

# Court stops bank from harassing creditor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** The executive magistrate, Bidhannagar, has restrained recovery agents of a private bank from visiting the premises of a creditor and threatening him. The court has directed the bank and the local police to file reports in the matter.

M K Mukhopadhyay, a resident of Purbanchal, Salt Lake, filed a petition through counsels Phiroze Edulji and Sumon Mukherjee. He said that he had taken a personal loan of Rs 80,000 from the bank in September, 2002. He

was supposed to return the amount in 36 instalments of Rs 2,813 each.

However, in 2003 and again in 2004, Mukhopadhyay's father had to be hospitalised and he failed to pay his instalment due to financial crunch. On January 15, a person who identified himself as the deputy manager of the bank, accompanied by a number of local goons, arrived at

Mukhopadhyay's residence. The goons were armed with *lathis* and rods. Not only did they verbally abuse Mukhopadhyay and his old parents in filthy language,

the anti-socials also threatened to dispossess the family of their flat, the petition states.

The bank official called up Mukhopadhyay on January 27 and 28 this year and repeated the threats.

On January 31, the group returned to Mukhopadhyay's house and repeated the threats, leading to tension in the area.

On February 22, Mukhopadhyay went to the official and paid Rs 10,000. When he asked for some more time to repay his dues, he was allegedly thrown out of the office.

Mukhopadhyay has claimed in his petition that till date

he has repaid Rs 35,000 of the loan.

On March 3, when Mukhopadhyay was away from home, the 'recovery agents' returned and threatened his parents. Mukhopadhyay then lodged a complaint with the Bidhannagar (South) police, but there was little action.

Mukhopadhyay's counsels, on Thursday, sought a restraining order from the court. They also wanted the court to call for a report from the officer-in-charge of the Bidhannagar (South) police station. The magistrate passed a restraining order on the bank and directed it and the OC to file reports.

