

FORGING DOCUMENTS

Court staff in panic after three arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Arrest panic is prevailing among a section of court employees in Nilphamari as police arrested the District and Sessions Judge's Court's session clerk and his two associates on April 22 on charge of forging charge sheets and relevant court orders.

The arrestees, session clerk Ismail Hossain, advocate clerk Abul Kashem and former postal department employee Md Taslimuddin replaced the genuine papers by putting fake signatures of three judicial magistrates.

They committed the crime allegedly after taking bribe to save two postal department employees who are accused in cases of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on charge of misappropriating huge amount of money from the postal bank of Nilphamari main post office in 2005.

Officer in Charge (OC-Investigation) of Sadar Police Station Ershad Hossain said, "Main accused Ismail Hossain gave confessional statement to the magistrate under Section 164 and provided important information and we sought two days remand for advocate clerk Abul Kashem."

Just after arrest of the three accused, the judge court's bench clerk Jamiar Rahman hurriedly took leave citing the sickness of his daughter and since then, he kept his cell phone switched off and remained out of reach, office sources said.

During an internal audit in 2005, the postal department authority detected misappropriation of Tk 4.32 crore by some employees in the postal bank of Nilphamari head post office, said Akmoy Kumar Roy, public prosecutor (PP) of Nilphamari District and Sessions Judge's Court.

Regarding the matter, the then postmaster Torab Ali filed two cases with Sadar Police Station accusing seven people including assist postmaster Mir Nurul Islam and postal operators Ahmedul Islam, Taslimuddin, Golam Nabi, Azharul Islam, Abdus Salek and Liakat Ali.

The cases were later transferred to the ACC and the latter after investigation filed charge sheets against all the accused in mid 2016 and the documents were then sent to Senior Special Judge's Court from the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate on August 28 in 2016 for further course of action, the PP said.

But investigation found that arrested session clerk Ismail Hossain of the court concerned mysteriously showed the charge sheet to be received two months later on October 31, 2016.

"At time of hearing of the cases in Senior Special Judge's Court on February 27 in 2017, I noticed dissimilarities in case documents as names of two charge sheeted accused Taslimuddin and Liakat Ali were not in papers," the PP said.

"I drew attention of the judge who sent the suspected papers to the deputy director of ACC's Dinajpur region through the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court where the forgery was detected," he added.

The court finally observed that a syndicate filed forged charge sheet and court orders replacing the genuine ones and also put fake signatures of Chief Judicial Magistrate Sheikh Md Nasirul Huq, Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Samiul Huq and Senior Judicial Magistrate Muhammad Akram Hossain.

As per directive of the chief judicial magistrate, acting Nazir of the court Md Sohel Shah filed a case with Sadar Police Station accusing session clerk Ismail Hossain and his unnamed associates on April 19.



A huge quantity of newly harvested watermelon is brought for sale at New Market in Patuakhali town. Inset, ripe watermelon at a field of Chalitakhali village in Pirojpur Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Good yield of watermelon

Pest attack frustrates farmers in Noakhali while growers in Patuakhali and Pirojpur happy

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Watermelon growers in southern districts are very happy to get bumper yield of the popular summer fruit this season.

Favorable weather, irrigation facilities, and little pest attack are the main reasons of the bumper yield of watermelon in Patuakhali, reports our correspondent.

During a recent visit, farmers in Rangabali upazila were seen harvesting the fruit and later loading it onto trucks, trawlers, cargos, and launches to sell in different places including Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur.

"I cultivated watermelon on two acres of land this year at a cost of Tk 75,000. I already sold watermelon of 50 decimals of land at Tk 1.80 lakh," Md Arif Hawlader, a watermelon grower of Rangabali, said.

"I hope to sell watermelon worth Tk 5 lakh more from the rest 1.50

acres of land if there is no disaster like storm and heavy rainfall within a month," he added.

The fruit weighing around five-kg is selling for Tk 150 to Tk 200 this year while it was only Tk 100 to Tk 120 in last year, said Abul Kalam, a watermelon grower of Dhankhali village under Kalapara upazila.

Watermelon was cultivated on 13,718 hectares of land in eight upazilas in the district. Of them, Rangabali and Galachipa upazilas saw watermelon cultivation on 8,500 and 4,000 hectares respectively, said Hridayeshwar, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

This year farmers face early rain that helps to earth juicy that influenced in bumper production. For these reasons watermelon's size was good, color also more bright and fresh and tastier, he said.

Our Pirojpur Correspondent

reports: Around 200 watermelon growers of Chalitakhali village under Pirojpur Sadar upazila happy with the good yield of the popular summer fruit this year.

However, many farmers had to bear additional production cost to check insects that affected the fruit.

In the peak season, wholesale traders from different areas including Dhaka and Barishal come to Chalitakhali village to buy the fruit.

The fruit has been cultivated on 176 hectares of land in Pirojpur, said Arobindo Biswas, district training officer of the DAE.

Beginning the cultivation in Bangla month Magh, farmers start harvesting the fruit in Baishakh (mid-April to mid-May).

Our Noakhali Correspondent adds: Subarnachar, Sadar and Hatiya upazilas under the district saw good yield of watermelon this season but

pest and fungus attack in some areas during the harvesting period has appeared as a bane for the growers.

"Despite good yield of watermelon this year, we are now frustrated as pest and fungus affected some fields just before the harvest," said Haripada, a watermelon farmer of Purbo Charbat union of Subarnachar upazila.

Zamal Hossain, another grower, said they are not getting any results even after using pesticides.

"Laboratory tests show that the pest and fungus attack has occurred due to defect in the seeds. We have suggested farmers to be sure about the quality of seeds before using it next time," said Dr Md Abul Hossain, deputy director of the district DAE.

In Sadar, Subarnachar and Hatiya upazilas of Noakhali, a total of 4,200 hectares of land was brought under watermelon cultivation this year, DAE sources said.



A motorbike rider drives on the badly damaged Ghagra Bazar-Kawkhali link road in Kawkhali upazila of Rangamati. The photo was taken from Junuma Chhara area in Ghagra union on April 20.

PHOTO: STAR

Callous disregard

People suffer as Rangamati link road yet to be repaired

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The nine-kilometre Ghagra Bazar-Kawkhali upazila link road, which was damaged in a landslide last year, has not yet been fully repaired, much to the suffering of commuters.

About 2,500 people of 20 villages in Kawkhali upazila use the road every day. Only some light vehicles run on the road.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Executive Engineer Parvez Sarwar Hossain said 10 to 15 spots on the road were damaged in the landslide on June 13.

This correspondent on April 20 found very few CNG-run auto-rickshaws, jeeps and motorcycles were plying the road.

Santi Moni Chakma, 40, of Junuma Chhara, said he goes to Rangamati town everyday through the road for business purposes although it is risky to move there. He said it should be repaired as early as possible, otherwise, they would suffer more during the rainy season.

Mongola Debi Chakma, 45, of the village, said she does not know how long it will take to repair the road. "We go to the

weekly market at Ghagra Bazar every Saturday and Tuesday. It will be good for us if the road is repaired soon," she added.

CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Sandha Raj Chakma said it is very difficult to drive vehicles on the road.

Ghagra Union Parishad Chairman Jogodish Chakma said he asked the authorities concerned to repair the road soon.

Engineer Parvez told this correspondent that some damaged places were repaired six months ago and the link road would be repaired as soon as possible.

Unmarried certification for married!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A Senior Judicial Magistrate's court here issued arrest warrant against a union parishad (UP) chairman and three others on April 23, following a case filed by a dead Malaysia expatriate's widow on charge of arranging a fake 'unmarried certificate' for her late husband to deprive her of the compensation money.

Late Al-Amin was married with Zumaiya Akter, 20, daughter of Mon Mia of Laxmimora village under Bijoy Nagar upazila, on November 29 in 2016, but Pattan UP Chairman Md Quamruzzaman Ratan issued a certificate mentioning him as unmarried, Zumaiya alleged in the case filed on December 5 last year.

"My husband died while working in a Malaysian company on April 4, 2017. But the UP chairman on August 29 issued an unmarried certificate, with signature and thumb impressions of three witnesses - Al-Amin's mother Amina Khatun, local health assistant Atiqul Islam and one Harun Master of Laxmimora village," she said.

KILLING OF EX-ARMY MAN

2 admit crime: Wife held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police yesterday arrested the wife of a slain former army man after two hired killers gave their confessional statements before a court on Saturday.

Tangail Detective Branch (DB) of police at a press briefing yesterday revealed the mystery of the murder of retired army sergeant Shamim, 40, in 2016.

Officer-in-Charge of Tangail DB police Ashok Kumar Sinha said police recovered Shamim's decomposed body from the Bairan river in Gopalpur upazila on August 24, 2016.

The following day, deceased's wife Razia Begum filed a murder case with Gopalpur Police Station against some unidentified people. It was later transferred to DB.

After investigation, police detained Mohammad Sujon, 30, and Abdur Rahim, 35, from Hemayetpur area in Savar on April 27 this year.

During interrogation, the duo admitted that Shamim's wife Razia hired them to kill her husband.

As per plan, they took Shamim near the bank of the Bairan river on August 20 and strangled him before stabbing him to confirm his death.

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Contact

Dhaka School of Bank Management (DSBM)

Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management

Plot # 4, Main Road # 1, Mirpur -2, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh

Phone: 88-02-9003031-5, 9003051-2/Ext.-105, E-mail: dsbm@bibm.org.bd

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119-YEAR-OLD RM ACADEMY

A day of reminiscence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

It was a unique two-day get together among nearly five thousand former students of Radhanagar Majumdar Academy (RM Academy) in Pabna town.

The former students from 1952 batch till the immediate past batch of the institution observed their reunion on Friday and Saturday, marking the 119th founding anniversary of the school.

The school was established in Radhanagar area in 1899.

"I still remember some of our brilliant teachers who were very serious in the class-

rooms and had devotion to give us education," one of the former students Prof Abdulla Abu Sayeed said.

Among others, former Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Commissioner Shahabuddin Chuppu and Major General (retd) Nazrul Islam spoke on the occasion with the reunion organising committee Convener Mayor Kamrul Hasan Mintu in the chair.

Earlier, the former students inaugurated the two-day grand reunion programme by cutting a giant cake weighing 119 pounds on Friday and brought out a colourful procession on Saturday morning that paraded the main streets of the town.

Two arrestees flee from custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two handcuffed drug peddlers fled while being taken to Sirajganj jail on an auto-rickshaw by police from a Shahzadpur court on Saturday.

They are Chunnu Sheikh, 25, and Ataur Rahman, 34, of Shahzadpur upazila.

Shahzadpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Khaja Golam Kibria said the drug peddlers were produced on Saturday before the Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent them to jail.

"After completion of legal procedures, the handcuffed arrestees were being taken to Sirajganj district jail on an auto-rickshaw under police custody when they suddenly jumped from the vehicle and ran away," the OC said.

Police, however, arrested Ataur on Saturday night but Chunnu is still at large.