

Tax evasion case

FROM PAGE 1
Proceedings of cases filed against detained former home minister Mohammad Nasim and former law minister Moudud Ahmed were adjourned yesterday.

GRAFT CASE AGAINST TUKU
Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's court yesterday sent the graft case filed against Tuku, his wife, son and daughter to the Fourth Special Court set up at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel.

The court also fixed today [Wednesday] for hearing on charge framing against Tuku, his wife Romana Mahmud, son Abed Hassan Mahmud and daughter Sarah Hassan Mahmud in connection with the graft case.

During yesterday's hearing, Tuku and three others were produced before the court following a court order.

The case was filed against them for giving false information in the wealth statements submitted to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

On June 21, ACC Deputy Director (DD) Golam Shahrier Chowdhury filed the case against them with Mohammadpur Police Station, as their wealth valued at Tk 35.95 crore did not match with the sources of their income.

On June 28, ACC Assistant

Director ASM Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan, the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Tuku, his wife, son and daughter to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka showing 61 people as prosecution witnesses.

TAX EVASION CASE AGAINST TUKU

Before transferring this case to Fourth Special Court, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed today [Wednesday] for hearing on charge framing of a case against Tuku filed in connection with evading Tk 3.80 crore income tax.

On July 4, the court issued an arrest warrant against Tuku after Mohammad Nurul Amin, deputy tax commissioner of Taxpayers' Service Wing of National Board of Revenue (NBR), filed the case.

In his complaint, Amin said Tuku evaded a total of Tk 3,80,14,048.30 in income tax during fiscal years 1999-2007.

Tuku repeatedly gave false information to the income tax department about his real income and expenditure and did not show his income tax returns. He also used his ministerial position to conceal information about his real income, the complainant added.

Moreover, Tuku did not submit statements about his non-agricultural properties, motor vehicles, bank statements, credit cards and other savings including fixed deposits and interest on them, Amin added.

On February 5, the joint forces arrested Tuku at his Mohammadpur residence.

CASE AGAINST NASIM
The same court yesterday fixed July 19 for hearing on the graft case filed against Nasim and his wife in connection with submitting false wealth statements to the ACC.

The court adjourned the hearing following a time petition from the defence lawyers on grounds that Nasim's wife Laila Arzumand Banu could not appear before the court due to illness.

On July 3, ACC Assistant Director Mahbul Alam submitted the charge sheet against Nasim and his wife before the CMM Court, Dhaka showing 31 people as prosecution witnesses.

On March 21, ACC Deputy Director Akhter Hossain filed the case against Nasim and his wife with Dhanmondi Police Station.

In the case, Akhter said in their statements Nasim and his wife concealed information about their wealth worth Tk 1.26 crore.

Nasim is now in jail while his wife

is on bail.

CASE AGAINST MOUDUD

Another Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the proceedings of the liquor possession case filed against Moudud till July 12 following a time petition from Moudud's defence lawyers.

Judge AKM Enamul Haq of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set the date following the time petition that said the High Court earlier stayed all proceedings of the case for three months.

The order came after Moudud's lawyers submitted a petition to the HC to quash the case. However, they did not get any certified copy of the stay order. So, they sought adjournment of the hearing until they are able to submit the stay order, the lawyers said.

Moudud was present at the court during yesterday's hearing.

CASE AGAINST SARWAR

Metropolitan Magistrate Shamsul Alam yesterday permitted Sub-inspector (SI) Mohammad Shahidullah to interrogate Sarwar at the gate of Dhaka Central Jail in a case filed in connection with possessing illegal ammunition at his Salton Myers residence at Gulshan in the capital.

The IO in the forwarding report placed before the court said Sarwar is needed to be quizzed about the bullets seized at his residence on May 29.

On June 18, Deputy Assistant Director Akhteruzzaman of Rapid Action Battalion-3 lodged the case against Sarwar with Gulshan Police Station.

Sarwar was picked up at his Gulshan home around 9:30am on May 29. The crack forces raided his home and seized Tk 4 lakh, gold ornaments weighing 50 tolas and some documents along with the ammunition.

EX-FOREST BOSS SENT TO JAIL
Former chief forest conservator Anwarul Islam was sent to jail yesterday on completion of his five-day remand in connection with a graft case.

Metropolitan Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah passed the order after ACC Assistant Director Talebur Rahman produced him before the court without any remand prayer for further interrogation.

The ACC filed the case against Anwar and 79 others on June 25 with Gulshan Police Station in connection with his indulging in irregularities in recruiting people.

CASE AGAINST FALU'S WIFE
The hearing of the tax evasion case filed against Mahbuba Sultana, wife of detained former BNP lawmaker Mossaddak Ali Falu, will be held today [Wednesday].

On July 5, Senior Special Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka issued an arrest warrant against Falu's wife after Mohammad Masudur Rahman Masud, deputy tax commissioner of Tax Circle of the NBR, filed the case.

In his complaint, Masud said Mahbuba had evaded a total of Tk 1.58 crore income tax during fiscal years 2001-2006.

Mahbuba repeatedly gave false information to the income tax department about her real income and expenditure and did not show her income tax returns. She also concealed information about her real income, the complainant added.

Moreover, Mahbuba did not submit statements about her salary received from ntv, even though she had withdrawn Tk 9,60,000 from the satellite TV channel. After a long investigation, the Central Intelligence Cell found out about her taking salary from ntv, Masud added.

On her way out of the hospital Hasina went on a tirade with ample media attention on her, against the Directorate of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), accusing the agency, known to many as the most powerful intelligence organisation of the country, of manipulating every aspect of the affairs of state and of administering tortures on detained former ministers, lawmakers and other detained big shots.

The allegations were however rebutted by the government the very next day.

According to sources, the authorities withdrew special branch officers from the hospital just few moments before Khaleda would start for the hospital from her cantonment residence yesterday. At the same time some officials informed her that she would not be able to go to the hospital for security reasons.

Khaleda Zia told the officials that she had no problem in going to the hospital without the presence of security personnel there, but the authorities concerned still did not allow her to leave her house, the sources said.

NCBs recover

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Three months against the year's total target of Tk 169 crore, which is only 0.63 percent. Janata Bank's performance was a bit better and it realised Tk 6.47 crore or 23.52 percent against a target of Tk 27.5 crore from the top defaulters and Rupali Bank recovered Tk 38 lakh against a target of Tk 38.5 crore.

The Agrani Bank, however, could not recover a single penny against the target of Tk 19.8 crore.

An official of the Agrani Bank said that they are negotiating with the top 20 defaulters and hoped that the bank will be able to realise a handsome amount in the remaining months of the year.

In case of other defaulted loans, Sonali Bank realised Tk 94.56 crore in first three months against the year's target of Tk 440 crore, Janata Bank recovered Tk 42.91 crore against the target of Tk 165 crore, Agrani Bank realised Tk 56.71 against Tk 275 crore target and Rupali Bank realised Tk 9.17 crore against a target of Tk 66 crore.

The data shows that among the NCBs, Rupali Bank's credit growth was 1.23 percent in the first three months of the year and the Sonali Bank's growth was 0.29 percent. Other two NCBs, Janata and Agrani, however, witnessed negative credit growth, 8 percent and 5.50 percent.

Earlier, the central bank set a limit of credit growth in the NCBs that says that it will not exceed 5 percent comparing to the previous year.

Khaleda, Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
President Sheikh Hasina came down heavily on the government especially the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) for what she said were state-sanctioned atrocities against the people in particular the political leaders.

Khaleda too has made some scathing remarks against the caretaker government as well as the pro-reform leaders in her party.

Sources said the law enforcement authorities have already told Hasina's personal staff that she would require permission for going out of her Sudha Sadan residence. This however won't be applicable to the madrasa had caught fire. The official requested anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to media.

Tuesday attack followed a botched commando raid on the high-walled mosque compound over the weekend.

On Monday, Musharraf assigned ex-premier Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain to try and negotiate a peaceful to the standoff.

But Hussain and a delegation of Islamic clerics returned crestfallen from the mosque before dawn Tuesday after about nine hours of talks with rebel leader Abdul Rashid Ghazi via loudspeakers and cell phones.

"We offered him a lot, but he wasn't ready to come on our terms," Hussain told reporters waiting at the edge of the army cordon.

Rehmatullah Khalil, a senior cleric who was part of a 12-member delegation of mediators, accused Musharraf of sabotaging a draft agreement to end the siege.

He said Hussain had prepared an agreement under which Ghazi was to be briefly held in protective custody, and the government would agree to free the students. Only those being sought by police were to be detained.

"We were happy and hoping that

Red Mosque

FROM PAGE 1
cleared of the militants who are armed with machine guns, rocket launchers and machine bombs. They put up tough resistance from the basement of the mosque, Arshad said, adding rebels also fired from minarets and booby trapped some areas. "Those who surrender will be arrested, but the others will be treated as combatants and killed," he said.

Pakistan's Religious Affairs Minister Mohammed Ijaz ul-Haq quoting the mosque's leader said foreign militants were among the defenders. He did not give the numbers or their nationalities.

The assault began minutes after a delegation led by a former prime minister left the area declaring that efforts to negotiate a peaceful end to a week-old siege had failed.

An associate of the mosque's chief cleric, Abdul Rashid Ghazi, told the private Geo Television network that troops had seized the mosque but that resistance was continuing from inside the religious school.

The assault was signalled by blasts and gunfire. About three and a half hours after the assault started, Arshad said 50 to 60 percent of the complex had been "cleared" but resistance continued in "various places."

Some 40 militants had been killed and between 15 to 20 had been wounded. Arshad said three special forces commandos were also killed and 15 wounded.

Ghazi told Geo TV that his mother had been wounded by gunshot. There was no immediate official confirmation of his claim but one of Ghazi's aides, Abdul Rahman, later said she had died.

"The government is using full force. This is naked aggression," he said. "My martyrdom is certain now."

He said that about 30 militants were resisting security forces but were only armed with 14 AK-47 assault rifles.

As the fighting rolled on, emergency workers at an army cordon waiting for access to the compound. Women police officers were on standby to handle any female survivors or casualties.

A senior civilian official said troops had arrested dozens of people inside the compound and that part of the madrasa had caught fire. The official requested anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to media.

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Dengue

FROM PAGE 16
Corporation (DCC), fumigation drives are on in the city to combat the situation and the DCC is monitoring the situation.

DCC also intends to launch a mass awareness campaign to clean up all areas in the city and destroy breeding places of dengue-bearing mosquitoes. Volunteers and boy scouts have been requested to help the DCC with the campaign, he added.

In last six years, Bangladesh raised concerns over the outbreak of dengue fever, which has killed 130 people. A total of 1,423 people in Dhaka were infected with the disease and four of them died in 2006.

Warmer weather and heavy rains help the mosquito-borne virus spread through the region. There is no treatment for dengue, which can cause high fever, rash, headache, and severe muscle and joint pains. A more severe form can cause hemorrhagic fever.

Aedes, the dengue-carrying mosquito, breed in stagnant water in houses, construction sites, schools and factories.

Biman flight

FROM PAGE 1
general manager (central control) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"By the time the Airbus was repaired and fit to fly, we had missed the slot at Heathrow. As we were awaiting a fresh slot, the aircraft was used for a flight to another destination," he added.

Biman DGM (airport service) Mohammad Hasan last night told The Daily Star that they would bring the passengers to the airport by 9:30pm.

the nation will hear a good news, but the government changed almost all clauses of the draft agreement," he told The Associated Press. "We were stunned on seeing changes in the draft agreement, and we don't know why the government did so."

"The government is responsible for today's bloodshed."

Hussain rejected the claim that the president's office had made changes to the draft.

"No this is not correct," he said.

Ul-Haq said the negotiations broke down on the issue of what would happen to foreign militants within the compound.

The minister said that during the talks, Ghazi suddenly asked what would happen to the foreign militants. The government side, he said, responded that they would be dealt with according to the law.

"On hearing it, Ghazi stopped the telephone conversation," ul-Haq said.

He said it was the first time that Ghazi acknowledged that foreign militants were present inside the mosque.

Several loud explosions were heard just as the vexed looking delegates were getting into their cars and sporadic shooting was also heard.

About two dozen relatives of people trapped inside the complex waited anxiously at the army cordon during the assault.

The government has said wanted terrorists are organising the defence of the mosque, while Ghazi has accused security forces of killing scores of students.

In his comments on Tuesday, Ghazi said he had offered to show the mediators that they had no heavy weapons, foreign militants or other wanted people inside the mosque.

The siege has given the neighbourhood the look of a war zone, with troops manning machine guns behind sandbagged posts and from the top of armoured vehicles.

It has also sparked anger in Pakistan's restive northwest frontier. On Monday, 20,000 tribesmen, including hundreds of masked militants wielding assault rifles, held a protest in the frontier region of Bajur.

Many chanted "Death to Musharraf" and "Death to America" in a rally led by Maulana Faqir Mohammed, a cleric wanted by authorities and who is suspected of ties to al-Qaeda No 2 leader Ayman al-Zawahri.

Zillur criticises

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the remarks during an interview with a private TV channel on Monday.

Zillur said, "Mainul Hossain has forgotten that he is an adviser of a nonpartisan and non-political caretaker government. His remarks proved that the incumbent caretaker government is not nonpartisan."

The AL leader said Mainul has no moral right to remain as an adviser, as he breached his oath through his biased acts and the caretaker government will have to bear the responsibility of this statement.

Zillur urged the caretaker government to lift the ban on indoor politics.

Rab arrests

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saw a bullet-injured person was being taken away from there.

Rab officials from Mymensingh and Dhaka jointly conducted the raid at 9:45am following information extracted from Saiful, who was arrested for killing Rafiqul Islam, a madrasa teacher, in Mukttagachha, on Monday.

Three criminals, including Saiful and Sagor, gunned down Rafiqul while he was going to the madrasa at Dullachandi in Mukttagachha from his house in Binnakuri on Monday morning. Local caught Saiful and Sagor and handed them over to Rab.

286,000 held

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Besides, police netted about 2100 firearms, over 1280 other weapons and over 25,000 rounds of ammunition, while Rab seized over 1022 firearms, 17148 rounds of bullet, 423 explosives and 474 other weapons during the drives.

The arrested persons also include over 600 "listed criminals" held by police.

The high profile arrests were made under Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed's caretaker government declared war on corruption and criminal godfathers.

FBCCI election

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election, which was scheduled for August 16.

The tenure of the present executive committee of FBCCI will end on September 5 this year. If the federation does not get a new executive body before that, the commerce ministry may appoint an administrator in the apex body, sources said.

As per the FBCCI constitution, of the 38 executive committee members, 12 is elected from district level chambers and 12 from trade associations, while seven is nominated from the MCCI and six divisional chambers and seven others from leading trade associations.

Alamgir

FROM PAGE 1
was a secretary. He met him (Alamgir) on different occasions, and he did not seem to be a corrupt person.

Sources said in all six defence witnesses including his brother Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir would give testimonies for the former state minister.

The court has already recorded statements of 37 prosecution witnesses in the case.

Alamgir, a bureaucrat-turned-politician, is facing trial on charges of amassing wealth worth Tk 1.17 crore through illegal means.

Ershad

FROM PAGE 16
Tk 35 lakh loan taken by M/S Three Star Poultry Farm Limited.

Later, a graft case was filed with Motijheel Police Station against Ershad, Mosharraf, BSB Managing Director Jahangir Kabir, Directors Firoz Kabir and Borhan Uddin and Jahangir's wife Nurunnahar Shelly.

Of them, Jahangir and his wife Shelly are still at large while others are now on bail.

The investigation officer pressed charges against Ershad and five others on November 6, 1991.

ANOTHER GRAFT CASE

The same court yesterday adjourned the proceedings of another graft case against Ershad until July 22 following a time petition submitted by the defence lawyers.

On the other hand, five prosecution witnesses appeared before the court yesterday for giving their statements.

According to a case, filed with Tejgaon Police Station in 1992, Ershad, while in power, allegedly directed the authorities concerned to purchase ENG (electronic news-gathering) equipment worth about Tk 2.93 crore to be used by him and his wife though all broadcasting facilities were available at his secretariat.

Duta rejects

FROM PAGE 16
Grants Commission," he read out from a written statement at a press conference on the DU campus.

At the press conference, Duta President Prof Sadrul Amin urged the government not to impose the umbrella act.

Duta leaders expressed their concern that the autonomy and uniqueness of the public universities will be hampered and the universities will take the shape of a college or a school if the law is implemented.

Each public university is separate from another public university and should be allowed to be run in an environment free from government control. One umbrella law for all public universities is not realistic, the DU teachers said.

The Duta statement said the 1973 ordinance is held responsible for the corruption, irregularities and mismanagement in the four public universities, but it is the incidents of government interference in appointing the VCs and other top officials that have marred these universities' reputation.

The University Grants Commission has already sent the draft of the Umbrella Act 2007 to the Ministry of Education.

According to the draft, a search committee will select persons for all top posts of the public universities including the vice-chancellors, pro-vice-chancellors, treasurers, syndicate members and deans. The president will form the search committee headed by a retired vice-chancellor.

According to the Public University Ordinance 1973, syndicate members and deans are elected.

The Duta leaders said any decision regarding the search committee without consulting the teachers of these public universities will be considered as government interference.

Decisions on such crucial issues should be left for an elected government, they said.

Prof Yunus

FROM PAGE 16
poor people used donor money to build a bridge themselves, "every bit of this bridge will go to the poor people," he said.

Poor people "can then develop a business strategy and invest into a second bridge and deal with the donor country -- give us half the money and we'll provide the other half," he said. "Conceptually it can be done."

The 67-year old economist, who briefly flirted with politics amid political uncertainty in Bangladesh earlier this year, said the poor were reliable partners.

He criticised banking institutions "which refuse to extend their service to almost two-third of the world's population telling them they're not credit worthy."

"Poor people are good clients for banking. Their performance is as good and sometimes even better than rich people who borrow from the conventional banks," he said.

Army chief feels

FROM PAGE 1
He said the army is not intervening in government decisions but working to execute them. The media would "finish off" the army if they eyed power, he explained.

Asked if the elections would be possible by December 2008, he said, "Wait till December 2008 and see." He said the EU troika also asked him the same question when they visited the country recently.

The army chief defended the caretaker government advisers who have made contradictory statements or changed their minds overnight, saying they are only humans and not politicians adept at handling tough questions.

"They may not be able to give answers to questions the way a politician would, but they correct their mistakes," he said.

Enumerating government priorities, Moen said reducing the prices of essentials tops the agenda, followed by mitigating power crisis and initiating administrative reforms.

He strongly endorsed promulgation of the Right to Information Act, a whistleblowers act and a code of conduct for guiding civil servants and ministers.

Citing the example of parliamentary committees for constitution review, he said the committees have largely been ineffective in the past 15 years as they have no real authority and the government has the power to accept or reject their suggestions.

"We have to have the constitution up to date so these committees have a lot of authority to act on the decisions they make," Moen said, adding that a review is in urgent need as it has never been done since the constitution was framed 35 years ago.

He gave the example of India, which has reviewed its constitution eight times.

Moen included formation of a "constitution commission" in his list of areas they are working on to ensure better governance. The government is currently working on the commission and need to continue working on it "to prepare all new laws relevant to evolving an effective governance system to meet the challenges", he said.

These laws along with institutional reforms would need longer than two years but the process has already started, he said.

He said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman detected the country's gradual slide into corruption even then when he questioned stealing of relief materials but no one has taken any action.

He described the achievements of the Anti-Corruption Commission since January 11 as "great" and commended the performance of other reconstituted public bodies such as the National Board of Revenue and the Public Service Commission.

On democracy in Bangladesh, he said, "While we believe in the representative democracy as an indispensable condition for stability, peace and development of our country, the current process is irreversible and contributes to the process."

"The change of January 11 was therefore inevitable, unavoidable and formed part of 'reinvention' of the nation. The people accepted it, and the international community has seen its logic and provided us with full support," Moen observed.

He said he had no other choice to bring the country back from the "brink" of "impending uncertainties and violence."

Answering another question from the audience, Moen said, "The Bangladesh Army did not get involved in this mess because this is not our

job." But the military provides suggestions if asked by the government, he said.

Asked why the army's public relations are not stronger, the army chief said the army has to limit its public announcements because people have already started to ask, "What is their intention?"

He said, "There are people who smell a