

BSC ship Gourab

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idle for one month undergoing the same repairs which were previously done at the same workshop.

The repair bill at Mongla and Chittagong stood at Tk 53 lakh but the ship could not carry jute cargo.

After the repair at Mongla, the vessel was chartered to a company to carry rice to Somalia from Kakinda in India. Just after departure from Mongla, its engine mysteriously broke down once again. After necessary repair at sea, it berthed at Kakinda and loaded 8,000 tonnes of rice in early September last year.

But immediately after sailing from Kakinda, the ship had another engine breakdown and it remained afloat for three days without power. Later, the ship went to Colombo and remained there for 16 days for repair.

On October 1 last year, it sailed for Somalia. But on October 3, its power generation and supply flopped, and using an emergency generator, it went to Cochin.

The BSC officials and ship staff became fed up and decided to unload the cargo there. Undergoing repairs for a month, it sailed from Cochin and reached Chittagong on January 22 this year after a fruitless voyage. The repair cost at Kakinda, Colombo and Cochin amounted to more than one lakh dollars (equivalent to Tk 70 lakh). The ship is still under repair in Chittagong and counting Tk 23 lakh operating cost everyday.

The enquiry report blamed lack of coordination among the three sections of the BSC -- ship personnel, ship repair and commercial branch -- for the 'man-made damage'. Ship repair section was interested in repeated repairs and getting commission out of the cost, according to the report.

Repair section personnel -- engineers, officers and supervisors

lacked proper qualification and experience.

The probe report said a general manager of finance department of the BSC was made in-charge of the commercial wing, and he failed to give necessary decisions due to lack of proper knowledge.

According to sources, condition of most of the BSC ships are similar. The corporation has only 13 cargo vessels in its fleet and spent over taka eight crore just for repair purposes during Fiscal 2005-06. Another Taka four crore was spent for dry docking expenses in the year.

But the corporation however showed a net profit of Tk 30.8 crore in its balance sheet for that fiscal year. It has Tk 295.46 crore long term liabilities and equities.

In that fiscal year, all the 13 BSC vessels went for repair at the local ports and 11 ships used foreign ports for repairs. In the previous year, the expenditure for repairs was around Tk 4.50 crore.

One source pointed out that another BSC ship -- Bangla Mukh -- entered the repair berth at Chittagong on December 25. It was supposed reach Mongla on January 22 to carry raw jute to Karachi but failed due to engine trouble.

In the absence of the BSC ship, the consignment was carried by a foreign ship. On completion of repair on March 4, it was scheduled to carry another consignment from Karachi to Mongla. But due to engine failure again, the vessel came back to Chittagong from Kutubdia on way to Mongla. And it is still under repair, the source said.

Acting Managing Director of the BSC Captain Azizul Hasan could not be reached over telephone for his comments in this regard.

Ex-adviser Fazlul Huq

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facing several graft cases which were filed against him during the immediate past BNP-led alliance government.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Fida M Kamal and Additional Attorney General Salahuddin Ahmed met with the two ACC commissioners yesterday to discuss strategies for handling the graft cases flawlessly.

An ACC official seeking anonymity said they received some allegations against Justice Fazlul Huq regarding corruption committed by him while he had been an adviser to the caretaker government.

"Some of those allegations have already been reported in various newspapers and we have taken those into our cognisance," the ACC official told The Daily Star yesterday.

The allegation against Fazlul Huq is that he earned a large amount of money misusing power through transfers, postings, and releasing of files in exchange for bribes, the official added.

ACC Secretary Delwar Hossain told The Daily Star that they are looking into the graft allegations against the former adviser.

He also said they are examining whether the ACC can also launch an inquiry into the alleged LLB examination tampering by Fazlul Huq.

Sources said the ACC is examining whether such a matter is within the jurisdiction of the anti-graft commission. "If such a forgery case is in the ACC's schedule of offences then the commission will certainly investigate the matter," an official of the commission said.

The ACC secretary said they can launch the inquiry if Chittagong University sends them related documents.

Vice-chancellor of Chittagong University Dr Badiul Alam told The Daily Star last night that the university authorities had already sent some documents related to examination result tampering to the now defunct Bureau of Anti-corruption.

They will send the latest docu-

ments related to the recent syndicate decision to cancel some questionable certificates to the current ACC after a gazette notification regarding the decision is published, he said.

It is up to the ACC who will investigate after receiving the documents, the VC added.

Regarding the new case about to be filed against Nasim, an ACC official said it is not necessary to file anymore graft case against Nasim other than the one in connection with his wealth statement, since he is already facing several other graft cases.

Sources said Nasim and his family members mentioned in their wealth statements that the value of their furniture in their rented house is Tk 56,000, but an assessment by the Public Works Department revealed that the value of the furniture is over Tk 24.3 lakh.

Moreover, in his wealth statement submitted to the ACC, Nasim did not mention any electrical appliance. His family's wealth statement however mentioned electrical appliances worth Tk 5.19 lakh. But the Public Works Department evaluated the appliances as worth Tk 29.41 lakh.

Although, Nasim has over Tk 3 lakh in a current account in a branch of IFIC Bank, he concealed the information in his wealth statement.

Nasim's wife Laila Nasim has over Tk 4.69 lakh in an account with Standard Chartered Bank, but she also did not mention it in her wealth statement.

An ACC official said Nasim and his wife deliberately provided false wealth statements to the commission. Now the ACC is preparing to file cases against them.

"It is very regretful that the children have not been able to know the accurate history of Liberation War as those who killed people on March 25, 1971 have become the proclaimer of independence and those who fought for the freedom of the people have been made foes," the ACC chief noted.

She also dwelt on the key role the swaying speech played to rouse the Bangalees to fight for freedom.

Hasina severely criticised BNP and its founder Ziaur Rahman for what she said distorting history of War of Liberation.

Dr Moinul Islam, professor of Economics Department of Chittagong University, presented a keynote titled 'Directive to advance the liberation struggle to liberation war: March 7 speech of Bangabandhu' at the discussion.

Former director general of Bangladesh Institute of International Studies and Strategies (BISS) Brig Gen (retd) M Abdul Hafiz, Dr Sadeka Halim, professor of Sociology Department of Dhaka University and columnist AZM Abdul Ali took part in the discussion. Trust's Member Secretary Sheikh Hafizur Rahman delivered the inaugural address.

The ACC sources said that they are now preparing to file a case against Falu for huge illegal income.

Abdullah, chief whip during the last AL government and a cousin of AL chief Sheikh Hasina, is widely accused of criminal activities in his hometown Barisal and of amassing illegal assets. His sons were also reportedly involved in crimes and corruption.

Replies to a query, he described himself as a victim of discrimination.

The NBR on Monday asked banks to freeze the accounts of Moudud and his wife Hasna Moudud.

The directives mean they won't be able to withdraw or transfer money from any of the accounts or lockers. Moudud faces allegations of tax evasion and clandestine transactions.

Abdullah, who was also mentioned on the ACC list, is in hiding at present. When his representatives went to submit his wealth statement, the ACC did not receive it and said it should be submitted in person.

ACC is now preparing to confiscate Abdullah's assets as per the law, sources said.

Mashrafe

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Ross Taylor (11) caught by wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim and trapped Peter Fulton leg before, Fulton made only five.

His new ball partner Syed Rasel captured the prized wicket of New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming who was caught at slip by Abdur Razzak for a duck off the left-arm seamer.

Razzak then took charge to dash the Kiwis' hopes of recovering from the early damage and left a daunting task for the lower-order to put up a decent total on the board.

The left-arm spinner, who has emerged as a vital one-day bowler with his nagging line and length, got his first wicket by dismissing Scott Styris who looked to settle in the middle but was caught by Mohammad Ashraful for 26. He then took a return catch from the dashing Craig McMillan.

Each team were allowed to field thirteen players but the bad news for Bangladesh was that in-form opener Shahriar Nafees and ace left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique had to be sidelined due to fitness worries.

Fortunately for the Kiwis, the match like the other three games played in the Caribbean as part of the build-up for the ninth World Cup, was not treated as an official ODI.

SC Bar

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The letter says an embarrassing situation has arisen in the country including the apex court due to the controversy over the embattled HC judge's certificate fiasco.

Earlier in another letter on May 30, 2005, the SCBA urged the president to act to scotch the debate over the matter.

Then on March 4 different national dailies reported that the CU Syndicate has cancelled Faizee's LLB certificate following a probe into the allegation of tampering with mark sheets, adds the letter signed by Bar Association Secretary AM Amin Uddin.

Historic March 7

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Suhrawardy Udayan (the then Race Course Maidan) on this day in 1971.

Like a magic spell, it inspired thousands of Bangalees who gathered there and beyond, to brace themselves for the ultimate struggle to snatch freedom from the Pakistani junta.

Just 18 days into the speech, the Pakistani regime launched the brutal assault against the unarmed Bangalees, committing one of the worst genocides in history.

Bangladesh Awami League (AL) and different socio-political organisations have taken different programmes to commemorate the historic mass gathering at the Ramna Race Course ground.

The AL programmes include hoisting of national and party flags at Bangabandhu Bhavan and at AL headquarters at 6:00am, placing of wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at 7:00am and a discussion at Institute of Diploma Engineers at 3:00pm in the afternoon.

Marking the day, Jatir Janak (father of the nation) Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust yesterday organised a seminar on Bangabandhu's speech at Institution of Engineers' Bangladesh in the capital.

AL President Sheikh Hasina attended the programme as chief guest.

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Replies to a query, he described himself as a victim of discrimination.

The former law minister also said, "I'm a regular taxpayer and I've been paying income tax in advance for the last 15 to 20 years."

Replying to a query, he said adding that such propaganda' involving my wife is unfortunate.

"How are we going to maintain the family if the accounts remain frozen? And how am I going to pay the bills for electricity, gas, insurance and others?" he questioned, and requested the NBR authorities to consider this aspect.

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