

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 Dharmundi 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 HSBC 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 Mobarak 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 Ramma Police Station on March 20 against the two in connection with submitting a 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

some evidence in this regard. But we do not want to give details of the findings for the sake of investigation," AHM Rezaul Karim, acting secretary to the ministry of environment and forest, said.

LITU ON REMAND

Another Dhaka court placed owner of Bengal Group Abul Khair Litu on a three-day remand yesterday. Moreover, there is a 30-day detention proposal from the home ministry.

Police said Litu accumulated huge wealth through illegal means and was involved in a conspiracy to destabilise the country.

The joint forces following information provided by former FBCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo picked up Litu from a residential hotel in Gulshan in the capital Sunday.

There are allegations against Litu of land grabbing, smuggling of money abroad through his satellite channel distribution business, and of defaulting on repayments of loans.

CASE AGAINST HASHEM AND BAKUL

UNB Reports: Former BNP lawmaker and Partex Group Chairman MA Hashem and four of his associates were sued in a case filed in connection with grabbing forest department's land.

FM Shahidul Haque, a forest officer, filed the case against Hashem and his associates with Joydevpur Police Station Sunday night. The four include M Mostafa, Shafiquddin, Kamru and Raham Ali.

In the first information report (FIR), the complainant said Hashem grabbed 5,300 square feet of forest land under Bahadurpur Mouza of Rajendrapur forest.

Hashem, now in jail in another case, cut all the trees on the land and filled the land with earth on May 23, said the plaintiff.

The joint forces arrested the industrialist from his Mohakali Partex office in Dhaka on May 28.

Meanwhile, an extortion case was filed against lawmaker Sarder Shahidul Hossain Bakul and 40 others with Monohardi Police Station yesterday.

Makbul Hossain, manager of Vanguard Syndicate brickfield, lodged the case saying Bakul and his followers grabbed the brickfield in October 2001.

Owner of the brickfield Col (retd) Abdur Rouf later paid Tk one lakh to get back the brickfield.

The complainant said he paid the extortion money to Bakul.

RAID ON MOKAMMEL'S HOUSE

Joint forces on Sunday seized firearms and documents raiding the Gulshan residence of former secretary and AL leader M Mokammel Hossain.

House helps of the residence said the six-hour-long raid started around 4:00pm and the law enforcers went through rooms breaking open the locks of the several doors, drawers and safes.

Mokammel is allegedly in London visiting his daughter who fell ill recently. He left Dhaka a few days ago, the sources said.

JALIL'S CONDITION

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, admitted to the coronary care unit of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Sunday night, has undergone 17 medical tests yesterday.

"Jalil is suffering from heart, kidney, diabetes and urinary complications. But these are not serious enough to be worried about at this moment," Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui, deputy inspector general (Prison), quoting the doctors looking after Jalil said.

The tests Jalil underwent include blood, urine and X-ray.

Jalil complained about chest pain soon after a court ordered to send him to prison on Sunday. He was admitted to BSMMU's coronary care unit later that day.

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 was on his way back to the club at Shahbagh after making the withdrawal from an HSBC bank branch on Sonargaon Road at Kathalbaghan.

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 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 officer 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.

President

FROM PAGE 1

and deepened in the days to come.

The president told the envoy that the government of Albania could import sophisticated pharmaceuticals and garments from Bangladesh at a very competitive price.

He also stressed the need for enhancing bilateral trade and commerce and urged the Albanian investors to invest in Bangladesh, particularly in field of energy and pharmaceuticals, taking advantage of the attractive package of incentives offered by the government of Bangladesh.

He assured the ambassador of all support and cooperation in discharging his duties in Bangladesh and wished him good health and happiness.

The president conveyed his greetings and best wishes to Albanian President Alfred Moisius and invited him to visit Bangladesh.

The envoy said the relations between Albania and Bangladesh are excellent and it will be further strengthened in the days to come.

He stressed the need for visit of trade bodies for exploring all avenues of economic cooperation and gave due importance to boosting educational programme for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Earlier on his arrival at the Bangabhaban, the ambassador was given a guard of honour by the president's guard regiment.

Military Secretary to the President Major General Md Aminul Karim, Secretary to the President's Office Sirajul Islam and Foreign Secretary-in-Charge Touhid Hossain were present.

Power tariff

FROM PAGE 16

taking time by forming the committee and electricity price might be adjusted later in July," said an official seeking anonymity.

The power ministry proposed to increase per unit rate for electricity by Tk 0.45 in the next one year (in three phases) for users of all categories. It also suggested reviewing the price situation at least once a year.

The advisory committee on economic affairs also put off approving a proposal for withdrawing the limit to buying power from the independent power producers (IPP). According to the existing rules, the government can buy at the maximum 1,780 megawatts of power from the IPPs.

According to a statement of the DFO, a total of 30,89,130 segun saplings and a large variety of fruit trees were planted in the forest in the last 21 years. But during a recent visit to where the forest once was, The Daily Star correspondent could not find a single tree of any kind there.

Communications Secretary Dr Mahbubur Rahman and Executive Director of Jamuna Bridge Authority Khan Mohammad Ibrahim were present at the meeting.

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.

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.

According to a statement of the DFO, a total of 30,89,130 segun saplings and a large variety of fruit trees were planted in the forest in the last 21 years. But during a recent visit to where the forest once was, The Daily Star correspondent could not find a single tree of any kind there.

The power ministry suggested withdrawal of the ceiling on buying power from IPPs as it believes the existing government initiatives are not enough to meet the demand.

"We will consider the proposal after reviewing possible impact on the budget and balance of payment," said the power ministry projection.

It also said that the demand for power would be 5,569 MW by next year and to keep up with the demand the ministry would have to develop a capacity to produce around 2,000 MW more electricity within a year.

The power ministry suggested withdrawal of the ceiling on buying power from IPPs as it believes the existing government initiatives are not enough to meet the demand.

"We will consider the proposal after reviewing possible impact on the budget and balance of payment," said the power ministry projection.

It also said that the demand for power would be 5,569 MW by next year and to keep up with the demand the ministry would have to develop a capacity to produce around 2,000 MW more electricity within a year.

The power ministry suggested withdrawal of the ceiling on buying power from IPPs as it believes the existing government initiatives are not enough to meet the demand.

"We will consider the proposal after reviewing possible impact on the budget and balance of payment," said the power ministry projection.

It also said that the demand for power would be 5,569 MW by next year and to keep up with the demand the ministry would have to develop a capacity to produce around 2,000 MW more electricity within a year.

The power ministry suggested withdrawal of the ceiling on buying power from IPPs as it believes the existing government initiatives are not enough to meet the demand.

"We will consider the proposal after reviewing possible impact on the budget and balance of payment," said the power ministry projection.

It also said that the demand for power would be 5,569 MW by next year and to keep up with the demand the ministry would have to develop a capacity to produce around 2,000 MW more electricity within a year.

The power ministry suggested withdrawal of the ceiling on buying power from IPPs as it believes the existing government initiatives are not enough to meet the demand.

"We will consider the proposal after reviewing possible impact on the budget and balance of payment," said the power ministry projection.

It also said that the demand for power would be 5,569 MW by next year and to keep up with the demand the ministry would have to develop a capacity to produce around 2,000 MW more electricity within a year.

The power ministry suggested withdrawal of the ceiling on buying power from IPPs as it believes the existing government initiatives are not enough to meet the demand.

"We will consider the proposal after reviewing possible impact on the budget and balance of payment," said the power ministry projection.

It also said that the demand for power would be 5,569 MW by next year and to keep up with the demand the ministry would have to develop a capacity to produce around 2,000 MW more electricity within a year.

The power ministry suggested withdrawal of the ceiling on buying power from IPPs as it believes the existing government initiatives are not enough to meet the demand.

"We will consider the proposal after reviewing possible impact on the budget and balance of payment," said the power ministry projection.

It also said that the demand for power would be 5,569 MW by next year and to keep up with the demand the ministry would have