

EMBEZZLEMENT AT UCBL
2 bankers
among 3
jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Faridpur

A Faridpur court yesterday sentenced three people including two officials of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) to different jail terms and fines in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Faridpur Special Judge's Court of Mohammad Motiar Rahman delivered the verdict.

The convicts are SF Saha Farid, the then manager of UCBL's Faridpur branch and presently an assistant vice president of the bank's head office in Dhaka; Murad Morshed, the then senior officer at the same branch of UCBL and presently an assistant vice president of the bank's Barishal branch; and Rabiul Haque from Komlapur area in Faridpur town, said Public Prosecutor (PP) Sharif Kowsar Rahman. A fourth accused, Kabirul Islam, was acquitted by the court, the PP added.

Each of SF Saha Farid and Murad Morshed were sentenced to three years imprisonment. Each of them was also fined Tk 50,000, in default of which, each will have to serve an additional three months in jail.

Rabiul Haque, who is still absconding, was handed down three years' imprisonment and a fine of Tk 37,62,333. In default of payment, he will have to serve an additional six months in jail, added PP Kowsar.

According to the case statement, Rabiul embezzled Tk 37,62,333 out of UCBL's Faridpur branch with the connivance of SF Saha and Murad – two employees of the branch at the time.

On November 15, 2011, then deputy director of the ACC in Faridpur Abu Bakkar filed the case with Kotwali Police Station in Faridpur against four people.



People returning disappointed as they were not allowed to see their relatives and friends in India on the Omarkhana border in Panchagarh Sadar upazila on Monday. Inset, residents of both the countries were allowed near the border fence on Betna border in Thakurgaon's Haripur the same day.

BSF prevents Baishakh reunion on Panchagarh border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

India's Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday did not allow thousands of people, gathered at bordering village of Omarkhana in Panchagarh Sadar upazila, to exchange greetings of Pahela Baishakh with their relatives and friends in India.

Unlike every year, relatives living in the two neighbouring countries were barred from reuniting near the border fence in Panchagarh on April 14, the day Pahela Baishakh is celebrated in Bangladesh.

On Monday, when Pahela Baishakh was being celebrated in West Bengal of India, people gathered near both sides of the border, hoping that the authorities would allow the event that day.

Locals quoting BSF personnel said the reunion was barred due to security concerns ahead of India's national elections, scheduled

to be held on April 18.

A BSF guard seeking anonymity said, "Our higher authorities did not give permission to allow it this time."

Bisoya Rani, a resident of Birganj in Dinajpur, brought homecooked dishes for her mother who lives in Shiliguri of Jalpaiguri in India. She saw her mother last year at the same place.

But this time she was not allowed to reach the border fence to see her mother. With tears rolling down her cheeks, a heartbroken Bisoya was seen going home with the dishes.

Thousands of others, on nearly three to four-kilometre-long stretch on the Bangladesh side, also had to leave the area after waiting for hours near border pillars 343, 744 and 745.

The same day, however, residents of both the countries were allowed to reach the border fence on Haripur border in Thakurgaon and reunite with their loved ones.

Border security forces of both the countries usually allow the reunion on Haripur border on the day when Pahela Baishakh is celebrated in India's West Bengal.

Between 11:00am and 4:00pm, thousands exchanged greetings and various gifts including food items in Karigaon, Kandal, Molani, Dabri, Betna and Bujruk areas near border pillars 355 and 372.

Yasmin Tara, a housewife living in India's Uttar Dinajpur, was among the satisfied visitors. She was quite delighted to be able to see her mother Nozima Khatun after a long time. He mother lives in Panchagarh Sadar upazila.

Lt Col SNM Samiunnabi Chowdhury, commanding officer of 50 BGB Battalion, said BGB and BSF have been arranging the event at the border fence, respecting emotions of the people on both sides of the border.

Monday's gathering was held peacefully, he added.

Man, wife get life term for acid attack

Kawkhali man to die for killing neighbour in 2007

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A man and his wife were sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday in a case filed in Pirojpur over an acid attack on a woman in 2015.

The convicts are Delwar Sarder, 49, and his wife Hasia Begum, 45, from Gouripur village in Bhandaria upazila.

Pirojpur district and sessions judge's court of Md Abdul Mannan delivered the verdict. The court also fined each convict Tk 10,000. Each of them will have to serve an additional two years in jail if they fail to pay the fines.

According to the prosecution, Delwar's brother Bella Sarder had filed a robbery case accusing two sons of victim Rahela Begum, wife of Jakir Hossain Akan from Jolagari village under Kawkhali upazila.

On September 24 afternoon, Rahela went to Delwar's house for paying him in exchange for her son's acquittal from the case. An altercation ensued between them after Delwar received Tk 60,000 from Rahela, but demanded more money.

Refusing to pay more, Rahela demanded return of the Tk 60,000 that she just handed over to Delwar. At this stage, Delwar, his wife Hasia with the help of Khalequzzaman Nipu forcibly pushed her in the kitchen and poured acid on her.

Rahela managed to run outside and jump in a nearby canal, from where locals rescued her the next morning in an unconscious state.

Severely burnt Rahel was first given treatment at Bhandaria Upazila Health Complex. From there she was sent to Barishal and later to Dhaka for further treatment.

After failing to file a case in this connection with Bhandaria Police Station, on October 19, 2015, Rahela's son Rabiul Islam Akan filed a case with Acid Crime Control Tribunal in Pirojpur accusing Delwar, his wife Hasia and Khalequzzaman Nipu.

Nipu's name was dropped from the charge sheet submitted before the court by investigation officer of the case.

MAN TO DIE FOR 2007 MURDER

A court in Pirojpur yesterday sentenced a man to death by hanging over killing of a man in 2007.

The convict is Limon Sheikh, 36, son of Ruhul Amin Sheikh from Kachuakathi village under Kawkhali upazila.

Pirojpur district and sessions judge's court of Md Abdul Mannan delivered the verdict.

The convict was present before the court during the delivery of the verdict.

According to the prosecution, on December 29, 2007, Limon was involved in an altercation with his neighbour Khasru Howlader, 38, over playing cricket in Khasru's yard.

Limon later entered Khasru's house with a sharp weapon and hacked him with it indiscriminately.

Khasru died by the time he was taken to Kawkhali Upazila Health Complex. His brother Ripan Hossain Howlader filed the case accusing Limon the same day.

40 hurt, 25 houses vandalised in AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 40 people were injured and 25 houses vandalised in a clash between two rival factions of Awami League (AL) at Beljani village in Boalmari upazila of the district yesterday.

Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between Alauddin Mattabor, president of ward no 4 unit of AL, and Md Sobuj, a member of Moyna Union Parishad and also an activist of the unit, over establishing supremacy in the locality.

On Sunday, some supporters of Sobuj attacked Abdur Rouf Mattabor, a supporter of Alauddin Mattabor. Babul Matabbor, son of Abdur Rouf Mattabor, then filed a case with Boalmari Police Station against 51 people.

After the incident, the men of the two rivals attacked each other with lethal weapons yesterday evening, leaving at least 40 people from both sides injured. Twenty-five houses were also damaged during the incident.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said Md Saifuddin, sub-inspector (SI) of the police station.

The injured were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital and Boalmari Upazila Health Complex.

Alauddin Mattabor and Sobuj blamed each other for the incident.

Additional police personnel have been deployed in the area to avert any further trouble, said the SI.

Fish worth Tk 20 lakh poisoned

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Unknown criminals poisoned to death fish worth around Tk 20 lakh at Nandua village under Uttar Shahbajpur union in Barlekha upazila on Monday.

Locals said, victim Yasin Ali, 45, a fish farmer of Purbo Saipur village, took lease of a pond from Ahmed Hasan Jewel of Nandua village about seven months ago and released fry of different variety of fish there.

Seeing some dead fry floating in the pond on Monday afternoon one of the villagers phoned him, Yasin said.

Hearing the news, he immediately went to the spot and found hundreds of dead fish fry floating on the water, he said.

Criminals might have poured pesticide into the pond, causing death of all the fish worth around Tk 20 lakh, over personal enmity, Yasin said, adding that he don't know how he will recoup the loss and repay the loan that he took from others for the fish farming.

Uttar Shahbajpur Union Parishad Chairman Ahmed Zubair Liton said he went to the spot and saw many dead fish floating on the water.

Officer in Charge of Barlekha Police Station Yasinul Haque said they will take action if a complaint is lodged.



Criminals killed fish worth around Tk 20 lakh by poisoning at Nandua village in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

200-yr-old fair where barter still exists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Before introducing coin, goods were purchased in lieu of other goods. To hold this tradition, an exceptional fair of dried fish was held in Nasirnagar upazila on Monday. The fair has been being hold in the area every year for the last two centuries, where barter system still exists.

Bartar system had been the mode of exchange in the ancient times before the introduction of coinage to ease trade. In this system, one could sale his product to someone in exchange of some other products that he would like to have.

Local Hindu fishermen community has been arranging this dried-fish fair on Kulikunda Government Primary School premises on the second day of the Bangla month Baishakh for the last 200 years. The fair starts in the early morning and ends at the dusk.

Porimal Das, general secretary of Upazila Fishermen's Association, said everything is duty-free in the fair. Local people buy dried fish in the fair in exchange of rice, potato, onion, garlic, mango and other agricultural produces.

Tapan Das, a member of the association, said "We have been enjoying the

fair since our childhood. Fishermen, farmers and villagers participate in the fair traditionally."

Merchants from Chattogram, Sylhet, Sunamganj and other parts of the country also come here to sell dried fish. People from adjoining areas visit the fair to buy varieties of dried fish, said Tapan.

Visiting the fair, this correspondent found that hundreds of small traders have set up stalls full to the brim on the school ground. Dried-fish of native species like boal, shol, baim, shing, koi, puti, tengra, taki and kanchki and different varieties of dried sea fish and eggs of hilsa were seen in the fair.

Jamil Furkan, a teacher of Nasirnagar Government College, said he visits the fair every year and buys dried fish and sends those to his native home in Kushtia.

Animesh Das, a trader of Sunamganj, said the number of customer is more than every year but sale is not satisfactory this year.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Saiful Kabir said, "We strictly supervise the fair so that traders and customers from different parts of the country aren't harassed. We want this fair to continue forever."



Merchants from Chattogram, Sylhet, Sunamganj and other parts of the country on Monday came to the fair to sell dried fish on Kulikunda Government Primary School premises in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar upazila. Inset, Dried-fish of native species like boal, shol, baim, taki and kanchki were seen in the fair.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDYO