

Khaleda's case

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first information report (FIR) of the case filed by ACC Deputy Director Golam Shahriar Chowdhury. The FIR mentioned that a petition is being processed to bring the case under the EPR.

The ACC secretary said, "In the interest of investigation and considering importance of the case, the IO made the petition."

In the case filed with Tejgaon Police Station, the former premier, her younger son Koko and 11 others were charged with corruption and misuse of power to help Global Agro Trade (Private) Company Ltd (GATCO), an indenting house, win the tender for container handling at Dhaka Inland Container Depot (ICD) and Chittagong Port ICD yard.

Asked when a case against Tarique is going to be filed, Mukhles replied "very soon."

ACC sources mentioned that the investigation report on Tarique's wealth statement was submitted on July 25 and the commission is examining all evidence and found provisions of relevant laws before filing a case against the high profile corruption suspect.

Tarique, BNP senior joint secretary general, concealed information about Tk 4 crore in his wealth statement and evidence has been found showing his income to be disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Tarique submitted his wealth statement along with that of his wife Dr Zobaida Rahman to the ACC through the jail authorities on June 7. He then submitted a supplementary statement on August 5.

Joint forces arrested Tarique in the early hours of March 8 from the cantonment residence of Khaleda.

On the case filed against former law minister Moudud Ahmed on Sunday, the ACC secretary said evidence of his involvement in corruption was found. Primary investigation found that the former minister drew Tk 1.90 crore by a cheque. Later, he opened 19 FDR accounts with different banks in the name of 19 persons and deposited Tk 10 lakh in each account.

Mukhles said besides filing cases against high profile corruption suspect politicians and bureaucrats, the commission has permitted submitting charge sheets against 10 corruption suspect of different fields.

They include A.N. Faruk Ahmad, A.K.M. Abdul Kuddus, Kazi Abu Taher, Shafiqul Islam, Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, Samslur Karim Khan, Shams Uddin, Ferdous Hasan, Hasin Naznin, Mahmudul Hossain alias Bachchu.

There are corruption allegations also against some ACC officials though they are now trying to adapt to the changed situation, the ACC secretary said.

An internal anti-corruption committee headed by the ACC chairman will soon decide over those allegations.

"Five ACC officials have already resigned while allegation against another was received today," he said.

Meanwhile, the ACC officials on Sunday visited the cantonment residence of Khaleda Zia to find whether there is any discrepancy in the wealth statement she submitted to the ACC, which has gross anomalies, sources said.

CASE AGAINST FALU

The ACC yesterday pressed charges against ex-BNP lawmaker Moshaddak Ali Falu, four DCC commissioners and 11 others in a case filed in connection with embezzlement of government relief materials.

ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Abdus Salam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka showing 75 people as prosecution witnesses.

The other charge-sheeted accused are Sharmila Imam, commissioner of DCC Ward-54, MA Majid, commissioner of DCC Ward-55, Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan alias Jahangir, commissioner of DCC Ward-37, Anwaruzzaman, commissioner of DCC Ward-40, Ruhul Amin's personal assistants Sujat Ali and Manzur Alam, composer of BG Press Shafiqul Islam Ahmed Babul and Nazir Ahmed, peon of DCC Ward-37 office.

Other accused are Anwar Hossain, headmaster of Tejgaon Community Centre Adarsha High School, Hafez Farhad Hossain, Imam of Baitul Nur Jame Masjid, Iml's personal assistant ABM Masudur Rahman, Sharmila's assistant Haider Sheikh, Abul Anwar Hossain of South Begunbari, Mahbub Hossain Bhuiyan and Monirul Islam Sohel of North Shahjahan.

Of them, Falu and Nazir were earlier arrested and are now detained in jail custody. The rest fourteen are still at large. The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against the fugitives and order of attachment of their properties.

In the charge sheet, the IO mentioned that the charges brought against the accused were primarily proved and they should be brought to justice.

The charge sheet was made under sections 420 (cheating), 406 (breach of trust), 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant), 109 (abettment), 471 (forgery) of the Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC), section 5 (2) of the Prevention of the

Charges framed

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August 26 after Rapid Action Battalion arrested them under the EPR.

On March 2, security personnel recovered 605 corrugated iron (CI) sheets and 63 blankets meant for relief from a ward commissioner's office at Tejgaon in Dhaka.

The law enforcers also recovered 37 CI sheets from the house of Shafuddin near BG Press Staff Officers' mosque in Tejgaon.

During interrogation, Falu claimed that he purchased the sheets from Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan alias Jahangir, vice-president of Tejgaon BNP.

Acting on his information, security personnel raided the ward commissioner's office at Begunbari of Tejgaon the same day and found 63 blankets in gunnysacks and 605 CI sheets stacked up. Fifteen kilogrammes of rotten rice was also found there.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) official Abdus Samad filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station against Falu, Jahangir and four others.

During the investigation, the IO found that Falu and others embezzled 100 bundles of CI sheets, 63 blankets, 150 metric tonnes of rice and Tk 1 lakh meant for relief.

Falu was placed on several days' remand for interrogation in connection with the case.

CASE AGAINST MOUDUD

Meanwhile, detained former law minister Moudud Ahmed was shown arrested in a graft case filed with Gulshan Police Station on Sunday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mizanur Rahman passed the order after ACC Deputy Assistant Director Shariful Haq Siddiqui, also the IO of the case, submitted a petition for showing Moudud arrested in the graft case.

The court also directed jail authorities to produce Moudud before the court on October 17 and asked its IO to submit the probe report on the same day.

In the first information report (FIR) filed on Sunday, it was mentioned that Moudud concealed information about his wealth and properties worth around Tk 4.40 crore. The FIR also added that Moudud has properties and wealth worth Tk 73,48,237 which is disproportionate to his known source of income.

CASE AGAINST NASIM

Hearing on charge framing of the sedition case filed against Saeedchhasebak League President AFM Bahauddin Nasim will be held on September 30.

Judge Mohammad Aman Ullah of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday set the date for framing charge against the accused.

Moen also promised expansion of the Defence Finance department organogram to match the expanding army, navy and the air force.

Comptroller and Auditor General Asif Ali and Defence Secretary Kamru Hasam also spoke on the occasion.

10,000 more

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Daily Star that none was arrested and that he received the recovered bullets and the magazines around 11:45am yesterday.

In the early hours on Thursday, BDR recovered 29,100 pistol bullets at Bakakura in Jhenaiagati upazila of Sherpur district. The BDR had arrested Russell Sangma, 25, son of Khokan Marak, in this connection. He was handed over to Jhenaiagati Police Station with the bullets the same day.

Jhenaiagati police produced Russell before a court in Sherpur Friday and the court granted a five-day remand for his interrogation. His remand expires tomorrow.

HC rule

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Moving the petition, Advocate Abdul Wadud Khondker said the under-negotiation PSI agreement is "against national interest".

He submitted that the present caretaker government "has no right to act beyond the ambit of the constitution", as Article 58D of the constitution bars an interim government from taking any policy decision.

The other accused are Sylhet city BNP chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury, Moulvibazar Municipality Chairman Karam Moyun, sub-divisional engineer of Roads and Highways Department Monwarul Sadique, district BNP vice-president Mouli Wali Siddiqui, former executive engineer Abdul Khaleque and former executive engineer Shafiqul Islam.

Of them, Wali, Khaleque and Shafiqul are still at large.

In the case, Nuruzzaman alleged that Naser in connivance with the others on 10 October, 2003 demanded Tk 2 crore from him.

CASE AGAINST NARRESTED

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu was shown arrested yesterday in two cases filed by businessman Nurunnabi for extorting Tk 1.30 crore, reports our staff correspondent in Rajshahi.

Minu was shown arrested after another accused, former president of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) Lutfar Rahman, disclosed his name in his affidavit.

The foreign adviser told reporters that Japan is a very good friend and important development partner of Bangladesh and a major source of economic and political support.

He said Atsushi showed keen interest in bilateral economic and commercial relations, including investment from Japan.

Rights body

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denial has led to inaction that consequently creates enhanced problems," Tenaganita added.

It also gave a picture of the deplorable situation of thousands of workers in Malaysia. "Tenaganita alone has more than 12 cases involving over 5,000 workers. There are another 4,000 workers stranded at the KLIA [Kuala Lumpur International Airport]. This is only the tip of the iceberg."

"The situation will turn for the worse and become ugly if there is no proactive action from the Bangladeshi government," warned Tenaganita.

The human rights organisation also questioned the high commission's commitment to helping the workers and added, "There has to be a review on the capacity of the consular services that should include the provision of special services for workers who are in Malaysia."

The organisation that does extensive research on the recruitment system said it is the high commission that verifies all the job contracts of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia and "if the high commission had genuinely verified the status of the companies and their demand for workers, thousands of these workers would not be facing such problems."

"The current practice of outsourcing has the elements of trafficking in persons. Workers are brought, passports taken away, held in captivity, beaten and abused with no employment," Tenaganita said urging the governments of Malaysia and Bangladesh to review the process of recruiting through outsourcing.

The outsourcing mode and method of recruitment and placement of Bangladeshi workers cannot be accepted and thus needs to be disbanded, Tenaganita observed.

He said the government has attached top priority to the issues of expatriate workers and is undertaking diplomatic and other efforts to resolve their problems. Because he said, expatriate workers are assets of the country.

Chowdhury hoped that the inquiry committee's report will help resolve the problems of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia.

Earlier, the government lodged a strong protest with Malaysian government and sought stern action against the Malaysian company PTC Asia-Pacific for its failure to provide appropriate jobs and facilities to the Bangladeshi workers they have recruited.

The problems surfaced after deprived Bangladeshi workers went on hunger strike recently on the Bangladesh High Commission premises in Kuala Lumpur.

The adviser told reporters that action would also be taken against any Bangladeshi agency found involved in such frauds with the job seekers.

Power plant

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Furthermore, the adviser requested the IAEA to provide support for preparatory work for the Rooppur Power Plant in Pabna.

Yuri Sokolov appreciated the role of Bangladesh in campaigning for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

He was impressed with the steps taken by Bangladesh ensuring nuclear-safety standards and assured IAEA assistance in setting up nuclear power plant.

Tapan Chowdhury is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the 51st General Conference of IAEA in Vienna.

In the conference, the adviser said IAEA should help Bangladesh in its efforts to establish nuclear power plant for producing electricity. "It should also support Bangladesh in providing better treatment to cancer patients," he told the meeting.

The adviser requested IAEA to play a key role in convincing the donor agencies in pledging funds for nuclear power plants for electricity generation in developing countries and the LDCs.

He suggested that international financing for nuclear power plants for electricity generation in the developing countries, including LDCs, should get priority as an environment-friendly approach in the multilateral scheme of Sustainable Environment Management Project (SEM).

The adviser informed the conference of the steps taken by the government in fighting cancer, and

Hillary unveils healthcare

AP, Washington

WARBE President Syed Saiful Haque, Sumaiya Islam of Bangladesh Obibashi Mohila Sramik Association, Nahid Akter of Shost, former ambassador Kamal Uddin Noor Khan Liton of Ain O Salish Kendra also spoke at the conference.

KL ASSURES DHAKA OF INVESTIGATION

In the meantime, Malaysia yesterday assured Bangladesh of investigating the problems being faced by Bangladeshi job seekers in Kuala Lumpur, reports UNB.

"We've received the complaint and we'll have to investigate the matter," Malaysian High Commissioner Dato Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Aziz told reporters after a meeting with Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

The high commissioner said the allegation against Malaysian recruiting agencies will be thoroughly investigated.

The foreign adviser said Secretary of the Expatriates' Welfare Ministry Abdul Matin leaves here on Tuesday for Kuala Lumpur leading a delegation to make an on-the-spot inquiry as to why Bangladeshi workers are facing problems and who are responsible for their plights.

The adviser said the Malaysian high commissioner assured that his government will extend all cooperation in resolving the workers' problems.

He said the government has attached top priority to the issues of expatriate workers and is undertaking diplomatic and other efforts to resolve their problems. Because he said, expatriate workers are assets of the country.

Dismissing the inevitable Republican criticism, Clinton addressed the crowd, "I know my Republican opponents will try to equate health care for all Americans with government-run health care. Don't let them fool us again. This is not government-run."

Artefacts

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Abdul Hawq Chowdhury and French Ambassador Jacques Andre Costilles,

Bangladesh was supposed to send

189 ancient relics dating back to 1200

years to the French Guinei Museum

for an exhibition titled "Sonar Bangla"

scheduled to start on October 24.

The counsel for the petitioners, Tania Amir, told The Daily Star last night that the agreement signed by the two governments is not enough to send the invaluable artefacts, and that the government was violating a number of laws.

She said the government had created a Board of Trustees under the National Museum Ordinance, 1983, which comprises experts on archaeological matters and are supposed to take the decision on whether to send the artefacts.

As such, Amir adds, the secretary does not have the authority to decide to send the artefacts according to section eight of the ordinance.

Amir also says that under section 22 of the Department of Archaeology Act, 1958 a licence is required to export these age-old items, therefore, the agreement is inadequate to send the artefacts.

She adds, these items would not even qualify for a licence as the Act states that if the items are unique they cannot be sent abroad, and a replica has to be sent instead.

The counsel also says that as 24 of the artefacts are from the Barind Museum, the government does not have the authority to send them.

While Yuree, along with a number of experts and intellectuals, said that the insurance for the artefacts were fiscally low and unacceptable.

Moreover, a protocol officer from the Culture Ministry, Abdul Hannan Howlader, who was supposed to accompany the artefacts was previously arrested for fraudulent activities regarding ancient relics.

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He works on a micro-financing project run by the non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Afghanistan since 2002 that works on development programmes like building schools and clinics.

"We have arrested three people who are responsible for the kidnapping," Mustafa told AFP.

"They have told us that they have moved the hostage across the border," he said, clarifying later that he meant the Afghan-Pakistan border. "They have promised to get him back in a couple of days. They are criminals."

The head of the Brac mission in Afghanistan, Ganendu Roy, also issued an appeal for Nurul Islam's release.

"We are in Afghanistan to help the community, to help our Afghan brothers. We are working for their development and also along with them - we are not maintaining any kind of separation from