

## Sheikh Selim, Mintoo

FROM PAGE 1  
Saifur Rahman's son Naser Rahman, who is also a former BNP lawmaker, is currently in jail on graft charges. The joint forces arrested him during their first round of crackdown on high profile corruption suspects including political leaders.

Meanwhile, intelligence officials started quizzing detained AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, former state minister for home affairs Luqmanul Babar, and former BNP lawmaker and Parties Group Chairman MA Hashem taking them to undisclosed places. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka sent each of them to four-day remand on Tuesday.

Gulshan police brought allegations of corruption against AL leader and former health minister Sheikh Selim saying that during AL's last stint in state power he amassed a large amount of properties and money through corruption under the shelter of the erstwhile premier Sheikh Hasina, who is also his cousin.

In the forwarding report placed before the court, Gulshan police also said Selim was involved in a conspiracy to create an anarchic situation in the country.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case, Sub-Inspector (SI) Aminur Rashid of Gulshan police station, said Selim needed to be remanded for seven days to find out vital clues of his involvement in corruption.

Moreover, the IO placed before the court a proposal for a 30-day detention for Selim, recommended by the authorities concerned.

SI Sarwar Hossain of the same police station produced Abdul Awal Mintoo before the court seeking a seven-day remand. He also placed a forwarding report where he mentioned that Mintoo acquired a large amount of wealth and properties through corruption by being affiliated with a political party while he was the president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Mintoo was also placed before the court with a recommendation for detention of 30 days.

Our correspondent from Barisal reported that a task force of the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday started investigating in Barisal the allegations against detained Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor Mujibor Rahman Sarwar.

The task force led by Maj Abdul Hye yesterday measured the BCC mayor's house at Sadhur Baitala in Barisal city and estimated the value of his immovable and movable properties. The team also examined some files of BCC in Nagar Bhatan.

The sources also said the task force earlier interrogated BCC officials about Sarwar's alleged corruption in appointing a large number of BCC employees flouting proper procedures. The allegations against him also include amassing a large amount of money through nepotism in awarding business contracts -- a practice which ended up producing low-quality work for BCC, and allotting BCC stalls, shops and markets to people in exchange for bribes.

Sources said cases against Sarwar might be filed by the task force soon.

REVELATIONS  
Jalil, Mintoo, and General Secretary of the Gulshan Unit of AL Wakil Ahmed alias Wakil Commissioner gave sensational information during interrogations.

## 27th BCS exams

FROM PAGE 1  
Most of the leading newspapers had published reports on the irregularities of PSC on several occasions, especially about leakage of question papers, and corruption centring the viva voce.

In the face of widespread media reporting and claims by examinees, the PSC held the 27th BCS examination.

A recent investigation by an intelligence agency also found irregularities in the 27th BCS and finally the caretaker government postponed its medical test in the midway on April 18. The medical test of the 27th BCS started on April 7 and it was scheduled to complete on April 29.

The viva voce was grossly used to pick certain candidates while disqualifying others. The viva voce for 100 marks usually adds with total marks of written examinations. As the pass mark in the viva voce is 40, a candidate getting below it in the viva voce disqualifies for the selection even if they score highest marks in their written examinations.

A large number of candidates who scored well in the written examinations were allegedly given below 40 marks in the viva voce, which were published in different dailies.

Saadat Hussain, who on May 9 assumed the post of PSC chairman after expiry of the five-year term Prof ZN Tahmid Begum, took the allegations against the 27th BCS seriously and discussed the issue with academics, newsmen, PSC officials and several successful and unsuccessful candidates.

He sent recommendations to the government for necessary steps about the 27th BCS.

Asked for comment about the cancellation of the viva voce result of the 27th BCS, PSC member Latifur Rahman said, "I will not reply to any

efforts to restore democracy. Milam was briefed about the complicated situation now prevailing in the country," he said.

The adviser said Milam assured the caretaker government of all assistance to restore democracy in the country.

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## HC declares detention of Mosharraf, Abbas illegal

UNB, Dhaka

tion by the joint forces about corruption of AL high-ups, and disclosed the details of what had been happening behind the much talked about April 30, 2004 deadline announced by jail for toppling the immediate past four-party alliance government, sources claimed.

The sources also claimed that Wakil Ahmed told the joint forces that Jalil had been involved in extortions. The three were interrogated separately at different times together.

Sources said Jalil however denied the allegation of taking bribes in exchange for AL nominations for the stalled parliamentary election.

Several businessmen paid different amounts of money to the party fund voluntarily at different times while big firms like Bashundhara Group donated large amounts. The detainees told the joint forces, according to the claims of the sources.

Sources also said quoting Jalil that the April 30 deadline for a supposed overthrow of the immediate past four-party alliance government came from jail by chance. Jalil was assigned to supervise the movement on the street while the inner activities of the party were looked after by party chief Sheikh Hasina.

The April 30 deadline was designed as a trump card in the movement against the erstwhile government with a view to influencing 70-lawmakers of BNP to defect, the sources said. Former BNP lawmaker Abu Hena, who finally defected, had demanded Tk 70 crore for the proposed defection of 70 BNP lawmakers. Mintoo said in his statement to the joint forces, according to the claims of the sources.

Proshika, an NGO, was tasked with the job of supplying more than 10 thousand people for a demonstration to make the four-party government step down by the deadline, the sources claimed.

CORRUPT-CBA LEADER BAKIR

The Anti-corruption Commission yesterday filed a case with Motijheel police station in the capital against Sonali Bank CBA leader BM Bakir Hossain and his wife Nazma Hussain for concealing information on their statements of wealth submitted to the commission.

ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Jahangir Alam filed the case saying the couple's undisclosed wealth worth more than Tk 1.25 crore was unearthed following submission of their wealth statements.

Bakir is now in custody of the law enforcers on corruption charges.

## Hasina

FROM PAGE 1  
joint forces' drive is aimed at her," former AL lawmaker Latif Siddiqui told newsmen while briefing them about his meeting with Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence.

The government's move to revive the hearing of the Mig-29 and frigate purchase graft cases filed against Hasina is part of the commission, said Latif.

Meanwhile, Hasina cancelled her visit scheduled for this morning to Tungipara to offer Feteha at the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We supported the government for its activities in the beginning but what the government is doing now cannot be supported," Latif said.

On the arrest of party leaders on charges of corruption, he said any party leader involved in corruption should be punished.

## Tax evasion case against Lobi sent to special court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The case against detained former BNP lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi for evading Tk 17 crore income tax filed by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) was transferred to a special court yesterday for its quick disposal.

Senior Special Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court sent the case to the Third Special Judge Court set up at Shere-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel after fixing June 3 for hearing on charge framing against the former lawmaker.

Under a tight security, Lobi, now in Kashimpur Jail in Gazipur, was produced before the court at 11:30am.

On May 23, the court had issued an arrest warrant against Lobi after Mohammad Nurul Amin, deputy tax commissioner of Taxpayers' Service Wing, NBR, filed the case.

In his complaint, Amin mentioned that Lobi, also former president of Bangladesh Cricket Board, had evaded around Tk 17.24 crore income tax since 1984-85 fiscal year.

Lobi repeatedly gave false information on his real income and expenditure to the Income Tax Department and did not show his return of income tax. He also used his position to conceal information about his real income, the complainant said.

On February 6, the joint forces arrested Lobi from his Gulshan-1 residence and seized Tk 9.75 crore.

Later, Central Intelligence Cell of NBR collected information on his different bank accounts, where they found Tk 22.25 crore. Lobi did not submit statement of the money to the NBR for the fiscal year 2005-2006, the complainant said.

He also did not submit statement about the income from his Dhanmondi M/S Rupashi Energy Filling Station to the NBR, Amin added.

Successful candidates of written examinations who were not finally selected, expressed satisfaction with the government decision while the examinees who passed the viva voce, he said.

He appointed supporting staffs and engineers to perform our task and that's why we need money to cover their expenses," Dr Alamgir said adding. "We could have gone forward with our work even if they (DCC) had assured us that we would be paid later."

The Buet team suggested bringing significant changes in the present design and layout of the flyover including cutting the number of ramps through which vehicles will enter and exit the flyover. It also criticised the way in which traffic was being artificially forced onto the flyover apparently to increase revenue.

The joint venture of the UAE-based construction firm Belhsa International LLC and Accom Engineering Company Ltd is chaired by Orion Group owner M Obaidul Karim, who is in hiding after being implicated as the key man in the case of embezzlement of Tk 596.44 crore from the Oriental Bank.

The Jatrabari-Gulistan flyover is an 8-km stretch of mainly elevated highway aimed at easing Dhaka's heavily congested traffic. It is a build-own-operate-and-transfer (BOOT) scheme in which the constructor finances the building in return for the right to collect tolls for a set period of time.

There is no sign that the oil price will be reduced in the next one year... but we will try so that the people get the essential item at a fair price," the BDR chief told the reporters.

Although Habib had been with the four-party alliance during the immediate past BNP-led rule, he moved to Awami League (AL) camp ahead of the now cancelled January 22 polls and even managed AL ticket to contest Sylhet-6 constituency that sparked widespread criticisms among AL leaders and workers at that time.

Abdur Rahim Khan explained the objectives of the seminar and presented synopsis of various findings of the recent research conducted under the Social Science Research Council. The detailed discussion on the findings would be held in the working sessions of the seminar.

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