

PWD staff confesses

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12lakh from him. During a press briefing at Rab-2 office in the capital, Faizul told reporters that he stabbed Sayma first and then three others who accompanied him to Sayma's residence slit her throat.

He also named the three other murderers, but Rab did not disclose the names to the press for the sake of investigation.

He said Sayma took Tk 5 lakh in different phases during 2001, promising to get him the job of a traffic sergeant but she failed.

Later Sayma took Tk 7 lakh more from him, promising that he would be given a cadre service job under the 27th BCS with the help of the then state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, he added.

After the arrest of Babar, Sayma told Faizul that it was not possible to get him any job. As Faizul demanded return of the money ha had paid, Sayma intimidated him of police arrest and declined to return the money. Faizul continued to put pressure on Sayma to get back the money.

On the day of assassination, he along with three friends went to Sayma's residence to get it written on a stamp that she would return the money within a stipulated time, Faizul said. The three friends were waiting outside the entrance to the apartment when Faizul went inside.

When Faizul insisted that Sayma sign on the stamp, she threatened to hand Faizul and his companions over to police. At one stage Sayma went inside another room when Faizul opened the flat entrance and the three waiting persons entered.

As Sayma returned to the room again, Faizul hit her on the head with a knife and the three others murdered the advocate. During the tussle with Sayma, Faizul got two fingers of both the hands cut.

Faizul went to the basin to wash the blood coming out from the cuts, when Mina, one of the two domestic helps of Sayma, saw and talked with him.

Faizul left the room immediately after the slitting of Sayma's throat while the three others left the apart-

ment confirming her death.

Sayma's husband Zahirul Islam, a retired PWD engineer, told The Daily Star yesterday that the story of his wife's taking money from Faisal is totally fabricated and baseless.

"Faizul once worked as my peon and how come he would be made an officer under BCS cadre," he said. Faizul, however, claimed that he completed honors and masters in Economics from Dhaka College.

Faizul and Sayma had been known to each other since Faizul's boyhood and he used to address the woman 'amma', the arrestee said.

M Akbar Ali, commanding officer of Rab-2, said that they got the clue to the murder from the call list of a cell phone set they seized from Sayma's residence following the killing.

Mina, who is now on a seven-day remand along with Aleya, another domestic help of Sayma, at New Market Police Station, identified Faizul as the person who visited the residence that day.

Advocate Sayma was killed inside her apartment on the 15th floor of Prince Tower on Elephant Road on July 17.

US angers Pak govt over al-Qaeda claims

AP, Washington

The United States was at the centre of a new diplomatic row yesterday after refusing to rule out military action against al-Qaeda leaders sheltering inside Pakistan, one of its closest "war on terror" allies.

The US director of national intelligence, Mike McConnell, said al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden was in all likelihood alive and sheltering in a frontier zone where pro-Taliban Pakistani tribal leaders hold sway.

"My personal view is that he's alive, but we don't know because we can't confirm it for over a year," he told NBC television Sunday. "I believe he is in the tribal region of Pakistan."

Ivory Coast town

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In 2004, Bangladesh Battalion-3 (Banbat-3) made quite an impression among the people of Danane. The informal naming of this road signifies that.

With 68,000 residents, Danane is situated in west Ivory Coast, 68 kilometres off the regional capital Man. With a seven-year-old violent political crisis threatening the peace of the country, the town came under rebel attacks a few years back.

The townspeople were living a life full of fear and uncertainty. The arrival of the UN peacekeepers since then has brought back peace and stability.

A delegation of Bangladesh Army and journalists visited the town on July 5 and met its Mayor Deli Jacques.

The mayor explained why they have named the street after Bangladesh. "The idea came from the people of Danane. They have decided to name it for many reasons. But it's specially because the Bangladeshi troops have worked hard to establish peace and to protect the local people from all dangers. They decided to make something very memorable for Bangladesh," he said.

The mayor also praised former Bangladesh Company Commander Major Manzoor Uddin Ahmed (who is now in Dhaka) for his helping hands extended to the people.

"Manzoor used to visit me every two days to discuss latest situation," Jacques said, adding, "he used to visit the locality each week."

"During those times of crisis, he used to distribute food among the local people. If someone is ill or a mother would deliver her baby, he used to arrange the physician or transport her to the hospital. Bangladesh army has always extended help on humanitarian grounds."

Manzoor became so popular among the people of Danane that when he left Ivory Coast, "all of them cried," the mayor added.

When violence erupted in the border town, the people were so much pleased with the sincere and firm efforts by the Bangladeshi peacekeepers who used to tell them that the rebels won't be able to touch the residents before killing the army.

A large number of Danane's parents have named their newborn babies after Manzoor, said the mayor.

The Bangladesh Road is 800 meters long and one of the main roads of the town that is connected with multiple streets up to the border of Liberia.

Three Bangladeshi battalions have gained high regards all across

Ex-Jamaat MP

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late son Flight Lt Masud and the former MP is its founder member.

Sources said the law enforcers are quizzing the law enforcers. He is likely to be handed over to Keshabpur Police Station today.

Ex-BNP MP

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Police on June 7 submitted the charge sheet before the court against the three after an investigation.

The accused surrendered before the same court on June 20 and the court framed charges the same day.

Three out of nine witnesses of the case gave depositions supporting the allegation. The trial completed within 90 working days.

Shahjahan is also under trial in four other cases filed in connection with ordering criminal activities, extortion, fraud and misappropriation of people's money.

Shahjahan raised controversy by his role in Kansat, Chapainawabganj early 2006 when Palli Bidyut Unnayan Sangram Parishad led by Golam Rabbani started demonstrating there demanding uninterrupted power supply. He failed to mitigate the power crisis the villagers were going through then. He allegedly had a hand behind the police excess and the shootings that left 17 people dead in Kansat. He supposedly had Rabbani arrested as well.

UK cops

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Limehouse into a money-transfer company," a spokeswoman for London's Metropolitan Police told AFP.

"The investigation follows allegations of financial impropriety."

No arrests have yet been made, she said, declining to confirm the figure cited by The Times.

According to the paper, the directors of the money-transfer company have denied any wrongdoing, and have blamed the collapse on the rapid expansion of the company as well as fluctuations in the foreign exchange market.

First Solution stopped taking orders on June 27 and went into liquidation.

Nowshin

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Nowshin had committed suicide then how the body was found lying face down on the floor with the entrance door of their flat locked from outside? The body was not hanging and the way the scarf was tied around Nowshin's neck in three to four knots suggests that she had been strangled.

According to Shamsunnahar, Rintu is an ill-tempered person suffering from an inferiority complex who is in the habit of dominating everyone in their family of four sisters and two brothers. Rintu used to often beat Shamsunnahar if she protested Rintu's activities.

Rintu even beat her with an iron rod once when she protested his amorous relationships with several women at a time. There have been disagreements between Shamsunnahar and Rintu over some family matters too.

Shamsunnahar at one point stopped recognising Rintu as her brother. Since then Rintu had been threatening to kill her children over the phone saying he would not let her live in peace.

Nowshin wanted to become a doctor one day and treat for free the destitute people of her village home in Pirojpur. She had a knack for writing and was involved in different cultural organisations since early childhood. She also received several awards for singing and dancing. She was a member of Udhich.

"I don't want to live anymore. All my dreams and hopes were vested in Nowshin. He who killed my daughter like this, I want a rope around his neck too," said Shamsunnahar.

Nowshin was found strangled to death on July 18. Her father filed a murder case with Ramna police station on July 20.

Judiciary

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whole process of judiciary separation.

Giving the three-point directives to law, home, finance and housing ministries, the court on May 7 said required number of courtrooms have to be constructed for judicial magistracy in every district.

The court also ordered creating posts of assistant officials and employees and giving appointment to the posts. Judges will have to be provided with other infrastructure and facilities along with their chambers and sufficient budget is to be allocated for the purposes.

Yesterday, the Attorney General (AG) Fida M Kamal informed the court about the progress of completing required process according to the court directives.

The AG told the court that it is necessary to get final approval from Nicar for completing some process, including creation of posts of magistrates and budget allocation. He also said government needs two more months to finish the rest of the tasks.

But the court granted five weeks' time.

The government yesterday informed the court that it has asked Public Works Department to prepare design and budget for setting up new courts.

Though the government has created 783 posts for judicial magistrates, only 27 from the administrative cadre have given their option to work there.

65pc new doctors

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the importance of knowledge and innovation in driving development.

"The problem of brain drain highlights the bigger issue of knowledge," said Charles Gore, one of the report's authors. "We need to adopt new policies which should be oriented to reducing the technology gap and diversifying the economy."

"The least developed countries have a huge problem when it comes to expanding their productive employment. It is no use just investing in human capital without policies which develop employment opportunities to encourage workers to stay."

The report showed that in 2004, one million educated people from LDCs emigrated out of a total skilled pool of 6.6 million-a loss of 15%.

Haiti, Samoa, Gambia and Somalia were among the LDCs who have lost more than half of their university-educated professionals in recent years.

The health sector, in particular, has suffered from a large loss of trained workers, which UNCTAD said often had a severe impact on the standard of service available to the poor.

The problem is heightened by many developed countries such as the US and UK actively gearing their employment policies to welcome more migrant workers in an attempt to make up for labour shortages.

"Trying to match the pay and working conditions of the developed countries can be difficult to achieve in the short term," said Gore. "The focus

of poverty reduction and achieving sustained economic growth in LDCs is dependent on building a productive base to attract migrants back."

He added: "The two key ingredients are finance and knowledge. Without enough trained engineers, doctors and IT professionals, it is impossible for the firms of LDCs to use technology to upgrade their efficiency. And that makes it difficult for them to face foreign competitors."

Gore said that though aid to poor countries has been steady, the money is not being targeted to essential areas such as science and research. Payments to these areas from 2003 to 2005 formed only 3.6% of overall aid to LDCs.

"Most LDCs have opened up their economies," he said. "But even where they are attracting foreign investments, most LDCs are not climbing the economic and technological ladder."

The study says the LDCs economies remain locked into low value-added commodity production and low-skill manufacturing. Science, technology and innovation are necessities, not luxuries, for the poorest countries.

Only 95 people in every million are scientific researchers in LDCs compared to 3,728 in high-income countries. Enrolment at university-level institutions is only 3.5% in LDCs against 69% in rich nations.

EC to knock

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The enumerators and supervisors will also encourage eligible voters to visit voter registration centres to have their photographs taken.

The EC asked the field level election officials to maintain neutrality in recruiting the enumerators and supervisors.

"Preparation of a flawless voter list largely depends on the capabilities of the field level staffs. People who are directly or indirectly involved in politics cannot be recruited as enumerators and supervisors," said the EC circular.

A monitoring team at union or municipality level will comprise current chairman, his nearest two rival candidates in the last election, immediate past chairman and his nearest two rival candidates and locally reputed people.

A monitoring team for a ward or a voter registration centre will consist of the ward commissioner concerned and his nearest two rival contestants in the last election, immediate past ward commissioner and his nearest two rivals in that election and locally reputed persons.

The EC has assigned massive tasks to these teams including launching campaigns urging people to register themselves as voters.

Joy's wife

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any movement at this moment, he said, "Movement has already been launched, the protest by Dhaka University teachers proves this."

Joy said they are now engaged in a legal battle to free Sheikh Hasina and now they will move forward.

Taliban threaten

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interest and our constitution," though he did not explicitly rule out freeing any prisoners.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai in March authorized the release of five Taliban prisoners in exchange for a kidnapped Italian reporter, but he called the trade a one-time deal. Karzai also was criticized by the United States and European nations who felt that trade would encourage more kidnappings.

Ahmadi said Sunday that the militants were giving the Afghan and South Korean governments until 7 pm (10:30 am EDT) Monday to respond to their demands.

Afghan elders leading the hostage negotiations met with the kidnappers Sunday and reported that the Koreans were healthy, said Khwaja Mohammad Siddiqi, the police chief of Qarabagh district in Ghazni district, where the Koreans were kidnapped Thursday while riding on a bus from Kabul to Kandahar on Afghanistan's major highway.

The Afghan military has the region surrounded in case the government decides the military should move in.

South Korea, meanwhile, banned its citizens from travelling to Afghanistan in the wake of the kidnappings, said Han Hye-jin, a Foreign Ministry official. He said Seoul also asked Kabul not to issue visas to South Koreans and block their entry into the country.

South Korea had previously asked its nationals to refrain from visiting Afghanistan, citing political instability.

Earlier, the South Korean church that the abductees attend said it will suspend at least some of its volunteer work in Afghanistan. It also stressed that the Koreans abducted were not involved in any Christian missionary work, saying they only provided medical and other volunteer aid to distressed people in the war-ravaged country.

Neither the Afghan nor Korean governments have commented on the purported Taliban trade offer. A

delegation of eight Korean officials arrived in the capital of Kabul on Sunday and met with Karzai to discuss the crisis.

The 23 South Koreans, including 18 women, were working at an aid organisation in Kandahar, said Sidney Serena, a political affairs officer at the South Korean Embassy in Kabul.

South Korea has about 200 troops serving with the 8,000-strong US-led coalition in Afghanistan, largely working on humanitarian projects. They are scheduled to leave Afghanistan at the end of 2007.

Meanwhile, Afghan and US-led coalition troops killed around 50 Taliban militants in a two-day battle that ended Monday, after insurgents ambushed a military patrol with a suicide bomb, the coalition said.

The joint forces also called in warplanes after the Islamist rebels attacked the patrol in violence-ravaged southern Helmand province, it said in a statement.

More than 20 rebels had died in the clash Sunday, the coalition said earlier.

The Taliban used a suicide car bomb in the ambush while insurgents also opened fire from two nearby compounds, it said.

"As the battle continued into early morning, more than four dozen insurgents had been confirmed killed by ANA (Afghan National Army) at the scene," said the statement.

Coalition forces used air support to destroy the enemy compounds and hit other Taliban militants in the area, it said.

Helmand has seen the worst fighting of a Taliban-led insurgency, which has claimed thousands of lives since the Islamist hardline regime's ouster in late 2001 by US-led forces and Afghan warlords.

BSF kills cattle trader

STAR REPORT

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was beaten to death by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Gatipara frontier village in Sharsha upazila early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Atiar Rahman, 35, son of Nur Mohammad of the village.

Relatives said the BSF members of Jointapur camp arrested Atiar at around 4:00am while he was returning home with some cows he purchased from India, according to a correspondent from Benapole.

They alleged that the Indian border guards beat up Atiar mercilessly, resulting in his death on the spot.

Meanwhile, BDR and BSF exchanged fire on Puthali border in Benapole early yesterday.

However, there was no report of any casualty in the shootout.

BDR sources said the BSF men of Kaliani camp opened fire, prompting the Bangladesh paramilitary troops to retaliate.

A senior BDR official confirmed the news, saying that four to five rounds of bullets were exchanged between the two sides.

Hasina's letter

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Both the former premiers-- Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia -- have been served notices asking them to submit their wealth statements to the ACC.

The notices are based on cases filed against them by the now defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau.

On the cases, the ACC secretary said, "Of course, the dismissed cases (filed by ACC) against Khaleda Zia will have to be reviewed to find out whether there were any influence of power or breach of law."

He emphasised that the commission is working independently and it does not take into account who are pro-reforms or who are not. If there are graft allegations against anyone pro-reformist, those will certainly be investigated, he added.

Meanwhile, former lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib and DCC ward commissioner Mirza Khokon submitted their wealth statements to the ACC yesterday. Their representatives submitted those.

According to the wealth statement of Habib, he owns 15 kathas and 160 decimals of land in Satkhira, a house on a five-katha plot at Banani in the capital, 11 decimals of land in Demra and 4.50 decimals in Narayanganj.

He also has two cars, 10 tolas of gold, FDR worth Tk 2.73 lakh, Tk 15 lakh bank deposits, Tk 12.29 lakh deposits with different organisations and Tk 1.10 lakh in cash.

Habib's wife Sahanara Parvin has a flat at Dhanmondhi, eight bigha and three kathas of land in Satkhira, one car, one truck, 10 tolas of gold, FDR worth Tk 20 lakh and Tk 40 thousand in cash.

According to Khokon's wealth statement, he has 6.80 decimals of land at Motijheel, 2.65 decimals at Khilgaon, five kathas at Banani, 3.25 kathas at Goran in the capital and 133 decimals of land in Kishoreganj.

He also has a 171-sft shop at Maulana Bhasani Stadium, a 152-sft hotel at Shajahanpur, one car and one pistol, shares worth Tk 11.50 lakh and Tk 25 lakh bank deposits.

His wife Masuda Ekram has a car, gold worth Tk 13 lakh and around Tk 3 lakh in bank.

BNP divide

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at his Mohakbali DOHS residence yesterday. About the initiative for a council, he questioned, "Are we authorised to do it?"

Queried about Khaleda's allegations against the pro-reform leaders, ZA Khan, another adviser to the chairperson, the same day said such speeches would cause division in the BNP.

"It's like a drowning person clutching at straws," he said after meeting the secretary general at his Gulshan residence. "If we are traitors...then who are the adherents?" he questioned.

"They have nurtured dictatorship in the name of democracy and it was hard to speak up against them...Badruddoza Chowdhury and Major Mannan are the examples," he said.

Rehana Akhter Ranu, a former lawmaker closer to the party chairperson, told The Daily Star, "Someone who simultaneously won from five constituencies a couple of times cannot be termed a drowning person."

"The time will come when the party leaders and workers will prove actually who are hurling stones from a glasshouse," she added.

Earlier, advisers to the chairperson Mozaffar Karim, Enam Ahmed Chowdhury and MA Hakim expressed solidarity with Bhuiyan's initiative for reforms in the BNP. But Standing Committee member RA Goni has criticised the secretary general for going public with the reform proposals instead of discussing those at the party forum.

Harris, Shajahan Siraj

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implement the arrest warrant and submit a report to the court by yesterday.

Following the order, Gulshan police raided Harris' house to arrest him but failed and submitted a report to the court saying that they did not find Harris anywhere in the city. Police also appealed to the court for attachment of his properties.

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

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 SIRAJ FAMILY

The same court ordered to attach properties of Shajahan Siraj, his wife Rabeya Haider and son Rajib Siraj in connection with eleven tax evasion cases.

The order came after Gulshan police submitted reports yesterday saying they raided their house but could not arrest them.

The court had earlier issued arrest warrants against them after three tax officials of the National Board of Revenue filed tax evasion cases.

Of the cases, one was filed against Siraj, five were filed against Rabeya and five others against Rajib for not submitting tax return on their income for several years.

CASE AGAINST DIPJAL

Judge Nuruzzaman of the Special Tribunal-7 will deliver today the verdict of a case against Dipjal filed for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition at his Mirpur residence in March this year.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence had completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 24 prosecution witnesses.

The joint forces raided his Mirpur residence on March 8 and seized huge arms and ammunition from

there.

ABBAS CASE

The same court yesterday transferred the money laundering case against Abbas to the Special Tribunal-6 for its quick disposal.

Abbas was not produced before the court yesterday due to his illness.

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

NASIM CASE

Judge Mohammad Firoz Alam of the First Special Judge-- set up at Shere-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel--adjoined hearing of a graft case against Nasim and his wife Laila Arzumand Banu following a time petition by the defence lawyers.

The court fixed Thursday for next hearing of the case.

Nasim was produced before the court while his wife was absent from the court due to her illness.

In the case, it was alleged that the couple concealed Tk 1.26 crore in their wealth statements to the ACC.

27th BCS exams

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be allowed to use mobile phone on the PSC premises on the exam day, the press note continued.

Besides, examinees will not be permitted to talk to the PSC employees on the commission premises.

Following three writ petitions filed by a group of aggrieved candidates, the High Court (HC) on July 22 issued a rule upon the PSC to explain why its decision cancelling the viva voce results of the 27th Bangladesh Civil Service examinations should not be declared illegal.

It also ordered the PSC not to publish results until the case is disposed of.

Earlier on May 30, the government cancelled the viva voce results amid allegations of nepotism and corruption in the process.

Last Afghan king

FROM PAGE 16

unity in a nation still struggling to emerge from the turmoil that began with his 1973 ouster in a palace coup.

When the fall of the Taliban at the end of 2001 offered fresh hope for national reconciliation, many clamoured for Zahir Shah's return not only from exile but to retake the throne.

Zahir Shah returned home from Italy in April 2002, but stood aside in favor of a young anti-Taliban tribesman, the now-President Karzai. A new constitution passed in January 2004 consigned the monarchy to history with Zahir Shah named the ceremonial "Father of the Nation," a position that dissolves with his death.

"The people are relying on you and you should not forget them," the monarch told the loya jirga, or grand assembly, which ratified the charter. "I hope you will try your best to maintain peace, stability and the unity of the Afghan people."

Since his return, Zahir Shah left Afghanistan several times for medical treatment.

Karzai, who announced the king's death during a news conference broadcast live nationwide, called the king a "symbol of national unity" who brought development and education to the country. The king remained a leader in his final years but one who didn't seek the power of a throne, he said.

"He was the servant of his people, the friend of his people," Karzai said. "He believed in the rule of the people and in human rights."

Karzai said Afghanistan would observe three days of mourning over the death of the king, whose body will lie in state at a mosque in Kabul and then will be taken by carriage to a hillside tomb.

Born Oct 15, 1914, Zahir Shah was proclaimed monarch in 1933 at age 19 within hours of the death of his father, King Muhammad Nadir Shah, who was assassinated before his eyes.