

Khaleda's properties

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include donation by the government, life insurance, pension and other benefits of her husband former president Ziaur Rahman.

The other section of her income source mentioned in the statement are house rent collected from 1982 to 2007 from her Gulshan residence allocated by the government, honorarium and allowances received during her three terms as the premier and one term as the opposition leader, TA/DA given for government work and others.

The statement includes Tk 1.89 crore as her balance in banks.

She also mentioned in the statement that her immovable properties are worth Tk 12,405 while her movable wealth include seven sofa sets, two sets of dining tables, 20 lamps, one coat, ten air coolers, three pieces of carpet and two television sets.

Her wealth statement also includes a 1300 CC Toyota car, which was bought in 1995, two Toyota jeeps and one Nissan jeep bought in 1990.

Her statement includes FDR worth Tk 24.36 lakh, Tk 4.00 lakh of which was declared forfeited.

Now the FDR balance stands at Tk 20,36,243 while the total balance with profit stands at Tk 1,65,15,105, says the wealth statement.

The wealth statement of the former premier also includes the wealth accumulated by Ziaur Rahman. The wealth is ten katha of land in Savar, Tk 2,359 at the Janata Bank branch adjacent to Bangabhaban and FDR worth Tk 50,000 in the name of Khaleda Zia at Janata Bank branch adjacent to Bangabhaban.

ACC Secretary Mukhlesur Rahman said they had accepted Khaleda Zia's wealth statement.

The lawyers who need to submit the wealth statement include Ali Azam Khan, Sanaulah Mia, Masud Ahmed Talukder and barrister Mahub Uddin Khan.

Meanwhile, the deadline for submission of wealth statement of former premier and AL chief Sheikh Hasina ends tomorrow.

Asked about the writ petition filed by Hasina challenging the order asking to submit her wealth statement,

Mukhlesur Rahman said, "As the matter has gone to court, the court will decide on the issue."

FRESH INCOME TAX RETURN
Khaleda Zia yesterday submitted a fresh income tax return in a prescribed form to the income tax department to legalise about Tk 2 crore undisclosed money.

Khaleda's lawyer advocate Ahmed Azam submitted the income tax return to circle 21 of the income tax zone - two.

Meanwhile, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has yet to take any decision whether it would receive the taxes paid by the prime minister.

NBR Chairman Badiur Rahman and other members of the board Sunday met Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam at his office and discussed the issue.

However, no information about the meeting was disclosed.

The NBR chairman earlier said if anyone submits income tax return duly and pays taxes as per rules, the NBR will accept it.

Khaleda has shown her income as house rent, interest on fixed deposit, remuneration and allowances she received as prime minister and leader of the opposition during the last 15 years, remuneration received as parliament member, government remuneration to her husband late president Ziaur Rahman and life insurance amounts of both herself and her late husband.

"The NBR needs to make sure whether the income she has shown was earned legally. Income tax officials are scrutinising her sources of income," a high official of the NBR said preferring anonymity.

When asked, Khaleda Zia's lawyer Ahmed Azam said they maintained all the procedures as per the NBR's prescribed form to submit details of undisclosed money of the former prime minister.

More areas

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Small rivers surrounding Dhaka and Narayanganj continued to swell and the Balu at Demra, the Lakhya at Narayanganj, the Turag at Mirpur and the Tongi canal at Tongi are flowing 47cm, 52cm, 48cm and 64cm above the danger levels.

"The eastern part of Dhaka is the most vulnerable to the floods. The Balu, Shitalakhya and Buriganga would swell further in the next 48 hours and inundate Madartek, Isapur, Suparbagh, Meradia, Badda, Marul Badda, Bashabo, Goran and some parts of Khligao and Demra," Selim Bhuiyan, former executive engineer of the FFWC told The Daily Star.

Many parts of eastern Dhaka, including Khligao, Demra, Badda, Merul Badda and Keraniganj, Nawabganj and Dohar are already inundated.

A visit to the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment project area yesterday revealed that water is continuing to recede but water-borne diseases, including skin diseases, are spreading among the affected people.

Almost all the families living inside the DND embankment have at least one or two of its members infected with diarrhoea or other water-borne diseases. All the tube-wells in the area went under polluted water which poses a serious threat to public health.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports: Dr PK Mohanto, dermatologist of the 200-bed hospital at Khanpur in Narayanganj, told The Daily Star that since last week, the number of patients in his hospital rose sharply. "Earlier, we used to have around 150 patients, now the number of patients is over 300," he said.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj reports: Two children died of diarrhoea and pneumonia in the last three days. They are Misti Khatun, 8, of Shimuldair of Kazipur upazila and four-month-old Julekha, daughter of Bazu Mian of Chowhall upazila.

Sources said 2,000 people have pneumonia, diarrhoea or other water-borne diseases in nine upazilas of the district. However, Sirajganj Civil Surgeon Abdur Rauf said the number was 882.

The civil surgeon's office sources said diseases are spreading due to lack of drinking water in the affected areas. Around 92 medical teams are serving in the flood-affected areas, they said. Over 13 lakh people are still marooned in chargs of the district.

At least four people drowned in floodwater in the district during the last 24 hours. They are: Sabir, 5, Israt, 7, Abdur Rashid, 7, of Ullapara and Naim, 5, of Belkuchi.

Our staff correspondent from Bogra reports: The flood-affected people, who took shelter in the government flood shelters at Sherpur upazila and other areas of the district, are not getting relief goods.

A visit to DJ High School and Municipality Primary School flood shelters at Sherpur upazila revealed that many have not received any relief in a week.

Arifa, a housewife, said many people received 10kg of rice, but she did not get anything, as her name was not on the list. The flood-affected at the shelters in Dhunat upazila also complained of not getting any relief.

Our correspondent from Magura reports: Many children in the flood-affected areas in the district are bearing the brunt of the calamity, as there is no supply of baby food.

"We, the adults, are getting at least something to eat, but there is nothing for my seven-month-old daughter," Sayera Begum of Maniknagar said.

She said she and many other mothers are feeding their children puffed rice, cornmeal and rice and biscuits dipped in water.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria reports: Mahfuz Mia, 2,

Agri credit

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"We know that this is an ambitious target. But, we will put our best effort to achieve it," Nazrul Huda told the reporters after the meeting. He said each bank would form a special cell led by a director to monitor the disbursement of loans.

He said the banks were asked to make necessary preparations without any delay so that they can disburse loans after floods.

Considering the present flood situation, the central bank asked the banks to reschedule previous agro loans, if anyone becomes defaulter.

"We will closely monitor the loan distribution process so that farmers are not harassed," he said.

The meeting was attended by high officials of different Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs), Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB), Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Bangladesh Shipila Bank Limited (BSBL) and private as well as foreign banks.

Among the NCBs, Sonali Bank will disburse Tk 625 crore while Janata Bank Tk 400 crore, Agrani Bank Tk 480 crore, Rupali Bank Tk 40 crore, BKB Tk 3550 crore, RAKUB Tk 800 crore, BRDB Tk 711 crore, BSBL Tk 13.50 crore and different foreign and private banks Tk 1078.84 crore as agricultural loans after floods.

WFP urges

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2004, 1998 or 1988, Douglas said. "It is good for us that the flood has not reached the level of disaster, but emergency,"

Loss of over 150 lives is a matter of concern, but the number of affected people is comparatively less than that of 2004 when 30 to 40 million people were affected, the WFP representative observed.

Expressing concern over the flood damage, he said it is very difficult for the people to offset the loss as their houses and movable properties have been lost and crops go under water.

The top priority should be to provide the flood victims with food and drinking water, Douglas said, adding that WFP and Unicef have initiated distribution of 127 tonnes of biscuits worth \$120,000 and started transporting those to Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Jamalpur and Manikganj districts.

The supplies include BP5 nutritious biscuits for children aged 6 to 35 months, pregnant women and lactating mothers, and high-energy biscuits for adult people.

"These ready-to-eat biscuits, which are expected to be distributed among 212,000 flood-affected people, provide essential food and nutrition," Douglas noted.

He said the UN officials are assessing the damage and helping the flood victims in coordination with the government. "Once the flood recedes, they will have many other problems when they need to build houses. Farmer will need seeds and other supplies," he said.

Asked if the UN agencies and NGOs have any problem in their relief operations during the emergency period of the country, he said the government has made it very clear and there should not be any hesitation for anyone. All should extend their helping hand, he noted.

Asked how UN will help in case there are more severe floods in next few weeks, he said, "We are there to assist people. We shall ask quick appeals to the donors and international communities."

Capacity building of people, creating flood awareness, dredging rivers and diversion canals and construction of necessary embankments are more important to give a kind of sustainable solution to flooding problems, Douglas suggested.

"This is an ideal approach to emergency response by joining strengths of various UN agencies to achieve the common goal of reducing the sufferings of people in distress," said Unicef representative in Bangladesh, Louis-Georges Arsenault.

HC declares

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authorities would challenge the HC verdict in the Supreme Court (SC).

The CU syndicate on March 3 cancelled the LLB certificate of the then HC Judge Faizee and 70 others on charges of tampering with their mark sheets and asked them to return their certificates immediately.

Later, the CU published a gazette notification regarding its decision on March 11.

Faizee and two others--advocates Jesmine Sultana and Zia Habib--filed three separate writ petitions with the HC challenging the CU's notification.

Following the writ petitions, a HC division bench on March 19 issued separate rules upon the university authorities to explain why its action should not be declared "illegal".

The court also stayed the effect of the gazette notification regarding cancellation of the petitioners' LLB certificates.

Making the rule returnable within two weeks, the court had also asked the CU authorities to produce the tabulation sheet of Faizee's examination marks.

According to our CU correspondent, the university authorities would appeal at the Supreme Court appellate division against the HC verdict.

CU Vice-chancellor M Badiul Alam told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon that they would soon appeal in the SC against the verdict.

"We would fight to the last and hope we would get justice in the SC," he said adding "I would first discuss the matter with our lawyers."

Flood relief

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backed caretaker government was talking to reporters after attending a presentation made by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) on its activities in the conference room of the shipping ministry.

Asked about Dr Kamal Hossain's proposal for not asking for the source of money donated to help flood victims, Matin said, "Anybody will be able to donate money for the distressed people."

"I don't understand black or red money, helping the flood affected people is the main task at the present," the anti-corruption tsar replied to the journalist.

He said advisers to the interim government will work as coordinators of the committees that have already been formed in different flood affected areas to supervise the relief activities.

Replying to another question, the adviser said, "No government in the past achieved the amount of success the present caretaker government has in the last six months."

"I will welcome anyone who wants to stand beside the flood victims," the adviser added.

Matin hoped that wealthy citizens would take the opportunity.

Asked about the possibility of distributing among the flood affected people the black money the government seized or recovered through the ongoing anti-corruption drive, Matin said, "There is no scarcity of relief at the present, if needed we will think about it."

MA Matin also said he does not need any advice from any quarter to run the ministries he is in charge of.

He said his jurisdiction of supervising flood relief activities is comprised of Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Feni and Chandpur districts.

Asked whether the popularity of the present government has been declining, the adviser replied, "You [journalists] would know about it better."

Asked whether the anti-corruption drive has an adverse impact on the economy, Matin said, "Corruption had reached such a level that the economy of the country was about to collapse, we are trying to recover the country through the anti-corruption drive."

Foreign adviser

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spearhead mitigating the effects of climate change.

"It is difficult to generate the required response from a global appeal unless it is a large-scale and grave disaster," said Iftekhar when he was asked at a foreign ministry press briefing whether Dhaka would appeal for foreign aid through the UN.

Iftekhar said seeking foreign assistance bilaterally is more effective than receiving pledges at a large UN meeting, because of a "global donor fatigue" from world-wide demand for emergency aid in Sudan's Darfur region, Iraq and Afghanistan.

But, the foreign adviser maintained that the government is keeping its options open for three possible windows, which are through the UN's New York or Geneva offices, the local UN Development Program (UNDP) office, or through bilateral understandings.

During the 2004 floods, the UN had made a global "flash appeal" for \$210 million. They, however, received only 23.3 percent or \$48.5 million from donors worldwide until November 2004, according to UN figures.

Falu, friends

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the directors of these companies and their family members.

Falu, Arafat Rahman Koko, son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Enayetur Rahman, and Lutfar Rahman are the owners of these four companies.

Besides, the investigation found that Falu and his associates purchased 1.22 percent shares of the bank in the name of Bel Construction SDN BHD, a Malaysia based company. Falu, who became the chairman of the bank after striking a deal in October 2006, holds only 0.62 percent shares in his own name.

When Bel Construction SDN BHD was listed in Malaysia, two Bangladeshi citizens -- Osman Kaiser Chowdhury, and engineer Ashrafat Alam -- were the owners of the company. But when this company purchased shares of IFIC bank in October 2006, Mossaddak Ali Falu, Enayetur Rahman, and Ekramul Haque were the signatories on behalf of Bel Construction.

The central bank's investigation team however did not find any document proving Falu's ownership of the company.

The report raised the question, how Mossaddak Ali Falu and Enayetur Rahman became directors of Bel Construction while they were active directors of IFIC bank too. The investigation team however did not find any provision in the bank's documents against holding such dual positions.

The BB report explained that Bel Construction is a company listed in Malaysia by Bangladeshi private entrepreneurs. But when the company purchased IFIC shares, it did not take any permission from any government authority.

According to the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, if a foreign investment company wants to buy shares of a locally listed company, its investment should come to the country through non-resident investors account. And then the investment should be converted into local currency to buy shares of the locally listed company.

But the BB investigation team did not find any documentation of such a transaction in the bank's records. The BB investigation team assumed that the foreign company purchased the IFIC shares through collecting money locally, a practice which is illegal. The report said the bank did not even treat Bel Construction as a foreign investor.

Interestingly, the transactions of Bel Construction were conducted by Brotherhood Securities, a company owned by Falu. The report said it is quite mysterious how a Bangladeshi citizen became a director of a company listed in Malaysia and how he remitted the necessary capital to that country.

According to IFIC bank's share transaction form No-117, the witness of the transactions made by these four companies and by the family members of their owners, was Mazharul

The government will not appeal to foreign governments for flood-relief at present as they maintained that state resources are adequate to provide relief to flood-affected people, said Iftekhar. He added, "If any government wants to provide flood-relief, we would not refuse their help."

Until yesterday, four countries had provided flood relief, including \$2.5 million from Britain, 250,000 Canadian Dollars from Canada, and another \$100,000 from Turkey. Germany has also provided \$680,000 through the UN's World Food Program (WFP).

Iftekhar said at least two other countries are interested in donating funds for flood-relief.

Regarding Bangladesh's climate change, the foreign adviser said Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will participate in the high-level debate on climate change at UN's New York headquarters on September 24, while the environment adviser will participate on a global conference on climate change at Bali, Indonesia in December.

Abu Hena

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Station, the principal stated that the BNP leader from Rajshahi cancelled the Master Pay Order (MPO) of the college and then asked for Tk 5 lakh when he went to the ex-lawmaker at his residence on the 9th floor of the Concord Tower at Bangla Motor.

Abu Hena also threatened to cancel the government approval of the private college if the teachers do not pay him Tk 5 lakh. Nazrul claimed he along with two other teachers Abdur Rashid and Anisar Rahman--went to Hena's residence on July 26, 2002 to hand over the money.

Nazrul went on to allege that Abu Hena threatened him again that he and all other teachers would lose their jobs if they do not provide him Tk 30 lakh.

Nazrul said he settled the matter providing Abu Hena Tk 2 lakh at his residence on September 10 in 2003 and Tk 3 lakh on different other dates.

In search of milk

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she said as her grumbling turned into a plea before she finally broke down in tears.

Monera Khatun, 26, of Gunergati and her child Remon have been passing some of their days half-fed and on some days nothing at all. She cannot breastfeed Remon as she herself has not had enough food recently.

They were not way deep inside, the embankment is only 4km from the district town. Her husband Ismail Hossain used to be a labourer but the floods have rendered him unemployed and homeless. They took shelter on the embankment about a week ago. Monera cannot afford to buy milk from the local market now.

However, she was one of the lucky ones who received some relief food a few days ago but there were no milk or baby food in that ration.

Monera is not alone. There are many like her who are desperate for milk or baby food.

Returning from the embankment, The Daily Star correspondent asked Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj Ibrahim Khalil about the issue. He said he was aware of the problem and he had already sought milk and baby food from higher authorities for distribution among the destitute.

One killed

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Hatkhola border outpost without any provocation at about 3.02am, prompting BDR personnel to retaliate by firing eight bullets.

After exchange of fire, BDR men found a body floating in a ditch near the border in the morning. The victim was identified as Mansur Ali, 18, son of Abdul Baten of village Uchna under the upazila.

Immediately after the incident, Bangladesh paramilitary troops have been put on high alert on the border. BSF also deployed more troops.

A company commander level flag meeting was held on the border in the morning where BDR strongly protested the killing of the Bangladeshi in BSF firing.

BDR also blamed the BSF for violating the decisions of Saturday's battalion commander level flag meeting held on Koya border under Panchbibi upazila. In the meeting, the BDR and BSF agreed to maintain peace at the frontier.

HC asks govt

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mourning day by declaring it a public holiday.

On Sunday, Advocate Mozammel Huq and two others filed the writ with the court, challenging the order issued during the rule of the immediate past BNP-led alliance government.

The cabinet division secretary, the principal secretary to the chief adviser, and the secretaries of the ministries of law, information, and education have been made respondents of the rule.

Mentioning the great contribution of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the War of Independence, the petitioners said the erstwhile government in 1996 declared August 15 as the national mourning day and a public holiday to pay respect to the father of the nation who was assassinated on August 15, 1975.

But the BNP-led alliance government cancelled the earlier decision through a notification issued by the cabinet division, said the petitioners.

Khaleda

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cleared the way.

Journalists from print and electronic media also rushed to the spot to have comments from the former prime minister on current political developments. They were not allowed to meet her.

On July 5, Khaleda came out of her house to offer special prayer at the grave of president Ziaur Rahman.

BNP senior leaders RA Gani, Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah, Selima Rahman and Major (ret'd) Akhtaruzzaman were, among others, present at late Khan's residence.

62 Iraqis killed

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stop for one of the battered minibuses used by thousands of people in Baghdad.

The device, hidden on the side of the road, blew up after a minibus stopped to collect waiting passengers in the Diyala Bridge neighbourhood in the southern suburbs, security officials said.

Shrapnel sprayed the area as Iraqis got on and off the minibus shortly before the main rush hour, and as others stood waiting for a different line.

The Al-Zafaraniyah hospital said nine people were killed, including a woman, and eight wounded were brought in with mainly burns injuries.

In the Sunni Arab heartland north of the capital, mortar rounds crashed through private homes, killing six civilians and wounding another 17 in the town of Dhuluiyah, the local police chief and hospital directors said.

Police Colonel Mohammed Khaled said one woman was among the dead, with four women and five children wounded in an attack that seriously damaged five homes in the town centre.

Doctor Othman al-Juburi confirmed the casualty numbers as his medics in casualty struggled to cope with the limited supplies hampering hospitals' ability to treat patients across the country.

Iraq's brutal sectarian warfare and insurgency kills and maims daily despite the US military thrust against rogue Shia militias and al-Qaeda in Iraq extremists the Americans blame for most of the violence.

US forces said they killed 11 rebels and arrested 10 suspects on Monday in operations around the Tigris River Valley, the northern belt of Baghdad.

An air strike killed seven presumed fighters after US ground forces came under heavy gunfire in a raid against an al-Qaeda in Iraq emir responsible for attacks in Salaheddin province, where Dhuluiyah is located, the military said.

In Baghdad, US and Iranian officials were locked in security talks in the latest effort between the arch-enemies to find ways to contain the insurgency.

A US official told AFP on condition of anonymity that the meeting was under way at the office of Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in the heavily fortified Green Zone that houses the government and US embassy.

"It's at experts' level, people who are experts in the security field," said another US embassy official. "This is an Iraqi-led trilateral meeting... As far as I know, only security will be discussed."

US military also announced the death of another American soldier in Baghdad, bringing US losses in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to 3,666, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures.

Another four American soldiers have been killed in attacks around Iraq's war-torn capital, the US military said on Sunday.

Two of the soldiers died of injuries sustained during combat operations on Sunday in Baghdad, the military said.

Another soldier was killed and two others were wounded in western Baghdad on Saturday, while the fourth soldier died of wounds after a roadside bomb attack alongside a military vehicle near the capital on the same day.

On July 24 the delegations of Iran and the United States, led by Kazemi Qomi and US ambassador to Baghdad Ryan Crocker respec-

tively, were unable to agree during a landmark second meeting on ways to restore security to Iraq.

But the two countries did agree to create a tripartite security committee aimed at curbing militia activity, battling al-Qaeda and securing borders, albeit without reference to the Shia militias Iran stands accused of arming.

The US military in Iraq regularly accuses groups linked to Iran of training extremists in the war-ravaged country and supplying them with explosives capable of penetrating American armoured vehicles.

Iran denies supporting insurgent groups in Iraq.

3 killed in Lanka as UN envoy begins visit

AFP, Colombo

At least one soldier and two Tamil rebels were killed in Sri Lanka yesterday as a top UN rights official began a four-day visit to the embattled island, the defence ministry said.

The trooper died in a mine blast in the northern district of Vavuniya, the ministry said, adding that four soldiers were also wounded in another blast in the Jaffna peninsula, further north.

Security forces shot dead two Tiger rebels in the Jaffna peninsula Monday, the ministry added.

John Holmes, the under secretary general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, discussed the island's deepening Tamil separatist conflict and the plight of civilians caught in the crossfire.

He was due to travel to the northern and eastern regions, officials here said.

Holmes paid tribute to 17 aid workers of the French charity ACF, or Action Against Hunger, who were killed a year ago by unidentified gunmen in the restive northeast and reiterated a call for justice.

"I repeat the call of the secretary general to the government of Sri Lanka to investigate this murder with the full weight and force of the justice system," Holmes said in a speech, a copy of which was released to the press.

"This needs energy and a determination to find the truth."

The remembrance ceremony at the United Nations compound in Colombo was declared off limits for journalists without explanation. However, local media reported pressure from the Sri Lankan government to keep the event low profile.

The ACF said in a statement that remembrance ceremonies were held in Colombo, in the island's northeast as well as in Paris for the 13 men and four women killed a year ago.

Nordic truce monitors have blamed government forces for the killings, a charge denied by the Sri Lankan authorities. Police investigations remain inconclusive.

Thousands have been killed in fighting between troops and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam since December 2005 despite a truce arranged and put into place by peace broker Norway in February 2002.

Charges framed

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Monwar Sadique surrendered before the court. He was sent to jail.

On 17 February this year, contractor Nuruzzaman of Mirabazar in the district, filed the extortion case against seven people, including Naser Rahman, son of former finance minister M Saifur Rahman.

Benazir open

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reforms are going to be implemented; whether restrictive bans on the prime minister being elected a third time are going to be lifted," she said.

"I still believe if we can get an agreement for a smooth transfer of power and get a balance of power between the presidency and the parliament, we would be able to come up with a situation where we can undermine terrorism and address the real needs of the people, which I believe are now being neglected."

Benazir, who has lived in self-imposed exile in London and Dubai since 1998 due to corruption allegations against her