

Hasina sued

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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 Rehana and their cousin former minister Sheikh Fazul 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 extortions 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

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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

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Islam Touhid -- at around 5:00pm on August 12 while they were having tea at a local restaurant in the Gobindupur 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 Islam and Touhid to the same court showing them arrested under arms act. Rab claimed that they recovered a firearm and four bullets from Islam and Touhid's possession. The court sent all of them to Dhaka Central Jail custody.

Victim's sister Rita Akhtar Parvin alleged that Islam, 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 Islam's arrest, Rab informed -- Mujibur and Ratan -- allegedly demanded more money from Islam and his family members in exchange for his "safe" return.

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

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

Denying the allegations, Major Sajjad from Rab-10 told The Daily Star last night, "Islam was an extorter 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.

Wife of Mirza Abbas

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The government approved private sector power generation policy on October 14, 1998.

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 Towfiq-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 kanths 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 its local business partners Summit group and United group.

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 Sangsads Bhaban premises.

Motijheel 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,

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.

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.

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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.

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 seedbeds and seedlings were being distributed among the farmers.

BDR opens

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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 Pilkhana.

"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.

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

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

Barkatullah Bulu

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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 15,00,000 as toll from him, saying that otherwise the contractor 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 Jahan Mansur of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-6 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.

Judge Sayed Jahan Mansur of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-6 fixed today for next hearing of the case.

CASE AGAINST ALAM

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 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.

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RU violence

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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.

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.

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