



GRAFT CASE AGAINST KHALEDA

Saifur, Bhuiyan, six other ex-ministers to be quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will question eight former ministers, including M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Matiur Rahman Nizami tomorrow in connection with a graft case filed against detained former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

A Dhaka court yesterday sent six people arrested on Saturday in connection with the case filed on September 2 to jail after two of them gave judicial statements.

"The cabinet ministers of the government purchase committee will be questioned and they have been summoned to appear before

the commission on September 25 as the case is sensitive and holds public importance," said ACC Secretary Mukhles Ur Rahman.

The cabinet purchase committee had approved the awarding of the container handling work at Dhaka Inland Container Depot (ICD) and Chittagong Port ICD yard to Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (GATCO) despite its alleged lack in experience and skills, sources said.

The former ministers are finance minister Saifur Rahman, LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, industries minister Matiur Rahman Nizami, agriculture minister MK Anwar, health minister Khandaker Mushtarrif, information minister M Shamsul

Islam, commerce minister Amir Khasru Chowdhury and state minister for energy minister AKM Mushtarrif Hossain.

The ACC has already taken permission from the court to question two detained former ministers - Khandaker Mushtarrif and AKM Mushtarrif Hossain - in jail.

On Wednesday it issued letters to the ministers asking them to appear before the commission.

ACC Deputy Director Golam Shahriar Chowdhury filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda, her younger son Arifat Rahman Koko and 11 others.

The other accused in the case are former chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Commodore (retd) Syed PAGE 15 COL 8

Zulfiquar Ali and AMM Shahadat Hossain, former CPA director (transport) AM Sanwar Hossain, former chief finance and accounts officer Ahmed Abul Qasem, former director Lutful Kabir, former shipping minister and BNP leader Col (retd) Akbar Hossain's son Ismail Hossain Simon, GATCO directors Syed Galib Ahmed, Syed Tanveer Ahmed and AKM Musa Kajol and Akbar's wife Jahanara Ansar and one Ehsan Yusuf.

The ACC brought that case under the Emergency Power Rules on September 17 and arrested six of the accused on September 22. They are Shahadat Hossain, Lutful Kabir, Sanwar Hossain, Ahmed

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BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE
SC lets death row prisoners appeal

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday granted the applications by the condemned prisoners in the Bangabandhu murder case seeking leave-to-appeal against their death sentences.

A three-member Appellate Division bench, headed by Justice M Tafazzal Islam, passed the order and asked the petitioners to file regular appeal by October 30.

Besides, the court extended its stay on the execution of the death sentences until October 30 next.

The condemned petitioners are Lt Col (sacked) Syed Farooq Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col (retd) Muhidin Ahmed, Lt Col (retd) AKM Mahiuddin Ahmed and Major (retd) Bazul Huda.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with most of his family members

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Emergency has to be relaxed in areas of local polls by December: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said the ongoing state of emergency must be relaxed by the end of this year in areas where local government elections are planned from January.

"Our target is to hold a series of elections to local government bodies from January next year. So, not only the ban on indoor politics but the state of emergency will have to be relaxed in the areas where local government elections will be held," the CEC said at a views exchange meeting with representatives of different televi-

sion channels and radio stations.

Brimming with confidence about successful implementation of the Election Commission's (EC) roadmap for holding the polls to local government bodies and the stalled parliamentary election, the CEC said the government extended its full support to the commission's activities as this government had been formed only to hold the elections.

The CEC's remark on the state of emergency came at a time when senior leaders of major political parties are demanding lifting of the emergency regime. The emergency was imposed on January 11 suspending outdoor political activities

like processions and rallies amid a volatile political situation over holding the stalled January 22 parliamentary election.

In response to the EC's previous demand, the government had allowed limited indoor politics from September 10 only in the capital, with a set of conditions attached, to facilitate the electoral reform talks between the commission and political parties, which started on September 12.

The poll chief at a meeting with the law adviser on April 4 first asked the government to lift the ban on indoor politics to pave the way for the talks, and kept on asking for a

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Nassa garment workers agree to resume work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The demonstrating workers of Nassa Mainland, a factory owned by Nassa Group, have agreed to return to their work from today after the factory authorities agreed yesterday to fulfil some of the workers' demands.

At a five-hour-long meeting mediated by Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the worker representatives and the factory authorities came to an understanding and signed an 11-point agreement.

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The move comes in response to recent instances of controversy

Constitution council to be set up to ensure fair selection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government is looking to form a national constitutional council to ensure appointments to constitutional posts are made in a transparent manner.

A draft ordinance titled National Constitutional Council Ordinance, 2007 is now at the law ministry for further scrutiny after the council of advisers Wednesday sent it back there.

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The move comes in response to recent instances of controversy

over appointment of judges, chief election commissioner (CEC), election commissioners, chairmen and members of the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain yesterday said the convention of the president's consulting the chief justice about the High Court judge appointments had been barely followed. Giving appointments to the constitutional posts has rather become secretive.

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Fakhruddin reaches NY

BSS, New York

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed arrived in New York yesterday on an official visit to attend the 62nd session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

He arrived at the John F Kennedy International Airport from an Emirates flight at 8:30am local time.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the UN Huinayun Kabir and the Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN Ismat Jahan welcomed the chief adviser at the airport.

The chief adviser leads a high-powered delegation that includes

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Workers of Nassa garment factory at north Begunbari demonstrate in front of BGMEA Bhaban at the city's Karwan Bazar yesterday to realise their six-point demand.

VIOLATING EPR
Trial of 6 RU teachers begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Trial of six detained Rajshahi University (RU) teachers for violating emergency power rules began at the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court for Speedy Trial in Rajshahi yesterday.

The court of Magistrate Fazlul Karim Chowdhury recorded deposition of a prosecution witness, and the plaintiff of the case, Khondoker Ferdous Ahmed, also officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar Police Station.

Defence lawyer Golam Arif Tipu later cross-examined the prosecution witness for four hours. The court fixed Wednesday to complete the cross-examination.

All the six accused teachers were

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DEPRESSION WEAKENS
200 fishermen still missing

STAR REPORT

Around 200 fishermen of 15 fishing boats that went down in the turbulent Bay of Bengal Thursday are still missing while loading and unloading of goods at Mongla Port remain suspended for two days due to bad weather.

Rescue efforts for the missing fishermen could not begin due to rough weather, our correspondents reported. Eight fishermen are missing since seven small fishing boats capsized in the Meghna in strong winds yesterday

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Held magnates may be freed if they hand over ill-gotten wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government may consider releasing arrested businessmen if they disclose their ill-gotten wealth and agree to hand those over to government.

However, those involved with major grafts will not receive this consideration, Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain said yesterday.

"If they (the detained businessmen) confess that they have acquired their wealth in dishonest ways and say that they are ready to handover those, it (release) can be

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morning.
The depression that caused the sinking of the vessels intensified into a deep depression and crossed Orissa coast of India early yesterday morning and weakened. Under the influence of the depression, gusty wind is prevailing over the north Bay and different seasonal crops in coastal region were submerged under seawater.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal three instead of four.

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Dream Indo-Pak T20 final today

BBC ONLINE, undated

Pakistan's success in the tournament so far, although teamate Shahid Afridi heads the overall player of the tournament standings for his 91 runs and 12 wickets.

Pakistan expect opener Iman Nazir to be fit to play despite needing a runner in their semifinal win over New Zealand because of a groin injury.

The two sides played out a dramatic tie in the tournament, with India coming out on top after a bowl-out.

"There is nothing more exciting than an India-Pakistan match, so expect some fun," said India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

India will again hope for firework from Yuvraj Singh, while Pakistan will look to captain Shoaib Malik and Misbahul Haq.

The middle-order pair has been one of the main reasons for

Alim Jute Mills workers enforce sit-in to protest layoff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Over 300 workers of Alim Jute Mills yesterday held a sit-in to protest the authorities' decision to suspend operations of the factory.

The sit-in that started at 9:00am and ended at 6:00pm was held outside the administrative building of the factory.

The workers will continue holding sit-ins until their back pay and other financial benefits including gratuity and provident funds are paid in full, said Abdus Salam, CBA leader and president of Alim Jute Mills Workers' Union.

The workers of the factory would also oppose any government move for selling the jute mill, a profit-making enterprise, to private parties, added Salam.

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9 Allahr Dal activists get 5yrs in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Kushtia court yesterday sentenced nine activists of "Allahr Dal" to five years' rigorous imprisonment in a case filed in connection with carrying out militant activities.

The convicted militants are Nazmul Hasan, Tipu Sultan, Zahiruddin, Tasnim-ul-Alam Ranak, Mohammad Rakib Mondol, Safikul Islam Sumon, Lokman Hossain of Kushtia Bappi Sharif of Manikganj and Murali Sarif of Faridpur.

First-class Magistrate Jalal Saifur Rahman handed down the verdict following the trial that went on for 33 working days and recorded statements of three witnesses.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case examined the confessional statements of the militants.

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জেগাও-এলাকায় শ্রমিক অসম্মতির প্রেক্ষাপটে নাসা গ্রহণ কর্তৃপক্ষের বক্তব্য

বিপ্রতি ২০/০৯/২০০৭ইঁ তারিখ সকাল ৮টার সময় নাসা গ্রহণের জেগাও-এ অবস্থিত নাসা মেইনল্যান্ড গার্ডেন্টস ফ্যাক্টরীর শ্রমিকদের আক্টিভিস্টদের কাছে বক্তব্য করে দেয়। ঘটনার প্রেক্ষাপটে শ্রমিকদের দাবী-তে ফিল্ম তাত্ত্বিক ভাবে ২৫ টাকা, হাজিরা বোনাস ৩০০ টাকা এবং সুবেদার বোনাস ৮৫০% দিতে হবে।

এ সমস্ত দাবীর প্রেক্ষাপটে শ্রমিকরা যখন কাজকর্ম করে ফ্যাক্টরীতে বিশুল্বতা সৃষ্টির প্রয়াসে রাত থেকে নাসা গ্রহণের ব্যাবস্থা ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালকসহ করে দেবার প্রতিক্রিয়া প্রদান করেন। শ্রমিকদের অন্যান্য দাবীসমূহ অনৌরোধ করেন। অধিকাংশ শ্রমিকদের এ শিকায়ের প্রেক্ষাপটে কাজে যোগান করে ইচ্ছে পোষণ করে। তবে অন্য কিছু স্বত্বের বিশুল্বতা সৃষ্টিকার্যবৃদ্ধি করে কাজ করার ক্ষেত্রে বাধার জন্য বাধার কাজে আবেদন করা হয়ে থাকে। কিন্তু কিছুব্যাপক উচ্চতাকালীন শ্রমিক অন্যান্য শ্রমিকদের আক্টিভিস্টদের কাজে আগত কাজ করে না করতে বাধা করে। পরিস্থিতির ভয়াবহাবের একটি প্রধান কারণে আগত কাজ করে না করতে বাধা করে।

প্রতিক্রিয়া