area under Sadar upazila after collecting installments of loan money from the NGO members.

The accused offered to drop her by motorbike at her office on the way to his brickfield. Instead, he took her to a room of his brickfield in Taratia area and raped her there, according to the complainant.



PHOTO: STAR

A sand-laden truck plies bed of the Jamuna at Gabsara in Bhupur upazila of Tangail district as the river, mighty and turbulent during the rains, turns into narrow channels with newly emerged sandy land-masses in the dry season.

Aila robbed them of HSC examinations

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

At least 126 of the 1,080 HSC candidates from Koira upazila in Khulna district could not appear at the ongoing examinations as cyclone Aila last year turned their families homeless and pauper, making them unable to prepare for the examinations.

They did not even get any financial support to fill up their forms for the examination, said several candidates and teachers.

The candidates hailing from Bagali, Maharajpur and Uttar Bedkashi unions under Koira upazila could not continue their study as they also lost their books and study materials, said Koira upazila parishad chairman GM Mohsin Reza.

The remaining 954 candidates are appearing at the HSC examinations from three centres in Koira upazila amid manifold odds.

They are students of three colleges, two technical institutions and seven madrasas.

The institutions since remained inundated have Aila and accompanying tidal surge on May 25 last year caused embankment collapse and massive flooding.

The candidates have been provided with lodgings in different hostels and houses for the examination period but crisis of safe drinking water and severe power outages are making them suffer, said Principal SM Aminur Rahman of Zobeda Khanam Mahila Degree College.

Several candidates said they have to start for the examination centre after taking very little food and wade through knee-deep water to reach there.

"Many candidates are suffering from water borne diseases including skin diseases as they have to come in contact with polluted water. Communication in the upazila has collapsed after flooding due to embankment breaches," said Koira UNO Abul Bashar.