

ACC'S DEADLINE TO REPORT WEALTH OF 50 'CORRUPT' ENDS Abbas, six others arrested

He along with AL's ex-minister Mosharraf, Mamun's brother ex-MP Hafiz, ex-secretary Akhtar, Commissioner Quayum in Rab custody; ex-MP Giasuddin and Sylhet BNP chief Arif sent to jail

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The 72-hour deadline for the 50 graft suspects to submit wealth statements ended yesterday with two former ministers including Mirza Abbas, an ex-lawmaker, a former bureaucrat and a ward commissioner being arrested on the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) premises.

The intelligence men in plain-clothes held former housing and public works minister and BNP leader Abbas, former civil aviation and tourism minister and senior Awami League (AL) leader Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, ex-BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim, ex-power secretary ANH Akhtar



Law enforcers arrest former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas at the ACC office in the capital yesterday after he submitted his wealth statement at the commission.

Hossain and DCC Commissioner MA Quayum as the compound was swarming with journalists and onlookers.

Former BNP lawmaker from Narayanganj-4 Mohammad Giasuddin surrendered before the local Cognisance Court at around 10:00am. He was later sent to jail.

The same day in Sylhet, city BNP President Ariful Haque Chowdhury whose name figures in the ACC list of 50 people suspected of corruption gave himself up to a court.

Meanwhile, Law Adviser Maimul Hossain yesterday said trial of the detained political bigwigs and others accused of graft will begin by March. Those who still remain

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Fortune makers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Salman F Rahman is so far the richest person among the persons who submitted their wealth statements to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) with his declared assets worth Tk 105.82 crore.

Yesterday was the last day set by the ACC for the 50 persons in its list of corruption suspects to submit

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Ruhul Amin new CJ

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed appointed Mohammad Ruhul Amin as Chief Justice, an official announcement yesterday said.

Ruhul Amin, the senior most judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, takes over as Chief Justice on March 1.

He replaces Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain who retires on February 26.

17 defy ACC deadline

Anti-graft body to attach their properties, assess wealth reports of 33 other corruption suspects

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Thirty-three out of the 50 corruption suspects on the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) list submitted their wealth statements within the 72-hour deadline ending yesterday.

The government is set to start immediately the process to freeze and attach the properties of the remaining 17 persons after obtaining magistrate's orders.

Immediately after taking office yesterday, the new ACC chairman and two commissioners gave an ex-post facto approval of the ACC secretary's move to ask the 50 corruption suspects to submit their wealth statements in the absence of the commission.

New ACC Chairman Hasan Mashud Chowdhury told reporters that anything required in addition to the ex-post facto to legally justify the ACC secretary's action will also be provided.

As the deadline at 5:00pm yesterday approached, 28 of the 50 corruption suspects rushed to the ACC to submit their wealth statements. Five others had submitted their statements earlier.

Of the 50 persons, 21 had already been in custody when the list was published and were asked to submit their wealth statements through representatives while 29 others were ordered to submit their statements to the ACC in person within 72 hours.

Last Monday, the ACC published the list of 50 persons, including three dozen former ministers and lawmakers, top politicians and businessmen, in the first phase of publishing names of 420 top corruption suspects. Four ACC direc-

tors were assigned to receive the wealth statements.

The 17 suspects who did not submit their wealth statements are business partner of former prime minister's son Tarique Rahman--Giasuddin Al-Mamun, former PM Khaleda Zia's private secretary Harris Chowdhury, Awami League (AL) leader Abul Hasnat Abdullah, former AL state minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, former AL whip Mostafa Rashidi Suja, former AL MP's Shamin Osman, Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, Haji Selim, Moqbul Hossain, Mirza Azam, HBM Iqbal and Joyanal Hazari, Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Munshiganj AL leader Mohiuddin Ahmed, Sylhet BNP leader Ariful Haq Chowdhury, Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan

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ACC chief declares war on corruption

Discloses his wealth statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed chairman and commissioners of Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) declared a "war on corruption" on their first day at office yesterday and resolved to fight without compromise.

The new ACC Chairman Hasan Mashud Chowdhury, who had resigned from the last caretaker government citing impediments to carry out his duties, told reporters

yesterday, "This time there will be a fight. There will be no resignation this time."

After taking charge yesterday morning, Mashud and the two commissioners--M Habibur Rahman and Abul Hasan Manzur Mannan--called on President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government Fakhruddin Ahmed to apprise them of their plans for the ACC.

Briefing reporters at the ACC

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The lord of land

A chronicle of how the ex-housing minister allowed government land and property to be gobbled up

MORSHIED ALI KHAN

Expectations were raised among city dwellers with Mirza Abbasuddin Ahmed alias Mirza Abbas taking over the public works and housing ministry as a full minister on October 10, 2001.

Abbas was thought to be ideal for the job, as he was born and raised in Dhaka, a former mayor of Dhaka City Corporation and lawmaker of the Motijheel-Sabujbagh-Khilgaon constituency.

This influential and comparably young minister had the funds, power and opportunity to solve several problems that have for years given rise to an alarming rate of unplanned urbanisation.

But Abbas chose the easier way. He mysteriously shied away from making major decisions for reforms and chose to involve himself mainly in the business of real estates and various commercial ventures.

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Govt warns political parties not to violate emergency act

It will ask them to stop making provocative statements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday warned the political parties not to violate emergency power act rules, saying that it may not show leniency in the coming days.

The government will soon contact the political parties and ask

them to refrain from making provocative statements or creating any provocative law and order situation, sources said.

Saying that some politicians and political parties are violating the provisions of emergency power act through provocative

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Contractors capitalise on power crisis in talks

SHARIER KHAN

Taking advantage of the persisting power crisis, the negotiating rental power project contractors are grossly deviating from original tenders and are all set to sign contracts with the government later this month, sources said.

The government wants to sign Gas Sales Agreements (GSAs) concerning seven small power contracts by February 28 so that the contractors can install and supply 260 megawatt power within this year. The seven rental contracts are being pursued by Hosaf, Ornate,

GBB, Summit and United groups. If the deviations from tenders are accepted, the power sector will suffer in the long run, and also some of the contractors would get undue benefits, the sources pointed out.

For instance, the immediate past alliance government's favourite Hosaf group is being allowed a gross deviation for its 50 MW Nowapara (Sikalbaha) power plant. As per the original tender, Hosaf is supposed to set up a large-mount plant there. But it is now being allowed to build a land-based power plant.

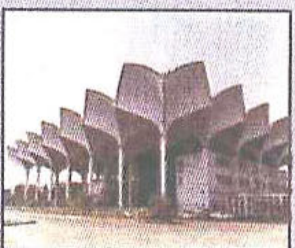
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সবধরনের তামাকই মৃত্যু ঘটায়

ফুসফুসসহ নানাবিধ ধরনের ক্যান্সার, কাশি, শ্বাস-প্রশ্বাসে সমস্যা, স্ট্রোক, হৃদরোগ, কর্মক্ষমতা এবং যৌনশক্তি হ্রাস, পায়ের পচন রোগ, যক্ষ্মাসহ বিভিন্ন ধরনের প্রাণঘাতী রোগের অন্যতম প্রধান কারণ হলো ধূমপান ও অন্যান্য তামাক সেবন।

ধূমপান ও তামাকজাত দ্রব্য ব্যবহার (নিয়ন্ত্রণ) আইন ও বিধিমালা অনুসারে

- **পাবলিক প্লেস বলিতে** শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান, সরকারী, আধা-সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত অফিস, গ্রন্থাগার, লিফ্ট, হাসপাতাল ও ক্লিনিক ভবন, আদালত ভবন, বিমানবন্দর ভবন, সমুদ্র বন্দর ভবন, নৌ-বন্দর ভবন, রেলওয়ে স্টেশন ভবন, বাস টার্মিনাল ভবন ও ফেরি, প্রেক্ষাগৃহ, আচ্ছাদিত প্রদর্শনী কেন্দ্র, থিয়েটার হল, বিপণী ভবন, পাবলিক টয়লেট, শিশু পার্ক ইত্যাদি;
- **পাবলিক পরিবহন বলিতে** মোটর গাড়ী, বাস, রেলগাড়ী, জাহাজ, লঞ্চ, উড়োজাহাজ, সকল প্রকার যান্ত্রিক জন-যানবাহন ইত্যাদি বুঝায়।



- কোন পাবলিক পরিবহন বা পাবলিক প্লেসের মালিক, তত্ত্বাবধায়ক বা নিয়ন্ত্রণকারী ব্যক্তি বা ব্যবস্থাপক উহাতে ধূমপানের জন্য স্থান চিহ্নিত বা নির্দিষ্ট করিয়া দিতে পারিবেন। ধূমপানের স্থানের সীমানা, বর্ণনা, সরঞ্জাম এবং নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা বিধি দ্বারা নির্ধারিত হইবে।
- শিশুদের প্রি-স্কুল বা কেয়ার সেন্টার, প্রাইমারী স্কুল, হাই স্কুল বা হাই স্কুল ছাত্রদের ছাত্রাবাস; শিক্ষা বা প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান করা হয় এমন কক্ষ বা স্থান; সকল মাতৃসদন, ক্লিনিক বা হাসপাতাল ভবন; খেলাধুলা ও অনুশীলনের জন্য নির্ধারিত আচ্ছাদিত স্থান; এক কামরাবিশিষ্ট পাবলিক পরিবহন ইত্যাদিতে **ধূমপানের স্থান করা যাইবে না।**

পাবলিক প্লেস এবং পাবলিক পরিবহনে ধূমপান শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। আইন অমান্যে জরিমানা ৫০ টাকা।