

Launch all-out campaign against corruption

ACC chief urges civil society members, officials in Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore and Pabna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt. Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday called upon the civil society to launch an all-out campaign to resist corruption.

"Raise your united voice whenever you see any unethical, illegal activity and corruption in any sector...inactive civil society is enough for destroying the entire society", the ACC chief said while exchanging views with civil society members here.

The former army chief emphasised on resisting corruption locally by forming anti-corruption forums.

ACC will do its job to curb corruption, but people across the country must come forward to resist it. "A movement has to be launched across the country against corruption", he said.

Mashhud held meetings with civil societies, local administrations, students and field-level ACC officials in Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore and Pabna districts yesterday.

He sought assistance from all quarters and said, "The present government has assured him of all support in steps against corruption."

"This is right time to fight corruption", he said.

He also called upon those who

were involved in corruption deliberately or forcibly to come out of the ill practice immediately.

In Natore, the ACC chairman urged people including youths, professionals and their family members to take a firm stand against all sorts of crimes and corruption to free the country from the stigma.

Gen. Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury flew in here this morning by a helicopter and later went to Chapainawabganj and Natore. He left for Dhaka in the afternoon.

At all the meetings, the ACC Chairman said involvement of all sections of people at grassroots level would yield a positive outcome in fighting corruption.

He expressed his firm belief that people would extend their hands of cooperation in the drive against corruption.

In Pabna, the ACC chief called for forming anti-corruption committees at all levels with the help of the administration to launch a massive campaign to eradicate corruption from the society, reports our correspondent.

"It is better to prevent corruption than to take action after allowing corruption", he told a meeting held at the Monomali Institute in the town.

Only a massive campaign and awareness among people can prevent corruption, he added.

JMB militant, outlaw held in Bagmara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Six people including a militant of Jama'ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were arrested in Bagmara yesterday, police said.

The arrested JMB militant is Mokbul Hossain, 38, of Hamirkutsa Dangapara village. He was placed in 8th position on the fresh list of militants, police said. He was an accused in three cases including Mukul murder case, police said.

Idris Ali, 40, of Raropara, a cadre of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was arrested by police for his involvement in the outlawed party activities, police said.

Four other gamblers, Moazzem, 42, Zafar, 40, Sayeed, 32, and Rafikul, 40, of Deuria were also arrested by police while they were returning to their camps after conducting raids.

Sylhet Kitchen Market Case Charge framing now on May 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court in Sylhet yesterday deferred charge framing against Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran and 17 others in the much talked about Kithcen market graft case to May 21.

Sylhet Divisional Special Judge Iftekhhar Rasul Siddique also extended the interim bail of 16 accused till 21 May as their earlier bail period expired yesterday.

Prime accused in the case--Kamran--was granted two months' interim bail by the High Court on April 30. Kamran was released from Comilla Jail on May 7.

Another accused--ward commissioner Abdul Quaiyum Jalali Ponki--had also obtained bail.

One of the accused--ward commissioner Abdul Wadud Khaled died of heart attack on April 30 at a relative's house in Moulvibazar.

Anti Corruption Commission filed charge sheet against the 19 including the mayor and 16 present and former ward commissioners of SCC in the case on February 7 this year.

ATTACK ON JHALAKATI JP OFFICE

Ex-minister among 14 BNP leaders sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Fourteen BNP leaders including former state minister Barrister Shahjahan Omar, Bir Uttom, were sued by a Jatiya Party leader yesterday for their alleged attack on his party office causing grievous injuries to him, court sources said.

They said Rajapur upazila Jatiya Party secretary Milon Mahmud Bachchu filed the case with Jhalakati magistrate court alleging the accused fired gun shots and chopped him causing injuries to him on September 20, 2001.

The other accused are Jhalakati district Jubo Dal president Mir Ziauddin Mizan, Jhalakati district BNP organising secretary and 'top terror' Nasim Akon, his brother and BNP leader Firoj Akon, Rajapur upazila Jubo Dal secretary Abul Kalam Azad and Rajapur upazila BNP president and chairman of Suktagor Union Parishad Syed Shah Alam and others.

On receipt of the case, magistrate Farhana Irin ordered the officer-in-charge (OC) of Rajapur police station to investigate into the matter for taking action in future.

Barisal BNP leader arrested

AL leader held in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Members of the joint force yesterday arrested BNP leader and Barisal City Corporation (BCC) commissioner Syed Zakir Hossain Jelal, also brother of former lawmaker and Jubo Dal secretary Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal.

On receipt of allegations of tender scam, misuse of power, corruption and toll collection, Jelal was arrested by members of the joint force at about 2 pm from the office room of BCC superintending engineer, said assistant police commissioner Hayatul Islam and Barisal Kotwali Police Station inspector Khorsheed Alam.

He was handed over to police at about 4 pm after primary interrogation at the joint forces' camp, they said.

There is no case against

Jelal with this police station, they said adding he would be sent to jail under Section 54 if members of the joint force did not lodge any specific case against him.

In Jhenidah, joint force arrested an Awami League (AL) leader from his Adarsha Para house in Jhenidah town.

Jhenidah Sadar thana AL general secretary ZM Rashidul Alam alias Rashid, also former chairman of Surat Union Parishad (UP), was arrested on Tuesday night on suspicion under Section 54, police said.

Later, members of the joint force handed over him to Sadar police on Wednesday.

Police said there is no specific case against the AL leader with any police station in Jhenidah. He would be sent to jail custody under Section 54 if the joint force did not lodge any specific case against him, police said.

Boro on 5,000 hectares go under water in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

IRRI-Boro paddy on 5,000 hectares of land went under water yesterday morning as an embankment collapsed near Haizda haor in Khaliajuri upazila, sources in the Water Development Board (WDB) said.

WDB executive engineer Mohammad Alauddin said about 300 feet area of Haizda embankment breached at Gaglajur point due to surging waters of the Kongsha river. Water level of the river rose sharply as hilly waters rolled down the area from neighboring India, district administration sources said.

However, no WDB official reached the spot for repairing the embankment till filing of the report yesterday afternoon.

TK 20CR EXTORTION CASE

Haji Helal on 5 days' remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A magistrate court in Sylhet yesterday placed real estate businessman Haji Helal on five days' remand in the Tk 20 crore extortion case.

Helal, arrested on Tuesday, was produced before court yesterday.

Chowdhury Matiur Rahman, brother of advocate Chowdhury Ataur Rahman Azad (now in jail) hailing from Rajnagar under Moulvibazar district filed the case last week.

The accused are Khondaker Md. Quamruzzaman, Gias Uddin, Helal, Nazrul Haque Chowdhury, Aminul Haque Sarder and Mahmud Ali.

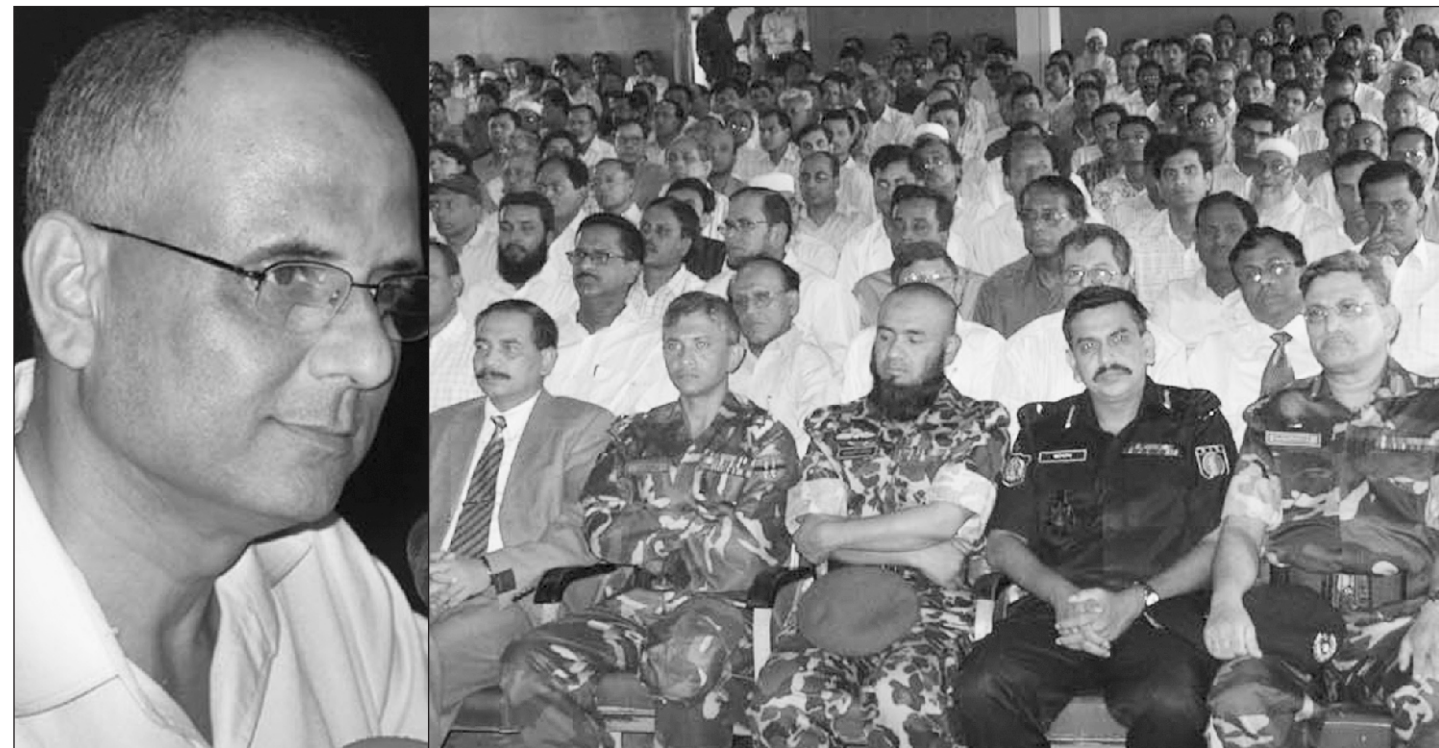
Sramik Dal leader sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Matiranga upazila Sramik Dal president Mohammad Sirajul Islam, arrested on Tuesday, was sent to jail yesterday.

Police said he faces some cases for alleged involvement in misappropriation of government funds and sheltering criminals and musclemen.

He was arrested from his house by joint forces, police said.



ACC Chairman Lt. Gen. (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury addressing civil society members and officials in Rajshahi yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ARMS CASE

Hiding ex-BNP lawmaker to be tried in absentia

Patuakhali ACC to probe complaints of corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Former BNP lawmaker from Patuakhali-2 (Baufal) Shahidul Alam Talukder did not appear before the District and Sessions Judge court yesterday, the date for his surrender to court in an arms case. The court on May 10 ordered him to appear by May 16.

Trial of the arms case against him will begin soon in absentia, Public Prosecutor (PP) Yunus Ali Mollah told this correspondent.

Shahidul is on the run since proclamation of emergency on January 11 this year.

The case was filed on February 17 this year by the then Officer-In-Charge (OC) of Baufal police station Mizanur Rahman after joint forces in a drive a day before recovered two magazines of pistol and 18 pieces of relief shares and some sports goods from his Nazirpur residence at Baufal upazila town.

Police after investigation submitted charge sheet in the arms

case on March 18. The court then issued summons and a copy of the order was hung at his residence.

The other case filed in connection with recovery of relief goods is being investigated by Anti Corruption Commission, ACC sources said.

ACC official Akhter told this correspondent yesterday that local people submitted more complaints of corruption against former lawmaker Shahidul Alam Talukder.

Shahidul was elected from Patuakhali-2 (Baufal) in 2001 election on an alliance ticket.

Joint forces earlier demolished his three storied market cum residence at Kalishuri Bazar, built by allegedly occupying government land.

Shahidul allegedly formed a pirate gang named 'Talukder Bahini' comprising 25/30 members. His gang members attacked Dhulia police outpost in 1973, killed two policemen and looted all

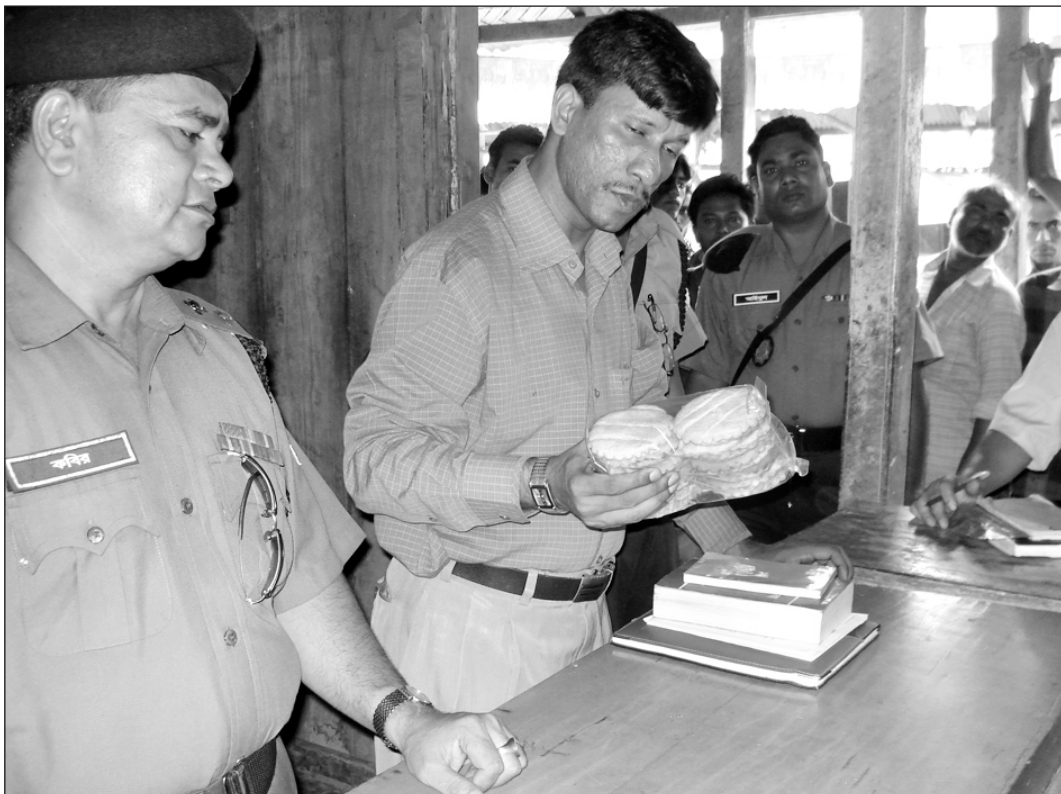
22 rifles.

Shahidul was the prime accused among the 14 persons sued for the police outpost looting case.

Shahidul first joined Jagodal and then Jatiya Party led by former president H M Ershad. After fall of Jatiya Party government, he joined BNP in 1991.

On May 29, 2004, Shahidul assaulted ASM Feroz, former Awami League lawmaker from the same constituency at Upazila Nirbahi Officer's (UNO) office. He also physically assaulted Kazi Hanif, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Baufal thana, on October 7, 2004 at his office. The OC filed a GD (no. 205) but it was missing from the GD book when Hanif was transferred, police sources said.

Shahidul snatched Gius Uddin from police on October 29 last year 2006 at Kalaiya Bazar after police arrested him and then beat the then OC Nur Mohammad and SI (Sub-Inspector) Shah Alam, police sources said.



Magistrate Ahmad Kabir examining dried food at a bakery during a drive against food adulteration in Khagrachhari town yesterday. Twelve shops were fined Tk 48,000.

PHOTO: STAR

10X2

10X3