

# Arrest warrant issued against Harris Chy

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun on a seven-day remand in connection with a case filed for concealing Tk 62.21 crore in his wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Another Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrant against Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, in connection with a money laundering case.

Prayer for opening a bank locker of detained former BNP lawmaker M Naser Rahman and his wife Rezina Naser where they deposited ill-gotten wealth and ornaments was granted yesterday.

**MAMUN'S GRAFT CASE** Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokon placed Mamun, close friend of BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, on a seven-day remand to interrogate him about his illegal wealth.

Earlier, Mamun was on remand for 55 days in the extortion cases filed with different police stations on different dates and later he was sent to Dhaka Central Jail.

The court passed the order after ACC Assistant Director Tahsinul Haq, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced him before it and sought a 15-day remand petition for interrogation.

On May 8, ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Ibrahim filed the graft case against Mamun and his wife Shahina Yasmin.

In the FIR (first information report), the complainant said Mamun and his wife illegally amassed movable and immovable properties worth over Tk 62.21 crore.

Mamun was arrested at his DOHS home in the city on March 26. Police also seized a foreign pistol with eight bullets there. He was earlier convicted in two cases—one filed for not submitting his wealth statement to the ACC and the other for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition—and sentenced to 13 years in prison.

He was shown arrested in 10 other extortion cases. He gave confessional statements implicating Tarique in most of the cases.

### CASE AGAINST HARRIS

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court accepted the charge sheet of the money laundering case and issued arrest warrant against Harris, as he has absconding since the case was filed.

After scrutinising the case docket and other relevant documents of the case, the court passed the order. The court fixed July 23 for next hearing of the case.

On July 1, Sub-inspector (SI) Babul Hossain of Gulshan Police Station, also the IO, submitted the charge sheet to the CMM's Court, showing 18 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against Harris and ordered to attach his properties.

On February 4, the joint forces seized two briefcases from Harris' Gulshan home.

The briefcases were opened on April 2 in presence of Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza and foreign currencies were found in it, sources said.

According to the statement, Harris hoarded foreign currencies worth around Tk 5.64 lakh with a plan to smuggle those abroad.

On April 9, Gulshan police filed the case against Harris under the Money Laundering Act.

On May 22, a special court sentenced Harris to three years' imprisonment for not submitting his wealth statements to the Anti-corruption Commission.

### CASE AGAINST ABBAS

The same court accepted the charge sheet of the money laundering case filed against former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas.

The court fixed Monday for hearing of the case and directed jail authorities concerned to produce before the court on the scheduled date.

On July 16, Motiheel police submitted the charge sheet against Mirza Abbas to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, showing 14 people as prosecution witnesses.

The case was filed against him under the Special Powers Act, Money Laundering Act and Excise Act on February 24.

The joint forces seized a huge sum in local and foreign currencies and other items from Mirza Abbas' South Shahjahanpur residence in the capital on February 4.

The items seized include sales slips for gold ornaments worth Tk 40 lakh, 4,600 US dollars, 17,000 bahts, 418 Singapore dollars, 432 Malaysian ringgits, several mobile phone sets and five passports.

Complainant of the case Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam alleged that Abbas had kept those in his possession evading a huge amount of taxes.

### CASE AGAINST NASER

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Jalal Ahmed yesterday assigned Metropolitan Magistrate Ashraf Uddin to conduct the operation of opening the locker of Naser and his

wife in where their ill-gotten wealth and ornaments are kept.

In his forwarding report, the IO said the locker at the Standard Chartered Bank's Gulshan Branch was earlier frozen and it needs to be opened to assess the value of those.

The locker will not be opened in absence of any magistrate, the IO said.

After hearing, the court granted the ACC petition to open the locker and assigned a magistrate to present there.

On May 27, ACC Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Khan filed the case with Gulshan Police Station.

In the case statement, the complainant said Naser and his wife did not mention properties worth Tk 4.90 crore in their wealth statements.

Naser is now in jail while his wife did not get bail from any court.

### CASE AGAINST SALAHUDDIN

Judge Sayed Jahed Mansur of the Special Tribunal-9 fixed today for next hearing of the money laundering case against Salahuddin Ahmed for possessing foreign currencies at his home.

The case was filed against him with Shyampur Police Station on February 8.

### CASE AGAINST MOUDDUD

Judge AKM Enamul Haq of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka adjourned the proceedings of the case until Sunday filed against Mouddud in connection with keeping contraband liquors at his home.

The adjournment came after the defence lawyers submitted a time petition saying the High Court had earlier stayed the proceedings of the case for three months but they did not get any certified copy of the High Court order.

### CASE KAMAL MAJUMDER

Mohammad Majumder of the Third Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday fixed September 20 for order on charge framing against detained former Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder and seven others in a criminal case.

The case was filed against Kamal and seven others with Mirpur Police Station on June 21, 2005 for attacking police and creating obstruction to their duty.

## Shipping

### FROM PAGE 16

If Sonadia receives the final approval from the government, the consultancy committee will start second phase of study. The second phase is to be completed within four weeks of the government approval. PCI was appointed by the government in August, 2006.

In 2004, the then four-party alliance government took the initiative for setting up a deep-sea port at a feasible location in the country.

The shipping ministry believes that a seaport in Bangladesh has the potential to turn into a regional hub because of its geographic location. This port might attract many Asian and Saarc nations including landlocked nations such as Nepal, Bhutan, several states of India, southern parts of China and Myanmar for their cargo shipment needs.

## Protests

### FROM PAGE 1

yesterday expressed strong resentment over Hasina's arrest in a "suspicious" extortion case.

In a joint statement, they demanded immediate release of Hasina on bail as proper legal procedure was not followed to arrest Hasina.

The personalities include theatre activists Prof Montaz Uddin Ahmed, Jamaluddin Hossain, Ferdousi Majumder, Raisal Islam Asad, Tanique Anam Khan, Shimul Yusuf, Selim Al Deen, Pijush Bandopadhyay, Afzal Hossain, filmmakers Morshedul Islam and Tanveer Mokammel, recital artists Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqui, Kazi Arif, singers Moly Kumar Ganguli, Mahbubul Haider Mohon, and cultural activist Panna Kaiser.

Ten other cultural activists residing abroad also sent a joint statement demanding immediate release of Hasina.

Bangladesh Mohila Awami League, Bangabandhu Abritti Parishad, Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, and Bangladesh Awami Ain Chhatra Parishad in a joint statement demanded immediate release of Hasina.

Bangladesh Awami Ain Chhatra Parishad urged the students of all law colleges and law departments of all universities to boycott their classes in protest of Hasina's arrest.

Our Rangpur correspondent reports: Activists of Chhatra League and Jubo League under the banner of Awami League Families and many general people called a half-day hartal in the district for today in protest against Hasina's arrest.

The announcement came from a procession around 4:00pm yesterday. Leaflets with the call of hartal were distributed among the people from the procession.

## 3 top army officers transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Important changes have been made in Bangladesh Army by transferring three top officials.

According to a highly placed source, Chief of the General Staff (CGS) Major General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan has been transferred to Defence Service Command & Staff College as Commandant while General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Chittagong Major General Sinha Ibne Jamali made CGS.

Commandant of the Staff College Major General Mobin has been appointed GOC of Chittagong.

## 3 to die for '93 Mumbai bombings

AFP, Mumbai

An Indian anti-terror court yesterday sentenced to death three people convicted of involvement in a series of bomb attacks in Mumbai in 1993 which killed 257 people, court officials said.

The court ordered that Pervez Sheikh, Abdul Turq and Mohammed Musthaq Tarani all go to the gallows for their involvement in planting the bombs in India's financial and entertainment capital.

In total, 100 people were found guilty of involvement in the "Black Friday" attacks. Most of them have already been sentenced to jail and Wednesday's hearing was the first time the death penalty has been handed down.

The attacks were allegedly organised by Mumbai's Muslim-dominated underworld in revenge for deadly Hindu-Muslim clashes a few months earlier.

"The accused have argued that the Babri Masjid and Hindu-Muslim riots impacted their actions. But this is not true... Their act is a disgrace to the community," Judge P. Kode told the court.

The alleged masterminds of the blasts, Dawood Ibrahim and Tiger Memon, have been on the run since 1993. Indian investigators say they were aided by Pakistan's intelligence service but Islamabad has denied any link.

Chief prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam said Sheikh was found guilty of being involved in the main conspiracy and smuggling in the explosives.

Turq, known to be close to the Memon family, drove a jeep packed with explosives into a shopping arcade, while Tarani was found guilty of parking an explosives-laden scooter at a five-star hotel.

## 14,000 workers

**FROM PAGE 1** Geeteara said steps have been taken to realise actual prices of the land of Adamjee Jute Mills in Narayanganj and City Centre at Motiheel in the capital which were given to Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority and Dhaka City Corporation at token prices.

She said many countries have expressed interest in procuring jute goods from Bangladesh.

"We think where a market is growing and infrastructure is available, why not the government utilise the opportunity to generate employment and makeup losses," she said.

The jute ministry earlier identified some major reasons of the state-owned jute mills for their losses. The reasons include late financing to procure jute, power crisis, pay commission implementation, labour unrest and ghost labour.

The accumulated losses of the BJMC mills stood Tk 4,770 crore in 2006.

Jute Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarker and BJMC Chairman Ataharul Islam were present at the press conference.

## Rejoinder

**FROM PAGE 1** Prime Minister's Office sent the summary back stating "The summary as stated is sent back as directed for necessary action under Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat Act, 1994."

It clearly proves that aforesaid Tk 35,71,192/- to Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and Tk 5,74,000/- to Ex-Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah having been paid from Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat fund, the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the speaker under Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat Act, 1994, Sircasaid.

(b) Under section 9, Sangsad Secretariat Act the Speaker is responsible to the parliament only for expenditures through the Comptroller and Auditor-General. (c) Under section 14, the speaker is responsible to the parliament only for all acts of Sangsad Secretariat. (d) Under Section 18, the speaker is the final authority for approval of the expenditure of the Sangsad Secretariat. (e) Undertaking/ guarantee to refund the money of medical bill if parliament and the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, which is the interpreting authority of the act of parliament disapproves undoubtedly proves the speaker's more bona-fide, accountability and transparency in the matter, says the rejoinder.

The Speaker hopes that there should be no further dragging on of the matter unnecessarily since the Speaker is responsible to the parliament only.

# None allowed

**FROM PAGE 1** misunderstandings within the party which should be resolved.

They also said they will extend any kind of legal assistance to free Hasina, AL sources said.

Zillur Rahman told The Daily Star last night that the two AL Presidium members came to him and said they will work together in the absence of Hasina and under her leadership.

Police sources meanwhile said the charge sheet of the extortion case in which Hasina has been shown arrested will be given within a couple of days.

According to the emergency rules, the whole trial process will also be completed in 45 days from the day the court takes the charge sheet into cognisance, they said.

The ACC on Tuesday served a notice on Hasina to submit the statement of her movable and immovable properties to the commission within seven working days. The anti-graft body will file a graft case against Hasina if she fails to submit the statement within the stipulated timeframe.

Hasina was detained on extortion charges and sent to a special jail set up in the parliament complex on Monday.

The family members and lawyers of the former prime minister stayed on the parliament premises for over two hours and then returned since the authorities did not allow them to meet Hasina.

"We came here to meet our leader to assist her in preparing the wealth statement. We also wanted to know if she has any suggestion about the matter," Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Hasina's assistant personal secretary, told The Daily Star.

The authorities also allegedly returned food Hasina's family members brought for her lunch.

An AL activist from Natore brought a black and white television set for Hasina, but the authorities did not receive it although DIG Prisons Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told The Daily Star last evening that they will allow Hasina to watch TV without cable connection if the TV set is provided by her family.

Talking to reporters Hasina's special aide Dr Hasan Mahmud urged the caretaker government to

take necessary steps soon so that Hasina's family members, personal staff and lawyers can meet her.

Khalid said a list of names of 27 family members and four personal staff has been given to the jail authorities so that they can meet Hasina as per the jail codes.

Hasina's nephews Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh and Sheikh Fazle Sun Parosh, Hasan Mahmud and Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury went to meet Hasina at about 1:45pm and waited there until 4:00pm when the DIG prisons told them that the authorities cannot allow them.

"As we talked to the DIG prisons for meeting with the leader [Hasina], he asked us to go back and that he will let us know later. We waited there for more than two hours and again contacted him. He said he was communicating with the high-ups over the matter. Finally, the DIG prisons told us that we cannot meet Hasina as the high-ups did not give the permission," Khalid told The Daily Star.

When contacted the DIG prisons said last evening, "We did not allow them to see her due to security reasons...They came to meet her without informing us."

He said they have not yet started the process of allowing family members to meet Hasina but will start it soon. He, however, denied sending back food items, saying those were sent to the AL chief.

Contacted by The Daily Star last evening Advocate Sahara Khatun, law secretary to the AL, said they sent a letter to the home secretary yesterday seeking permission to meet Hasina. "But we did not get any permission," Sahara said.

Advocates Yousuf Hossain Humayun, Mahbube Alam, Quamrul Islam, Abdul Matin Khasru, Sahara Khatun and others have started examining the legal aspects of the charges brought against Hasina.

"We will try to contact the authorities tomorrow again to see if they have got permission," Sahara said.

# Buddha hair relic

**FROM PAGE 1** advisers of the caretaker government and the Buddhist leaders of Bangladesh expressed happiness over sharing of the possession with great religious and historic value.

Through the exchange of holy relics the whole world would be reminded of Buddha's teachings that speak of goodwill, peace, tranquility and universal fraternity, they said.

Receiving the hair relics, the government representatives and Buddhist leaders of Sri Lanka said the bond of friendship and tie between the Buddhist community as well as people of the two countries would last for ever.

A magnificent Chaitya (a minaret-like structure) will be set up in Sri Lanka for preservation and display of the hair relics, they said.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Rathnasiri Wickramanayaka will receive the gift at Bandarnaike International Airport from where it will be taken to Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo in the afternoon.

Since a Tibetan monk donated it in 1930, the hair relics of Gautam Buddha have been preserved in Chittagong Buddhist Monastery for the last 77 years.

Madampe Senanyaka Aramaya Trust, a Sri Lankan organisation, expressed their eagerness to collect some of the relics for displaying it to the Buddhist devotees in their country in 2003, said Ajit Barua, chairman of Bangladesh Buddhist Association.

After several correspondences through the governments of the two countries, the monastery authorities agreed to hand over part of the relics as a gesture of goodwill and friendship between the two peoples, Ajit said.

Local devotees here can take a look on the relics preserved in a wooden box only once a year when the box is opened during the Buddha Purnima.

Earlier at different times, Buddhist devotees from Sri Lanka, Japan and Thailand collected the holy remaining of Gautam Buddha from this monastery.

After receiving the hair relics, Uduyagama Sri Buddharaxmita Thero expressed his heart-felt thanks to Bangladesh government, particularly to Sangharaj and other leaders of Bangladesh Buddhist Association, for preserving and sharing the religious possession.

"I cannot find any difference between you and the people of my country as far as the religious value and teachings of Buddha are concerned," he said.

He wished that the friendship and tie between the Buddhist communities and people of the two countries will strengthen further and perpetuate.

Bangladesh Buddhist Association leaders in their speeches said that Chittagong Buddhist Monastery also preserved some of other invaluable relics like Ashthi Dhatu (body remain of Buddha), some ancient books including a Tripitak written on palm leaf.

For preservation of these relics century-old Chittagong Buddhist Monastery needs renovation and

## Bhaluka UNO held for bribery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The joint forces yesterday arrested Bhaluka Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) on charges of bribery.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the joint forces raided the office room of UNO Rezaul Kabir at around 12:30pm and recovered Tk 49.5 thousand from his possession.

Police said the UNO took the money in bribe from the project director of Bhaluka Megha Fishery Project for solving some problems of the project.

The arrested UNO was later handed over to Bhaluka Police Station.

## Anti-reformists

### FROM PAGE 16

hands with them. When asked about the fate of the council in case the party chief is arrested, they said the council with reform agenda will be held whether Khaleda Zia is arrested or not.

Earlier on Monday, during a teleconference with the Jubo Dal leaders in Germany, Khaleda Zia claimed that the people and followers of BNP are behind her, but some people are conspiring to tear the party apart under the guise of reforms.

Ashraf Hossain, a pro-reform leader and joint secretary general of the party, refuted Khaleda's claim and urged her not to make any provocative comment that might create division in the party. "It's not fair.... They [anti-reform activists] will destroy the unity among the party activists if they brand us conspirators."

"We want to see unity and would not do anything that might harm the party," he added. The party council is likely to be held in August, Ashraf said following a meeting at BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's Gulshan residence.

A number of BNP leaders met with Bhuiyan yesterday to discuss issues regarding the council and the latest situation in the country. When asked about the rumour of Khaleda Zia's possible arrest, Ashraf said, "Why should she be arrested? I cannot say anything beforehand."

## 20 more

### FROM PAGE 1

notices, include seven AL, eight BNP, two Jamaat leaders and their relatives. The ACC will ask them to submit their wealth statements within seven working days after receiving the notices.

According to the ACC Act, the 20 will have chance to apply to the ACC seeking seven more days to submit their wealth statements. Same provision will be applicable for Hasina and Khaleda.

The other corruption suspects in the new ACC list are LDP presidium member Redwan Ahmed, former MP Mohubur Rahman Manik, Sajeda Chowdhury's son Shadat Akbar Chowdhury Labu, former MP and Acting President of Dhaka City AL AKM Rahmatullah's son Hedayet Ullah, former MP Kamal Ahmed Mojumder's son Jewel, former minister and MP Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya's son Dipu Chowdhury, former MP Shaiful Islam, former MP Nadim Mostafa, Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) president and former vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Dr MA Haki, former chairmen of Teknaf Pourasava Abdur Rahman Badi, former chief whip Khandoker Delwar Hossain's son Akhter Hamid Paban, Keraniganj UP chairman Nazimuddin and former MP Sarwar Zamal Nizam's brother Maruf Nizam, former Jamaat lawmakers Abdullah Mohammad Taher and Gazi Nazrul Islam and chief engineer of the Roads and Highways Faizur Rahman.

## Sigma's case

### FROM PAGE 1

The assurance followed a statement of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon issued by his spokesperson yesterday in this regard.

In a press release, the foreign ministry pointed out that the charges brought against Sigma do not fall within or relate to her functions as a UN Special Rapporteur and therefore disqualifies her from receiving immunity under a UN convention.

Sigma was appointed a special rapporteur on trafficking in persons by the UN Commission on Human Rights in April 2004.

She is currently held under two charges of extortion of up to Tk 2 crores.

According to the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, special rapporteurs "enjoy the privileges and immunities necessary for the independent exercise of their functions as experts on mission," Ban said in the statement.

"The responsibility to determine whether privileges and immunities apply in a given situation is vested in the Secretary General," stated the statement.

But the statement also said, "Under the convention, states wishing to initiate legal proceedings against Special Rapporteurs are expected to bring the matter promptly to the attention of the Secretary General."

"Regrettably, the Government of Bangladesh did not do so in this case. The United Nations sought information from the Government of Bangladesh with a view to ascertaining the nature of the charges brought against Ms Huda and their relationship to her functions as Special Rapporteur," the statement added.

# Wheat scam

### FROM PAGE 1

The court also sentenced two officials of Abul Khair Group, importer of the wheat, to one-year in jail for paying the bribe and confiscated the bribed money.

The court fined the policemen Tk 1 lakh and the Abul Khair Group officials Tk 10,000 each. Failing to pay the fine, the police officers will have to serve one-year jail term while the Abul Khair Group officials one month each.

Judge Shamsunnahar of the special court-4 delivered the verdict as the police officers were found guilty under the Anti-corruption Act 1947.

The convicted cops are officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police Station Ashraf Ul Islam, sub inspectors Enamul Haque and SM Miraj Al Mahmud.

The convicted Abul Khair Group officials are Assistant General Manager of Shah Cement Industries Ltd Mustafizur Rahman and Assistant Manager (human resource) Zakir Hossain.

The defence lawyers confirmed that they would appeal against the

verdict.

According to the charge sheet submitted by ACC, magistrates Manzarul Mannan of Narayanganj and Jasim Uddin seized rotten wheat worth over Tk 19 crore imported by Smile Food Products Ltd of Abul Khair Group on January 29 this year.

Police filed a case in this connection on January 31 under Special Powers Act, 1974. But the name of Abul Khair Group Chairman Abu Sayeed Chowdhury was dropped from the charge sheet and the convicted police officers demanded Tk 50 lakh as bribe for this.

Several hours after the seizure, SI Miraj went to the Shah Cement factory of Abul Khair Group at Mukhtarpur and made a settlement with the two officials of the group. Rapid Action Battalion caught them red-handed while taking bribe.

Later, Deputy Assistant Director of Rab-11 Abu Sadek filed a case against the arrestees on February 5 with Fatulla Police Station. The ACC submitted charge sheet on May 15.

# Khaleda demands

### FROM PAGE 1

at home and abroad," Khaleda said. The situation could have been avoided if the government would have dealt with the matter carefully and consciously, she added.

The BNP chairperson said, "I think it would be better if her [AL chief] trial is held without arresting and sending her to jail or opposing her bail prayer."

Calling for immediate release of Sheikh Hasina, Khaleda stressed conducting the case keeping her free. It would decrease the possibility of social and political instability and confusion.

The people do not want to see chaos and disorder again which led to promulgation of 'unexpected' state of emergency. Extension of emergency would not however bring any good to the county, she said.

"We have to move forward toward our desired democracy. Ensuring stability and establishing national consensus are necessary for this," Khaleda said. Everybody

should be more foresighted and should exercise wisdom as the opportunity is now created.

Mentioning that none is above the law, she said nobody is also above error. And those who discharge major responsibilities of a country beset with problems have the more chances of committing errors.

Successes of politicians should not be underestimated because of their failures, the former premier observed.

"I was hurt by the illogical, non-political and indecent speeches of Sheikh Hasina against me and my family many times, and I am also hurt in the same way to see her facing unexpected behaviour," Khaleda said.

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