

Tarique shown held

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Akhter passed the order following a petition submitted by the investigation officer (IO) Imtiaz MAK Bhuiyan.

In the petition, the IO mentioned that Tarique's close friend and business partner Gasuddin Al Mamun in a confessional statement on April 9 said that he, along with six others, extorted Tk 1.32 crore from Khan Mohammad Aftab Uddin, managing director of Reza Construction Ltd, on different dates under Tarique's protection. Tarique took Tk 80 lakh of the amount as his share, and so he needs to be shown arrested in the case, the IO added.

Meanwhile, separate extortion cases were filed yesterday against Awami League leader and former state minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa.

CASE AGAINST HARRIS
A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing till April 30 on charge framing against Harris Chowdhury, former political secretary to ex-prime minister Khaleda Zia, in connection with a graft case.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge Momin Ullah passed the order following a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing by the prosecution lawyer AFM Gola Fattah.

On April 5, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Abu Sayeed filed the case against Harris for not submitting his wealth statement to the ACC within the stipulated time.

Following the case, the Sessions Judge's Court issued arrest warrant against him and directed the authorities concerned to send a copy of the warrant to the police stations concerned.

CASE AGAINST LOBI AND MANZURUL AHSAN MUNSHI
Former chairman of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Ali Ashgar Lobi and ex-BNP MP Engineer Manzurul Ahsan Munshi were shown arrested yesterday in connection with two graft cases.

Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokon passed the order following the petitions of the IOs to show them arrested in the cases filed with Gulshan Police Station on March 22 and 27.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had filed a graft case against Lobi, also a former BNP lawmaker, for submitting false wealth statement and making huge sums of money through illegal means.

On the other hand, the ACC had filed a case against Manzurul, his wife Mazeda Ahsan Munshi and sons Barrister Rizviul Ahsan Munshi and Rizwanul Ahsan Munshi for the same reasons.

CASE AGAINST HAFIZ IBRAHIM
Another Dhaka court yesterday fixed April 30 for hearing on charge framing against detained former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim in connection with an arms case filed with Gulshan Police Station in February.

Judge Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court accepted the charge sheet and set the date.

The joint forces seized a knife

and a sword from his Gulshan house on February 27. Later, police filed an arms case and police pressed charges against him on March 18.

CASE AGAINST DIPJAL
The same court yesterday fixed May 16 for hearing on charge framing against Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Commissioner Monowar Hossain Dipjal and his wife Rumana Dipjal in an arms case.

The IO pressed charges against them on March 16 and the case was transferred to the court for trial.

The joint forces seized huge arms and ammunition from their Mirpur house on March 8.

CASE AGAINST MK ALAMGIR

An extortion case was filed against Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, former state minister for planning and an Awami League leader, and 114 others at a Chandpur court yesterday, reports our correspondent there.

Masud Rana, a contractor, lodged the case claiming that Mohiuddin and his men demanded Tk 60,000 as toll from him while he was doing a road development work at Kachua upazila of the district on January 5 this year.

The court ordered an enquiry into the case, sources said.

CASE AGAINST NADIM MOSTAFA

An extortion case was filed against former BNP MP Nadim Mostafa with Durgapur Police Station in Rajshahi on Monday night, reports our staff correspondent there.

Sekander Ali of Maria village of Durgapur filed the case that also accuses chairman of Durgapur municipality and upazila BNP General Secretary Saidur Rahman Montu and 18 others.

In his case, Sekander alleged that the accused demanded Tk 1 lakh as toll from the chairman candidate Sumon on July 14, 2003 during the UP election campaign.

As Sumon refused to pay the money, the accused locally known as 'Nadim Mostafa gang' attacked his supporters. Montu fired several rounds of gunshots leaving many including the complainant injured, Sekander alleged.

Police arrested four -- Babul, Ansar, Shamsul and Gaffar -- from Maria village in connection with the case earlier while Montu was arrested by the joint forces last week.

MOSTAFA KAMAL PASHA SENT TO JAIL
A magistrate's court in Chittagong yesterday ordered to send former BNP lawmaker Mostafa Kamal Pasha to jail in a murder case, reports our staff correspondent there.

The court of Magistrate Badrul Haq issued the order after police produced him before it.

The joint forces arrested Kamal Pasha at his Rahmatpur residence at Sandwip at around 10:30pm on Monday for his alleged involvement in different criminal activities.

Pasha, also accused in four criminal cases including Sajib murder that took place at Sandwip on February 26, 1999, was handed over to the police the same night.

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flip past square-leg in the first over. Jayasuriya then called Tharanga for a risky single to point, which turned out to be his only run. Thankfully for Sri Lanka, the fielder missed else Tharanga would have been in trouble.

Bond started badly, with a wide down the leg side. Two easy boundaries came off his bowling with similar deliveries -- Tharanga being the beneficiary.

Tharanga steered a wide delivery from Franklin through point for his third boundary in the fifth over. Next over, he edged Bond down to third man for another four as Sri Lanka reached 32.

Both Bond and Franklin struggled with some no balls and wides. Sangakkara played an irresponsible stroke, charging down the wicket and trying to hit Franklin over mid-on. He failed to get the timing right and ended up giving a simple catch to Fleming after scoring 18.

Sri Lanka were 69 after 15 overs with two of their big guns back in the pavilion.

With the pitch offering nothing for the opening bowlers, Jacob Oram was brought into the attack in the seventh over, replacing Franklin. He began well, conceding only a single in his opening over.

The next over bowled by Bond was a maiden but he was very lucky as Sangakkara hit a juicy full toss straight to point.

Mohammad Ali

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other charges on the loans by this month, the amount being Tk 35.66 crore, sources said.

The business leader took the loans in a fraudulent process. And the bank has been treating those as bad loans since 1995, they added.

"The loans were taken showing edible oil stock at Dhaka Vegetable Oil Industries plant but Sonali Bank officials later found that the containers were full of water instead of oil," said a high official of the bank.

At least a dozen officials of the bank, including a general manager, lost their jobs for involvement in the process of granting the loans, he mentioned.

The bank had also filed a criminal case against Mohammad Ali for fraudulence. He filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the case but lost it.

A case for recovery of the loans is now under trial at the Money Loan Court, the official said.

Most officials of Sonali Bank are dissatisfied with the board decision waiving such a huge amount of interest due from a top loan defaulter, he said seeking anonymity.

"He took Tk 56 crore loans from Sonali Bank against Deshma Shoe Industries, which is also defaulted," said an official of the bank.

Banking sources said Mohammad Ali has defaulted loans also with other banks.

The FBCCI vice president has defaulted loans of Tk 52 crore with Oriental Bank and Tk 33 crore with the IFIC Bank.

He has also applied to these banks for waiving of interest on the loans on condition that he would repay the principal amounts at a time.

"He will have to pay about Tk 100 crore if he wants to get the interest-free facilities," a banking source noted.

Mohammad Ali did not respond to repeated demands by the banks in the last few years to repay the loans.

The Sonali Bank board yesterday took the decision subject to approval of Bangladesh Bank (BB). But BB source said approval of the central bank is not needed.

The managing director of Sonali Bank was not available for his comment.

3 killed

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assistance of locals recovered the bodies and rescued the three injured workers digging through the rubble.

The injured, Alamgir, 32, Yasin Ali, 24, and another unidentified worker were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Witnesses alleged that the accident was caused by flawed construction work.

Iftekhhar

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The two sides are expected to focus on enhancement of cross-border trade, reducing trade gap, simplification of visa procedures for Bangladeshi businessmen, cultural exchange, agro farming on contact basis, coastal trade and repatriation of the Rohingya refugees during the bilateral talks.

This is the first high-level visit to Myanmar from Bangladesh since the present caretaker government took office in January.

Communications Secretary Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman and Director General of the Foreign Ministry Iktihar Momin Chowdhury will accompany the foreign adviser.

Paltan killings

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fixed the same date for hearing on charge framing against the accused.

The other accused are former minister and Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Qamaruzzaman, Central Nayab Amir Mokbul Ahmed, Assistant Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam, Dhaka City Unit Amir Rafikul Islam, Paltan Unit Amir ATM Sirajul Islam, Islami Chhatra Shibir President Shafikul Islam Masud, General Secretary Zahid Hossain and President of Dhaka University Unit Shishir Monir.

On April 11, the investigation officer (IO) AKM Idris Hossain, sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of Police, pressed charges against 10 Jamaat and Shibir leaders in connection with the killing of Russell Ahmed Khan during a demonstration in Paltan area on October 28.

The IO showed 45 people as prosecution witnesses in the charge sheet.

Following the charge sheet, Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza accepted it on April 22 and ordered it to be sent to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court for trial.

On October 28 last year, activists of Jamaat and its student wing Shibir gathered in front of the north gate of Baitul Mukarram and launched an attack on Awami League-led 14-party alliance activists while they were passing through the area in a procession. The attack sparked a fierce battle on the street between the rival political activists. During the battle, Shibir activists were seen shooting bullets.

Their rivals also reportedly launched a counter attack with oars and sticks.

In connection with the case filed by Workers Party leader Kamrul Ahsan, charges were brought against the accused for organising unlawful assembly, inflicting injuries on people, murder, and aiding and abetting criminal activities.

Nation's history left

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the nine months of Liberation War, especially on March 25 night in 1971, according to a list prepared by the DU Central Students Union (Ducus) Collection Centre. It however does not contain a complete account of the martyrs.

HISTORIC SPOTS
A number of places on the DU campus bear testimony to various events of the nation's history and heritage.

DU residential dormitories including Jagannath Hall, Fazlul Haq Hall and Zohurul Haq Hall (formerly Iqbal Hall), and teachers' quarters were targets of the occupying Pakistan army on March 25 night in 1971, and a number of teachers, students and employees were killed.

The then Arts building of the DU (now part of Dhaka Medical College Hospital), Modhu's Canteen, Curzon Hall, Fazlul Haq Hall and SM Hall were the main centres of the Language Movement. Several places where killings took place on the DU campus during the Liberation War are now difficult to identify.

The flag of independent Bangladesh was first hoisted atop the present arts building on March 2 but most of the DU students now do not know this.

"Our campus is such a place that when one passes through it, one has to go through several historic spots but most of our fellow students are not aware of it. Had there been sign boards with brief descriptions of these spots, we could have known about their historic importance," said a final year student of the university.

FAILED PROJECT
Associate Professor of History at Dr Ab Du Md Delwar Hossain, who is also a researcher on the Liberation War, said an initiative to write the history of DU with reference to the war had been taken by Prof Ratanlal Chakrabarti but it stopped as he went abroad.

A four-member editing panel for it, headed by Prof Ahmad Kabir, was formed in 2004. The other members of the panel included Prof Dr Anisuzzaman and Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury.

When contacted, Prof Ahmad Kabir, who is acting director of the publication organisation of DU, said, "We don't have adequate funds and writers, and editing panel members are also busy. That is why we have yet to start the project."

SEPS SUGGESTED
Ducus Collection Centre Treasurer Prof Belayet Hossain said the DU authorities should immediately take steps to preserve memories of the glorious past of this Institution so that the next generation can know this.

"Scattered initiatives will not serve the purpose well. The university authorities should do some-

thing in a coordinated way and steps to be taken should include publications and setting up a museum," he added.

Former Duta president AAMS Arefin Siddique said, "We need a detailed publication and a museum depicting the history of DU for the sake of the next generation."

Duta at a meeting recently demanded that the university authorities set up a memorial for the martyrs from DU who were killed by Pakistan army on March 25, 1971.

It also demanded preserving the campus sites that bear memories of the Liberation War.

Prof Delwar Hossain said, "Now we need a coordinated and central initiative."

WHAT HAVE BEEN DONE SO FAR

In a scattered manner, various departments and residential dormitories of the university and the Ducus collection centre have so far tried to preserve the memories of '71.

Ratanlal Chakrabarti wrote a book -- Muktiyudhe Shaheed - Jagannath Hall -- (martyrs of Liberation War at Jagannath Hall), and Duta published a souvenir on martyr teachers of DU.

Different DU departments also published similar souvenirs on different occasions.

Shadhinata Juddhe Dhaka Bishwabiddalaya (Dhaka University in Liberation War) by Rafiqul Islam, History of Dhaka University by A Rahim and some other similar publications are there.

The DU authorities also have some publications including Dhaka Bishwabiddalayer Gauraber Ashi Bachhar (Glorious Eighty Years of Dhaka University) by Rejanur Rahman.

Ducus in December last year unveiled a mural on the Language Movement on the campus.

There is a Liberation War cell at the central library of DU containing a good number of books but most of the students do not know about it.

UCSUS COLLECTION CENTRE

The Ducus collection centre's rare and valuable collections are facing decay and are getting lost due to lack of space and proper preservation.

Valiant freedom fighter and chief attendant at the centre Gopal Chandra Das alone collected those.

"We have valuable collections on the Language Movement, mass upsurge, Liberation War and anti-autocracy movements but we don't have enough space to preserve those," said Gopal.

When contacted, DU Vice-chancellor SMA Faiz said they have a plan to set up an archive and a museum in the new building of the Centre for Excellence in Arts and Social Sciences, which is currently under construction.

Ctg port

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The charge of equipment maintenance would also be given to private companies in a bid to reduce costs, as according to sources, the port authorities spend a huge amount each year in the name of buying spare parts of different equipment.

The process of dissolving the dockworkers' management board, formed in 1980s, has already started, sources said.

At present, the stevedores or port users have to hire workers from the board having 1,435 members, who often hold the port hostage in the name of realising their various demands.

The CPA would be able to save at least 30 percent cost in goods handling if the management board is dissolved, a shipping agent said.

The port witnessed a significant development since the caretaker government assumed power in January.

Ethiopian rebels

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Ethiopian military units and destroyed the facility.

China's official Xinhua News Agency identified the Chinese workers and Ethiopian guards as employees of the Zhongyuan Petroleum Exploration Bureau, a division of China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., a huge state-run oil company better known as Sinopec.

Xu Shuang, the general manager of Zhongyuan Petroleum Exploration Bureau, based in Addis Ababa, said nine of its Chinese oil workers were killed, seven Chinese workers were kidnapped and 65 Ethiopians were killed in the fighting.

The Zhongyuan official, whose company began working in Ethiopia's volatile Somali Regional State last year, declined to give further details of the attack.

The attack took place early Tuesday morning in Abole, a small town 75 miles away from the state's capital Jijiga, close to the Somali border. Berekat said several Ethiopian troops were wounded in the gunbattle in the area, one of Ethiopia's poorest with bad communications and roads.

"The army is pursuing them. We will track them down dead or alive. We will make sure these people will be hunted and be brought to justice."

Tamil rebels

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base and a moving column of guerrillas separately in the country's north and east, according to the military.

Also Monday, a bomb ripped through a long-distance bus as it travelled near the town of Vavuniya, killing five passengers and wounding 35, the Defence Ministry said. The ministry blamed the attack on the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Vavuniya, about 130 miles north of the capital, Colombo, is where the government has its last key garrison before the start of rebel-controlled territory.

A cease-fire mediated by Norway in 2002 brought hopes of peace for a few years, but violence over the past 18 months has killed 4,000 people, taking the death toll from more than two decades of war past 69,000.

Forest official

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through the forest department nor the forest department forwarded any such letter."

The DFO in his statement however clarified that the deputy commissioner rejected an application of a forest department employee for leasing the forestland saying that allotment of hilly land was suspended according to the land ministry's rules.

"The deputy commissioner on the other hand allotted the same forestland to District Collectorate Employees and Officials," read the statement.

The DFO in his statement rejected the explanation of the deputy commissioner regarding the housing project.

About the claim of arranging propaganda against the deputy commissioner by using local NGO's, the DFO said it is baseless and untrue.

Four to die

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stopped a CNG-run auto Rickshaw that was carrying GM Ismail at Garjainnyatilla in Fatikchhari upazila. They kidnapped him at gunpoint.

They took him to Bandhia Asrayan Project, a remote hill area of the upazila, where they beat him up with firearms and sprayed bullets all over his body from close range. Ismail died on the spot.

Ismail's wife Rokeya Begum filed a case accusing 12 people including Shamim with Fatikchhari Police Station on September 17, 2003.

Police submitted the charge sheet on May 28, 2004 and the charge was framed on March 27, 2005. Following the hearing of 12 witnesses the verdict was delivered yesterday.

Special Public Prosecutor Ahmad Quamrul Islam Chowdhury Sajjad and advocate Manjur Ahammad Ansari moved for the state while advocate Shankar Prashad and Ashoke Kumar Dey moved for the defendants.

Hasina moves

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citizen to return home and the government just cannot impose any ban on it.

She said like any other person, Hasina has all the right to face the charges brought against her.

The AL chief left the country on March 15 on a personal visit to the US.

She was scheduled to return on April 23 by a British Airways (BA) flight. According to her plan, she reached London on April 19. But a day before, the Bangladesh government issued a press note imposing restrictions on her return. It also asked different airlines not to fly her to Dhaka.

Besides, in the meantime, the military-backed government had an arrest warrant issued against her. Despite the developments at home, Hasina went to the Heathrow on April 22 to take the scheduled BA flight. But the carrier declined to issue her a boarding pass.

The interim administration had reportedly warned that any airliner carrying her would not be allowed to land at the Zia International Airport.

A day after she had failed to leave London for home, a court suspended the operation of the warrant for her arrest.

CALL FOR BAN WITHDRAWAL
The SC lawyers in their statement expressed grave concern over the press note imposing restrictions on Hasina's return, UNB reports.

They said, "No one can curb the constitutionally guaranteed rights of Sheikh Hasina by issuing the press note."

The lawyers observed that the restrictions not only undermined the image of the former premier, but also harmed the image of independent and democratic Bangladesh across the world.

They should be lifted immediately to uphold the rule of law and democratic dispensation.

The signatories to the statement include Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Mahbub Alam, former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Abdul Baset Majumder, Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, Rahmat Ali, Sahara Khatun, Abdul Mannan Khan, Subrata Chowdhury and Enayetur Rahim.

Our staff correspondent reports: Thirty-one intellectuals in their statement said, "It is illogical to curtail the fundamental rights of a citizen to live in their motherland through this sort of ban."

"Justice, rule of law and the protection of people's fundamental rights are among the core commitments of Bangladesh's constitution," read the statement signed by prominent academics, writers, poets, playwrights, actors, human rights activists and an adviser to a former caretaker government.

"But, we have observed with deep concern that the current caretaker government has imposed a ban on the return of former prime minister and Bangabandhu-daughter Sheikh Hasina," continued. Gu, Ataur Rahman, Nasiruddin Yusuf, Anwara Syed Haq, Khushi Kabir, Sultana Kamal, Ferdousi Priyabhashini, AAMS Arefin Siddique, Abul Barakat, Harun-ur Rashid, Muntasir Mamun,

"We are urging the caretaker government to remove all obstacles to Sheikh Hasina's return and end the people's concern," they added.

The signatories are Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Syed Shamsul Haq, Shamsul Huda Harun, Belal Chowdhury, Rafiqunnabi, Hashem Khan, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Ramendu Majumder, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Alauddin Rahman, Mamunur Rashid, Mahabed Saha, Nirmalendu Gu, Ataur Rahman, Nasiruddin Yusuf, Anwara Syed Haq, Khushi Kabir, Sultana Kamal, Ferdousi Priyabhashini, AAMS Arefin Siddique, Abul Barakat, Harun-ur Rashid, Muntasir Mamun,

Shahriar Kabir, AHKS Arefin, Asad Chowdhury, Rabul Hussain, Golam Oudus, Aslam Sami, Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan and Muhammad Samad.

Sammilito Nari Samaj, a women's civil rights group, in a press release said it feels sending the top two leaders into exile will not be positive for politics.

It observed, "The people will judge the past and the future roles of both the leaders."

"Sammilito Nari Samaj thinks that the present government's effort to bring reforms in the politics by sending Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia into exile will not be positive for Bangladeshi politics," read the news release.

"The two leaders want to stay. One has expressed her desire to return home from abroad while another has taken an island to be forced out of the country," it stated.

"Therefore, we urge the caretaker government to take necessary steps to keep the two leaders in the country," it said adding that they should be handed over to the legal authorities if allegations against them were found to be true.

THE BACLEARIFICATION

UNB reports: The British Airways yesterday issued a clarification, saying that it could not carry AL President Sheikh Hasina from London to Dhaka on April 22 responding to a written notification from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

The airline gave the clarification as Hasina waited for a flight which she was refused a boarding pass on flight BA145 on April 22.

James Forster, manager facilitation, said the action was necessary as on April 18, the BA received the notification from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh that 'Sheikh Hasina had been barred from entering Bangladesh'.

Forster said the airways' right to refuse carriage is contained within General Conditions of Carriage (GCC) for passenger and baggage.

Quoting section 7, paragraph 16 of GCC rules, he said despite holding valid travel documents, the airlines may decide to refuse to carry a passenger if the immigration authorities for the country he/she is travelling to told them (either verbally or in writing) not to allow him/her to enter that country.

Hamas

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prisoners, including veterans and those involved in killing or wounding Israelis.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Monday that freeing soldiers was deeply important to the government, but that it would not repeat "mistakes made in the past" by releasing violent prisoners who then carried out more attacks against Israelis. But Olmert said there would be "no escape in the end from making a difficult decision" on trading prisoners for the captured Israeli troops.

Hamas militants claimed Tuesday they launched 40 rockets and 70 mortar shells. However, the Israeli military said it could only confirm five rockets and eight mortars. One of the rockets fell in Israel, north of the Gaza Strip, the army said.

The rockets came after nine Palestinians were killed in fighting with Israel over the weekend. Most of the dead were militants, but Palestinians said at least two civilians, including a 17-year-old girl, were killed.

The uprising in violence drew calls from Palestinian moderates for Abbas to cut off contacts with Olmert. Hamas, the senior partner in a coalition with Fatah, called for renewed attacks against Israelis.

9 US troops killed

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US combat post in Tarmiyah, about 30 miles north of Baghdad, killing two soldiers and wounding 17 in what the military called a "coordinated attack." It began with a suicide car bombing followed by gunfire on soldiers pinned down in a former Iraqi police station where fuel storage tanks were set ablaze by the blast.