

GAHC010038082026



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THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT
(HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Case No. : AB/412/2026

SRI GUPINATH SONOWAL
S/O- PADMADHAR SONOWAL, R/O- VILLAGE- MOINAPARA, KADAM, P.S-
BOGINADI, IN THE DISTRICT OF LAKHIMPUR, ASSAM, PIN- 787032.

VERSUS

THE STATE OF ASSAM
REPRESENTED BY THE P.P. ASSAM.

Advocate for the Petitioner : MR. M KALITA, MR. N M DAS, H BORUAH, MR. J HATIMURIA

Advocate for the Respondent : PP, ASSAM,

BEFORE
HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANJAN MONI KALITA

ORDER

26.02.2026

Heard Mr. M. Kalita, learned counsel for the accused/applicant. Also heard Mr. R.J. Baruah, learned APP for the State.

2. This is an application filed under Section 482 of the BNSS, 2023, praying for grant of pre-arrest bail to the accused/applicant in connection with North Lakhimpur P.S. Case No.83/2024 under Sections 120(B)/406/420/409/468/471 of

the IPC.

3. An FIR was lodged on 03.02.2024 alleging that the accused/applicant, who was serving as the Relationship Manager – Rural Lending at Axis Bank Ltd., North Lakhimpur Branch, along with certain other persons, sanctioned and disbursed certain loans without properly verifying the requisite documentation and without conducting mandatory field visits. Upon receipt of the FIR, the police registered North Lakhimpur Police Station Case No. 83/2024. On the basis of the aforesaid FIR, a departmental/disciplinary proceeding has been initiated against the accused/applicant by Axis Bank Ltd. The accused/applicant has fully cooperated with the disciplinary authority throughout the proceedings. He has already been suspended by the concerned Bank.

4. The learned counsel for the accused/applicant submits that although the FIR was lodged as far back as 03.04.2024, no charge-sheet has yet been filed in the instant case. He further submits that on 05.02.2026, the accused/applicant received a notice from the Officer-in-Charge, CDSP, Dhakuakhana, directing him to appear on 16.02.2026 at 10:00 A.M. Upon receipt of the said notice, and apprehending arrest, the accused/applicant has approached this Hon'ble Court seeking the privilege of pre-arrest bail.

5. On the other hand, the learned APP for the State submits that, at this stage, perusal of the case diary is necessary for proper consideration of the anticipatory bail application. Therefore, he opposes the prayer for grant of bail to the accused/applicant.

6. Taking into account the entire matter and considering the fact that the accused/applicant has already been suspended from service and has cooperated with the proceedings initiated against him, this Court is of the considered opinion that, at this stage, interim protection deserves to be granted to the

accused/applicant.

7. Accordingly, it is directed that, in the event of arrest of the accused/applicant, he shall be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of Rs. 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand only) with one surety of like amount to the satisfaction of the Investigating Authority in connection with North Lakhimpur P.S. Case No. 83/2024, subject to the following condition:

(i) That the accused/applicant shall appear before the Investigating Officer within a period of 10 (ten) days from the date of passing of this order and shall cooperate with the investigation.

8. Let the matter be listed on 23.03.2026.

JUDGE

Comparing Assistant