

Khaleda's properties

FROM PAGE 1
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, honaria and allowances received during her three terms as the premier and one term as the opposition leader, TADVA 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.

The 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 went to submit the wealth statement include Ali Azam Khan, Sanaulia Mia, Masud Ahmed Talukder and barrister Mahbub 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.

"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 Krishibank (BKB), Rajshahi Krishibank (RAKUB), Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Bangladesh Shilpa 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

FROM PAGE 1
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 food-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. Farmers will need seeds and other supports," 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

FROM PAGE 1
authorities would challenge the HC verdict in a court set up at the MP Hostel in the national parliament complex yesterday afternoon.

On February 18, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) asked 50 corruption suspects, including Firoz Mia, to submit their wealth statements. The joint forces arrested the CBA leader on February 4. He submitted his wealth statement to the commission on February 25 through his representatives.

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

Faizee and two others—advocates Jesmine Sultan 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 challenge the HC verdict in a court set up at the MP Hostel in the national parliament complex yesterday afternoon.

On March 20, ACC Deputy Director Mobarra Khanam filed a corruption case with Ramna Police Station against Firoz Mia for acquiring huge properties illegally.

According to the case, an ACC investigation revealed that Firoz owned Tk 1.35 crore and did not mention having Tk 55 lakh in his statement submitted to the commission.

The commission officials said though Firoz was a technician, he earned a huge amount of money as a CBA leader.

On June 4, Mobarra Khanam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet before CMM's Court.

Judge Ashraf Hossain, after examining the prosecution witnesses and records, found the sacked CBA leader guilty.

Firoz joined BTTB in 1973 as a

lineman and was promoted to the post of sub-assistant engineer in 2001. Before losing job, his monthly salary was Tk 8,525.

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

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 babyfood.

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 Dhanut upazila also complained of not getting any relief.

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Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria reports: Mahfuz Mia, 2,

Agri credit

FROM PAGE 1

"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 Krishibank (BKB), Rajshahi Krishibank (RAKUB), Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Bangladesh Shilpa 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.

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However, no information about the meeting was disclosed.

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