

WEALTH REPORT ACC taskforce quizzes Tarique at Dhaka jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-member team of the anti-graft national taskforce yesterday questioned Tarique Rahman, the detained son of former premier Khaleda Zia, about his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Led by ACC Deputy Director Zahurul Huda, they quizzed Tarique about his property including a house that he co-owns in the city's Gulshan area. The then government had leased the house No. 3/B in Block NE (D) to the Zia family after Ziaur Rahman's death in 1981.

During the one-and-a-half-hour questioning that started at 4:00pm in the doctor's room of the central jail, the interrogators asked him also about his 2.01-acre land at Sialakandi in Bogra and bank

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Mamun jailed for 10yrs in arms case

Nadim Mostafa gets 5-yr for cheating

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced businessman Glasuddin Al Mamun to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition while a Rajshahi court sentenced former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa and three others to five years' imprisonment in a cheating case.

The judgment of a graft case against detained former state minister for civil aviation Mir Nasiruddin and his son Mir Helaluddin will be delivered today. Judge Mohammad Abul Bashar



Glasuddin Al Mamun

of First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka handed down the verdict against controversial businessman Mamun in his presence in a packed courtroom.

Earlier, Mamun was produced before the court at 4:00pm under tight security.

In the verdict, the judge said Mamun should be given exemplary punishment for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition, but he has been given minimum punishment since he did not use the firearms and ammunition for committing criminal offences.

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Mannan Bhuiyan sued for illegal land registration

Extortion case against Ex-MPs Bakul, Salim

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A case has been filed against BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and four others with a local court for having 10 acres of land registered illegally.

According to the first information report (FIR), Bhuiyan, a former LGD and cooperatives minister, had the land in his name to set up an office for BNP at Badarkhali in Chakoria in 2002.

Badarkhali Krishi Uponbesh Samabay Samity owns the land where the then ruling party built the office at a cost of Tk 10 lakh in 2003, it added.

Moulavi Abdur Rahman and Kafil Uddin, members of the Samity, filed the case on May 4.

They alleged that Salauddin Ahmed, former state minister for communications now on detention, assisted the BNP general secretary in the act violating the cooperative law. Bhuiyan was aided and abetted also by the then

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3 power projects in limbo despite interim govt nod

SHARIER KHAN

Three power projects with a total production capacity of 640 MW, contracts for which were awarded by the previous BNP-led alliance government through various irregularities, have become uncertain though the caretaker government has okayed these tenders.

The projects are 100 MW first phase of Chandpur 150 MW power project, Fenchuganj 90 MW project and 450 MW Meghnaghat-2 project.

Contracts for the first two projects were awarded to incompetent and blacklisted Chinese company Harbin and for the third one to scamster Obaidul Karim's inexperienced BON Consortium.

Controversial Hawa Bhaban played the lead role in these deals. Hawa Bhaban leaders were helped by a section of unscrupulous officials of Power Development Board

(PDB) and the power ministry, who still hold the same strategic posts that they held during the alliance government's tenure. They played important roles in bending government rules and misinterpreting regulations to make the nation swallow these deals, insider sources say.

Blacklisted Harbin is now backtracking from signing the final contract to set up the 100 MW first phase of Chandpur 150 MW Power Project. Harbin wants the PDB to revise the project cost to \$65 million from its original offer of \$ 45 million.

"The PDB is now seeking the power ministry's decision regarding this project. The power ministry sought the law ministry's opinion as to whether this bid could be cancelled or not," said a PDB official.

Harbin was awarded the

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Tuku's wife, son, daughter sent to jail

ACC presses graft charges against Nasim

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Wife, son and daughter of former state minister for power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku were sent to jail yesterday as a Dhaka court rejected their bail petition in a case filed for misappropriation of public funds between their source of income and wealth report.

Charges were pressed against former home minister and Awami League (AL) leader Mohammad Nasim and his wife by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday in connection with a graft case.

Charges were framed against detained former communications minister barrister Nazmul Huda and two others in a theft case. Charges were also pressed against former BNP lawmaker Salihuddin Ahmed in a money laundering case.

TUKU CASE
Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq
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Khaleda readies her own reform proposals

To be placed at party council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has prepared draft proposals for intra-party reforms stipulating that no one will be allowed to hold posts in the party and in government simultaneously, and party leaders at all levels will be elected through secret ballots, according to a source close to her.

A three-member committee led

by a former lawmaker drafted the proposals with directions from Khaleda, which will be placed before a party council for bringing changes in the party constitution.

Khaleda in her draft proposals however did not mention provisions regarding term limits for the posts of party chairperson and secretary general.

The source said the former

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EC plans dialogue barring small parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) this time plans to keep in-name-only political parties out of the talks on its proposals for electoral reforms.

It might invite around 20 political parties to the dialogue and most of those would be selected using the criteria set [in the draft proposals] for registration, said sources in the EC Secretariat.

To be registered with the commission, a political party must have

representation in any of the parliaments since 1973 or offices in at least half of the existing 64 administrative districts.

"Political parties that are fit for registration with the commission will be given priority," Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakawat Hossain told reporters at his office yesterday.

Only later could some other political parties be allowed to express their opinion on the proposed

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Tigers hit new low

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

It seems that only rain can save Bangladesh from further embarrassment in the ongoing tour of Sri Lanka after the local bowlers made mockery of the Tigers on the first day of the second Test at the P Sara Stadium here on Tuesday.

Mohammad Ashraf's men slumped to their lowest ever Test

total after being bundled out for 62 in just 25.2 overs, which gave a clear indication that they had hardly learned anything from their first Test mistakes where they had been dismissed for 89 in the first innings.

Bangladesh's previous lowest total of 86 was also against Sri Lanka here in 2005 at the Premadasa Stadium and this time,

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