

Hasina sued

FROM PAGE 1
Eastcoast Private Trading Ltd, also a power company.

Tajul Islam Farook, chairman of Westmont Power Company, filed a case on April 9 under non-bailable sections of the penal code accusing Hasina and her personal staff Manu Majumder of extorting Tk 3 crore in 1998 while she was prime minister.

On June 13, Noor Ali, managing director of Unique Group, filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station accusing Hasina, her cousin Sheikh Helaluddin and his wife Rupa Chowdhury of extorting Tk 5 crore for mediating between PDB and his (Noor Ali) firm to finalise a power plant in 1997.

On July 24, police pressed charges against Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana and their cousin former minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, showing 24 people as prosecution witnesses.

A number of other cases against her have long been pending since the tenure of the immediate past BNP-led coalition government. The cases include frigate and MiG-29 kickback cases.

Our court correspondent reports: A Dhaka court yesterday asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Tejgaon Police Station to submit probe reports on two extortion cases against Hasina by September 24 and 25.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ashraf Uddin passed the orders after the general recording officer (GRO) placed the cases before the court saying that Tejgaon police are yet to submit probe reports.

Earlier, the same court had repeatedly directed the police to submit the reports but they did not. The case was filed under sections 161/ 163/ 164/ 165/ 165 (Ka)/ 109 of the Penal Code and section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1947.

CASE STATEMENT

Iraq PM

FROM PAGE 16
situation in the country is not good." He offered no specific examples.

He also said U.S. critics may not know "the size of the destruction that Iraq passed through" and do not appreciate "the big role of the Iraqi government and its achievements, such as stopping the civil and sectarian war."

The Democratic-controlled Congress is growing increasingly frustrated with the slow pace of political reform in Iraq. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, have called for al-Maliki to be replaced.

U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and the top American military commander, Gen. David Petraeus, are to report to Congress during the week of Sept. 10 on the degree of progress achieved since President Bush ordered nearly 30,000 more troops to Iraq.

A draft report by the Government Accountability Office concluded Iraq has satisfied only three of 18 benchmarks set by Congress for measuring progress and partially met two others.

None of those five benchmarks are the high-profile political issues such as passage of a national oil revenue sharing law that the U.S. has said are critical to Iraq's future.

Man dies

FROM PAGE 1
Islam Touhid -- at around 5:00pm on August 12 while they were having tea at a local restaurant in the Gobinpur area.

Later, Rab sent Bulbul, Nandu and Tutul to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka showing them arrested under section 54.

On August 13, Rab sent Ismail and Touhid to the same court showing them arrested under arms act. Rab claimed that they recovered a firearm and four bullets from Ismail and Touhid's possession. The court sent all of them to Dhaka Central Jail custody.

Victim's sister Rita Akhtar Parvin alleged that Ismail, one of the lessees of Sayedabad Bus Terminal for the last 15 years, gave a mobile phone set costing Tk 32,000 to a high official of Rab in June after the official demanded Tk 2 lakh from him. However, the Rab denied the allegation.

After Ismail's arrest, Rab informers -- Mujibur and Ratan -- allegedly demanded more money from Ismail and his family members in exchange for his "safe" return.

The informers also told her that Ismail's rival group, who is also interested in leasing the bus terminal, had given them Tk 32 lakh to have Ismail and others arrested, Rita added.

Rita also claimed that before his death, Ismail had told her that he was tortured.

Denying the allegations, Major Sajjad from Rab-10 told The Daily Star last night, "Ismail was an extortionist at Sayedabad Bus Terminal. He and his associates used to extort money out of passenger buses."

"Following their confession in Rab custody, a revolver was recovered from rail tracks in Sayedabad area," he added.

Major Sajjad, however, said he did not know the two informers.

Locals and his family members demanded justice following proper investigation.

The government approved private sector power generation policy on October 14, 1996.

The PDB invited international tender on October 24 of the same year to commission three barge-mounted power plants at Haripur, Shikalbaha and Khulna within eight to 10 months.

A total of 15 firms submitted 25 tenders, 18 of which were qualified primarily.

New England Power Company consortium proposed lowest tariffs but no deal was made with the company.

Besides, initiatives were taken for negotiation with first, second and third lowest bidders following illegal interferences by the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina and then power secretary Dr Towfik-e-Elahi Chowdhury.

The case statement said ignoring the lowest bidder's tariff rate, which was 4.59 cents per kilowatt hour, the power price has been fixed at 5.10 cents per kilowatt hour for three months and 5.82 cents per kilowatt hour for the rest of the agreement period.

Hasina approved the deal in connivance with other accused to serve the interest of a special quarter in a well-planned way through deception.

Arrangement to smuggle foreign currencies has also been made by allowing Wartsila to import oil that causes a huge loss to the country.

The accused Mohammad Aziz Khan, Mohammad Farid Khan, Hasan Mahmud Raja and Abul Kalam Azad paid Tk three crore out of Tk 6.50 crore in eight cheques/pay orders to Bangabandhu Memorial Trust to purchase a two-storey building and 19.11 kathas of land in Dhanmondi for the trust.

The cheques/pay orders were issued between October 7, 1997 and November 24 of the same year. The accused paid the money on behalf of the owners of Wartsila and it's local business partners Summit group and United group.

VGF programme

FROM PAGE 16
department statistics, six more deaths were reported during 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday, raising the flood-related death toll to 783.

Some 9,85,051 villages were completely or partially affected by the flooding. Crops and vegetables on about 14 crore acres of land had been submerged.

Ahead of Ramadan, the government has planned to introduce Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice at Tk 19 per kg to stabilise the market. The sale will start from September 10.

The OMS programme will continue till the end of October. Rice under the programme will be available at dealer's shops every alternate day.

Tapan Chowdhury said so far 1.18 lakh metric tons of rice had been allotted for sale under the OMS through 15,440 dealers across the country.

Besides, BDR would continue sale of rice, lentil, sugar, edible oil and other essentials at fair price, he added.

Under the flood rehabilitation programme, 1.50 lakh tonnes of rice will be given under the food for work programme. Besides, test relief will be launched in the dry season.

About rehabilitation in the agriculture sector, CS Karim said Tk 30 crore had been allocated for the affected farmers, of which Tk 8 crore has already been disbursed.

The government also allocated Tk 1.55 crore for preparing seed-beds and seedlings were being distributed among the farmers.

BDR opens

FROM PAGE 1
to keep the prices of essentials at a reasonable level during Ramadan," said Col Mojibul Hoque, a BDR sector commander and also the chief of the programme, at the BDR headquarters at Pihkhana.

"We hope setting up 100 fair-price outlets in the capital will play a positive role in keeping the prices of essentials at a reasonable level," he added.

He said produces in these markets will be cheaper than of other markets, adding that the BDR's other discount outlets, opened earlier, are not incurring any losses.

"We are making less profits." Col Hoque said they have enough food including rice, oil and lentil in stock to run the programme.

"We are importing more essentials and the government is providing us with necessary money and other support," he said.

He mentioned the prices of some of the items to be sold at the new outlets: rice (coarse) Tk 19 per kg, flour Tk 29, lentil (local) Tk 63, lentil (coarse-Turkey) Tk 58, soybean oil Tk 73, onion Tk 25, garlic Tk 42, ginger Tk 38, date Tk 80, potato Tk 18 and salt (one packet) Tk 10.

Col Abdul Halim, chief coordinator of BDR Trade and Monitoring Cell and director, operations and training, Bangladesh Rifles, was present, among others, at the briefing.

Wife of Mirza Abbas

FROM PAGE 1
Tk 4.70 crore in the cases. She will have to serve additional six months and one year in jail in default of the fines.

Nurul Amin, deputy tax commissioner of Taxpayers' Service Wing, filed the cases on August 5.

In the his complaints, Nurul Amin mentioned that Afroza had evaded Tk 11,58,746 income tax as one of the directors of Dhaka Bank since 1997 to 2002. She also evaded tax upon her income of Tk 4,67,95,634 for years from 2002 to 2007.

Charges were framed on August 21, while recording of the witnesses' depositions began on August 23.

Earlier, Special Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court issued arrest warrant twice against Afroza on August 5 and August 13.

PSI certification

FROM PAGE 1
customers sector alone due to PSI Companies' issuance of false CRF (clean report of findings), and corruption in connivance with customs officials.

A recent investigation by joint forces revealed that a PSI company was involved with a gross violation in valuation in importing several expensive cars.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
statement before submitting it to the jail authorities".

"Nothing has been concealed nor any false information given in the statement," he said following a two-hour meeting with Hasina at the special jail on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan premises.

The AL president's wealth statement said she does not own any house or land and that most of her property are inherited, Moniruzzaman, her lawyer, said.

She does not have any property in Dhaka or abroad, he added.

Hasina mentioned that her sources of income have been salaries and benefits she received in her capacities as prime minister, lawmaker, opposition leader and the property she inherited.

She has about Tk 2 crore in eight accounts with Sonali, Rupali, Pubali and Agrani banks. Her wealth statement included her husband's Sudha Sadan residence, estimated at about Tk 60 lakh, in the capital's Dhanmondi neighbourhood.

Her other assets include a jute warehouse on a ten-katha land in Khulna's Dighulia area. The warehouse has been priced at about Tk 50 lakh and shown as property inherited from her mother Fazilatunnesa Mujib.

The AL chief inherited 10 kathas of land and a pond on a six-katha plot in Gopalganj from her grandfather Sheikh Lutfar Rahman.

She and her sister Sheikh Rehana jointly inherited several bighas of land in Gopalganj's Tungipara from her father, according to the wealth statement.

Hasina's wealth assessment also included two cars she received as gifts from AL leaders.

The ACC in its July 17 notice directed Hasina to submit her wealth information in a week. She challenged the notice's legality in the High Court on August 5, earning a suspension of it two days later.

The government appealed against the HC decision at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, which stayed the HC order on August 27 and directed the AL president to submit her wealth report to the anti-graft body in seven working days.

Mainul

FROM PAGE 1
the caretaker government would have achieved more, Mainul said adding that it is necessary to remove the uncertainty by establishing good governance.

He sought all-out cooperation from all in establishing good governance in the country.

"The present government is a short-term government and we are passing through a difficult time. We have a lot of tasks to do and our main objective is to hold a free and fair election so that a democratic government can come to power," Mainul observed.

"We also want to establish a set of guidelines or examples so that the nation can be benefited from those," said the law adviser.

Admitting that there is no budgetary measure for the development of women entrepreneurship, he said women should be considered as human resources since "... woman entrepreneurs can help create employment opportunities as well as flourish the economy."

The adviser hoped that women would come forward and play an active role in trade and commerce of the country.

Selima Ahmed, BWCCI president, said the BWCCI, in cooperation with CIPE, has taken an advocacy project aiming at creating a gender-friendly environment in the trade and commerce sector.

She urged the government to formulate a long-term policy and to ensure budgetary allocations for the development of women entrepreneurship.

A presentation on the report was made before the audience by Munir Uddin Shamim, project coordinator of BWCCI.

Barkatullah Bulu

FROM PAGE 16
Road in Mirpur on September 10, 2004.

But accused Shamima, director of the company, Kamal, managing director and Mohsin, director (Finance), took the complainant to Bulu's government quarters on Minto Road on October 14, 2004 where they demanded Tk 1,75,00,000 as toll from him, saying that otherwise the contract for construction would be cancelled, the complainant added.

The accused also pressed him to sign on non-judicial stamp and contract for giving the demanded money and warned him not to disclose the matter to anyone. Eventually the accused extorted Tk 1,15,00,000 from the complainant from March 14 to December 18, 2005 for clearance of different bills, Mojibar said.

CASE AGAINST SALAHUDDIN

A Dhaka court yesterday completed deposition of all prosecution witnesses against Salahuddin Ahmed in connection with a case filed for possessing foreign currencies at his Kadamtola residence in Shyampur.

Judge Sayed Jahed Mansur of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-9 fixed today for next hearing of the case.

The security forces on February 4 seized weapons and foreign currencies along with nine diplomatic passports, eight Bangladeshi passports, 23 mobile phone sets, videocassettes, CDs, and a shotgun licence during a raid on Salahuddin's house.

CASE AGAINST ABBAS

Judge Abu Mohsin of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-6 fixed September 5 for framing charges against Mirza Abbas in connection with a case filed for possessing local and foreign currencies at his Shahjahanpur residence.

Mojibhel police submitted the charge sheet against Mirza Abbas to the CMM Court, 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 receipts 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.

PANKAJ CASE

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka transferred the tax evasion case against Swetchasebok League General Secretary Pankaj Devnath to the Fourth Special Judge's Court at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel for its quick disposal.

On August 29, Assistant Tax Commissioner Begum Nashid Rizwana Monir of the NBR filed the case against Pankaj for evading tax on his income of Tk 92,61,456 for the fiscal years 2002 to 2007.

On August 26, a special court sentenced him to 13 years imprisonment in connection with a case filed for false wealth statements submitted earlier to the ACC.

ALAM CASE

The same court transferred tax evasion case against Dhaka City Corporation Ward Commissioner Chowdhury Alam to the special court for its quick disposal.

On August 29, Deputy Tax Commissioner Russell Chakma of the NBR filed the case for evading tax upon his income of Tk 1,17,59,795 for the fiscal years 2002 to 2007.

Moreover, Alam did not give information about income and expenditure from different ways.

Indoor politics

FROM PAGE 1
January 11 that had banned all sorts of outdoor political activities.

Finally, the EC on last Tuesday announced that it would begin talks with 15 select political parties from September 12 following an assurance from the government that an environment conducive to talks will be created.

"We hope, we will get a decision regarding the ban on indoor politics well before the beginning of the talks," the CEC said yesterday.

He said the EC has sent an invitation and a copy of the draft proposals for electoral reforms to the Islami Oikya Jote, which will sit in dialogue with the EC on September 12.

"Even leaders of several political parties have told me that they would join the talks amid the ban on indoor politics," he said without disclosing identity of the leaders.

When the attention was drawn to the stance of two major political parties, Awami League and BNP, that said they would not join the talks until the ban on indoor politics is lifted, the CEC said he hopes a solution would hopefully come.

Echoing the view of the CEC, another election commissioner, Muhammed Sohul Hussain, said the government, of course, will open a window allowing the EC to hold talks with the political parties.

Asked when the invitation and copies of draft proposals for reforms will be sent to other political parties, Huda said the EC would send those in phases.

DU teachers

FROM PAGE 1
personnel started, but nobody could say anything about the incidents that followed.

The chief of the one-member probe body said that he might summon the teachers and officials present at the time of the incident at the university playground where a football match was going on before the trouble erupted.

Justice Khan also talked to the referees of the football match Azad Rahman and Md Zalat Uddin.

Talking to the journalists, the referees said that they heard noises from the west gallery during the game. Then they learned that army men were beating up the students. On hearing this, the other students present got infuriated.

When they talked to the teachers, they said that the match would continue after the chaos is over, but later it was postponed, the referees added.

Justice Khan then visited the vice chancellor's (VC) residence and DU Senate Building. The commission found marks of ransacking the VC residence, he said.

While visiting the Senate Building, Justice Khan asked Pro VC Prof Eusuf Haider Chowdhury for the names of the teachers who delivered speeches during a discussion there on August 20. Prof Eusuf told him that he would inform the commission later.

During the commission's visit to the spots, DU VC Prof SMA Faiz, Pro VC Prof AFM Eusuf Haider Chowdhury and Chairman of Department of Public Administration Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah were present.

Talking to the journalists at the Senate Building, VC Prof Faiz

VOTER LIST

The CEC yesterday said the EC will begin the field level task for preparing the voter list with photographs in 10 municipalities, three city corporations and several unions under 20 upazilas between September and November.

According to the EC's plans, the field level task in Chittagong City Corporation will begin on October 22, in Barisal City Corporation on October 4 and Sylhet City Corporation on October 4.

"The field level task for voter listing was supposed to begin on a large-scale from November, according to the electoral roadmap. We have already received laptops and other accessories from different organisations to expedite the tasks," Huda said.

Now, the EC has a total of 1800 laptops and other accessories for doing the voter listing, and purchase of 6,000 laptops and other accessories will be completed soon, he said.

The CEC informed that President Iajuddin Ahmed will visit Savar municipality area on September 5 to watch the field level activities for simultaneously preparing the voter list with photographs and national identity cards.

According to the EC's electoral roadmap, the task for voter listing will be completed in October 2008 while the stalled ninth parliamentary election will be held in December that year.

Election officers

FROM PAGE 1
EC's decision, the Institute of Business Administration under Dhaka University (DU), conducted the exam in last May.

"The probationary period of the election officers will end on September 6. So, we have decided that the 218 election officers will retain their current jobs. But their services will be confirmed after a year," CEC Huda said.

He said the EC would inform the 84 officers about the exam's results and EC's decision. "We are sorry that we can not allow them to keep their jobs due to their poor quality," he said citing an example that one of the officers got only three marks out of 100.

The CEC said the other officers did well in the exam. "Many of them are very meritorious. So, they cannot be axed from the job for their previous involvement in student politics," he said.

Huda said 15 officers obtained over 70 out of 100 while 114 got marks between 50 to 59 and 89 secured over 40, setas the pass mark.

Asked whether the EC will take any actions against those responsible for providing jobs to the unqualified persons, the CEC said the Public Service Commission (PSC) has been reorganised. The government has taken actions against one of the dishonest members of PSC, he said.

He said the EC has sent a letter to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to investigate the reported corruption practised in the EC Secretariat in the past.

"We sent the letter four to five months ago. But we are yet to see any progress in this regard. It might be because the ACC is now busy handling cases of large scale corruption," Huda said.

RU violence

FROM PAGE 1
and Prof Moloy Kumar Bhowmik of Management.

The other teachers are Dulal Chandra Biswas, Selim Reza Newton and Abdullah Al Mamun of Mass Communication.

Officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station Khondoker Ferdous Alam lodged the case under the Emergency Power Rules for bringing out a silent procession on RU campus on August 21 urging the students to resist attacks on DU teachers and students.

The teachers also held a secret meeting and instigated students to call a strike, alleged the complainant adding the angry students attacked policemen during the strike on August 22.

SI Nasir Uddin of the same police station submitted the other charge sheet accusing 14 people including Prof Dr Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan Sajal and Prof Dr Golam Sabbir Sattar Tapu of Geology and Mining.

The other accused are RU Public Relations Officer Sadikul Islam, former RU VC Faisalul Islam Faruki's driver Aatur Rahman, General Secretary of RU unit of BCL Ayeenuddin and BCL workers Dupayan Sarker, Mizanur Rahman Mithu, Sarker Ayaj, SM Fakrul Islam Sumon, Abu Sayem, Shamim Ahmed, Abdul Latif, Shakhawat and Aziz.

Shawkat Ali, assistant director of Rajshahi DGGFI (Directorate General of Forces Intelligence), filed the case on August 23.

According to the investigation officer, the accused instigated students to beat up Shawkat Ali and torched his vehicle while he was on duty on August 22.

Earlier, the court denied bail prayers of the detained teachers saying there is no provision for bail in the EPR.

However, it ordered the authorities concerned to give them divisions in jail in accordance with the jail code.

The court also ordered to ensure good treatment to the ailing teachers in jail.

Divided opinions

FROM PAGE 16
coal deposit of 1,053 million tonnes.

"The biggest issue that a policy should address is how it is going to benefit Bangladesh. The future of energy security as it seems today is bleak. The policy should tell us how we can ensure our energy security," notes a Power Development Board official.

The draft policy says that till 2025, if Bangladesh's GDP growth rate remains as low as 5.5 percent, it needs 19,000 megawatt additional power. If GDP growth is as high as 8 percent, it needs 41,000 MW additional power.

But Petrobangla has said production of gas, which has been the key source for power generation, will decline from 2011. This is where the country's coal should play a role.

It adds that to meet the demand for power in a GDP growth scenario of 5.5 percent, Bangladesh will need 136 million tonnes of coal till 2025. If GDP growth rate is 8 percent, then the country will need 450 tonnes of coal.

Naval chief

FROM PAGE 16
245 listed miscreants and 517 criminals and seized smuggled goods worth Tk 450 crore, he informed the newsmen.

Earlier, the Naval Chief distributed relief items among 600 families, affected by the erosion of Meghna river, at Dhonnia school premises.

Iran reaches uranium

FROM PAGE 16
"They (world powers) thought that by issuing any resolution Iran would back down," Ahmadinejad told Islamist students, referring to the two sanctions resolutions imposed against Tehran by the UN Security Council.

"But after each resolution the Iranian nation took another step along the path of nuclear development," he said.

"Now it has put into operation more than 3,000 centrifuges and every week we install a new series."

The installation of 3,000 centrifuges has always been earmarked by Iran as the key medium-term goal of its nuclear programme which it had originally