

# Litu remanded

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the graft case filed against the former communications minister and his wife, Mirza Zahidul Islam, who is also an assistant director of ACC, submitted the charge sheet against them to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) of Dhaka yesterday afternoon naming 39 people as prosecution witnesses.

Deputy Director of ACC Shafiqul Islam filed the case on March 21 with Dhanmondi police station against the former minister for taking a bribe of Tk 2.4 crore from Mir Zahir Hossain, the owner of Mir Akter Hossain Ltd, a construction firm.

The IO in the charge sheet mentioned that Nazmul Huda took the bribe from Zahir, elder brother of current FBCCI President Mir Nasir Hossain. Zahir handed over the bribe to the former minister at the latter's Dhanmondi residence in three cheques in exchange for a roads and highways department's work order of Tk 30 crore.

According to the investigators, the money was deposited to an account in Motijheel corporate branch of Agrani Bank maintained by Khoboror Antorale, a newspaper owned by Sigma Huda.

Sources said, later Tk 1 crore from the deposited bribe money was transferred to two fixed deposit accounts of the Motijheel branch of HSBK bank dividing the amount into Tk 50 lakh each in the names of two daughters of the minister. In the charge sheet ACC said the allegation against the Huda couple of taking the bribe was found to be true in the investigation.

The joint forces recovered evidence of Nazmul Huda taking the bribe during a raid in his residence following his arrest during an anti-corruption crackdown on February 4. The investigators traced Mir Zahir following a paper trail recovered from the residence.

Zahir corroborated the allegations against Nazmul Huda, to a magistrate.

**CHARGE SHEET AGAINST CBA LEADER AND WIFE**  
Investigation officer (IO) of the case Mobarra Khanam, deputy director (DD) of ACC, submitted the charge sheet before CMM court against Sonali Bank Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) leader Feeroz Miah and his wife Roushan Ara Begum yesterday showing 33 people as prosecution witnesses.

Assistant Director of the ACC Nurul Alam filed the case with Ramna Police Station on March 20 against the two in connection with submitting wealth statement to the ACC with false information.

In the statement, Feeroz and his wife gave account for their wealth of Tk 55,51,786. However, an ACC investigation found they accumulated wealth of Tk 1,35,93,012 through unfair means.

**CHARGE SHEET AGAINST HANNAN AND SON**  
Police submitted the charge sheet of an extortion case filed against adviser to the former prime minister Khaleda Zia ASM Hannan Shah yesterday, our Gazipur correspondent reports.

The IO of the case Abul Bashar submitted the charge sheet before a Gazipur court.

General Secretary of Kapasia upazila AL Ruhul Amin filed the extortion case with Kapasia Police Station accusing seven including Hannan Shah and his son Shah Rezaul Hannan of extortion on May 12.

IO Ripon Das of a land grabbing case against Shah Rezaul Hannan and eight others also filed a charge sheet on Sunday. Mainuddin on May 10 filed the case with Kapasia Police Station.

**MINTOO SENT TO JAIL**  
Abdul Awal Mintoo was sent to jail yesterday with a proposal for a 30-day detention from the government.

Mintoo was arrested on May 29 during a government crackdown on high-profile alleged graft suspects and was produced before a metropolitan magistrate court yesterday afternoon on completion of his four-day remand.

Mintoo was sent to jail as no prayer for further remand was made.

**OSMAN GANI ON REMAND**  
A Dhaka court yesterday placed Chief Conservator of Forests Osman Gani on a five-day remand under section 16 (2) of Emergency Power Rules.

Police produced Gani before a metropolitan magistrate court with a seven-day remand prayer yesterday afternoon. The court, however, granted a five-day remand.

Earlier, the IO investigating the case told the court that Gani was giving contradictory information regarding his corruption and the wealth he has and so he needs to be quizzed further.

The ACC and joint forces yesterday seized some documents from the Maneswar Road residence of Mohsina, wife of Gani, during a half-an-hour raid from 2:30pm.

Sources said they went to the house to arrest some suspected relatives of the forest boss but could not find anyone.

Meanwhile, environment and forest ministry already initiated a probe to identify members of Gani's syndicate.

"We have initiated an investigation against Gani to find out members of the syndicate. We have seized

# Dhaka Club staff robbed of Tk 2 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers injured and robbed a man of Tk 2 lakh in Eskaton Garden area in the capital yesterday while returning with cash drawn out from a bank.

The victim, Kajal Ahmed Johnny, 28, a Dhaka Club staff member, said the money belonged to the club and he was on his way back to the club at Shahbagh after making the withdrawal from an HSBK bank branch on Sonargaon Road at Kathalbagan.

Johnny hired a black taxicab from near Sonargaon Hotel for Dhaka Club at Shahbagh and sat in the front passenger seat of the vehicle. With an excuse to avoid traffic congestion, the taxi driver got on Eskaton Garden Road after crossing Bangla Motor intersection.

After a little while, the driver slowed down the car and two unidentified youths drawing sharp weapons forcefully got in the back seat of the car.

The youths instructed Johnny to hand them over his bag containing the cash. When Johnny refused to comply, they knocked him unconscious by hitting him in the head.

When he regained consciousness, he found himself on the Dhaka Club premises surrounded by the office staff. The club employees said two youths on a rickshaw had dropped him off at the club. They later took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

However, the MoU does not allow for a process to legalise 12,000 undocumented Bangladeshi workers to remain in South Korea. But it includes a clause for preferential treatment for these workers, if they return voluntarily, to receive legal permits to re-enter South Korea under the EPS.

A number of manpower exporters said it is logical that the South Korean government should consider keeping the undocumented workers there and allow them to meet the demand for textile workers, which is currently 50,000.

Recently, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Labour Minister Ali bin Abdullah Al Kaabi said they would consider a legalisation process for undocumented Bangladeshi workers there to supplement the new legal workers under another MoU signed between Bangladesh and the UAE.

Sources said although Bangladesh is competing with three other countries to export workers to South Korea under the EPS, government facilities, and local workers' language and technical skills give them a significant comparative advantage over workers from the three other countries -- Nepal, Kyrgyzstan and East Timor.

Meanwhile, former secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies Ali Haider Chowdhury welcomed the EPS agreement saying that a legal framework for government-to-government manpower export opens up more windows for Bangladeshi workers.

Iftakhar said, "The MoU will open up great potentials for Bangladeshi workers to come and work legally in South Korea...We are planning to upgrade skills of our workers including in the Korean language in response to Korean demands."

Earlier, in Seoul, Iftakhar met his counterpart Song Min-soon on the sidelines of the 6th Asian Cooperation Dialogue Ministerial Meeting. Song thanked Bangladesh for awarding the KEPZ licence and expressed interest in energy and infrastructure sectors, said a foreign ministry press release.

Iftakhar also met Japanese Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Katsuhiko Asano, where he praised the caretaker government's reform initiatives and assured Iftakhar of Japanese assistance in this regard.

They identified a number of areas for close cooperation, including in infrastructure, water, energy and communications sectors. Japan also sought Bangladesh's support in the United Nations on a number of issues. The foreign adviser assured that Tokyo would receive the most favorable considerations.

Iftakhar also called on South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun. The adviser is presently leading Bangladesh delegation to the ministerial meeting.

He also had a meeting with representatives of Bangladeshi community in Korea at the country's embassy. "We will make our best efforts to protect the interest of all Bangladeshis in Korea", he told the gathering. He advised all Bangladeshis to uphold the image of their country.

**UN offers help**  
Bangladesh's counter-terror legislations and strengthen law enforcement agencies to cast a wider and tighter net to catch militants.

Kerev said the UN will help to improve cooperation between countries' FIUs in order to prevent international terror-funding, which he said can also be utilised to recover illegally-earned money sent overseas.

He said that the UN's technical committee can help Bangladesh resolve the legal matters to repatriate corruption-money from other countries.

While Salehuddin said that these offers would be utilised once the central bank has specific information on accounts overseas, and would then proceed on the basis of the laws of other countries' and cooperation with their FIUs or equivalent agency.

The BB governor said the UN committee showed interest in providing relevant software, hardware and training to strengthen the anti-money laundering unit, which is already being assisted by the United States.

He said the central bank is engaged in ongoing discussions with the British FIU to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation to deal with money laundering.

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# Bangladeshi workers

**FROM PAGE 1**  
KEPZ licence and failure of the immediate past government to rein in over-charging recruitment agencies, dampened Dhaka-Soul relations that has been rejuvenated in the last few months, sources say.

The MoU was signed by Iftakhar and Korean Labour Minister Lee Sang-Soo. Iftakhar later said, "Bangladesh has the supply and Korea has the need. It is a matter of adjusting the two, which will be for our great mutual benefit."

Initially, the recruitment will focus on textile, manufacturing, construction, service-sector, and agriculture.

South Korea has not taken in Bangladeshi workers since 2003 as a large number overstayed their visas to earn back the exorbitant amounts of money they had paid to local recruiting agencies to be in South Korea, sources said.

However, the MoU does not allow for a process to legalise 12,000 undocumented Bangladeshi workers to remain in South Korea. But it includes a clause for preferential treatment for these workers, if they return voluntarily, to receive legal permits to re-enter South Korea under the EPS.

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# Fire at Savar spinning mill

UNB, Savar

Fire damaged machinery, raw materials and other valuable items at a spinning mill in Ulail Industrial Area under Savar municipality yesterday morning.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit in the storeroom of Ofaz Spinning Mill at about 7:00am and soon engulfed the adjacent rooms.

On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control at about 11:00am. A garment worker and a fire fighter received injuries while they were trying to extinguish the fire.

# EC moves

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The government still remains silent on the issue. The EC held talks on electoral reforms with eminent personalities of the civil society on April 26 and with senior journalists on May 19.

# Mamun

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Mamun, a controversial businessman and close friend of former prime minister Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman, failed to submit his wealth statement to the ACC when it served a notice on him on February 18 to submit his wealth statement within 72 hours.

Following his failure to submit the statement, the ACC filed a graft case against him on non-submission charge.

Mamun, who is now in jail, told the court on May 29 that he could not submit his wealth statement in time as he was in the joint forces custody from January 31 to March 26.

Mamun's counsel earlier told the court about their intention to produce witnesses from different newspapers before the court to corroborate the defendant's claim, but they failed to produce any such witnesses.

Mamun's counsel argued yesterday that the ACC Secretary Delwar Hossain, who issued the notice on February 18 asking for the wealth statement, has no authority to do so.

Prosecution lawyers argued against the claim of Mamun's counsel.

# Special court

**FROM PAGE 16**  
three lakh digital telephones without tender.

MAHS Rahman of the firm is also an accused in the case as he was "illegally" appointed by the then post and telecommunications minister as consultant to supervise the project that harmed the country's interest.

Abdul Hai, an officer of the now-defunct bureau of anti-corruption, lodged the case against Nasim and Rahman with Ramna Police Station on January 8, 2002.

He also investigated the case and submitted the charge sheet against them on June 13, 2002.

# Chinese ship

**FROM PAGE 16**  
serious, hospital sources said.

The fire broke out at about 6:45am at the master's cabin of the vessel of Cosco Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd berthed at jetty 1 of the port and soon spread to adjacent rooms, port sources said.

Informed, two units of Fire Brigade, Chittagong Port's rescue ship Kandari-10 and Navy ship Khadem rushed to the spot. The blaze was brought under control within one hour and was completely put out at about 10:00am after two hours' frantic efforts.

The vessel with cargoes from Korea berthed at the jetty on Saturday, sources said.

To probe the incident, the CPA formed a three-member committee headed by Harbour Master Captain AKM Jafarullah Chowdhury yesterday, which would submit a report within three days starting from today.

Deputy Managing Director Khandaker Sirajuddin of Cosco Shipping, a sister concern of HRC Shipping Lines, told The Daily Star that they were not sure about the origin of the fire as of 11:00am. He, however, suspected electric short circuit.

Although sources said that the extent of damage could only be determined after the completion of investigation, Shafiqul Alam Jewel, managing director of berth operator Ruhul Amin and Brothers, estimated that the damage would be no less than Tk 1 crore.

# Canada

**FROM PAGE 16**  
government came up at the meeting. Richardson expressed her optimism about the success of the reform programme.

The adviser apprised her of the efforts of the caretaker government to improve human rights situation despite difficult conditions prevailing in the country. "We are anxious to restore democracy and protect human rights in a more stable way," he said.

On reform programme and anti-graft drive, the adviser sought cooperation from friendly countries like Canada in achieving the goals.

# ACC to probe

**FROM PAGE 16**  
committee to look into the allegations against the employees of the commission. A committee will be constituted ... And we'll take action against an employee soon," ACC chairman Lt Gen Hasan Mashud Chowdhury told reporters yesterday.

He, however, would not disclose the name of the ACC employee against whom the internal committee is going to act.

But, a highly placed source at the ACC said the committee will first investigate the alleged corruption by Hasibur Rahman, deputy director of the commission's Mymensingh unit.

According to the source, the ACC chairman has already been convinced that the suspected official has amassed wealth through illegal means. "So, the chairman didn't pay heed to Hasibur's request of voluntary retirement, early retirement or deputation to other department."

In reply to a query about giving wealth statements of commission officials working at district-level, the ACC chairman said the reports have already come to the commission and those are being discussed.

Sought comments about asking for the wealth statements of advisers to the caretaker government, Mashud advised the newspaper editors to come up first with their wealth statements before asking others to do so. "It's not right to point fingers."

About the coordination meeting between the commission and members of the taskforces, the ACC chairman said the meeting was intended to reflect the works done by the commission along with others and there is no lack of coordination.

"The meeting also discussed ways how to take the works ahead. From time to time such meetings will be held here or somewhere else."

On his reported remarks about taking actions against those responsible for the pre-emergency situation, the ACC chairman said his comments have been slightly misinterpreted and there is no relation between him and political chiefs.

"I said this situation has arisen

because people have lost confidence in those people. People have lost confidence in them because they couldn't do their jobs. I talked about taking actions against those who are involved in corruption not in chaos."

To a query about corporate corruption, he said the ACC can take action against individuals, not the corporate houses.

# Hasina

**FROM PAGE 16**  
well-wishers should not be treated as extortion," she said while talking to party leaders at her Sudha Sadan residence.

Meherpur District AL President Joinal Abedin, Awami Ulema League leader Liaquat Hossain Belai, Juba Mohila League General Secretary Prof Apu Ukil and its central leader Sabina Akhter Tuhin met Hasina at her residence.

They quoted Hasina as saying that many mills and factories in the public sector were in operation during the five-year rule of the AL government when workers and employees of these mills used to pay subscriptions voluntarily to the party fund.

The meeting sources said that Hasina instructed her party leaders and workers to have patience taking into consideration the situation now prevailing in the country.

Hasina expressed her deep concern over health condition of the party's detained General Secretary Abdul Jalil who is now undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

Meanwhile, security in and around Hasina's Sudha Sadan residence has been tightened since Sunday as the law enforcers are not allowing more than two leaders of the party at a time to enter the house to meet their party chief.

In the evening, Sheikh Hasina went to the Banani residence of her cousin Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, who is now in jail, to see her