

# Corruption cases filed

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(FIR) Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Shafiqul mentioned that Huda took Tk 2.4 crore in bribe for giving the land to Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) where Sigma is the Secretary General.

A separate case was filed with Dhanmondi Police Station against Sigma as the Tk 2.4 crore that Huda took in bribe was found in the account of Sigma. Her name is on the government list of 50 corruption suspects that different newspapers published on March 9.

Another DD of the ACC Akhter Hossain filed a case against detained AL leader Mohammad Nasim and his wife Laila Arjumand with Dhanmondi Police Station for giving false information in their wealth statements submitted to the ACC earlier.

Akhter, also the IO of the case, mentioned that Nasim and his wife concealed information about wealth worth Tk 1.26 crore in their statements.

Former state minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, his wife Rumana Mahmud, son Abed Hasan Mahmud and daughter Farah Hasan Mahmud were sued as their wealth valued at Tk 35.95 crore did not match with the sources of their income.

Another ACC Deputy Director Golam Shahrier Chowdhury filed the case against them with Mohammadpur Police Station.

In the case lodged against Ali Asgar Lobi with Gulshan Police Station, ACC official Shirin Parveen stated that Lobi in his wealth statement to the ACC mentioned that he owns wealth worth Tk 7 crore but the ACC investigation has already revealed that he has wealth valued at Tk 22.25 crore.

In the FIR, the IO mentioned that Lobi has Tk 22.25 crore as Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) in seven accounts with the Dhanmondi branch of Premier Bank and the Banani branch of Bank Al Falah. But he gave information about only Tk 7 crore in his wealth statement.

Besides, the source of income

of Tk 7 crore Lobi showed in his statement is false.

Earlier on March 5, the ACC filed cases against three detained ex-state ministers on charges of amassing huge wealth through corruption and abuse of power.

The former state ministers facing graft charges are BNP leaders Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and Amanullah Aman and AL leader Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

The anti-graft commission also sued BTB CBA leader Firoz Mian for corruption on March 20.

The IOs will get 45 days from the date of filing of the cases to investigate the charges as per the ACC laws.

The political and CBA leaders who have so far been sued are in the ACC list of 50 graft suspects.

## Orion Group

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The forces also seized many office files and other documents from the office, Orion Group officials claimed.

The seized vehicles were handed over to Tejgaon Shilpanchal Police Station in the evening.

Orion chief Karim went into hiding in January this year to avoid arrest for his connection with embezzlement of Tk 600 crore from Oriental Bank.

Chief executive officer of Oriental Bank had filed criminal cases against Karim and 23 former and incumbent officials of the Bank in January for the embezzlement.

### GLOBE OFFICE RAIDED

Another team of joint forces raided the office of Globe Janakantha Shipila Paribar on New Eskaton Road in the city and seized various documents.

Detained editor Atikullah Khan Masud of Bangla daily newspaper Janakantha is the chairman of Globe Janakantha Shipila Paribar.

Sources said the joint forces arrived at the office at around 10:00am and continued their search till 2:00pm.

They strongly suggested that Bangladesh plays a more visible role in negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as it is the leader of the least developed countries.

They also emphasised on providing better incentives to the expatriates to attract more remittance through legal channels.

The leaders lauded the government's recent initiatives for bringing reforms to the Election Commission, Anti-corruption Commission, and the Initiative to separate the judiciary from the executive branch of the government.

They suggested reconstituting and reforming the Public Service Commission too.

Commerce Secretary Feroz Ahmed, and NBR Chairman Badiur Rahman were present at the meeting among others from the government side.

Syed Manzur Elahi, former adviser to a caretaker government, Hossain Khaled, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdul Hai Sarker, president of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and representatives from some other business organisations were also present.

# Nat'l ID cards

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Voter list and national identity cards will start simultaneously following a single procedure. There is no point in spending time and money separately for the tasks," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda told reporters yesterday.

The CEC, who on Tuesday had met Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed and discussed electoral reforms, said initially people who are eligible to be registered on the electoral roll will be provided with national identity cards.

He said four to five months will be needed to complete the preparatory work including floating tenders, and training field level officials to start the process at a cost of Tk 300 crore to Tk 350 crore. The preparatory work has already been started and it will take some time before the field level work can be started, he added.

Sources said the CEC wants to have a project proposal within two months for preparing the national identity cards and the voter list and a coordination body will be formed which will be led by the EC to supervise the massive undertaking. Several departments of the government and a number of donor agencies are likely to be incorporated in

the coordination body, the sources added.

The Bangladesh Army, which has already offered the government and the EC its expertise for the preparation of the identity cards in 10 to 12 months at an estimate cost of Tk 300 crore, might be asked to take the responsibility, sources in the EC said.

About the meeting with the chief adviser, the CEC said they informed the CA about the activities of the EC. "The chief adviser has given us some suggestions in this regard," he said.

The EC is now preparing a draft for electoral reforms which will be completed by next July.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon met the CEC yesterday morning and discussed electoral issues.

Talking to reporters the CEC said at the meeting they discussed the plans and progress of the work for holding the next election. The commonwealth secretary general emphasised the need for holding the election as soon as possible, the CEC said.

## Another extortion case filed against Aman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another extortion case was filed against BNP leader and former state minister Amanullah Aman with north Keraniganj Police Station yesterday. Humayun Kabir, owner of a poultry farm, lodged the case accusing Aman, his Assistant Personal Secretary (APS) Wahidul Khan and 12 others.

In his complaint, Humayun said that goons led by Wahid demanded Tk 5 lakh from him on June 5, 2004 in Aman's name. Three days later they returned to his farm for the money armed with sawn-off rifles, pistols, hockey sticks and other lethal weapons.

As he failed to give the money, they beat up Humayun, his younger brother and two other staff and looted cash and goods worth around Tk 1.6 lakh from the farm before leaving.

Aman, who was arrested on February 4 by the joint forces, was in the ACC list of 50 corruption suspects. He is now in Chittagong jail.

## RU teacher

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proctor about the matter.

On Tuesday, the two teachers-- Nasir Uddin, a former Islamic Chattria Shibir leader, and Prof Shamim Khan-- manhandled Kamali and vandalised table and glasses of his room during an academic meeting of the department.

They demanded inclusion of a proposal in the meeting agenda regarding promotion of a department teacher Nikhil Rangan Biswas.

But Kamali rejected the proposal and suggested to place the demand in the planning committee meeting.

Other teachers of the department condemned the incident and demanded punishment of the accused teachers.

Talking to newsmen, RU VC said he would investigate the matter.

## Rights bodies

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"There were marks of torture on Risi's body...But the local police station did not agree to take our case," Mri said. "The authorities could punish Risi if he had any links with terrorist activities but they cannot kill him," he added.

Sultana Kamal, former adviser to the caretaker government and executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra, said the government should bring those involved in the killing under trial.

"Even the camera for taking pictures of Risi's body was taken away forcefully," she said.

Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, said the death of Risi is not natural, so the government should take proper action in this regard.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan of Bela said transfer of the officials involved in the killing is not a punishment-- they must be brought to book.

## 2 top aides

**FROM PAGE 16**  
wanted in three cases including one for killing Yasin, said Officer-in-Charge of Bagmara Police Station Mirza Golam Sarwar.

Mostaque earlier told police that he joined JMB following instructions of BNP bigwigs including former minister Ruhul Kuddus Talukhdar Dulu and Rajshahi district BNP secretary Shis Muhammad.

He was also a leader of the Rajshahi march of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh on May 23, 2004.

## Mosquitoes

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Kamrangirchar flood protection embankment is beyond their demarcated area, the DCC mosquito combating teams do not go there.

"So mosquitoes come across from those areas and bite the city-dwellers," he said, adding that an adult mosquito can fly up to two kilometres to bite a man to make their eggs matured.

The DCC drive includes fogging of streets and lanes, specially the congested and swampy areas and cleaning water hyacinth and other objects from the ponds and ditches. Every year, the DCC authorities spend more than Tk one crore for cleaning of hyacinth.

Areas surrounding the city as well as the swampy and low lying lands of Cantonment, Maghbazar, Peelkhana, Manda, Basabo, Mirpur, Old Dhaka and Basabo are ideal grounds for breeding of mosquitoes, sources at the DCC mosquito control department said.

When asked about the budget, the chief mosquito control officer said that they generally spend Tk 10 crore a year for mosquito control although the budget is Tk 17 crore.

It has been the situation for the last three years, he said.

He said they have enough manpower and medicines to control mosquitoes within the city corporation areas and recently they have floated tender to buy 25,000 liters of ACI liquid spray.

Sources said the ACC needs to

# McKinnon for early

**FROM PAGE 1**  
absolutely necessary. This is a fundamental right," said McKinnon.

Termining the current situation as 'critical' and 'somewhat unusual', he said, "Once a new voters' registry is ready, elections should be held expeditiously," adding, "There should be no significant gap between that [preparation of the voter list] and the elections."

He warned that the caretaker government will lose popular support if the members of the government want power for themselves.

McKinnon also stressed, "In the meantime, human rights, the rule of law, and due process must be respected. This is particularly important in the context of the large number of persons recently detained."

"It has become clear to me that the caretaker government has popular support," he said adding that he stressed in his discussions with the government, 'sustaining that consent, support and confidence will be a challenge'.

To ensure the support, the government needs to ensure that the people are kept informed in a transparent way at every stage of what the government is doing and planning to do, with best estimate target dates," said McKinnon.

He went on saying that the government needs to provide a 'roadmap of programmes and major policy objectives leading up to inclusive and credible elections which should be made available as soon as possible with time-lines attached'.

He had earlier met Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda, political leaders, and members of the civil society.

McKinnon said the caretaker government told him that it is 'taking this once-in-a-generation opportunity to redesign and rebuild democratic institutions', which he said 'can only be done with the continuing consent and support of the people'.

"For far too long, this country has been dogged by narrow, partisan, winner-take-all politics. For any country to go forward, the welfare of the whole nation must come before party or self," he observed.

"This is not just about getting elections right. It is about all the institutions of good governance, about parliament, about independence of the judiciary, about human rights, about integrity and accountability," McKinnon said.

"I have got the loud and clear

message that the people of Bangladesh want a fresh start to their democracy. They also want to get it right," he added.

He said the national assembly could also do better through changes in its own rules and standing orders, adding, "The World Bank and IMF proposal of corporatising your state banks would be a significant step."

The Commonwealth secretary general also said it is ironic that the poor-focused Grameen Bank has such a high loan repayment rate in comparison to public sector banks' declaration of 'appalling losses'.

Commending the government for taking a number of 'laudable' steps, he appreciated the foreign affairs adviser's assurance that he will urge the government to adopt the Commonwealth's Latimer House Principles, which clearly set out the independent and inter-dependent roles of the legislature, executive, and the judiciary.

## Arrest warrant

**FROM PAGE 1**  
of the murder were pressed against six people including him, sources said, adding that as he did not attend the lower court as per the condition in the HC bail, his arrest warrant was issued.

Salehi, who was seen roaming freely in the city with local Jamaat leaders during the BNP-Jamaat coalition rule, went into hiding after issuance of the emergency on January 11.

Another principal accused of the murder Prof Mia Mohammad Mohiuddin may flee abroad, investigation officer (IO) of the case in the requisition petition told the court.

Mohiuddin was selling out his properties providing grounds to believe that he may leave the country, the IO added.

Azimuddin Munshi, a charge-sheeted accused of the case, is now on bail while three self-confessed killers of Prof Taher -- Abdus Salam, Zahangir and Nazmul -- who are now in jail, submitted their prayers for bail on grounds that other accused, including the principal ones, were enjoying bail.

Prof Taher was killed on February 1 in 2005 and his body was found in a sewer behind his home on RU campus on February 3.

# KM Obaid

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Shyama Obaid, a host of relatives, political comrades and admires to mourn his death.

The first namaj-e-janaza of Obaidur Rahman was held at Banani Chairmanbari ground yesterday afternoon followed by the second janaza at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, senior BNP leaders, former ministers, former MPs and leaders of different political parties attended the janaza at the south plaza of the Sangsad Bhaban.

The third janaza was held in front of the BNP central office at Naya Paltan. BNP standing committee members, other central leaders and a large number of leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations took part in the janaza.

After the janaza at Naya Paltan, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia placed a wreath on the coffin on behalf of the party. She also covered the coffin with the party flag.

The body of KM Obaidur Rahman was taken to Faridpur following another janaza at Baitul

Mokarram National Mosque last night.

After namaj-e-janazas in Fridpur town and at Nagarkanda upazila headquarters, He will be buried at his family graveyard at village Laskardia under Nagarkanda upazila of Faridpur, BNP sources said.

Earlier at noon, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia rushed to the Banani residence of KM Obaidur Rahman on receipt of the news of his death. She talked to the members of the bereaved family and consoled them. The BNP chief also offered prayer, seeking eternal peace of the departed soul.

BNP leaders M Saifur Rahman, Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, M Shamsul Islam, Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, M Osman Farruk, Nazrul Islam Khan and former MPs were present.

In a message of condolence, Khaleda said the country has lost a patriotic leader and veteran parliamentarian at the death of KM Obaidur Rahman.

The contribution of Obaidur Rahman to the Liberation War and establishing democracy in the country will be remembered forever, she added.

# Anti-graft body

**FROM PAGE 1**  
actually slow down or even discourage activities. "As a government body, the ACC does not create room for specialisation for its employees although it demands specialised officers. Now we are creating specialists on the basis of different types of corruption," he said.

The ACC underwent some basic reforms after the January 12 takeover of power by Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed's caretaker government. However, the anti-corruption body is still not fully functional because of a few legal and administrative hurdles.

ACC Commissioner Habibur Rahman told the press on Monday, "We have manpower shortage--we now have about 700 employees and we have informed the government of our need to increase the manpower to around 1,200.

"In the legal area, we have to address legal issues like getting the power to attach properties of graft suspects. Presently, we are asking the government to take this action. If the ACC law permitted, the ACC could have done this on its own," he said.

Sources said the ACC needs to

RAB MEN MURDER

## Another suspect killed in 'shootout'

UNB, Savar

A criminal, wanted in connection with the killings of two Rab members, was killed in an encounter with Rab in Aminbazar area early yesterday.

He was identified as Raja, 25, of Manikganj district.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab members went near Chishtia filling station to recover firearms. Sensing the presence of the Rab men, a gang of criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate.

Rab sources said Raja received bullets during the "shootout" and died instantly.

He was involved in the killing of two Rab members--Humayun Kabir and Falu Mia--at Salehpur on March 3, the sources added.

So far, seven criminals, wanted in connection with the killings, were killed in "shootouts".

Our staff correspondent from Rajshahi reported that a gang leader was killed during a "shootout" between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his accomplices at Sultanpur in Bagha upazila early yesterday.

Mohammad Masim, 35, of Nawarsa village of Bagha upazila was leading a criminal gang in Bagha and Charghat upazilas in Rajshahi, Lalpur in Natore and Daulatpur and Bherama in Kushtia districts, a Rab press release said.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the elite force raided Sultanpur area where Masim was holding a meeting with his accomplices.

As the Rab men reached Sultanpur at around 4:30am, Masim and his cohorts opened fire, forcing the elite force to retaliate. Rab sources said Masim was shot during the shootout and died on the spot.

## CA urges

**FROM PAGE 1**  
others, spoke at the meeting.

Addressing the high civil and military officials at the same venue earlier in the day, the CA said a wave of institutional reforms aiming to ensure welfare of the people has brought a remarkable change in the country.

"The prime objective of the present government is to ensure welfare of the people and there is a necessity to carry out various activities to achieve that," he said.

The CA said the ongoing anti-corruption drive will continue and asked the authorities concerned to be careful in conducting the drive so that it does not cast a negative impact on the momentum of economic activities and people do not get panicked unnecessarily.

He said all government officials are the employees of the republic and asked them to carry out their jobs for the welfare of the people.

He reminded that people are watching how the government, particularly its field-level officials are performing their jobs and they are ready to cooperate with the government.

The head of the caretaker government said the sense of relief that has come in public mind following the improvement in law and order situation has to be maintained.

## Four textile

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The mobile court disconnected gas and electric services of all four factories as the factories were violating the law by turning off on-site Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP) and by not obtaining clearance certificates from the DoE.

Furthermore, the court fined Pakjia Dyeing and Printing and Anlima Yarn Dyeing Tk 3 lakh each for not obtaining dyeing licences from BSTI.

The officials told journalists that they had fined Pakjia Dyeing Tk 50, 000 for the same offence back in February.

Magistrate Khadiza Naznin, accompanied by the DoE, Titas Gas, Rural Electrification Board and BSTI officials, conducted the raid.

During the surprise raid, the court found that most dyeing and textile factories located in the area did not run their ETPs while others did not even build one.

The factories have been directly discharging untreated toxic wastes into adjacent Karnapara canal that merges with the Bangshi River.

## al-Qaeda

**FROM PAGE 16**  
sought shelter with ethnic Pashtun tribesmen in Pakistan's lawless tribal belt along the border.

Yuldashev was wounded during major battles with Pakistani forces in Azam Warsak in March 2004. At one point officials thought Al-Qaeda number two Ayman al-Zawahiri was involved, but this was later denied.

# Star dist corr

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Bapi, who is the general secretary of the Nilphamari unit of Bangladesh Fertiliser Association, told reporters, "I filed no such case, but Tipu has been shown arrested in a case supposedly filed by me."

Although the case shows Bapi as the plaintiff, a visibly distressed and tearful Bapi told the reporters, "I only got to find out at 4:00pm today [Wednesday] that a case has been filed in my name."

Sub-Inspector (SI) Siddiqui of Nilphamari Sadar Police Station, who is also the investigation officer of the case, said, "Tipu has been arrested on the basis of allegations made by fertiliser dealer Bapi."

## Shoal-stuck

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Crops on thousands of acres of land in the region have been turning yellow as fertiliser could not be applied in due time. Farmers in the region are getting frustrated because they are most likely to have a poor harvest this year.

Baghabari port sources said the stranded cargo vessels were carrying 1,07,000 metric tons of urea fertiliser allocated by Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) from Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company in Chittagong for 16 northern districts.

Considering the urgency, the authorities unloaded a number of sacks of urea from the vessels and dispatched those to Baghabari Ghat by engine boats.

This measure however is not adequate for farmers as it takes around five to six days for a load to reach the Baghabari Ghat, said sources at Baghabari Port Authorities.

In the meantime, 14 buffer stocks of fertilisers have almost been exhausted due to the ongoing breach in the fertiliser supply chain, said official sources.

Farmers have been waiting in long queues in front of fertiliser stores, but going home empty-handed. They have no option but to watch their crops grow unhealthy without adequate application of fertilisers, said a number of affected farmers.

BCIC official sources said, around 1.5 lakh tons of fertilisers are required in 16 northern districts during the peak season.

## Jayasuriya

**FROM PAGE 1**  
final Group D match at Sabina Park in Kingston.

After being put in by Zimbabwe skipper Prosper Utseya, Pakistan reached 137 for 2 in 25 overs.

Emotions were running high as they took to the field for the first time since the death of their coach Bob Woolmer just three days ago. Reportedly, they didn't want to play this match but were ordered to complete the tournament by PCB chairman Nasim Ashraf.

But Nazir eased their nerves hitting seven boundaries and a six in his 61. He lost his opening partner Kamran Akmal early when the wicketkeeper-batsman edged one to Brendan Taylor off seamer Elton Chigumbura. Shoab Malik added only 21 runs before being dismissed by left-arm spinner Sean Williams. Skipper Inzamamul Haq, playing in his final one-day after having announced his retirement from the shorter version earlier in the week, was unbeaten on 29 off 27 balls.

Shahid Afridi returned after serving the four-match suspension which he picked up in South Africa while Danish Kaneria also made a comeback in the expense of Azhar Mahmood and Mohammad Hafeez.

# Thousands chant

**FROM PAGE 16**  
300 flag-waving supporters of hardline Islamic parties chanting "Allahu Akhbar" (God is Greatest). Other slogans included "Musharraf is a uniformed pet dog of US."

The former head of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency, Hamid Gul joined the protest in his military jacket. "I wore this jacket today because we are fighting the war of Pakistan's survival," Gul said.

Former cricket great-turned-politician Imran Khan said that the demonstrators showed "immense courage" by breaking the police lines.

Carrying black banners and chanting "Go Musharraf, go" around 3,000 lawyers in the eastern city of Lahore removed barricades erected by police to block a main road.

They later staged a sit-in outside the provincial assembly building to press their demand for Chaudhry's reinstatement.

Police fired tear gas shells and baton-charged a group of around 100 lawyers in the southwestern city of Quetta who wanted to stage a protest in front of the provincial governor's residence, lawyers and witnesses said.

Some burnt their black jackets in protest.

Musharraf's removal of Chaudhry has sparked a series of violent protests and strikes over the past two weeks, as well as the resignation of eight judges and a deputy attorney general.

The list of charges that has been lodged against Chaudhry with Pakistan's Supreme Judicial

In the case it was alleged that Tipu published the story as an "unethical demand" made by him was not met.

Asked why the allegation of an "unethical demand" without any specifications was considered for the case, the SI and the officer-in-charge of the Sadar PS refused to make any comment to The Daily Star. They also avoided The Daily Star's phone call despite repeated attempts.

Tipu, younger brother of Liberation War martyr Captain Bashar, is known as a simple person in the neighbourhood often seen going about in his shoddy bicycle.

Hearing the news of his arrest, journalists from all over the district gathered at the house of deputy commissioner (DC) of Nilphamari and stayed there for hours until handcuffed Tipu was presented in front of the court around 1:00pm.

A decision of Nilphamari DC Khandakar Mokhesur Rahman for giving equal amount of fertiliser to big and small farmers alike--despite sufficient supply--created a massive crisis in the management of urea fertiliser in the district. Thousands of farmers thronged the fertiliser dealers yesterday too.

Meanwhile, several reporters and officials of Nilphamari told The Daily Star that following the publication of the report on fertiliser crisis along with the photograph, DC Mokhesur pressed Bapi into filing a petition, in which the fertiliser dealer accused Tipu of making an "unethical demand".

The petition did not have any specific details, sources said.

The DC then forwarded the petition to the local police station.

When contacted, the DC, however, denied forcing Bapi to submit any such petition. "I did not make anyone write any letter. Bapi voluntarily submitted the petition," he said.

Our correspondent reported on March 17: "The crisis is partly attributable to the fertiliser distribution