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Police see dead man running

Prisoners, migrants, even the deceased get implicated in cases

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MONJURUL HAQUE

Amin Uddin Mollah is dead and buried for two years and 10 months. But a police officer in Gazipur “clearly saw” him and 21 others on the night of October 28 when the latter were fleeing after throwing a crude bomb at a police team, according to the case statement.

Sub-inspector Salahuddin of Gazipur's Kapasia Police Station filed the case the next day naming 22 people, including Amin, and many other unknown people, on charges of “attempting to kill police personnel”.

The alleged incident took place in Targaon Medical Intersection area at 11:30pm, and the SI said in the case statement that he was able to clearly see the suspects under the street lights along the road.

“I do not know if the police officer saw Amin Uddin or his ghost. Or maybe Amin Uddin came out of his grave that night,” said local union parishad member Mostafa Kamal.

Amin's son-in-law Mozammel Haque and his neighbour Md Saifullah of Khirati village said the man died on January 25, 2021, while undergoing treatment at a hospital in the capital. He was 65.

Mostafa Kamal, the local union parishad member, said Kapasia police even collected Amin's death certificate after his demise in 2021 in relation to a case at the time.

Amin retired as Narsingdi's Monohordi upazila education officer, and later joined Jamaat-e-Islami politics, three locals and a Jamaat leader said.

Md Abu Bakar Mia, officer-in-charge of Kapasia Police Station, said they will look into the matter.

BNP and Jamaat leaders have long been claiming that the government is using state machinery, including police, to suppress the opposition by implicating their leaders and activists in false cases.

Over the last one decade, filing of cases against dead people, migrant workers, hajj pilgrims and sick people travelling abroad for treatment made repeated headlines.

Often, such cases were filed immediately before and after elections, and in most instances, people involved in BNP and Jamaat politics have been the victims of these cases, sarcastically called “ghostly cases.”

The hallmark of these cases is that the implicated persons were nowhere near the places of occurrence when the alleged crimes took place.

A similar trend has returned in recent weeks, especially centring on the October 28 opposition rally in the capital that was foiled by heavy police action.

According to BNP, at least 18,090 party leaders and activists were arrested in 475 cases across the country from October 28 to November 30. Jamaat says law enforcers arrested 2,845 leaders and workers in 104 cases from October 25 to November 30.

Muhammad Ataur Rahman Sarker, publicity secretary of Jamaat's Dhaka north unit, said many of their leaders and activists have been victims of such false cases and enforced disappearances over the last several years.

Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said filing of “ghostly” cases is a clear violation of fundamental rights of citizens.

“In the judicial system, those who file false cases can be prosecuted and punished,” he added.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said police and ruling party activists are filing false cases by abusing the legal system to suppress the opposition leaders and activists.

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PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

A family rowing back to their home in the pristine waters of the Mohangshi river in Sunamganj's Shantiganj upazila with firewood for cooking. Low-income families have to go to great lengths in the haor region to gather fuel for cooking their meals almost every day. The photo was taken on Monday.

NOMINATION REJECTIONS

350 failed to prove 1pc voters' support

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and ASIFUR RAHMAN

Around 350 people lost their bid to run for parliament as independents because they failed to prove that they had the support of at least one percent of the voters in their constituencies.

Of the total 731 aspirants whose nomination papers were scrapped by the EC, 105 are loan defaulters and 15 had unpaid utility bills, according to the Election Commission.

Seventy-two others did not provide documents to prove that they had paid income tax, and eight did not pay municipality or city corporation taxes.

Officials are currently working on a detailed report on the reasons why nomination papers were rejected, said Ashok Kumar Debnath, additional secretary at the EC.

As per the article 12 of the Representation of the People Order, 1972, individuals and company owners should be disqualified if they default on their loans.

Of the 731 aspirants disqualified, 423 were independents and 308 party nominated.

Four Awami League nominees lost their candidature. Of them, Salah Uddin Ahmed of Cox's Bazar-1 and Mamunur Rashid of Noakhali-3, defaulted on loan repayments; Shammi Ahmed of Barishal-4 has dual citizenship; and Nasirul Islam of Kishoreganj-4 concealed information in his affidavit, according to EC data.

Nomination papers of 37 aspirants from Bangladesh Congress, 24 each from the Jatiya Party and Trinamool BNP, and four from the Gono Forum were cancelled.

Bikalpadhara leaders Abdul Mannan of Laxmipur-4 and Mahi B Chowdhury of Munshiganj-1 defaulted on loans.

Twenty-nine aspirants' papers were not properly signed, 57 did not submit all the required documents, 20 mentioned

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AL-LED 14-PARTY ALLIANCE

Seat-sharing stuck with JSD, Workers Party

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The decision on Awami League's seat-sharing with the 14-party alliance partners seems to be stalled over the demands from Bangladesh Workers Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD).

According to sources, the AL wants to share two seats with each of the parties, but Workers Party and the JSD seek to have the same number of seats they were given in the 2018 national election.

Currently, both the Workers Party and the JSD have three MPs each. The AL had shared five seats with the Workers Party and four with the JSD ahead of the 2018 polls.

A day after a meeting with AL President Sheikh Hasina, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday met AL leader Amir Hossain Amu, also the alliance coordinator, at the latter's Eskaton home and put forward their demands.

Menon and Inu also pressed the ruling party for withdrawal of the “AL independent” candidates from the race in the seats to be shared with the alliance partners, said meeting sources.

Hasina in the meeting on Monday night almost confirmed that her party would share five seats with the 14-party alliance partners. The seats are Barishal-3 for Menon, Rajshahi-2 for Workers Party General Secretary Fazley Hossain Badsha, Kushtia-2 for Inu, Pirojpur-2 for Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, and Chattogram-2 for Bangladesh Tarikat Federation Chairman Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbandari.

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Traders have set up makeshift shops blocking almost the entire road near the Golap Shah shrine in the capital's Gulistan yesterday. With winter drawing in, the sale of warm clothes has gone up over the last few days.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Transcom chief Shahnaz Rahman among top taxpayers again

Govt also recognises Matiur Rahman, Mahfuz Anam, Faridur Reza Sagar



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Once again, Transcom Group Chairman Shahnaz Rahman has been named one of the 76 highest taxpayers in the country.

Shahnaz has become one of the top taxpayers in the female category in the assessment year 2022-23. She was honoured as one of the highest taxpayers in the previous assessment year too.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam and Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman have been named among the top taxpayers in the journalist category for the eighth year in a row, according to a notification issued by the National Board of Revenue yesterday.

The tax administration also named

Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Impress Telefilm (Channel i), Shykh Seraj, founder director and head of news at Channel i, and Mohammad Abdul Malek, editor of Dainik Azadi, among the highest taxpayers in the journalist category.

Mediastar, the parent company of the Prothom Alo, was the top taxpayer in the print and electronic media category. Mediastar is a sister concern of Transcom Group. Mediastar has been named among the top taxpayers for the eighth consecutive year.

In the print and electronic media category, East West Media Group Ltd, Somoy Media Ltd and Times Media Ltd were also among the top taxpayers.

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