

Nation has failed to recognise father of nation: Gen Moeen

He will raise issue of prosecuting war criminals; it is time to fight corrupt politicians; proposes auction of seized cars to build hospitals for poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of the Army Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed yesterday said the country has not achieved its desired progress because of corrupt politicians and the time is now to wage a war against corruption, injustice, and thuggery that have pervaded all levels of the society.

Lt Gen Moeen also said corrupt politicians smuggled their money overseas, including at least Tk 20,000 crore smuggled off shore from the energy sector alone.

He made the observations at a tea party he hosted at the National Parade Square in honour of the Freedom Fighters Contingent which had taken part in the

national parade on the first anniversary of independence. "In the 36 years since independ-



Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed

ence, politicians have not given us anything good. They have even failed to give due recognition to the national leaders," said Moeen.

"Think about it, we haven't even given recognition to the father of the nation," said Moeen referring to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"The country was divided by the politicians' in-fighting, while they indulged in corrupt practices," the general said adding, "Wherever we look, we are finding examples of unbridled corruption."

He said the government is thinking of recovering the smuggled money.

"Politicians have engaged in widespread looting in the last few years. There was political influence

even in the Election Commission and the Public Service Commission," said the army chief adding, "Starting from pilfering relief materials, the last government engaged in all sorts of corruption."

He proposed to build a hospital for the poor by auctioning off the confiscated luxury cars of corrupt politicians and businessmen.

When someone from the audience demanded that the war criminals be prosecuted, the army chief said he will raise it in government circles.

Moeen also stressed that the armed forces are only assisting the government to fight corruption, restore order and to pave the way for holding free, fair and credible elections. But he insisted that the

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BANGABANDHU MURDER Killer Mohiuddin's arrival delayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemned killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman-retired army major AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed was supposed to be brought back to Dhaka today but latest reports say his trip has been delayed.

Mohiuddin was expected to travel to Dhaka via Bangkok but Bangladesh Ambassador in Bangkok Shahed Akhter told The Daily Star over telephone last night that he had no knowledge of Mohiuddin's whereabouts.

The comments contradicted earlier information from the home ministry, where a source quoting the foreign ministry said Mohiuddin had arrived at Bangkok Airport yesterday morning and was to be flown to Dhaka today onboard a Thai Airways flight.

"There was an indication of deporting him today, but we've no confirmation from the US authorities," acting Foreign Secretary

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55 graft suspects hold 40 times more money than declared

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top 55 graft suspects hold at least 40 times more money in their bank accounts than the amounts declared in their last tax statements, an investigation into their deposits by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) reveals.

NBR Chairman Badiur Rahman disclosed this to the press yesterday, adding that the undisclosed bank deposits of these people would total to more than Tk 100 crore, but he declined to reveal the actual amount.

Rahman was holding a meeting with tax officials at the NBR office where he invited the journalists as guests.

Following the caretaker government's move against top graft suspects of the country, the NBR in

early March asked all banks to freeze the accounts of 55. They include high profile politicians like barrister Moudud Ahmed, barrister Nazmul Huda, Mohammad Nasim, Mosaddak Ali Fahu, Nasser Rahman, etc.

"Now we will serve each of them with a notice to pay the due tax against these hidden deposits," NBR chairman told the reporters, "if they do not oblige, we will sue them."

"This move is a continuous process. Whenever we find a suspect, we will follow this process to determine his or her true wealth," Rahman observed.

Asked whether the NBR will try to retrieve the money deposited abroad by the graft suspects, the NBR chairman said, "if we have specific evidence or information,

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Nasiruddin Pintu shown held in relief misuse case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu was shown arrested yesterday in a case filed against him for misappropriating corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for government relief.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shamsul Alam passed the order following a petition by the investigation officer of the case, MA Kader.

The joint forces on March 19 seized 375 CI sheets from a government community centre in the capital run by a committee comprising Pintu's close associates.

In the first information report, police mentioned that Pintu in collusion with other accused of the case used the CI sheets to make

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ACC sues ex-BNP MP Munshi

4 ex-AL MPs submit wealth reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against a former BNP lawmaker, his wife and sons for submitting false wealth statement and earning huge sums through illegal means.

The accused are ex-lawmaker of Comilla Manzurul Ahsan Munshi, his wife Mazeda Ahsan Munshi, sons Barrister Rizviul Ahsan Munshi and Rizwanul Ahsan Munshi.

Investigation Officer (IO) and ACC Deputy Director Abu Sayeed filed the case with the Gulshan Police Station. The anti-graft body has found that the four have earned Tk 4.92 crore that does not match their wealth statements.

Meanwhile, the representatives

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JUDGE FAIZEE'S CERTIFICATE SCAM

Supreme Judicial Council to start probe today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) starts today its probe into controversial High Court (HC) judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee's alleged certificate scandal.

A presidential order was sent to the Supreme Court yesterday via the law ministry to conduct the enquiry.

If Faizee is found guilty of "gross misconduct" for forgery of certificate, the president may remove him from office.

Eminent jurists yesterday said the controversy should be settled quickly to save the image of the higher judiciary. Faizee committed gross misconduct by taking oath with a false certificate, they added.

The approval to form the SJC

came after Chief Justice Md Ruhul Amin sent a letter to the president on March 12 seeking his permission for its formation. Law Adviser Mainul Hossain told reporters yesterday.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) also sent a letter to the president on March 7 requesting him to form the SJC.

According to Article 96 of the constitution, the council will consist of the chief justice and two judges next in seniority to him.

The article also states that if any judge is found guilty of gross misconduct, the president may direct the council to enquire into the matter.

If the enquiry finds the judge guilty of gross misconduct, the president may remove him from office.

On March 3, Chittagong University (CU) authorities cancelled the graduation certificates of judge Faizee and others after a probe committee found evidence of tampering with tabulation sheets.

Faizee was appointed an HC judge in 2004 under the lawyers' quota. Sources said the LLB certificate is the minimum requirement to be a lawyer.

On March 5, Faizee was delisted from judicial duty amidst calls for his resignation. He immediately went on a leave that expired on Sunday.

Faizee, who does not have any bench to him now, spent the office hours on last two days in his office room, sources said.

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HC declares void electoral roll

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared null and void the electoral roll published ahead of the stalled January 22 parliamentary elections.

In a further order concerning national elections, the court directed the Election Commission (EC) to take into cognizance introduction of transparent ballot box and voter ID card for free, fair and credible elections in future.

While scrapping the voter list, one of the causes of the recent political crisis over the parliamentary election, the High Court observed that it was prepared without complying with the Representation of People Order (RPO) 1972 and the Supreme Court directives.

Delivering the judgment on a

writ petition, filed by a voter in the capital, a division bench comprising Justice Syed M Dastagir Husain and Justice Mamnoon Rahman ordered the Election Commission to update the electoral roll in compliance with the SC directives, relevant election rules and the constitution.

A week after the postponement of the January 22 parliamentary elections, Kazi Mamunur Rashid, a voter in the capital, filed the writ petition with the High Court challenging the validity of the electoral roll published by the EC. He sought a remedy.

Issuing a rule upon the Election Commission, the HC had slapped a three-month injunction on all electoral activities of the Election Commission.

Advocate Syed Mahmudul Ahsan appeared for the petitioner.

NBR survey to tap new taxpayers begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) launches a special survey tomorrow to identify new taxpayers, the total number of which has remained stagnant for years at a frustrating 15 lakh in a country of more than 14 crore people.

The 15-month survey starts initially in Dhaka and then will spread across the country. Eight survey teams, each comprising three members, will conduct the survey in the capital.

The survey will expand outside Dhaka from the next fiscal year.

"These survey teams will visit business and professional houses only to identify new taxpayers. Nobody will visit any home," NBR Chairman Badiur Rahman told

journalists invited to a meeting of tax officials yesterday.

"Sometimes I will accompany the teams at random, sometimes NBR members will accompany them," he said.

The NBR chairman categorically warned the NBR officials not to harass anyone while conducting the survey. "If there is any allegation of corruption or bribery against any tax officials, we will expose them through the media and have them arrested under the Emergency (Powers) Act, and they will not get bail," Badiur Rahman said.

Promising that anyone accused of such charges will not be spared, he said the administration is now free of political interferences and

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Mamun being interrogated at JIC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Interrogators split into several teams have started quizzing Giasuddin Al Mamun, controversial businessman and a close friend of Tarique Rahman, at the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC).

Sources said Mamun, now on a five-day remand in an arms case, is being quizzed extensively about his involvement in unbridled corruption through which he amassed huge money and wealth.

They however declined to divulge any information received from him during interrogation.

The interrogators also questioned Mamun about how he had collected the pistol and bullets recovered during Monday's raid at his Banani DOHS house. They wanted to know from him about a huge cache of firearms and ammunition that his cohorts are suspected to have in their possession, the sources said.

Mamun remained mum when questioned about the arms and ammunition, said one source seeking anonymity.

Police said Mamun, listed by the Anti-Corruption Commission

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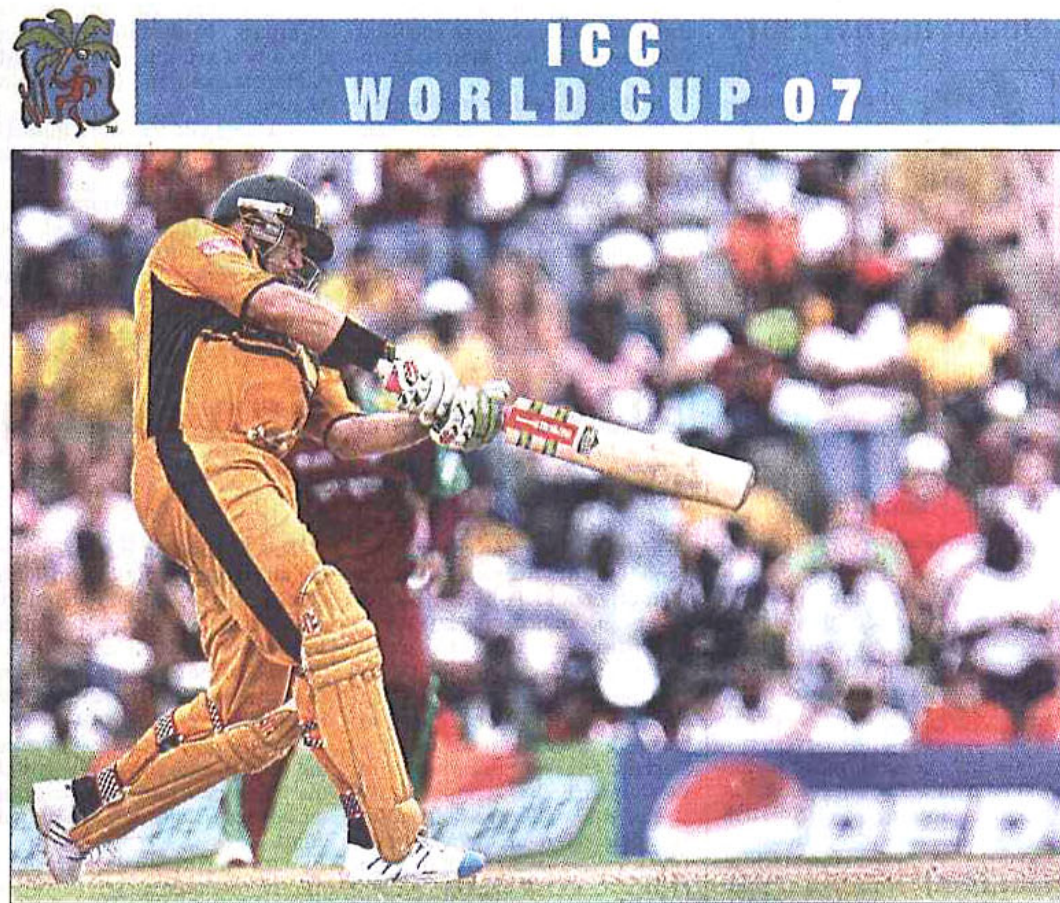


PHOTO: AFP

Australia opener Matthew Hayden is in belligerent mood on way to hammering a record-breaking 158 in the World Cup Super Eights match against West Indies at St. John's in Antigua yesterday.

4,000 more infected chickens found

2,000 fowls, 4,000 eggs buried

STAR REPORT

Around 2,000 fowls and 4,000 eggs were buried at Bhupur in Tangail yesterday following detection of bird flu at a farm while two more poultry farms with around 4,000 bird flu infected fowls were found in Sharishabari upazila in Jamalpur yesterday.

Meanwhile, chickens are dying at different poultry farms in Gazipur of unknown diseases.

Of the 4,000 newly found infected fowls in Sharishabari, 1,900 chickens were culled yesterday and the rest are to be culled today.

The government has so far sur-

veyed 1,436 farms in the country, of which 11 farms in five districts-Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Tangail and Jamalpur-had bird flu infected fowls. More than 50,000 birds have already been culled in those farms, sources said.

A three-member investigation team yesterday visited the farm of Bangladesh Biman at Savar where the first official case of avian influenza was detected.

Adviser to the Ministry of Livestock CS Karim during a briefing at his office yesterday told journalists that the bird flu problem is not very acute in the country.

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Hayden hammers WI Rain delays play after break

AGENCIES, St John's

Persistent rain held up the West Indies reply after Matthew Hayden's record-breaking 158 had helped Australia reach a formidable 322 for six in the World Cup Super Eights opener in Antigua yesterday.

Play did not get underway after the lunch break until 1:30am Bangladesh and 3:30pm Antigua time.

Earlier, Hayden's hundred, his second in as many matches, was the highest score by an Australian at the World Cup, surpassing the 143 not out made by Andrew Symonds four years ago against Pakistan in Johannesburg.

This innings came after Hayden's 101 in Saturday's 83-run win against South Africa, in what

was the first major match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

It was also the 35-year-old left-handed opener's third hundred in as many one-day internationals against Test nations following his Australian record 181 not out against New Zealand last month in Hamilton.

And yet for all his bludgeoning hitting later on, Hayden struggled at the start of his innings with the Queenslander taking 18 balls to get off the mark.

However, West Indies may take some heart from the fact the four highest totals to win batting second in one-day internationals have all been made against Australia since the 2005-06 season.

Shane Watson was 33 not out and Brad Hogg unbeaten on five.

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Two extortion cases filed against Tarique, Mamun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two extortion cases were filed with the city's Gulshan Police Station last night against BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman and his close friend Giasuddin Al Mamun.

Harun Ferdousi, a businessman, filed one case accusing five persons including Tarique and Mamun of forcing him to pay them Tk 81 lakh.

The other accused are Tarique's associates Babul Kazi, Enamul Haque and Giasuddin Quaiyum.

The complainant said the five accused extorted the money at different times between March 2,

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