

Shinepukur top shots sued for Tk 108cr graft

Mahmudur Rahman prime accused; Sohel, Salman also charged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed corruption cases against ex-managing director of Shinepukur Holdings Ltd Mahmudur Rahman, its chairman Sohel F Rahman, vice-chairman Salman F Rahman and four others including two former top Sonali Bank officials for embezzling over Tk 108 crore from the bank.

Mahmudur Rahman was the energy adviser with the status of a state minister during the immediate past regime of BNP-led four-party alliance government.

The other accused are ex-director of Shinepukur Holdings Ltd Iqbal Ahmed, former general manager (GM) of Sonali Bank Sheikh Amin Uddin Ahmed, the bank's Deputy General Manager (DGM) (credit division) Abu Taher, and its ex-DGM (local office) ASM Nurul Haque.

The case said the accused in



Mahmudur Rahman



Salman F Rahman

collusion with each another embezzled Tk 108 crore in capital and interest from the Dhaka local office of Sonali Bank through a consortium, Shinepukur Holdings Ltd, using fake documents. They did it knowingly abusing their influence and through fraudulence, the case mentioned.

ACC's Assistant Director Mahbul Alam filed the case with Motijheel police station under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

During the course of investigation it has been found that prime accused Mahmudur Rahman, who was the joint managing director of Shinepukur Holdings Ltd, hid his

real identity and appealed to the GM of the local office of the bank for a bank guarantee for 17.22 million US dollars equivalent to Tk 78 crore on January 4, 1998 for establishing a housing project identifying himself as the MD of the company, the case noted.

Following his appeal, the bank guarantee was approved from the head office of Sonali Bank, and Mahmudur Rahman submitted deeds of 83.4479 acres of land in Gazipur as collateral. But, 8.59 acres of that land were acquired by the Radio Bangladesh office at Gazipur, 5.20 acres were the property of the forest department while the remaining 65.44 acres were in possession of different people who did not hand over their lands to Shinepukur Holdings Ltd.

Sensing the fraudulence, the Bangladesh Bank cancelled the bank guarantee on July 6, 1998.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

List of 80 to be released on approval by CA

Adviser Matin says on graft suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain yesterday said no one on the latest list of 80 corruption suspects will be arrested now.

The businessmen on the list will have to pay penalty but will not be arrested because the government is considering a soft stance towards them so that they can continue their businesses, Mainul told reporters at the secretariat.

The 80 were listed only after allegations of corruption against them were proved true "to some extent" during preliminary inquiries, said Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin, chairman of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on serious crimes.

In the wake of a debate over the legitimacy of the list, which had no signature for authentication, Matin yesterday confirmed that the names the newspapers published are "almost correct".

The authorities concerned will

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

BASHUNDHARA GROUP

Akbar, sons, wife get 8 years for tax evasion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Ahmed Akbar Sobhan

An anti-graft tribunal yesterday handed down eight-year imprisonment on five high-ups of Bashundhara Industrial Complex Ltd, including Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, in a tax evasion case.

The court also jailed an auditor for three years for assisting them in evading taxes.

The other four who got eight years are Akbar's wife Afroza Begum and their sons Sadat Sobhan, Safiyat Sobhan Sanbir and Sayem Sobhan, all directors of the company.

MM Kuddus, proprietor of Kuddus & Company, which audits the company's financial statement, was jailed for three years for assisting Bashundhara in dodging taxes.

The convicts got five years of rigorous imprisonment for concealing information and three years of simple imprisonment for giving false information.

The Third Special Court of Judge

Board of Revenue (NBR).

The convicts, however, will have to serve five years' jail term, as both the sentences run concurrently. All the convicts are on the run since filing of the case.

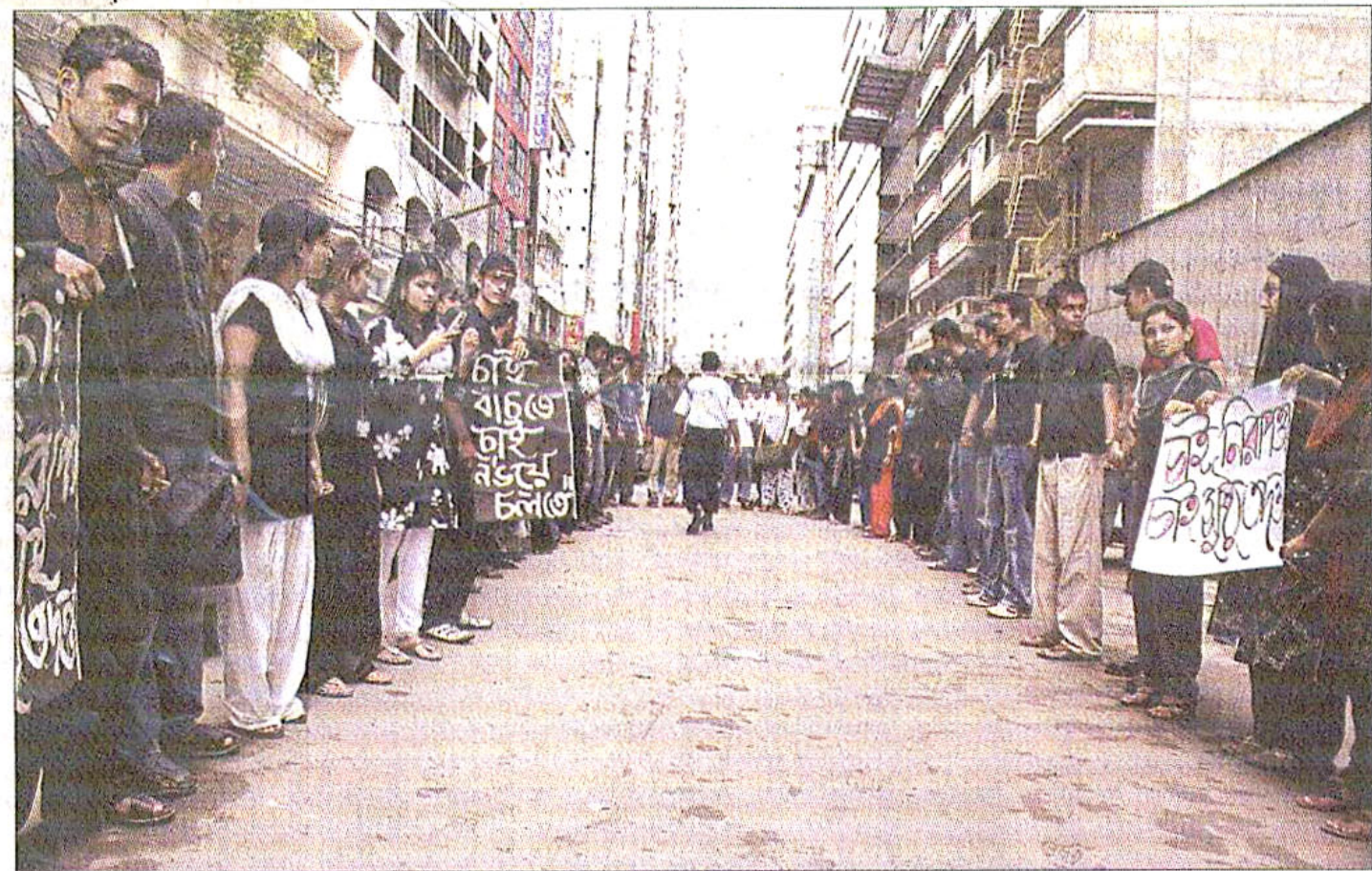
The court set up at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel awarded the punishment for committing two offences under sections 165 and 166 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984.

The jail term of the convicts will begin from the day of their surrender or arrest.

Kabiruddin Mollah, deputy tax commissioner of Circle-8 of the NBR, filed the case against seven and the company in connection with evading Tk 8.48 crore income tax between the fiscal years 2004 and 2007.

The other accused in the case is detained Deputy Director Mostafizur Rahman. The court did not deliver verdict against him as the higher court stayed proceedings of the case against him following a petition filed by the defence lawyer.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Students of North South University (NSU) form a human chain at Banani in the city yesterday demanding proper investigation and arrest of the killers of their teacher Dewan Rahat Karim Mukul who was killed by muggers recently.

ACC quizzes 4 high officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday questioned Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairman Sadat Hossain, Additional Secretary to the Communication Ministry ATKM Ismail, former shipping secretary Zulfikar Haider Chowdhury in connection with a graft case filed against former premier Khaleda Zia.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case ACC Deputy Director Johirul Huda also received the statement of another former information secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan over telephone as he is abroad.

The secretaries were questioned as they were in charge of different ministries concerned with the Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco) deal. The commission also inquired if there was any pressure or influence on the secretaries to have Gatco win the job during the four-party rule.

The commission on Thursday summoned eight former secretaries, of ministries concerned, to appear before the commission yesterday and give their statements

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

GATCO CASE

Khaleda granted bail, proceedings stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



releasing the BNP chief.

Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon, another defence lawyer, said that since Khaleda Zia is not arrested on any other charges, she should soon be freed given that the bail order remains valid.

He also said, "The court did not reject the bail prayer of Arafat. We still have scope to seek bail for him in this [Gatco] case."

A deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) brought the proceedings against the mother and son on September 2. He alleged that the selection of Gatco for container handling meant a loss of over Tk 1,000 crore to the government exchequer.

Counsels for Khaleda argued that the government's having the case under the emergency rules is illegal, as the incident leading up to the charges had taken place long before the state of emergency was declared.

Besides, the anti-graft body

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

EC denies allegation of controlling politics

STAR REPORT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday dismissed the allegation against the commission of trying to control political parties through the proposed provision of mandatory registration for them.

"We have already talked with three political parties and will talk with twelve others. Essential decisions regarding registration of the parties will be taken after the dialogues," the CEC said at a views exchange meeting in Chittagong ahead of preparing a fresh voter list with photographs and national

identity cards for Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) area.

Regarding the demand of some political parties for not allowing theocratic obscurantist political parties to be registered as parliamentary parties, the CEC said the commission does not have the jurisdiction on the matter as it is a political issue that needs to be resolved in the political arena.

Meanwhile two other election commissioners, Muhammad Sohel Hussain and Brig Gen (ret'd) Sakawat Hussain, defended an Election Commission (EC) proposal for reviving its power to punish a person for contempt of

the commission. They also rejected the allegation of trying to control political parties.

"We felt a necessity for including the provision on contempt of the commission in our reform proposals," Sohel told reporters in his office in the capital yesterday, adding, "The proposals will be finalised after the dialogues with the political parties."

Election Commissioner Sakawat said they are working to strengthen the EC.

The EC had been empowered through an ordinance to punish any person for contempt of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

CA returns

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed returned home last night from New York after attending the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly.

An Emirates Airlines flight carrying the chief adviser and his entourage, landed at Zia International Airport around 8:00pm.

Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain, Communications Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin, chiefs of the three services, acting dean of diplomatic corps, Charge d'affaires of the US Embassy in Dhaka Geeta Pasi and other civil and military high officials received the chief adviser at the VVIP tarmac of the airport.

The chief adviser addressed the UNGA session on September 27 and held bilateral meetings with a number of heads of state or government on the sidelines of the session.

The Chief Adviser also delivered lectures at a high-profile seminar on climate change, Asia Society and World Leaders' Forum at Columbia University.

Tk 19 lakh mugged from Ctg petrol pump staff

CU CORRESPONDENT

Muggers took away Tk 18.95 lakh from the staff of a filling station near Kadam Rasul area of Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

One of the staff was injured in the incident.

Sources said three staff of Dalas Filling Station at Madambibir Hat on Dhaka-Chittagong highway carrying the money left for the port city by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at about 12:30pm. When they reached Kadam Rasul, two muggers on a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

UK envoy for national reconciliation between govt, political parties

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury yesterday called for a national reconciliation between the government and political parties to implement the roadmap to hold credible elections and ensure sustainable democracy in Bangladesh.

"Unless you have national reconciliation or national unity on a single purpose, you will continue to have differences, disputes and doubts that have put you in the current situation," he said.

The high commissioner made the remarks while exchanging views with members of the Diplomatic Correspondents' Association of Bangladesh (DCAAB) over an Iftar party at the Jatya Press Club.

Asked if he thinks there is room for a dialogue between the government and the two detained prime ministers to find a way, the British envoy declined to comment on that.

He said Bangladesh has a stable political history but there are far

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

2 detained DU professors give statements to probe body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

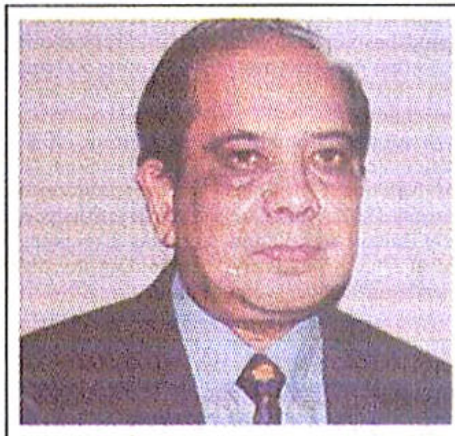
Detained Dhaka University (DU) professors Sadrul Amin and Anwar Hossain yesterday gave their statements before the judicial probe commission of Justice Habibur Rahman Khan.

The two teachers, arrested earlier on charge of instigating students in campus violence, were produced before the one-member probe body at around 10:00am at the Circuit House.

The professors gave their

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

We Mourn



We, the Board of Directors and Employees of ACI Limited deeply mourn at the sudden death of our Director Mr. Rafiqul Islam Khan. He passed away on 30 September 2007 at around 8:00 am in India (Inna lillaha we inna illahe rajeun). We are deeply shocked at the sad demise and pray to the Almighty for the salvation of the departed soul. May Allah gives endurance to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

ACI is proud to have had the opportunity of having late Mr. Rafiqul Islam Khan as member of the Board of Directors for the last 9 years. He played a very active role in guiding the board in all the matters.

His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held on Tuesday, 2 October 2007 after Zohr Prayer at Idgha Masjid, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi Road No. 6A, Dhaka.

His Qul khani will be held on Friday, 5 October after Asr Prayer at his Dhanmondi Residence.

All his relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend his Namaz-e-Janaza and Qul khani.



ACI Limited