

Verdict in Manju's liquor possessing case Tuesday

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ant and the IO of the case. On June 3, the same court framed charges against Manju in his absence and issued arrest warrant against him.

Before the order, the court had asked Manju to appear before the court to defend himself but he failed to oblige the court order. So, the court had cancelled his bail.

On May 14, Dhanmondi police pressed charges against Manju in the case.

Sub-Inspector Amirul Islam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate showing 12 people as prosecution witnesses.

On March 8, the joint forces raided Manju's Dhanmondi residence and seized 21 bottles of contraband liquor. Later, a case under the Narcotics Control Act was filed against him.

Following the case, Manju obtained bail from the High Court.

MOUDUD CASE

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday adjourned the hearing following a time petition by the defence lawyers.

On the other hand, two prosecution witnesses including the complainant appeared before the court

to give their statements.

On Monday, the same court framed charges against Moudud where he pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before it after the charges were read out.

In the yesterday's petition, Moudud's lawyers mentioned that they had earlier filed a petition with the High Court (HC) seeking quashment of the case and the matter is pending for hearing.

So, the recording of statements of the witnesses should be adjourned until the matter is not held, said the lawyers.

The prosecution told the court that the law has given specific time limit to dispose of the case.

On hearing both the sides, the court fixed June 24 for next hearing of the case.

Mohamad Obaidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka on May 28 showing 10 people as prosecution witnesses.

The joint forces apprehended Moudud, also an influential BNP leader, on April 13 raiding his Gulshan residence in the capital.

The forces also seized various documents and 220 sarsis meant for government relief to the poor.

Later, a case was filed against Moudud, a member of BNP standing committee, under Section 25 (B) of the Special Powers Act, 1974 for obtaining foreign liquors evading government tax.

In the charge sheet, the IO mentioned that the charges brought against Moudud were primarily proved and he should be brought to justice.

Following his arrest, Moudud was taken on a four-day remand for interrogation.

On March 25, the National Board of Revenue directed banks to freeze the accounts of Moudud Ahmed and his wife.

Moudud served as a minister in three cabinets since the country's independence in 1971. He also served as a prime minister and as a vice-president.

CASE AGAINST SARWAR

Barisal City Corporation Mayor Mujibor Rahman Sarwar was shown arrested yesterday in the case filed for possessing illegal ammunition at his Salton Myers residence at Gulshan in the capital.

Metropolitan Magistrate Quamrunnahar passed the order following a petition by the IO of the case.

Gulshan police on Monday filed the case against Sarwar for pos-

sessing illegal ammunition at his residence.

Deputy Assistant Director Akheruzzaman of Rab-3 lodged the case against Sarwar with Gulshan Police Station.

Sarwar was picked up from his Gulshan residence at about 9:30am on May 29. The crack forces raided his residence in Gulshan and seized four bullets, Tk 4 lakh, gold ornaments weighing 50 tola and some documents.

MAMUN CASE

Four more prosecution witnesses (PWs) of an arms case against controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun yesterday gave their statements at a Dhaka court.

Earlier, nineteen other PWs had given their statements before the same court.

Judge Mohammad Abul Bashar of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court recorded statements of the witnesses and fixed Monday for next hearing of the case.

Mamun was produced before the court during the hearing of the case.

On April 26, Cantonment police submitted the charge sheet against Mamun to the CMM's Court, Dhaka showing 12 people as prosecution witnesses.

Shahrum Khan, officer-in-charge

of Cantonment Police Station and also the IO of the case, pressed charges against Mamun, who was arrested at his Banani DOHS residence on March 26.

Police seized a .22 Spanish pistol and eight bullets from his house.

Later, an arms case was filed against Mamun and he was placed on a four-day remand.

CASE AGAINST RAFIQL

Another Dhaka court yesterday fixed July 16 for trial of a graft case against former energy and mineral resources minister and Awami League leader professor Rafiul Islam.

Judge Malik Abdullah Al Amin of the Special court for Dhaka Division set the date after Rafiul was produced before the court.

On January 8, 2002, an official of the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) filed the case with Ramma Police Station for causing a loss of Tk 23 crore to the state in connection with setting up Meghnaghat Power Station.

LOBI-MUNSHI CASE

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed Sunday and Monday for hearing of two graft cases against detained former BNP lawmakers Ali Asgar Lobi, Manzurul Ahsan Munshi and four of their family members.

After scrutinising the case dockets and other relevant documents, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set the dates.

The cases were filed on March 21 and 27 against them for submitting false wealth statements to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on different dates.

Other accused are Lobi's wife Khushnud Asgar, Manzurul's wife Mazed Ahsan Munshi and his two sons barrister Rizviul Ahsan Munshi and Rizwanul Ahsan Munshi.

On June 17, the ACC pressed charges against them in connection with the cases filed with Gulshan Police Station.

Poor students lag behind as good results depend

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percent success and a total of 32,646 students achieved the highest grade point average five (GPA-5) this year against 30,490 of last year.

Schools in urban areas particularly those in metropolitan cities dominate the GPA-5 category this year. Among the top 10 GPA-5 securing schools under Dhaka Education Board nine are in the capital, in Chittagong Education Board six out of the best 10 are in Chittagong city, in Comilla Board seven out of the top 10 are in Comilla Sadar upazila, in Sylhet Board six out of top 10 GPA-5 securing schools are in Sylhet city and all the 10 best GPA-5 securing schools under Jessore Board are in Khulna city, Jessore and Kushtia Sadar upazilas.

Education Secretary M Mamatzul Islam said the percentage of successful students went down this year due to the long teachers' strike last year observed at non-government schools. Educationists said students of urban areas and of solvent families

made good the loss in lessons while students of rural areas and of poor families could not.

Educationist Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury said disparity in the quality of teaching in rural and urban areas is being seen, an alarming issue for a democratic country.

"A germ has already entered our society. Education has turned into a commodity where investment gets priority. For this reason, students of urban areas performed well in the SSC exams," he told The Daily Star.

This year the pass rate of the SSC exam has declined to 57.37 percent from last year's 59.04 percent. Among the 42.63 percent failed students, over 30 percent students did not pass in English, sources in the computer section of Educational Boards said.

Educationists said most schools in rural areas do not have sufficient teachers, especially English and Math teachers, and so the students of rural areas do not do well in those subjects.

Educationist Prof Maniruzzaman

said disparity between rural and urban areas in terms of availability of good teachers and infrastructure facilities.

"Particularly in rural areas the number of qualified English and Math teachers are inadequate therefore schools in rural areas have poor SSC result," he said adding that communicative English was introduced a few years ago but English teachers particularly in rural areas are not trained to teach the students.

Meanwhile, education ministry introduced a training programme English Language Development Project (ELDP), which did not run properly, teachers alleged.

Besides, students of different schools alleged that teachers of English and Science subjects encourage students to obtain private tuition and do not take classes regularly.

Selina Bhuiyan, chief coordinator of Shikkha Karmachari Oikya Jote,

Miah, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, said there is wide disparity between rural and urban areas in terms of availability of good teachers and infrastructure facilities.

"A combine of non-government teachers' and employees' organisations, said good teachers especially English and Math teachers have a tendency to move to urban areas as they can earn more through private tuition.

He said newly appointed teachers who have completed BA or BSc Pass Degree are very weak in English as the government withdrew compulsory English course since 1980.

Education Watch Report-2006, a survey conducted by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), also pointed finger at the trend towards depending on private tuition. According to the report, 88 percent students of government high schools and 78 percent students of non-government high schools in urban areas have private coaching or tutors. Parents spend Tk 16,894 annually on an average to provide this private education.

Over 2,100 Biman staff

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However, some others said they had no other option to respond to the VRS as the Biman authorities had pressurised them.

Besides, it was not clear what would happen if they did not respond to the VRS, they said.

"I feared that they would fire me if I do not respond to VRS. Then I would not get any benefit," said Golam Sarwar, a class four employee of the Biman.

The Council of Advisers on May 20 approved a proposal to turn Biman Bangladesh Airlines into a PLC by June.

Under the VRS scheme, Biman offered special packages to its employees whose service period exceeded five years.

Implementation of the scheme will require Tk about 297 crore and the World Bank has already provided the amount to the government, Dr MA Momen earlier said.

A company board would be formed comprising the organisations that will take all decisions regarding the Biman.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will be renamed Bangladesh Airlines after its turning into a PLC.

The new operator must be a well-managed airline like Singapore Airlines or Thai Airlines but that will be appointed through open tender, said MA Matin, adviser for communications, shipping and civil aviation ministries.

Army assisting government

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President's Parade at the BMA parade ground at Bhatiary on the occasion of the passing out of 54 BMA cadets.

Among them, 44 cadets, including four female ones, were from the 56th BMA long course while 10 from the 27th BMA Special Course.

The army chief said the army personnel, also children, are the inseparable part of the country's citizens. "They're equal partners of every crisis and happiness of the citizens," he added.

General Moeen said the army is also playing a glorious role in maintaining the tradition of democracy of the country.

He further said Bangladesh Army is appreciated globally for their role in maintaining peace and security all over the world. "We've to go ahead elevating the position," he added.

Addressing the cadets, who passed out the BMA courses, the army chief said, "The sacred responsibility of safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty was imposed on you from this day."

He also advised them to uphold Bangladesh's image, honour and glorious tradition by dint of firmness of personal character and professional efficiency and skill.

Gen Moeen recalled the contributions of the army personnel who sacrificed their lives during the War of Independence in 1971 and said, "The newly commissioned officers should follow the path of their predecessors."

The army chief reviewed the parade and took salute as chief

guest. He also distributed prize among the cadets, who demonstrated excellent performance during the training.

Battalion Senior Under Officer M Ashraf Alam was adjudged the best all-round cadet in the 56th BMA long course and awarded the coveted "Sword of Honour".

Besides, Company Senior Under Officer M Naziruddin received the "Chief of Army Staff (CAS) Gold Medal" for his outstanding performance in military subjects.

The cadets formally took oath and were adorned with the rank badges by their respective parents and guardians. Adjutant of the Academy Major M Humayun Kabir commanded the spectacular parade.

Among others, high civil and military officials, diplomats of foreign missions in Bangladesh and guardians of the cadets witnessed the ceremony.

Earlier, Chittagong Area Commander of Bangladesh Army and General Officer Commanding, 24 Infantry Division Major General Sina Ibn Jamali and Commandant of the Academy Brigadier General Sabirul Karim received the army chief on his arrival at the BMA parade ground.