

# Nagorik Shakti

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open letter for the countrymen, also from the ZIA, to elicit their opinion as to whether he should enter the domain of politics.

In his declaration about floating party, he said, "We want to advance the country with the slogan 'Advance Bangladesh'. Our politics will be the politics of materialising the ideals of the Liberation War."

But he didn't mention anything clearly about the aims and objectives of his political party. "I will say about those later on," he said, adding: "Those will be fixed after the formation of the party."

He said the politics of this party will be to unite the people to achieve goals in the future, "not to create division among the people."

Prof Yunus mentioned that the workers in the villages would be the main source of his political party's main force.

"Those who violate laws must not be in the leadership of this party," he said about his plan for starting off with a clean slate.

He also thanked people who advised him not to venture into the arena of politics.

The local committees will nominate the candidates for the elections, including the national elections. They will do that after examining whether a candidate is honest and eligible.

He urged the people to form 'primary preparation team' with 20 people each and set up the office for the political party and communications center.

Yunus put emphasis on the womenfolk participating in the formation of preparation teams, as they constitute half the total population.

"This is time the women came forward bypassing all odds, fears and shyness," said the Grameen Bank founder whose creditors are mostly poor women.

He said the first work of this team will be to find honest and eligible

persons for the next general elections.

For the youths, Yunus said, "You are the biggest power of this country, you will construct this country's prestigious future. "You have to come forward with enthusiasm and innovative ideas."

He told reporters it is his assumption that those who want to create a new political arena should join his new-generation party. "I believe the people are looking for a new way to move away from the destructive activities of the past."

He noted that people are not getting the scope for exploiting the full potential held by Bangladesh for them to build a prosperous life.

About his party's vision, he said the implementation of that vision is not tough.

The Nobel laureate noted that he would reduce his involvement with the Grameen Bank and no executives or members of the bank would get involved with his new political party.

"Bank is purely a separate kind of business while politics is other kind," he said.

Prof Yunus evidently holds a different view from that of the old parties about the timeframe for the stalled polls, as he said there should not be any hurry in holding election. Rather, he said, election should be held after completion of the due works.

He urged the people to work with his new party, saying that if the people want to see an honest representative in parliament, they should support his "Shakti".

He, however, ducked some questions asked by reporters as to which form of government he wants- presidential or parliamentary system, and whether he will allow anyone who wants to join his party from the two major political parties.

# ACC gets ready

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wealth statement expires Sunday evening.

Sources said the government will initiate the process from Monday to seize, attach or freeze moveable and immovable properties of those who will fail to submit their wealth statements by seeking permission from magistrates.

Babul and Bakir submitted their statements in person and both were arrested while leaving the ACC's.

But following Bakir's arrest in public, his whereabouts became lost in mystery with the law enforcement authorities claiming that Bakir was not with them and some saying he had fled.

Meanwhile, the ACC could not learn about the arrest status of Giasuddin Al Mamun.

As of yesterday, Mamun remained unofficially arrested while his whereabouts remained undisclosed.

The ACC yesterday confirmed that Mamun's wife had received on Tuesday night the ACC notice for submitting his wealth statement.

Chowdhury Alam, whose name is also on the ACC list, meanwhile sought time for submitting his wealth statement, saying it will take time to gather the information as the joint forces seized various documents from his house.

The ACC officials, however, said they do not have the authority to allow someone extra time.

Representatives of AL leaders and former lawmakers Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Mokbul Hossain and Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu visited the ACC and said they can submit the wealth statements on behalf of the leaders who are abroad, or else it has to wait until the leaders come back.

ACC Secretary Delwar Hossain told reporters that the commission will later take decision about those who are abroad at present.

**STATEMENTS OF BABUL AND BAKIR**  
According to Nurul Islam Babul's statement, the total value of the properties of his family stands at Tk 170.77 crore.

Babul himself has shown assets worth Tk 73.88 crore, majority of which comes from business investments. His wife owns assets worth Tk 44.88 crore, with majority coming from company shares and investments. His son Shamim Islam possesses assets worth Tk 43 crore and his daughters the rest.

BM Bakir Hossain and his wife's statements put the total value of their combined wealth at Tk 1.20 crore.

Sources said both the statements are highly confusing and erroneous.

Bakir showed a 3 katha land at Dakkhin Khan valued at Tk 53,000, savings certificate worth Tk 5 lakh, DPS of Tk 2.70 lakh, Alico premium deposit of Tk 1.29 lakh, and various household items. He also showed his family maintenance and other expenses at Tk 9.76 lakh on the column for assets.

Bakir's statement mentions a "source of fund" from where he received Tk 49.41 lakh as foreign remittance from a relative. Again he states that he has paid back the remitter Tk 30 lakh and paid one Shaikh Nasir Uddin another Tk 15 lakh. He also has a house-building loan of Tk 17 lakh from a bank.

The Sonali Bank CBA leader also declared that the joint forces raided his house on February 3 night and

## ACC chief

**FROM PAGE 1**  
and status of the new ACC chairman will be equivalent to a minister and each of the two commissioners' equivalent to a judge of the High Court, according to a government notification.

With the new appointments, the government reconstituted and strengthened the ACC in combating corruption, which is on its agenda, before it holds the next general elections.

The ACC sources said the newly appointed chairman and commissioners would join the office next Sunday.

The former ACC chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan and two commissioners--Prof Maniruzzaman Miah and Maniruddin Ahmed--resigned from their posts in the second week of February.

The immediate past government had constituted the ACC with the three in November 21, 2004 but they failed to keep the anti-graft watchdog functional.

The government formed a seven-member committee led by Adviser Mainul Hosen, which, in the first week of this month, recommended reconstitution of the ACC to make it a functional body.

Although the immediate past BNP-led alliance government established the ACC as part of their election pledges, it is widely believed by the critics that the then government was never sincere in making the commission functional to fight pervasive corruption.

In the wake of strong criticism on the performance of the ACC, President Iajuddin Ahmed invited the previous chairman and the two commissioners for tea on February 6 and requested them to step down from their posts.

The newly appointed chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury was appointed as the adviser to the caretaker government led by President Iajuddin Ahmed, but he, along with three of his colleagues resigned from the posts saying they were not able to contribute to the process of holding a free and fair election.

They also criticised a number of moves taken by Iajuddin Ahmed as chief adviser.

**Habibur Rahman**  
**FROM PAGE 1**  
Orthopaedic surgeon Prof Manjurul Islam and medicine specialist Dr Mamunur Rashid Safdar took care of him at the hospital.

Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed visited Justice Habibur at the CMH and enquired about his condition.

Justice Habibur was scheduled to attend a Rotary International programme as chief guest at Chittagong Club yesterday morning.

Habibur, recipient of this year's Ekushey Padak for Literature, arrived in Chittagong Wednesday afternoon.

## Banks asked

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"Joint forces have formed a number of investigation teams to investigate financial crimes and they will approach different banks for this purpose," BB Governor Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday told reporters. "We have asked the banks to cooperate with them (intelligence teams)."

According to the BB letter, investigation teams of different law enforcement agencies have been enquiring into financial transactions by suspicious people in a bid to unearth corruption, framing charges and filing cases against those people.

It went on saying that the agencies are authorised to scrutinise transactions in banks and financial institutions as per the Money Laundering Act 2002.

The home ministry held an emergency meeting early this week where officials of the BB and National Board of Revenue (NBR) were present. The meeting discussed elaborately the ways to unearth financial crimes and decided to investigate suspicious people's bank transaction, a source present in the meeting said.

Preferring anonymity, the source said the home ministry meeting discussed financial transactions of about 150 people including the 50 corrupt individuals whose names had already been published.

Sources said intelligence agencies in their primary investigation have already found gross irregularities in foreign currency transactions of a number of suspicious people.

BB officials assisted the investigation teams and they [the teams] would soon approach commercial banks and financial institutions to investigate further, sources added.

Meanwhile, sources at the home ministry said a list of 450 to 500 suspicious people prepared by the ministry would be forwarded to Anti-corruption Commission (ACC). The ACC would ask the people on the list to submit their wealth statements.

# Oriental Bank scam

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proper management of Oriental Bank Ltd.

Section 14A (3) of the Act says shares would be forfeited and cancelled if it is found that the shareholder has given false statement.

The BB investigation found that SA Kabir owned 10,461 shares amounting to 2.01 percent of the total shares, Asaduzzaman owned 11,071 shares or 2.13 percent, Syed Tariqul Islam 1,585 shares or 0.31 percent, Biplob Kumar Saha 2,777 shares or 0.53 percent, Mohammad Salahuddin 2,000 or 0.39 percent, H Ahsan Khan 3,216 shares or 0.62 percent, IPOCO Securities Ltd 31,289 shares or 6.02 percent, Oceania Securities Ltd 13,618 shares or 2.62 percent, QED Securities Ltd 4,633 shares or 0.89 percent, Quantum Securities Ltd 4,555 shares or 0.88 percent and Abul Khair Litu himself owned 385 shares or 0.07 percent of the total.

The probe report said Abul Khair Litu showed the shares in different names and companies to avoid legal limitations. He took loans from Prime Finance and Investment Ltd against the shares.

Earlier, the central bank had cancelled 69.87 percent of Oriental Bank's shares after its probe found that Obaidul Karim bought 'benami' shares through his family members, nominee companies and individuals.

The BB yesterday also asked different banks to submit by February 28 detailed information on financial transactions of Obaidul Karim, Koyes Sami and 22 other present and former

officials of Oriental Bank for embezzling Tk 596.44 crore. The banks will have to submit reports on the accounts, if those were found closed.

BB sources said the directive has been given in response to a request from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which has been investigating the Oriental Bank scam case.

Apart from Karim and Koyes, the accused now working with the bank are senior assistant vice president (SAVP) Mohammad Yameen, assistant vice presidents (AVPs) Mohammad Fazlur Rahman and Abul Hossain Chokder, executive officer (EO) Mohammad Emdad Hossain Bhuiyan and senior officers Touhiduddin Khandaker and Mohammad Firoz Kabir.

The former officials are senior vice president (SVP) SM Harun, AQM Mahmud Ullah, SAVP, Tariqul Alam, EO, Manjurul Alim, SAVP, AVPs Alamgir Kabir, Mohiuddin Ahmed and Syed Mahmod Hasan, executive vice president (EVP) Quamrul Islam, Istiaq Ahmed Chowdhury, former EVP Mustaq Ahmed, who is now working as deputy managing director of Trust Bank Ltd, former AVP and now manager of One Bank Ltd Syed Sarfaraj Shah, former AVP and now working in State Bank of India, Dhaka, AZM Saleh, former VP and now manager of One Bank Khandaker Shahrukh Ahmed, former AVP and now working in IFIC Bank Arifur Rahman, former EO and now working in One Bank ANM Asifur Rahman, former SAVP of Oriental Bank and now absconding and Saiful Aziz Pavel, former AEO.

# NGO bureau

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Proshika to implement its five-year poverty eradication project titled 'Towards a Poverty Free Society' approved by the NGO Affairs Bureau in 1999.

Meanwhile, the donors have warned to shift the grants to any other country if the fund clearance is held up for an indefinite period.

The project that started in 1999, serving lakhs of poor people to change their fate, is lying in an uncertain condition as the then BNP government stopped releasing grants in spite of donors' repeated request to release their fund.

"It seems that your organisation is directly or indirectly engaged with anti-government activities," read an NGO Affairs Bureau letter on February 4, in response to a letter of Proshika to release the donors' grants.

The letter, however, did not specify which government it was referring to -- the previous or the present government.

The letter signed by Pranab Kumar Saha, an assignment officer of NGO Affairs Bureau, also states that Proshika seems to be involved in activities that hurt religious sentiments of the Muslims.

The letter said from the reports published in different newspapers and from different discussions they (NGO Affairs Bureau) made those observations against Proshika.

Meanwhile, European Commission (EC) in a letter on 19 June, 2003 to Planning Commission said, "An international audit is conducted every year on the entire 'Towards a Poverty-Free Society' programme in addition to careful monitoring by the donor agencies, neither of which has revealed any evidence of serious irregularities."

The donors see no reason to withhold their funding and therefore request the Government to give clearance without delay to Proshika's request for funding for year 3 of the programme", said the

letter.

Canadian High Commission in another letter on June 22, 2003 to NGO Affairs Bureau said, "This prolonged fund blockage has seriously affected Proshika's poverty eradication and social development programmes in such crucial areas as health, education, income generation, sanitation and environment."

"2.23 million poor households are being deprived of planned benefits," the Canadian High Commission observed in the letter.

"We would like to note that the funds provided to Proshika have been duly audited by a reputed international audit firm (PriceWaterhouse Coopers) commissioned by donors for the year 2001-2002 which gave the opinion that Proshika's was in conformity with all Bangladesh and international accounting standards", the letter read.

"These funds cannot be held indefinitely and will have to be forfeited if fund clearance is not given," read the letter of Canadian High Commission.

But the then four-party government did not release the grant even after such request from the donors.

"We got Tk 173 crore from the donors in two years after the project started in 1999. The project is about to lapse, as we are not allowed to receive any money from the donors since 2001-2002 fiscal year," said Proshika President Kazi Faruque Ahmed.

The immediate past government did not release any grant to Proshika for the last five years on the pretext of different allegations. The government also tried to suppress the organisation by arresting its president and hundreds of field level staff on various occasions.

# Nazmul Huda

**FROM PAGE 20**  
the Rangpur jail along with Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, another BNP leader.

The former communications minister has been widely accused of corruption involving CNG-run autorickshaws and allocation of land for filling stations during the tenure of the four-party-led government.

He allotted a Bangladesh Railway land in the heart of the city in favour of his wife's human rights organisation at a nominal price.

**SALAHUDDIN'S CASE**  
Another Dhaka court yesterday directed the investigation officer to take Salahuddin Ahmed, the detained former BNP lawmaker from Dhaka-4, on a four-day remand within five days in two cases filed for illegally possessing foreign currencies and arms.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shamsul Alam passed the order when the counsel for Salahuddin submitted two separate petitions seeking cancellation of the remand order on February 18.

The lawyers said the same court had placed him on a four-day remand in the same cases earlier. But IO SI Sirajul Islam did not take their client on remand as the four days elapsed. So, the remand order should automatically stand cancelled, they added.

Issuing the fresh order for remand yesterday, the court said the order would become void if the IO fails to take him on remand in time.

Earlier on February 12, it ordered he be sent to jail after he had surrendered and sought bail.

The security forces on February 4 seized weapons and foreign currencies along with nine diplomatic passports, eight Bangladeshi passports, 23 mobile phone sets, videocassettes, CDs, and a shotgun licence during a raid on Salahuddin's house at Kadamtola in Shyampur.

**DULU'S CASE**  
Detained former deputy minister for land Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu was shown arrested yesterday in six criminal cases filed with Natore Sadar Police Station in November and December last year and February this year.

The cases were filed under the Special Powers Act and for an attempted murder.

First Class Magistrate of Dhaka Begum Morshedha Akhter ordered Dulu to be shown arrested in those cases following six separate petitions submitted by as many IOs.

Dulu surrendered to the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka on Tuesday seeking safe custody.

## BNP, AL

**FROM PAGE 20**  
holding an election," BNP spokesperson and Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan told the journalists after the meeting between BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Steve Chabot at Hawa Bhaban.

Steve Chabot after the meeting said, "We would like to see election in Bangladesh sooner rather than later. ... But the time of election is up to the people of Bangladesh."

Terming corruption as an obstacle to investment in Bangladesh, the US congressman praised the interim government for its ongoing efforts against corruption. "We would encourage the efforts which is taken by the government to reduce corruption here in Bangladesh," he said.

Nazrul Islam Khan said if the interim government stays for too long, a few problems might arise and even the caretaker government system might be questioned. "BNP already asked for an election within the quickest possible time."

Some problems have already surfaced such as price hike of essentials and deterioration of the law and order, Nazrul observed.

He said since the US congressman identified corruption as an obstacle to investment in Bangladesh, BNP assured him of taking necessary measures to curb corruption if the party is voted to power.

During the discussion, the BNP high command told the congressman that they do not oppose any arrest on specific allegations, but arrests without specific allegations are against the rule of law, Nazrul added.

Former foreign minister Morshed Khan, former foreign affairs adviser Riaz Rahman and Nazrul Islam Khan accompanied Khaleda Zia during the meeting while AL Ambassador Patricia A Butenis and a few other US officials were present with the congressman.

**MEETING WITH HASINA**  
We are trying to have an election here as soon as possible, sooner rather than later. It's important to have elections because Bangladesh has a democracy, a very important democracy and the matter is also important for our country," said US Congressman Steve Chabot after an hour-long meeting with AL president Sheikh Hasina at Sudha Sadan in the city.

The US envoy, however, said it is ultimately up to the Bangladesh to decide when the elections would take place, not up to the UN or US.

"We talked about corruption and how devastating it is to a country. We also talked about US investment in Bangladesh and we would like to see increased investment," said the US congressman.

If democracy thrives here and corruption is checked, there would be more job opportunities for the people as more companies will be willing to invest in Bangladesh, Chabot said.

Bangladesh has a very bright future, he said, adding that the future of Bangladesh is up to the people of this country, not the US.

After the meeting, the Sheikh Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury told reporters that they discussed, among other things, the elections, corruption, investment, development, arrest of political leaders and AL policies with the US congressman.

Saber said they want the election to be held as soon as possible. "As the Election Commission has been reconstituted, we hope that they will start discussion with the political parties and take opinion from us so that we all can move towards holding the election."

Saber, who is also AL organising secretary, said, "We have told that we support a fully independent Anti-Corruption Commission with its own financial resources to curb corruption."

He said they also talked about Bangladesh's power structure that is now centralised. "Corruption will be automatically reduced if the local government is strengthened," Saber said adding that strict adherence to rules and the use of ICT will help to reduce corruption.

About the arrest of political leaders, the AL leader said the party would not take the responsibility of any party leaders and workers if there is any specific evidence of corruption or criminals activities against them.

"But no innocent leaders and workers should be harassed. And there should be specific information on the arrestees," Saber said.

## SSF security

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Expressing deep concern at the SSF withdrawal, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil then demanded withdrawal of the SSF also from Khaleda Zia's house...

The AL termed it a conspiracy and abuse of power by the previous coalition government.

The SSF and President's Guard Regiment then took charge of Sudha Sadan security on October 30 morning.

## Nuruzzaman

**FROM PAGE 20**  
JCD men, allegedly on orders of Naser.

On February 17, Nuruzzaman filed a case accusing Naser and seven others of demanding Tk 2 crore toll from him on October 10 in 2003. The other accused are -- city BNP President Ariful Haq Chowdhury, Moulvibazar Municipality Chairman Faizul Karim, BNP leader Wail Siddiqui and RHD engineers Abdul Khaleque, Safiqul Islam, Monwar Sadik and Asmat-ud-Dowla.

# Ex-MP Salahuddin

**FROM PAGE 1**  
they seized 13 firearms and five crackers.

The joint forces seized five cars worth several crores of taka, a 42-inch plasma TV and five computers from the Shyampur house of Salahuddin Ahmed. They found a Lincoln Navigator and a Toyota Corolla with the same registration number. Toyota HiLux, Pajero V6, and a Toyota HiAce van are the other three cars seized and later taken to the Shyampur Police Station.

The raid lasted for nearly three hours, starting from 5:00pm.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports: The joint forces recovered a huge quantity of relief materials from underground within the precincts of Shahidul Islam's house yesterday evening.

The goods seized during the raid include 275 saris, 30 lungis, 33 blankets, sports materials and 18 pieces of corrugated iron (CI) sheets.

Sources said the people loyal to the lawmaker from Jhenidah-3 hid those underground and also into a pond nearby.

Our Nilphamari correspondent reports: The joint forces recovered 70 CI sheets of the government relief fund from Jamaat-run al Amin madrasa and Al Ihsan Islami Library in Kishoreganj upazila Wednesday night.

Inscribed on each sheet were words: Government Relief Materials, Notfor Sale.

The forces detained upazila Jamaat Nayab-e-Ameer Abu Sayeed, and local Jamaat leaders Montu Mia and Al Hasan in this connection.

Meanwhile, the custom officials seized local and foreign currencies worth around Tk 26 lakh from a Singapore-bound passenger at Zia International Airport in the early hours yesterday. The arrestee was identified as Abdullah, 45, of Sylhet.

Our Barisal Correspondent reports: The crack forces yesterday arrested BNP leader and Barishal City Corporation (BCC) ward commissioner Atiqur Rahman at his house on Nabagram Road in the city.

Kamalendu Ghosh, duty officer of the Kotwali Police Station, said a BCC road inspector, Sadekur Rahman, filed a case alleging that Atiqur tried to

strangle him to death as he was preparing to write to the chief adviser to inform him of 'rampant corruption' at the city corporation.

The ward commissioner was picked up from his office within the next two hours. He was handed over to the police and sent to jail through court the same day.

Our Rajshahi correspondent adds: The forces yesterday held Lutfar Rahman, accounts officer of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), at his house in the city early yesterday on charge of graft.

He was later handed over to the Boalia Police Station.

Staff Correspondent from Khulna adds: Several teams of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) have been combing the city since Wednesday night for operatives of the outlawed outfits.

All police stations and outposts have been put on alert on intelligence reports that Janajuddho founder Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Dada Tapan has had a meeting with his cadres at Khalishpur industrial belt.

The Deputy Commissioner (HQ) of KMP Mesbahuddin yesterday admitted to having launched the operations. He however said Dada Tapan's arrival here might be a rumour spread by PBCC cadres to gauge the preparedness of the law enforcers.

Earlier this month, the Janajuddho operatives circulated leaflets across Khulna, branding Nobel laureate Prof Mohammad Yunus a stooge of the United States.

Our Manikganj correspondent reports: Joint forces recovered 6.5 bundles of CI sheets from houses of two BNP leaders in Shaturia.

They arrested Satoria Union Parishad Chairman Abul Bashar, also a local BNP leader.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: The joint forces yesterday recovered 90 CI sheets of government relief fund in three separate drives and arrested Alim master, a college teacher in Sirajganj district.

# Jamuna's Babul

**FROM PAGE 1**  
officials, Babul went to the ACC office at noon and submitted his wealth statement. A few minutes after he came out of the ACC office building, the detectives deployed on the ACC premises stopped Babul and asked him to go with them.

Witnesses said the intelligence officials picked up Babul on a microbus parked outside the ACC premises and took away with them.

Police sources said Babul was first taken to Gulshan Police Station and was later shifted to Cantonment PS on security reason.

Sonali Bank CBA leader Bakir Hossain went to the ACC with his lawyers and others around 11:30am to submit his wealth statement.

As he came out of the ACC office and attempted to leave the spot by a microbus, an intelligence official stopped Bakir's vehicle.

Reporters waiting there, however, saw the four-wheeler leaving after another intelligence official got into it and took a rear seat.

A few minutes later, news spread that Bakir was arrested at the Matsyabhaban intersection and intelligence officials at the ACC confirmed it to newsmen. But later around 2:30pm they said they are not confirmed of Bakir's arrest.

Sources said a team of an intelligence agency, not assigned to arrest Bakir, caught the wanted CBA leader when he was returning from the ACC but later released him as he convinced them that he should not be arrested since he submitted his wealth statement as per ACC requirements.

The sources also said a team of a law enforcement agency was assigned on the ACC premises to arrest Bakir, but he left the area before the team could reach the spot.

The joint forces raided Bakir's house last night but failed to arrest him, sources added.

**CHOWDHURY ALAM**  
Our court correspondent adds: The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday ordered to send Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Commissioner Chowdhury Alam to jail after he surrendered before it for taking him into safe custody.

Alam was also shown arrested in a criminal case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza passed the order when Alam along with his lawyers appeared before the court at 10:00am and submitted a petition for safe custody as there was no case filed against him.

But Ramna PS Sub-Inspector Kamal Hossain, who is also the investigation officer of the case, submitted a petition to show him arrested in the case.

The case was filed against DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and 2,000-2,500 unknown people for damaging and setting ablaze a motorbike and a microbus in front of the returning officer's office at Segunbagicha on December 26 last year.

The magistrate asked Alam's lawyers if they will submit a bail petition. The lawyers refused to submit any bail petition.

After hearing, the magistrate granted the petition for showing Alam arrested in the case and ordered to send him to Dhaka Central Jail at 2:30pm. Following the order, Alam was taken to jail on a prison van.

Alam, also president of Ramna unit BNP, allegedly earned huge wealth in the city as a ward commissioner who looked after construction and allocation of most markets constructed by the DCC.

Businessmen and DCC sources said Alam took around Tk 1 crore from Karwan Bazar business leaders for his role in persuading the DCC top executives to construct a wholesale vegetable market in a children's park.

Alam is also one of those who whitened black money amounting several crore during the rule of the BNP-led four-party coalition government.

There are also allegations against him for collecting tolls from more than 4,000 hawkers in Gulistan area.

## Honest businessmen

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steps to stop pilferage of electricity.

Responding to their suggestions, Ahmed said the government will examine their suggestions and assured to provide support regarding installation of captive power plant.

He informed the business leaders that magistrates would be provided to check pilferage of electricity.

Army Chief Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed, who was present at the meeting, said good businessmen should be recognised nationally.

Mentioning his recent fruitful meetings with businessmen, he said the government should see the matter of PSI and emphasised properly utilizing of arable lands.

Gen Moeen said private mobile phone operators can make major investment in Bangladesh as they are earning huge money from their businesses.

Finance and Commerce Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, who was present at the meeting, said the government would take step to simplify the process for setting up new industry.

Law Adviser Mainul Hosen, Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury, Industries Adviser Geeteara Safiya Chowdhury and the home secretary were also present.