

Formal charges against four Mar 21

'ATP prices were raised after Ershad's visit to factory'

Former president HM Ershad and three others including two ministers under him have been charged with abusing their official position as public servants to dishonestly obtain for themselves or for any other persons pecuniary advantage to the extent of Taka 20,18,08,260 in the deal made for the purchase of three ATP aircraft for Bangladesh Biman, reports BSS.

Attorney General Aminul Haq while reading out the prosecution charges said the accused persons who included former ministers Ziauddin Ahmed and Lt. Col (Retd) HMA Gaffar and former Industries Secretary AKM Mosharrar Hossain by their acts have committed offence under Section 5(1) (D) of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1947 (Act II of 1947).

He charged that the accused persons are punishable under Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1947 which is within the cognizance of the court (the court of Special Judge Quamrul Islam Siddiqui).

Khandakar Mahub Hussain appearing on behalf of former president Ershad stated that there is constitutional bar to challenge the acts of a president. He further stated that former president enjoyed immunity under the constitution.

Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, who defended Ziauddin Ahmed, said the allegations against his client are groundless. Describing the F.I.R. as travesty of truth, Bhuiyan claimed that Ziauddin had no involvement in the matter, except that he presided over the Board of Directors' meeting.

Khan Saifur Rahman appearing on behalf of Lt. Col (Retd) HMA Gaffar and AKM Mosharrar Hossain said that allegations against his clients are groundless and opined that the court has no jurisdiction to try this case as the place of occurrence was in England, beyond the territory of Bangladesh.

Special Judge and Additional Session Judge Quamrul Islam Siddiqui after hearing both the sides, fixed March 21 for framing the charges against the accused.

The prosecution stated that before finalisation of the decision by Biman's Board of Directors about the procurement of the ATP aircraft and the fixation of price, former President Ershad, accompanied by Mosharrar Hossain, visited the factory of British Aerospace, the manufacturer of the aircraft and publicly praised the ATP planes. It said while the manufacturer on 26.10.1988 mentioned the price of each aircraft at 12.2 million dollars, after Ershad's visit to the factory in April 1989, the price was raised to 14.06 million dollar.

The prosecution further charged that despite a report sent by finance secretary to President Ershad on 4.10.1989 depicting the weak financial position of Biman with a request to object to the purchase proposal (of the ATP aircraft), considering the overall situation and interest of Biman, the former President at the instance of Lt. Col (Retd) HMA Gaffar, the then Minister for Civil Aviation approved the purchase deal on 28.10.1989 with dishonest intention.

The Attorney General said although there were negative reports from Biman's economic and technical evaluation team about the procurement of ATP in addition to the written objection by the then Finance Secretary, accused Ziauddin Ahmed, the then State Minister for Civil Aviation did not stop the deal. Moreover, before the approval by the cabinet committee on purchase, 4 million U.S. dollars were sent to ATP authorities at the instance of accused Ziauddin Ahmed, the prosecution charged. The action of the accused, the Attorney General said, was contrary to the decision adopted at the meeting of Bimans Board of Directors. In that meeting it was decided to

purchase 3 ATP aeroplanes directly from the manufacturer subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions including satisfactory economic and technical evaluation report and effective bargaining of price.

The economic evaluation team in late 1988 submitted a report to the effect that if the 3 ATP planes were purchased, Biman would sustain a loss of more than 20.6 million dollars within next five years. The team, in March 1989 in a fresh report said the loss to Biman would be more than 50 million dollars within next ten years.

The prosecution charged that accused Lt. Col (Retd) HMA Gaffar, who chaired the 127th meeting of the board of directors as the minister in charge of civil aviation, instructed the sending of another 5 million dollars to British Aerospace. This was done before the proposal for the purchase of the ATP planes was approved by the cabinet committee, the prosecution further charged.

Alleged killer of Kazal still at large

By Staff Correspondent

Police till Saturday night failed to arrest the murderer of the housewife, Nurunnahar Kazal.

Nurunnahar Kazal wife of AHM Raisuddin, was allegedly kidnapped from Willes Little Flower School, Kakrail, Wednesday morning, when she went to drop her two children at the school. She was later found dead in a house at East Rajabazar on the same day.

Following the death, Kazal's husband registered a case with Tejgaon police accusing one Ekram Shah of the murder.

Masum Shah, a younger brother of the accused, who was arrested and taken on a two-day police remand Thursday would be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court today, police said.



Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya brought out a procession in the city Saturday protesting the killing of Raju. —Star photo

DU campus

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from the Aparajeo Bangla and held the rally protesting the killing and demanding trial of the killers.

The GCO activists also brought out another procession from the Curzon Hall area which dispersed at the Press Club.

GCO leaders Nazmul Huq Prodhan, Belal Chowdhury, Sardar Ruhin Hossain Prince, Abdus Sattar Khan, Aminul Islam, Mizanur Rahman Chandan, Zia Arefin and Abdullah Hill Kafi Ratan addressed the rally.

The leaders mentioned that intra party dissent was not only prevailing in the BCL (S-A) but also in the JCD.

The GCO leader Nazmul Huq Prodhan, president of the JSD (Inu) —backed Chhatra League (N-S) accused the government of the killing saying that it was pre-planned and an attempt to divert attention from the ongoing movement for the public trial of Jamaat Amir Golam Azam.

Samatantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) president Belal Chowdhury said that the BNP government was no less auto-

cratic than the Ershad's one.

He said that the government and the leading political parties had not yet cleared armed terrorists from their student wings and that the government was also inactive in arresting the identified armed hooligans.

Later the GCO brought out a procession. When it crossed the Paltan crossing near the Baitul Mukarram mosque police resorted to lathicharge without any apparent reason, witnesses said, and arrested Sarkar Rakib, Masum Hossain and Zamas Sarkar, three BCU leaders.

Meanwhile, the GCO announced a three-day programme to protest Raju's murder. The programme includes observing mourning day by wearing black badges and mourning processions and rallies across the country on March 16, countrywide demonstrations on March 17 and a countrywide student strike on March 18.

DU teachers observe 3-hour work abstention Tuesday

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University teachers will observe a three-hour abstention from duties Tuesday from 10.30 am to protest the renewed terrorist activities on the campus.

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) at an emergency meeting yesterday (Saturday) took the decision.

Examination duties will, however, remain out of the purview of the work abstention.

The meeting, presided over by DUTA President Dr SMA Fazl, expressed deep concern over Raju's killing and demanded punishment to the killers immediately.

The teachers bring out a procession from the Aparajeo Bangla of the Dhaka University today at 10.30 am.

CU classes to remain closed till April 16

CHITTAGONG, Mar 14: Classes of the University of Chittagong will remain closed from March 16 to April 16 on account of the holy Ramzan, Independence Day, Shab-e-Quadr, Eid-ul-Fitr and Bengali New Year, a university press release said. The classes will resume on April 18 next. Another press release of the university said Dr Sultan Ahmed of the Department of Statistics has been elected Dean, faculty of science, for a tenure of two years effective from March 14, 1992, reports BSS.

Hasina

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Dhaka Stock Exchange attended the meeting.

FBCCI Directors Mashur Rahman and Mohammad Yunus, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries President Abu Subid Ali Tipu and Vice-President Sharif M Afzal, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mahbubur Rahman and former President AS Mahmood, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Manzur Moshed Khan and General Secretary CK Hyder, Foreign Investors' Chamber President Syed Humayun Kabir, and Dhaka Stock Exchange Chairman Aminul Islam and Councilor Khurshid Alam took part in the discussion.

Earlier, Sheikh Hasina gave her policy statement on the party's economic policy while party's Economic and Planning Affairs Secretary initiated the discussion with a welcome address.

Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Jalil, Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Matia Chowdhury, Abdul Momin, Prof Abu Sayeed, Abdul Kader Siddiqui, Montaj Hossain, Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali, Dr Mizanul Haq, Mesbahuddin Khan, Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Rashed Mosharrar, Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Abul Kalam Azad were among others present.

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AL programme on Mujib's birthday

Awami League will observe the 72nd birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 17, reports UNB.

In observance of the day, the Awami League has chalked out a programme which includes a discussion meeting at the Bangabandhu Bhaban at 3 pm. Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting.

Party's General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP has asked all units of the party to observe the day in a befitting manner.

A press release of the party said an extended meeting of the Dhaka City Awami League will be held at party's central office at 3 pm today.

City corpns

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ceived today (Sunday), official sources said.

The sources said that the authorities had put off serving show cause notices on its permanent employees for the time being as the negotiations started Saturday.

Some 10,000 employees of the Dhaka City Corporation have been on an indefinite strike since last Monday demanding implementation of national pay-scale for them.

Of them some 5,000 master roll employees, mostly sweepers and squad labourers, were terminated as they failed to join their duties according to the directives of the authorities.

A senior official of the Corporation said that if the crisis was settled through negotiations, withdrawal of their termination orders may be considered.

Meanwhile, a number of political organisations expressed their support to the demand of the striking city corporation employees and urged the government to accept it.

Bangladesh Sanjukta Sramik Federation, Gana Azadi League, Jatiya Samantantrik Dal (Rob) and Ganatantrik Jubo Parishad also condemned the actions of the law enforcing agency members and some armed youths' on the striking employees.

Inspection Judges to be appointed after Ramzan

Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said lawyers are an inseparable part of the judiciary and appealed to the Bench and the Bar to cooperate with each other to ensure smooth functioning of the judiciary in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing as the chief guest the installation ceremony of the newly elected officers bearers of the 'Dhaka Ainjibi Samity' — Dhaka Bar Association, at its office at the old city area, the Chief Justice appealed to lawyers to make their contribution towards building a healthy judicial system.

Justice Shahabuddin felt the need for the separation of the judiciary from the executive. He said the separation was necessary for ensuring the independence of the judiciary and for establishing rule of law in the country.

The Chief Justice said, he was contemplating to bring about certain reforms in the judiciary including provisions for appointing Administrative or Inspection Judges. He believed that this inspection system likely to be introduced after ramzan, would help ensure quick justice and bring about the welfare of the people.

Referring to certain decisions of the cabinet which he had presided over as the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin said some of the decisions including housing arrangements for the Judges were yet to be implemented.

World Cup

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beats the West Indies by a wide margin in Melbourne next Wednesday.

Unbeaten New Zealand and England already have clinched semifinal places in the nine-nation tournament. Australia, the West Indies, South Africa and Pakistan are competing for the remaining two places.

India, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe all have been eliminated from contention.

South Africa can cap their return to international cricket after a 22-year absence by beating India Adelaide on Sunday. A win would clinch a semifinal spot for the South Africans.

South Africa's preparation have been hampered by an Achilles tendon injury to all-rounder Brian McMillan.

In other matches to be played Sunday, Pakistan face Sri Lanka in Perth and New Zealand play England in a battle of unbeaten teams in Wellington, New Zealand. (Details on Sports Pages).

DU probe body on Friday's incident

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities have formed a three-member probe body to investigate into Friday's incident on the campus which left a student leader Moin Hossain Raju killed.

An emergency meeting of DU syndicate held on Saturday evening with Vice Chancellor Professor Moniruzzaman Miah in the chair formed the body with Proctor of the university as its convener.

The two other members of the committee are Professor Monirul Huq, provost, Ziaur Rahman Hall and Prof Harun-Ur-Rashid, provost, F Rahman Hall of the university.

The meeting expressed its deep shock and heart felt sympathy to the members bereaved of the family.

The syndicate meeting observed that more loss of valuable lives could take place if the present situation continued on the campus.

The meeting urged the government and all concerned to take active steps for a permanent solution to campus violence.

It also demanded arrest and legal action against the killers of Raju.

Hasina blames JCD for Raju's killing

Awami League President and Opposition Leader in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the ruling party of patronising killing and terrorism and said no amount of repression would be able to suppress the people's movement.

She made the accusation while condemning the murder of Chhatra Union central leader and a student of Dhaka University, Moin Hossain Raju who was killed allegedly by the activists of BNP's student wing, reports UNB.

In a statement, Hasina said the whole nation was shocked at the death of 'a soldier' who joined the procession demanding trial of 'war criminal' Golam Azam and an end to terrorism on the campuses.

'The BNP government had chosen the path of the ousted autocrat — repression by arms and muscle power on the opposition students and political workers.'

She alleged that the ruling party has been committing murders one after another by the hated and branded terrorists, mastans and criminals.



Arms and ammunition recovered by police after raiding four residential halls of DU Saturday. —Star photo

Home Ministry

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tatives of 14 students' organisations.

The meeting also observed that the agenda of the Home Ministry meeting and list of the invited participants were also vague.

It was decided at the meeting that from now on the coordinating committee would officially represent the component organisations on the issue of the planned trial of Golam Azam and other national programmes.

Fire claims 2 in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 14: The Fire Brigade personnel recovered two bodies from the fire-affected Jahur hawkers' market in Chittagong this morning.

The two victims were identified as Abdur Rahim (28) and Milon (25).

Fire broke out in the market yesterday at about 10 pm. Ten persons including six Fire Brigade personnel were injured.

50 hurt as JCD, transport workers clash in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Mar 14: At least 50 people, including 15 policemen, were injured in clashes between activists of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and transport workers here on Friday night, witnesses and police said, reports UNB.

JCD activists allegedly ransacked a transport workers' office in the town and damaged 10 buses following a quarrel between local JCD leader GK Gaffar and bus driver.

Gaffar riding on a motorbike had hot exchange of words with the bus driver for not giving him side on Habiganj-Shaestaganj road in the afternoon.

A group of transport workers later attacked Gaffar's residence at Shaestaganj at about 11 pm. They were resisted by local people and JCD supporters.

More than 50 cocktails were exploded and several rounds of gunshots were fired during the encounters.

Police fired tear gas to disperse the mob.

The Midnight File

De Klerk concludes referendum campaign

NYLSTROOM, South Africa, Mar 14: President F W de Klerk made a final campaign appeal Saturday for a referendum on his efforts to end apartheid, saying he was negotiating for the survival of whites, not their surrender. Also Saturday, police and supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party battled near Johannesburg in the latest outbreak of black violence that has claimed some 200 lives in the past three weeks, reports AP.

Sikh militants kill 10 more in Ludhiana

CHANDIGARH, Mar 14: Militants struck in a big way in Ludhiana city tonight killing ten people and injuring five, the police said here. Elsewhere in Punjab, 21 people, including a Lt Gen of Khalistan Commando force and 12 other militants, were killed since last night. The police said that militants opened indiscriminate fire in Vishwakarma colony in Ludhiana city killing the ten, the militants managed to escape, reports PTI.

UN special envoy arrives in Kabul

KABUL, Mar 14: A United Nations special envoy seeking an end to the Afghan civil war arrived in Kabul on Saturday for talks with Afghan authorities. UN sources said envoy Benon Sevan, who flew in from Pakistan, was expected to meet Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil later on Saturday and President Najibullah on Sunday. The meetings are likely to focus on preparing a list of about 150 Afghans from all sides of the 13-year-old conflict for a peace assembly planned for late April, diplomatic sources in Kabul said, reports Reuter.

Villages focal point of development: PM

HOMNA, Mar 14: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called upon Saturday to start a relentless struggle to attain economic emancipation for consolidating the hard-earned democracy and give it institutional shape, reports BSS.

'We can only consolidate democracy if we can achieve economic emancipation in the country,' Begum Zia told a huge public meeting at the Homna Upazila Parishad premises.

Begum Zia expressed hope that people would extend all-out cooperation in this regard with the same spirit and zeal with which they had ousted the autocratic regime.

The Prime Minister said the present government had

Koreas agree on mutual nuclear inspections

SEOUL, Mar 14: North and South Korea agreed today on mutual inspection of each other's nuclear facilities, an official of South Korea's Unification Board said, reports AFP.

PM leaves today

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eral trade, export of the garments and food aid under PL 480.

An agreement between Dhaka and Washington on food aid under PL 480 is likely to be signed during the visit.

The Prime Minister is also expected to discuss matters of mutual interest with other US officials, including Defence Minister Dick Cheney, Joint Chief of Staff Colin Powell and Chief of American Task Force in Bangladesh during last years April cyclone General Stackpole.

During the visit Begum Zia would also seek greater aid commitment from the American government, the second largest donor country for Bangladesh after Japan, ahead of April's Paris Aid Consortium meet, officials said.

'Begum Zia and Bush will also discuss the report of a task force on cyclone prepared by the US government after visits by Marilyn Quayle and General Henry Stackpole,' one official said, referring to US Vice President Dan Quayle's wife. He added she will seek aid to build storm shelters.

In Washington, Begum Zia will also hold separate talks with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, besides officials of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

In New York, she is scheduled to meet United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and General Assembly President Samir Shihab.

UNB adds: The Bangladesh leader is also expected to give interviews to leading media, including Associated Press (AP), Cable News Network (CNN), Newsweek, New York Times, Washington Post and the Christian Monitor.

Her 10-member entourage will include Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Begum Selina Rahman, MP, Principal Secretary at the Prime Minister's Secretariat Syed Hasan Ahmed, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, Chief of Protocol Tofael Karim Haider and Director General of the American desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Khurshid Hamid.

The Prime Minister will return home on March 23.

taken some measures to make the country self-sufficient in all respects. 'Our work will start from the village which will be the focal point of our development', she said.

The Prime Minister called for increasing production in the fields and factories to keep the price of essential commodities within the reach of the people.

The prime Minister urged the people to remain vigilant against smuggling, saying smuggling crippled the country's economy as production in the mills and factories were hampered and employees and workers became jobless.

She called for setting up small and cottage industries in the rural areas so that it could generate employment. Begum Zia said womenfolk should also contribute to national upliftment. She said the government had already undertaken some programmes to make them self-sufficient.

In this regard, the Prime Minister said the government had already made education for girls upto class eight in the rural areas free.

She urged the people to adopt family planning, saying 'No development effort will be successful if population boom was not checked'.

Sounding a note of warning, she said corrupt elements will not be spared. Describing them as 'society's enemies', Begum Zia urged the people to inform the government about their activities and whereabouts. 'We want to root out corruption from society', she added.

Turkish quake

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Turkey. Dozens of villages remained cut off Saturday, making an accurate death and damage assessment impossible from the quake that was estimated a quake as 6.8 on the Richter scale.

The drama of the rescue operations was brought home to Turks who watched as a Turkish television reporter in Erzincan called out for survivors in the ruined city and a voice screamed back that 20 people were trapped and waiting to be saved.

State television showed a father weeping amidst the rubble. 'Oh, my children,' he cried.

Sixty students remained buried under the wreckage of a medical school in the city center.

The semi-official Turkish news agency, Anatolia, reported that at least 500 bodies had been recovered in Erzincan and the governor of Erzincan province, Fikret Cubadaroglu, said another 78 people were reported dead in towns in the eastern part of the province.

Anatolia said 517 people were injured, 251 of them hospitalized.

Khaleda shocked

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday expressed her deep shock at the loss of life and property due to the earthquake in Turkey yesterday, reports BSS.

In a message to Turkish President Turgut Ozal Begum Zia prayed for salvation of the departed soul and for early recovery of the injured persons.

She also prayed to Almighty Allah so that the people of Turkey could overcome this catastrophe with courage and fortitude.