

## Graft allegations against Huda, Mamun to be probed

ACC initiates investigations against 'big fish'

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has decided to investigate the allegations of corruption against former communication minister Nazmul Huda and Tarique Rahman's close business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun.

"The ACC has assigned two officials to probe the allegations against Mamun that came out in various newspapers," said ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan.

"We have initiated a process to investigate allegations of corruption against a lot of big fish," he said but did not name anyone else except Mamun.

A top ACC source, however, said Nazmul Huda is another "big fish" to be closely

scrutinised. The press has run many reports on Huda's alleged corruption including taking bribes and illegal commissions from various parties while introducing the CNG-run taxis and gas stations, he said.



Nazmul Huda



Giasuddin Al Mamun

Former BNP parliamentarian SA Khaleq openly alleged at a parliament session that Huda took Tk 25 lakh in bribes but did not deliver the service he took the bribe for.

Huda also gave a costly railway land to his wife's human rights organisation for just Tk 5,000. He is alleged to have taken commissions from bridge toll collectors and road construction contractors across the country, making hundreds of crores of taka.

The then parliamentary standing committee on communication also brought wholesale allegation against Huda and a sub-committee was formed to probe three allegations—import of CNG-run autorickshaws, land allocation for CNG filling stations, and handling of Jamuna Resort Ltd.

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## Falu's quick rise in fortunes in just 31 months

But the controversial lawmaker claims his expenditure decreased: spends only Tk 70 a day on fuel and maintenance, Tk 500 on electricity a month

RASHIDUL HASAN

The controversial former lawmaker from Dhaka-10 constituency, Mosaddek Ali Falu, had a meteoric rise in fortune in the last two and a half years with his wealth in shares in different companies increasing 100 times. His annual income tripled and his land doubled.

However, Falu, who had been the political secretary to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia before he became a lawmaker through a widely rigged election from Dhaka-10, could by some miracle reduce his annual expenditure despite his lavish lifestyle. What he claims to have spent in a year—Tk 3,20,000 (Tk 26,660 per month)—can hardly support a middle class family let alone Falu's who lives in a swanky house and drives some of the most expensive cars in the world.

This information is available from the statements he submitted

to the returning officer (RO) on May 24, 2004 (for by-election of Dhaka-10 constituency) and on January 9, 2007. However, the statements did not reveal how he earned the money to amass such wealth as he did not submit his full income tax statement to the Election Commission (EC) as other candidates for the postponed January 22 election did.

Moreover, his declared income falls far short of his wealth accumulation, which clearly indicates Falu had made his fortunes through non-transparent means beyond any explanation.

FALU'S UNEXPLAINED WEALTH Falu had declared a total wealth of Tk 2,28,42,617 in 2004. This included Tk 37,90,348 for 67.85 bigha (20 katha is equivalent to one bigha) of land in Savar, Tk 60,000 for 5 katha land in Joar Sahara, Tk 54,69,460 for a seven-storey building at South Shajahanpur, Tk

34,45,000 for a five-storey and a four-and-a-half storey buildings also at South Shajahanpur, Tk 50,92,809 for nine flats in a building also at South Shajahanpur.

Falu showed Tk 9,90,000 worth of share certificate and Sanchaypatra (saving scheme), Tk 8,10,000 worth of a dairy farm, Tk 28,75,000 worth

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## Aid flow thinned for poor reform, politics

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Fourteen out of 22 development partners did not disburse any aid to Bangladesh in the first half of the current fiscal year, resulting in a decrease of 40 percent in foreign aid flow from the preceding year.

Besides, there was no aid disbursement from a number of aid group donors due to political instability and the country's failure to bring about reforms that the donors said are necessary to curb

corruption and improve governance.

Bangladesh received \$294.76 million in foreign aid in the first six months of the current fiscal while it was \$488.55 million for the corresponding period in the last fiscal, according to Economic Relations Division (ERD) figures.

"Of the amount, only \$20.14 million came from different bilateral donor countries," an ERD official said quoting from official documents.

Of the donors, the World Bank provided \$91 million in the first half of the current fiscal while it contributed \$633 million by the time last year.

The official said a number of donor countries did not come up with any financial assistance mainly for the country's non-conforming to the reforms prescribed by the donors. The past BNP-Jamaat government's reluctance to release funds for the

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## JUDICIARY SEPARATION Govt gets 11 days to submit amended CrPC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday granted the government 11 days to submit the gazette of the amended Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for separating the judiciary from the executive.

The full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by the chief justice, passed the order and adjourned the hearing until February 12.

Earlier Additional Attorney

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## CA calls for graft-free society

Opens Ekushey Book Fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday called on the people to create a just and knowledge-based society, free from the influence of black money, the corrupt and the criminals.

"Let us build up a steely unity like those of '52 and '71, let us work together," he said at the opening ceremony of the month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2007 at Bangla Academy yesterday while addressing his audience of advisers, diplomats, Bangla Academy life-members and fellows and literateurs.

He also inaugurated a sculpture titled, "Moder Gorob," in memory of the Language Movement martyrs.

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Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and Adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury browse through books at a stall in the Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday after its inauguration.

## 5 lakh sacks of rotten commodities, fertiliser seized

STAR REPORT

Joint forces yesterday seized around 3.6 lakh sacks of rotten basic commodities including wheat, sugar, lentil and over 1.5 lakh sacks of fertilisers from Chittagong and Khulna.

The forces also arrested eight people for involvement in food adulteration and fertiliser hoarding.

The army and Rapid Action Battalion in separate operations yesterday seized over 1.5 lakh sacks

of fertiliser, 1.9 lakh sacks of rotten wheat, sugar, lentil, etc. and arrested two people in Majhirhat area, our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports.

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) led by Lt Commander Shamim raided two large warehouses, owned by AKM Monaf, in Majhirhat area of Doublenmooring at around 12:00noon.

Rab seized 90 thousand sacks fertilisers including TSP, Urea and

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## Mamun arrested Hasina's APS not released

STAR REPORT

Tarique Rahman's business partner Giasuddin Al-Mamun was arrested in the capital sometime Wednesday, laying to rest week-long rumours surrounding the high-profile capture.

An intelligence official requesting not to be named told The Daily Star last night that Mamun was picked up from the city's Paltan area.

Meanwhile, the joint forces did not release Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina's Assistant Personal Secretary Dr Awlad Hossain who was hauled in on Wednesday night along with two others from Dhanmondi area.

Sources said the security forces held one Russell when he went to draw Tk 25 lakh from a bank in Motijheel. Later, following up leads obtained from him, a team of intelligence officials and Rab men went to the house No. 38 at Nayapalton and raided a fourth-floor flat owned by one Liton.

Shah Mosharrar Hossain, general secretary of the flat owners association of the seven-storey building, told reporters yesterday that the law enforcers held four persons around 2:00pm, blindfolded them and whisked them away. He, however, could not con-

firm whether Mamun was among them.

When asked, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Naim Ahmed yesterday said he did not know anything about the capture.

According to a source, Mamun's wife has not kept in contact with him since he was first arrested on January 11 hours after declaration of the state of emergency.

He was, however, freed later. And since then, the joint forces had been combing through the capital and places elsewhere in the country for him.

In another development, Awlad, held shortly after coming out of the AL president's Shudha Sadan residence Wednesday evening, has been taken to an undisclosed place, said sources.

That he was released a couple of hours after the arrest was learnt to have been wrong yesterday. As of last night, he was not produced before a court or handed over to the police.

Like him, former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League Jahangir Sattar Tinku, who was arrested on January 24, has yet to be produced before any court or shifted to police custody.

Our Rangamati correspondent

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FALU'S DECLARED WEALTH			
2004		2007	
Types of wealth	Taka	Types of wealth	Taka
67.85 bigha of land (Gohaiter and Kattasuli, Savar)	37,90,348	118.730 bigha of land (Gohaiter and Kattasuli, Savar)	1,51,36,261
5 katha of land (Lower Shajaha, Dhaka)	60,000	5 katha of land (Lower Shajaha)	60,000
A concrete 7-storey building (797 South Shajahanpur, Dhaka)	54,69,460	12.74 katha of land (Tekampara)	1,33,20,000
A concrete 4 and a half-storey building (701, 702 South Shajahanpur, Dhaka)	34,45,000	4.439 bigha of land (Dandarg, Dhara)	549,450
Nine flats of a building (703 South Shajahanpur, Dhaka)	50,92,809	1.52 bigha of land (Badogwari, Dharmra)	1,68,700
Security, bond, bank deposit, etcetera (Savings scheme)	9,90,000	6.50 katha of land (Badda, Gulshan)	5,55,000
		A concrete 7-storey building (797 South Shajahanpur)	54,69,460
		A concrete 5-storey building (701/702 South Shajahanpur)	34,45,000



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