

Corruption case Khoka, two others granted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, the then state minister for youth and sports along with two others, accused in a corruption case, was granted bail yesterday.

The Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Nurul Karim Mazumder, granted bail to them upon a bond of Tk 25,000 each with three guarantors.

Khoka, Wing Commander Mohiuddin Ahmad, former director (Administration) of National Sports Parishad and Badaruddin Ahmad (budget cum-audit officer) and deputy director of National Sports Parishad in Chittagong division along with their lawyers appeared

before the CMM's Court, Dhaka yesterday and prayed for bail.

Court inspector Kazi Abdul Mannan opposed the petition and prayed for sending them to jail rejecting their bail petition.

After hearing both the sides the court granted them bail.

Khoka along with seven others while in office misappropriated Tk 3 lakh from government fund by misusing power.

Mohammad Farid Ahmed Patwary, Inspector of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed a corruption case with Motiheen thana against eight people including Sadek Hossain Khoka on August 24 in 1998.

EC suspends move

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across the country attended the three-hour meeting at National Economic Council (NEC) auditorium.

The CEC asked the EC officials to maintain neutrality while discharging their responsibilities. He also advised them not to yield to any pressure or threat and inform him if they faced any adverse situation.

"The EC will come to your protection provided you make the institution credible by discharging your duties impartially. Otherwise, you will have to face severe consequence," the CEC was quoted to have told his colleagues in a meeting.

The meeting was informed that printing of the voter list has been completed while a central voters' database is almost complete.

Regarding ballot boxes, the meeting was of the opinion that the EC might need some more boxes in reserve to meet emergency needs. Presently, the EC has a total of 2,32,113 boxes, including some 31,000 new ones.

Among other issues, the meeting discussed women's right to vote in the coming polls, adequate stock of

Rally at Paltan

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headmasters of primary schools and washing charge for government employees equivalent to three months' pay.

The coordination committee consists of class III and class IV government employees.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Secretariat employees at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday urged all government employees' organisations to consider the reinstatement of 56 employees who were sacked during their agitation at the Secretariat in 1999.

election materials at the thana and upazila levels and proposed changes in the Representation of People's Order (RPO).

Asked about a proposed combining operation by the government to recover illegal arms, which is due to begin next Sunday, the CEC said the law enforcers should be given a free hand to curb terrorism, which hampers electioneering.

"Such drive should be impartial and carried out without any fear or favour," he said. Political interference and discrimination should not dictate the arrest of terrorists. It is the sole responsibility of the government to make the law and order situation stable, he observed.

BBTBB bills

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issue any formal letter to any of the firms including Lithi.

The tender was full of loophole and improper as it did not specify the criteria of equipment and expertise a firm should have to participate in the bidding, sources concerned said.

Meanwhile, Lithi has told the BBTB that it is willing to prepare monthly telephone bills from the month of January to June and regularisation of telex bills of the year 2000.

The BBTB has failed to prepare monthly bill of four months, from January to April, even after it entered into an agreement with the BUET Computer Centre to do the job. Lithi has proposed to complete the task and regularisation of telephone and telex bill by July 20.

The LEL earlier obtained stay order from court in January, resulting in cancellation of an earlier BBTB attempt to award the job through tender.

To get rid of this, BB suggested setting up of separate financial loan court at district level and appointment of more judges to deal with cases at these courts.

3 killed in Tangail road accident

UNB, Tangail

Three people were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Motara area of Basail upazila yesterday.

Police said the accident took place in the morning when the driver of a Bogra-bound truck lost control over the steering and fell into a roadside ditch, leaving the three dead on the spot.

Two of the deceased were identified as Jalaluddin, 35, and Nazmul Huda, 18. The identity of other could not be known.

Police seized the truck, but its driver managed to flee the scene. A case was filed with police.

Yasmeen murder

FROM PAGE 1 away with custodial deaths with impunity.

The deputy attorney general cited a report in Tuesday's papers about another recent custodial death, the likes of which are rising alarmingly. He also recalled the murders of Seema, Rubel and Jalal in custody.

"A clear signal must go from this court that these murders will not go unpunished. The punishment for offences committed by police should be harsher than when committed by ordinary people. It is clear in this case that the three accused were involved in rape and murder. Otherwise they would have put up some defence, particularly when they had a mentor like the then SP of Dinajpur going out of the way to hide their crime".

BB prescribes

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However, to improve the situation and their service, BB suggested a totally computerised banking system and a 'separate and better' pay scale for NCBs. It also said that if performance evaluation system could be introduced in NCBs, it would bring about tremendous improvement.

Terming classified loans as the major problem for the banking sector, BB suggested reward for bank staff for realising stuck up loans and punishment for failure.

The BB also said lengthy legal process also delays realisation of classified loans. "In some cases, influential defaulters make it difficult for banks to go for legal steps to realise loans."

To get rid of this, BB suggested setting up of separate financial loan court at district level and appointment of more judges to deal with cases at these courts.

Border talks

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and also "adverse possession" of land in each other's territory.

Meanwhile, AFP from Guwahati says, Indian border guards yesterday asked Bangladesh troops to tighten their frontier controls.

BSF soldiers fired in the air Monday to ward off a group of 15 Bangladeshis allegedly trying to sneak into the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya.

The incident prompted the BSF to hold a flag meeting with Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in an area of no man's land near Patharghat, 100 kilometres east of Meghalaya's state capital Shillong.

"We have asked BDR not to allow their civilians to trespass across the border to enter Indian territory," a senior Indian Border Security Force (BSF) commander, who did not want to be identified, told the news agency.

The border guards of India and Bangladesh were engaged in a bloody skirmish in April that led to the death of 16 BSF men and at least three BDR soldiers, causing tension between the otherwise friendly countries.

"The border is quiet and there is no abnormal troop build-up," he said.

India and Bangladesh share a 4,000-kilometre border.

Tipu

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was treated at the Orthopaedic Hospital in Dhaka.

The musclemen of ruling party MP Zainal Hazari abducted Tipu on the evening of January 25 from Feni Sadar and beat him up savagely. The terrorists left the spot presuming him dead.

Bir Pratik

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owns two other AK-47s and is planning buy two more, they said.

Ahmedda leads the mainstream Shibir cadres based in Satkania. His gang owns five AK-47s. Whenever Shibir carries out a big operation, Ahmedda joins in.

Humayun and Yakub, two top-notch terrorist leaders of Shibir, own four AK-47s, 15 submachine guns and some 25 cut rifles.

Mukti, another accused in the eight-murder case, also owns an AK-47, and so does Kafi, who leads a group of Shibir activists. A vice-president candidate for the Chittagong Medical College students' union, Kafi also owns a Chinese rifle. He was arrested long ago and has been on parole for nearly seven months now on the plea that he would sit for examinations.

Sources say that Shibir is now trying to reinforce its weaponry and has joined hands with a section of BNP leaders and SQ Chowdhury MP's terrorist groups.

see this issue from business perspective."

Meanwhile, the Drug Administration defended their position by saying that most of the drugs sold in the black market were 'luxury' items.

"They are prescribed in Western countries and they are expensive too. So there is no justification why we should allow the drugs," said an official at the DA.

In reply to another question the official, who requested anonymity, said, "There are alternative drugs being manufactured in Bangladesh and also imported if necessary."

But the Daily Star investigation found no alternative medication available for some of the drugs mentioned above.

A high official of health ministry said that the Drugs Control Committee has so far not received any requests or formal appeal for registration of such drugs. "If there are application I am sure the committee would consider."

On the issue of why multinational drugs companies in Bangladesh are not manufacturing some of these imported items, a nephrologist said, "Many local drug pharmaceuticals do not feel encouraged to develop these drugs since the demand is low compared to other medicines. They

BNP lawmaker finances

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Chittagong College and Mohsin College in the city, and the Satkania area.

In the absence of Nasir, Sajjad, the prime accused in the eight-murder case, leads the Shibir terrorists in the city. Other terrorists in his group include Bhagirat Ramjan, BDR Selim, Gitti Nasir, Abib Khan, Mujibba (in jail), Sujaiya, Delwar, Ahammad, Hamid, Tiger Farid, Alamgir, Mohammad Hossain Kauwa, Ismail, Kala Mahbub, Nazim, Chhuri Abdullah, Five-star Jashim, Abdul Kaiyim Limon, Alamgir Kabir Manik, Iqbal, Naikha Kajol, and Mahbub.

Repeated police attempts to nab Sajjad have so far been no success. Their search operation is also hampered by the fact the photograph they have of Sajjad was taken when he was a student of class eight.

Sajjad always carries an AK-47 and keeps it in a bag while riding a bike, underworld sources said. He

owns two other AK-47s and is planning buy two more, they said.

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