

## Khaleda's case

**FROM PAGE 1**  
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 found and 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 Zobaidda 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 suspects of different fields.

They include A N Faruk Ahmad, A K M Abdul Kuddus, Kazi Abu Tahar, Shafiqul Islam, Mohammad Shafullah, Samul Karim Khan, Shams Uddin, Ferdous Hassan, 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 gone anomalous, sources said.

**CASE AGAINST FALU**  
The ACC yesterday pressed charges against ex-BNP lawmaker Mossaddak Ali Falu, four DCC commissioners and 11 others in a case filed in connection with embezzling 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, compositor of BG Press Shafuddin 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, Falu'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 (abatement), 471 (forgery) of the Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC), section 5(2) of the Prevention of the

Corruption Act and sections 15/19(J)/19 (J)(5) of the Emergency Power Rules.

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 Quarters 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 kilogramme 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 7,38,48,237 which is disproportionate to his known sources of income.

**CASE AGAINST NASIM**  
Hearing on charge framing of the sedition case filed against Swechhasebak 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.

On July 25, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of CID Munshi Atiqur Rahman, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka showing 17 people as prosecution witnesses.

After accepting the charge sheet, the CMM's Court cancelled Nasim's bail petition as he failed to comply with its order for appearing before the court on August 14.

Police filed the sedition case with a Dhaka court on March 11 in 2002 accusing Nasim of acting against the country's sovereignty and tarnishing its image abroad.

Mohammad Dulal Uddin Akond, ASP of CID's Faridpur zone, arrested Bahauddin Nasim on February 27, 2002 at Zia International Airport and seized \$6,300, three passports, two tickets, eight books and a number of CDs.

**CASE AGAINST NASER**  
Judgment in the extortion case filed against detained former BNP lawmaker Naser Rahman and five others will be delivered today, reports our Sylhet staff correspondent.

Judge Binoy Kumar Majumdar of the Third Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court will deliver the verdict.

On 17 February, contractor Nuruzzaman filed the extortion case against Naser Rahman and six others.

The other accused are Sylhet city BNP chief Aniful Haque Chowdhury, Moulibazar Municipality Chairman Foizul Karim Moyun, sub-divisional engineer of Roads and Highways Department Monwar Sadique, district BNP vice-president Moulvi 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.

**MINU SHOWN ARRESTED**  
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 judicial confession.

Nurunnabi lodged the cases on August 6 against Lutfar and five others.

## Charges framed

**FROM PAGE 1**  
August 26 after Rapid Action Battalion arrested them under the EPR.

Sub Inspector Nasir Uddin Mondol, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet of the case accusing three more teachers on September 1.

It was alleged that the accused with an ill political motive held procession and secret meetings to disrupt law and order and also damaged public properties on August 21 and 22.

They also observed a strike on July 26 by going on leave en masse protesting the arrest of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

Prof Saurid led the programme, which was attended by more than a hundred teachers.

The IO also produced the banner, which was used in teachers' procession, and photographs of the procession as evidence of the case.

Meanwhile, Sub Inspector Abdur Rob of Daulatpur Police Station yesterday submitted charge sheet to Khulna's chief metropolitan magistrate's court accusing seven of creating violence in and around Government BL University College on August 22 protesting Dhaka University incidents, reports our Khulna correspondent.

The accused are Sandipan Chatterjee, Tarikul Islam Sani, Yusuf Shakil, Monir Hossain Ruchi, Shahriyar Ahmed, Samdani and Tanvir alias Trimon. Five of them are students of BL College.

## Moeen

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Lauding the publication of the manual and the handbook, Moeen said that this would help make defence expenditure more accountable and transparent as well as help check irregularities and corruption.

The general said the Comptroller General for Defence Finance's role to enforce discipline in military financial management is very important as regular payment of a soldier's salary and allowances is closely related to their attention to duties.

Moeen observed that as the government watchdog for all government spending, the Audit Office plays an important role. However, it alone cannot fulfil this duty and needs to work closely with the Anti-Corruption Commission, he added.

The army chief said that their role is of particular importance at this time when the government is trying to eradicate bureaucratic corruption and irregularities.

Moeen 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 Kamrul Hasan also spoke on the occasion.

## 10,000 more

**FROM PAGE 1**  
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 Jhenaigati upazila of Sherpur district. The BDR had arrested Russell Sangma, 25, son of Khokon Marak, in this connection. He was handed over to Jhenaigati Police Station with the bullets the same day.

Jhenaigati 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

**FROM PAGE 16**  
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.

## Japan favours

**FROM PAGE 1**  
apprised him of the prevailing political situation in Bangladesh and the steps taken for holding a free, fair and credible election. He expressed the hope that democracy would be restored through the election.

Asked if he finds current situation congenial for increasing Japanese investment, the Japanese official said Bangladesh has a lot of potential for development and the country is trying to move towards that direction.

"We hope democracy will be restored...business will come," he said, adding that he is here to watch what is happening in Bangladesh.

The two sides also discussed UN Security Council reforms, as Japan is a candidate for an expanded UNSC. Bangladesh earlier extended her formal support to Japan's candidature.

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 Atsumi showed keen interest in bilateral economic and commercial relations, including investment from Japan.

## Rights body

**FROM PAGE 16**  
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 Bangladesh 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.

At the press conference in Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium, WARBE representative Anisur Rahman Khan in a written statement demanded alternative jobs options for the workers cheated in Malaysia or bringing them back ensuring full compensation from the recruiting agencies.

"The memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries should be made public in the national interest," Khan said advising that skilled and honest officials should be assigned at the high commission in Kuala Lumpur and the activities of the recruiting and outsourcing agencies have to be monitored closely.

## Power plant

**FROM PAGE 1**  
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 in 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 her 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 (SEMP).

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

WARBE President Syed Saiful Haque, Sumaiya Islam of Bangladesh Obhivashi Mohila Samik Association, Nahid Akter of Shostli, 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.

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.

urged IAEA to help Bangladesh in this regard.

Referring to the problem of groundwater contamination with arsenic, he informed the conference about the steps taken by Bangladesh to mitigate the problem, and sought further technical support from the agency.

## How finest

**FROM PAGE 1**  
floated thrice for maintenance of the road, but every time the bids were cancelled at the last moment.

In 2004, the World Bank forked out Tk 42 crore for repair and maintenance of this road and tenders were floated. But later, the Bank pulled back its funds and work remained undone. Later, another RHD effort to maintain the road at a cost of Tk 16 crore also did not materialise for fund dearth. In 2005, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed Tk 43 crore for its maintenance but that also did not happen for red tapes.

At the tag end of the last BNP-Jamaat government, another initiative to repair the road at a cost of Tk 20 crore failed to take off as the contractors, mostly party henchmen, pressed for additional funds.

The RHD now has taken another initiative to repair the worst affected 18.50 kilometers patch of the road at a cost of Tk 20 crore from October 1, but that may again prove futile unless weight of goods transported through the highway is properly maintained.

## CA to attend

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Leadership's Challenge of Climate Change" ahead of the heads of state and government participate in the annual general debate starting on September 25. He will address the UNGA on September 27.

His small entourage will consist of Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury, Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam Majumder and Press Secretary to the Chief Adviser Syed Fahim Munaim.

Set to meet a number of global leaders on the sidelines of the UNGA, Fakhruddin will also attend dinners hosted by US President George W Bush and Ban Ki-moon.

He will also deliver speeches to the Asia Society and at the Columbia University on Bangladesh's current political situation.

News World, a news agency from New York, reports that the Bangladeshi expatriate community

## Hillary unveils healthcare

AP, Washington

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday offered a sweeping health care reform plan to ensure coverage for all Americans with federal assistance to help defray the cost.

Thirteen years after her first effort was abandoned but saying she still bore the scars from that failure, Clinton described her new plan as necessary to address the crisis of some 47 million uninsured.

"I believe everyone, every man, woman and child should have quality, affordable health care in America," the New York senator told an audience in Iowa. She vowed to accomplish the goal in her first term.

Her original plan was an unprecedented initiative for a first lady. This time, she is offering a \$110 billion a year program as a candidate for the presidency, in the leadoff state that is her toughest battleground. The health care plan came late in her primary campaign, after several rivals had already described their visions.

Dismissing the inevitable Republican criticism, Clinton admonished 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

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Abdul Howk Chowdhury and French Ambassador Jacques Andre Costilhes, Bangladesh was supposed to send 189 ancient relics dating back to 1200 years to the French Guimet 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 antiques.

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 farcically 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.

## Afghanistan

**FROM PAGE 1**  
over the abduction of the Brac employee in Afghanistan and appealed for his immediate release, according to UNB.

"We fervently appeal to those who have abducted him to immediately release. His mission in Afghanistan is purely humanitarian - he is there only to help his Afghan brethren," Iftekhar said.

The foreign adviser also talked to the Afghan Ambassador in Bangladesh, Ahmad Karim Nawabi, regarding the issue. The envoy assured him of Afghan government's "all-out cooperation" in obtaining release of the development worker.

Armed assailants abducted Brac employee Nurul Islam, 39, from his office outside the Logar capital Pul-i-Alam on Saturday.

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, Gunendu 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 the community," he told the news agency.

## Norway

**FROM PAGE 16**  
She also welcomed the Election Commission's commitment to a roadmap for holding elections by the end of 2008 or sooner and noted with satisfaction that the registration of voters for the new voter list is well on track and in some locations even ahead of schedule.

The PERP is jointly funded by the government of Bangladesh, UNDP, the UK government, the EC, and the governments of Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands and South Korea.

## Parties to ask EC

**FROM PAGE 1**  
clarified the EC's plans regarding its course of actions. "The Election Commission will finalise the proposal for electoral reforms after taking opinions from the political parties," CEC Huda said on Sunday.

On the second day of the talks on Sunday, Krishak Samik Janata League (KSJL) raised with the EC the long-standing popular demand for disqualifying the anti-liberation forces from contesting in the polls, including Jamaat-e-Islami.

On March 27, when some freedom fighters at a tea party demanded that the war criminals be prosecuted, Chief of the Army Gen Moeen U Ahmed said he would raise the issue in government circles.

While talking to senior leaders of the political parties, it was learnt that they also decided to make the same proposal to the EC for disqualifying the anti-liberation forces and war criminals from contesting in the upcoming parliamentary poll.

In defence of their proposals, they argued that there is no bar now on taking actions against the war criminals, who were not tried in the last three decades.

Senior Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday lent her strong voice to KSJL leader Quader Siddiqui, in urging the caretaker government not to allow Jamaat-e-Islami to participate in elections and to bring the war criminals in it to justice, for the crime of opposing the Liberation War.

"I agree with Krishak Samik Janata League President Quader Siddiqui on his proposal for not allowing Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh to participate in elections," she said at the Dhanmondi office of AL in the capital, while launching a probe into the incident of the party's dissident leaders being manhandled by some of its activists.

"We will definitely propose to the Election Commission for making legal provisions disqualifying the anti-liberation forces and war criminals from contesting in polls," AL Presidium Member Matia Chowdhury also said yesterday.

Matia said AL-led 14-party coalition disclosed a set of electoral reform proposals on July 15, 2005 in which was a provision for disqualifying the war criminals from contesting in polls.

"We will not retreat from our stance when we will go for the talk with the commission," the AL leader asserted. AL is scheduled to have its talk with the EC on November 4.

BNP Chairperson's Adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah said he personally fully supports the proposal made by KSJL chief Quader Siddiqui.

"War criminals, found guilty by courts, should not be allowed to contest in polls. They should also be barred from engaging in politics in Bangladesh," Hannan said.

Asked whether his party will raise the proposal in line with his expressed sentiment, the BNP chief's adviser said his party has yet to decide whether it will sit in a dialogue with the EC at all. "A collective decision