

## 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 Shahir 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 BTTB 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

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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 Shilpachal 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 Shilpa 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 Shilpa Paribar.

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

## 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 Chhatra 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.

Khusi 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

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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 Talukdar Dulu and Rajshahi district BNP secretary Shis Muhammed.

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

## Mosquitoes

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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.

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

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.

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.

## McKinnon for early

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absolutely necessary. This is a fundamental right," said McKinnon.

Terming 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 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 Fakhrudin Ahmed, Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekher 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

## 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 Salepur 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 Nawara village of Bagha upazila was leading a criminal gang in Bagha and Charchhat upazilas in Rajshahi, Lalpur in Natore and Daulatpur and Bherama in Kustia districts, a Rab press release said.

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 officials 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 lakhs of tons of fertilisers are required in 16 northern districts during the peak season.

## CA urges

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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.

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.

We have serious concerns about Russian arms sales to states we feel countries should not be engaging, such as Iran, such as Syria and also ... Venezuela as well."

## Star dist corrs

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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."

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 Khandaqar Mokhlesur 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 Mokhlesur 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 system in the district where no specific criterion is maintained by the authorities concerned in appointing fertiliser dealers."

## US concerned by Russian arms sales to Iran, Syria

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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. Shaheen 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.

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