

## Institutional graft

FROM PAGE 1

Nurul Islam, former additional secretary to the Prime Minister's Office, Nazrul Islam, former energy secretary, Manik Lal Samaddar, former secretary to the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) of the planning ministry, and Mirza Tosaddok Hossain Begh, former information secretary.

"Nothing can be said at the moment regarding the Gato case as the investigation is still on and the investigators have yet to finish interrogating all the persons in connection with the case," said the ACC chairman.

"Comments should not be made when a case is before a court," he added.

Eight former secretaries to different ministries, who had been connected to the Gato deal, were summoned on Thursday by the ACC in connection with the graft case filed by the commission implicating former premier Khaleda Zia.

Three of the summoned secretaries gave their statements to the commission on Sunday while five former ministers of Khaleda Zia's cabinet were also questioned on September 25 in connection with the case filed on September 2.

"My duty was to help the committee that dealt with the Gato deal. As the IMED secretary, my work was to monitor the implementation of the work already awarded," said Manik Lal Samaddar.

"I have given the commission the facts I know, and I can't say anything beyond that," said Mirza Tosaddok Hossain Begh.

The ACC on Sunday questioned Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairman Sadat Hossain, Additional Secretary to the Communication Ministry ATKM Ismail, and former shipping secretary Zulfikar Haider Chowdhury.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case ACC Deputy Director Johirul Huda also received a statement of another former information secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan over the

phone, as the latter is currently abroad.

The secretaries were questioned because they had been in charge of different ministries connected with the Gato deal.

A three-member investigation committee comprising the IO, and taskforce members Maj Mustafa Kamal and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Nurul Islam, quizzed the former secretaries.

The commission is expected to quiz today, two other detained former ministers -- former health minister Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain, and ex-state minister for energy AKM Mosharrif Hossain.

Replying to a question about quizzing the secretaries in connection with the Gato case while the High Court (HC) had stayed the proceedings of the case, the ACC chairman said they moved to appeal the HC ruling and the investigation may go on until the matter is settled in the court.

Replying to a question regarding the new list of 80 corruption suspects published by the media, the ACC chairman said, "We will inform you about the new list after it is placed before us in the way it is supposed to be placed."

"I think our lawyers have proved before the court that in the current situation we may file cases under the Emergency Power Rules," the chairman said in reply to a question regarding the validity of different cases filed by the commission including the cases against Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia under the EPR.

"We will pursue the cases till the highest court, and the court will decide on the issues. Varied explanations have already been given by people on the issues," he quipped.

Replying to a question regarding submission of wealth statements by the advisers to the caretaker government, the ACC chairman said, "Anybody may submit a wealth statement if he or she wishes. We are asking for theirs, who are accused of corruption."

## 4 former, serving

FROM PAGE 1

Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, former prime minister Khaleda Zia's political secretary Harris Chowdhury, Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam and 20 others in a graft case.

The four who surrendered yesterday and 21 others, including former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas and former Rajuk director Humayun Khan, are accused of causing a loss of Tk 127.64 crore to the government exchequer. They allegedly sold 18 abandoned government houses at a low price.

Abbas and Humayun are now in jail. They were produced before the court yesterday during the hearing.

The ACC filed the case against Abbas and 11 others on May 29. The names of Harris, Amir Khasru and 11 others were later added in the charge sheet as investigation found their involvement in the case.

On September 20, ACC Assistant Director Khairul Huda submitted the charge sheet against Mirza Abbas, Amir Khasru, Harris, three former secretaries and a number of high officials of Rajuk and Public Works Department (PWD).

CASE AGAINST SQ CHF

ACC Deputy Director Moniruzzaman yesterday for the first time pressed charges against former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury for concealing his wealth of over Tk 1.17 crore in the statement submitted to the commission on February 25.

Monir, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), showing 47 people as prosecution witnesses.

On June 13, ACC Assistant Director SMM Akther Hamid Bhuiyan filed the case with Ramma Police Station, accusing Salahuddin of hiding two cars valued over Tk 1.17 crore in his wealth statement.

According to the first information report (FIR), Salahuddin purchased a Range Rover (Chotto Metro-Gha-02-0010) in 1995 for Tk 24,98,740 using the duty-free car purchase privilege of lawmakers. In January 2003, he purchased a Lexus (Dhaka Metro-Bha-14-0096) through Leasing and Financial Services Ltd for Tk 92,48,400.

CASE AGAINST FIROZ

ACC Deputy Director Akther Hossain, who is also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Firoz Mahmud Iqbal with the CMM court yesterday in a case filed in connection with failing to submit the wealth statement within the ACC deadline.

The IO also prayed for the issuance of arrest warrant against Firoz.

On August 5, ACC Deputy Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the case with Ramma Police Station under section 26(2)(K) of

the ACC Act, 2004.

According to the FIR, the ACC sent a letter to Firoz on July 8 telling him to submit his wealth statement within seven working days.

The ACC extended the deadline by another seven days as Iqbal's wife Intiaz Begum applied for time extension on July 15. But, Firoz failed to submit his wealth statement within the extended time.

CASE AGAINST EX BANK OFFICIALS

ACC Assistant Director Rafiquzzaman, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against five former officials of Oriental Bank Ltd, showing 14 people as prosecution witnesses.

The charge-sheeted accused are ex senior vice-president of Oriental Bank Shah Mohammad Harun, ex-assistant vice-president Mohammad Fazlur Rahman, ex senior executive vice-president Mahmud Hossain, ex executive vice-president Kamrul Islam and former deputy managing director Imamul Haq.

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against them, as they have been absconding since the case was filed against them.

ACC Assistant Director Abdul Latif filed the case against them with Motijheel Police Station on December 29 last year in connection with embezzling Tk 95 lakh from the principal office at Motijheel in the city.

The accused in collusion with others, submitting fake documents, drew the amount from the bank through six cheques on different dates and embezzled the money, the FIR said.

CASE AGAINST TANVIR

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Tanvir Ahmed, son of detained former BNP lawmaker from Demra, Dhaka Salahuddin Ahmed, after National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a tax evasion case.

Assistant Tax Commissioner Moniruzzaman of NBR filed the case saying Tanvir evaded Tk 30,20,411 of tax between 2005 and 2007.

CASE AGAINST FALU

The same court yesterday fixed October 4 for the next hearing of a case filed in connection with embezzlement of government relief materials by now detained former BNP lawmaker Mossaddak Ali Falu and 15 others.

On September 17, ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Abdus Salam submitted the charge sheet against Falu, four Dhaka City Corporation ward commissioners and 11 others.

British foreign

electoral reform and the voter list, and the UK's support for Bangladesh's commitment to a roadmap for elections before the end of 2008," the press release said.

He will visit Sylhet division to meet the members of British-Bangladeshi community there.

A press conference is scheduled to be held at the end of his visit, the press release added.

On March 2, security personnel recovered 605 corrugated iron sheets and 63 blankets meant for relief at Ruhul Amin's office in Tejgaon.

On August 5, ACC Deputy Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the case with Ramma Police Station under section 26(2)(K) of

## Hasina

FROM PAGE 1

prime minister is mentally strong and not worried about the cases filed against her.

She yesterday said she feels bad thinking about the poor leading their lives amid high price of essentials.

"I am physically alright, but I feel bad whenever I think about the poor leading their lives at a time when prices of essentials are so high," advocate Khandaker Moniruzzaman, Hasina's lawyer, quoted in another AL chief as saying.

Former premier Sheikh Hasina was arrested on July 16 and since then she has been kept at the sub-jail on the Latiya Sangsads Bhaban premises.

KOKO'S WIFE MEETS KHALEDA

Samila Rahman met her mother-in-law Khaleda Zia at the sub-jail yesterday.

During the 55-minute meeting from 4:20pm, Khaleda inquired about the health of Koko, sub-jail sources said. She also inquired about other family members as well.

Deputy Inspector General (prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star yesterday that there was permission for two others - Zubaida Khan Rahman, wife of Khaleda's elder son Tarique Rahman and wife of an elder brother of Ziaur Rahman - to meet Khaleda, but they did not show up.

Khaleda Zia is in a sub-jail at the Latiya Sangsads Bhaban premises since she was arrested with her younger son Koko on September 3.

## Sohel, Salman

FROM PAGE 1

He alleged that the accused showed 151.51 acres of Gazipur land as security for the loan, though the lands belonged to the government and locals.

The former bank officials have been made accused as they provided the loan without checking the documents that later turned out to be forged.

Earlier on Sunday, the anti-graft body filed a case against ex-managing director of Shinepukur Holdings Ltd Mahmudur Rahman, his chairman Sohel F Rahman, Vice-Chairman Salman F Rahman and four others for defrauding Sonali Bank of over Tk 108 crore.

Our CU Correspondent reports: ACC yesterday pressed charges against former Jamaat lawmaker Shahjahan Chowdhury of concealing information in his wealth statement and former foreign minister M. Morshed Khan's son Faisal Muzahid Khan for abetting him in the act.

ACC Deputy Director Mohammad Fahangir Alam submitted the charge sheet to Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Shahidur Rahman Akand.

Earlier on July 1, another deputy director, Abdul Kalam Azad, filed the case with city's Bandar Police Station.

Shahjahan Chowdhury in his wealth statement submitted on February 20 claimed that he had property worth Tk 2.41 lakh and an ACC investigation found it to be valued at Tk 3.41 lakh.

Besides, a sport utility vehicle worth Tk 1.5 crore was seized from his possession.

According to the charge sheet, Faisal Morshed, managing director of the Pacific Motors, helped Shahjahan to open a current bank account with the AB Bank Mohakhal branch.

The charge-sheeted accused are ex senior vice-president of Oriental Bank Shah Mohammad Harun, ex-assistant vice-president Mohammad Fazlur Rahman, ex senior executive vice-president Mahmud Hossain, ex executive vice-president Kamrul Islam and former deputy managing director Imamul Haq.

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against them, as they have been absconding since the case was filed against them.

ACC Assistant Director Abdul Latif filed the case against them with Motijheel Police Station on December 29 last year in connection with embezzling Tk 95 lakh from the principal office at Motijheel in the city.

The accused in collusion with others, submitting fake documents, drew the amount from the bank through six cheques on different dates and embezzled the money, the FIR said.

CASE AGAINST TANVIR

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Tanvir Ahmed, son of detained former BNP lawmaker from Demra, Dhaka Salahuddin Ahmed, after National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a tax evasion case.

Assistant Tax Commissioner Moniruzzaman of NBR filed the case saying Tanvir evaded Tk 30,20,411 of tax between 2005 and 2007.

CASE AGAINST FALU

The same court yesterday fixed October 4 for the next hearing of a case filed in connection with embezzlement of government relief materials by now detained former BNP lawmaker Mossaddak Ali Falu and 15 others.

On September 17, ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Abdus Salam submitted the charge sheet against Falu, four Dhaka City Corporation ward commissioners and 11 others.

British foreign

electoral reform and the voter list, and the UK's support for Bangladesh's commitment to a roadmap for elections before the end of 2008," the press release said.

He will visit Sylhet division to meet the members of British-Bangladeshi community there.

A press conference is scheduled to be held at the end of his visit, the press release added.

On March 2, security personnel recovered 605 corrugated iron sheets and 63 blankets meant for relief at Ruhul Amin's office in Tejgaon.

On August 5, ACC Deputy Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the case with Ramma Police Station under section 26(2)(K) of

## DU violence

FROM PAGE 1

August 25 to investigate the violence on DU campus and was given 15 working days to submit its report. Later, the time was extended by 20 working days following the commission's appeal.

Meanwhile, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Nim Chandra Bhoomik and student leader Azizul Bari Helal, Justice Habibur said that he was not present on campus during violence. Although his name was not included in the first information report, he was shown arrested in another case later on, Justice Habibur said. The commission would check how Helal was involved with the incident, he added.

They were, however, not allowed to talk to the media. After the testimony sessions of the detained persons were over, Justice Habibur briefed the newswriters.

Justice Habibur quoted Prof Harun-or-Rashid, dean of Faculty of Social Sciences at DU, as saying that he was present both at the general and executive meetings of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta).

Duta members as body are responsible for the decision of expressing solidarity with the students' demands, Prof Harun said.

Regarding the Duta-organised procession on August 25 to investigate the GATCO scam case. The court had also issued a rule upon the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to explain why the case placing under the Emergency Power Rule should not be declared illegal.

Regarding the Duta's participation in the Duta-organised procession from Aparajeyo Bangla to Central Shaheed Minar, he said, "it was not possible for the teachers to stop students' participation in the

## CEC urges

FROM PAGE 1

the entire task of preparing the voter list with photographs will be completed in October next year so that the election may be held by the end of 2008.

After announcing the roadmap, the CEC also announced that the parliamentary election may be held earlier than the deadline set if the voter list is ready before the stipulated time.

"We have a timeline for preparing the fresh voter list, which will not be exceeded by any means," Huda added.

The work of preparing the voter list did not stop despite the storms and the massive flood, as the people helped the CEC, said the CEC.

"Ten percent of the total work of preparing the voter list has already been completed in September, making us very hopeful," Huda said.

Regarding the demand of some political parties for cancelling the election symbol -- scale, the CEC said that it is a very difficult and complicated question for the CEC.

With T. G. T. A. T. M. Akther Ali Sarkar in the chair, the meeting was attended by Maj Gen Muzahiduddin, GOC of Ghatal Cantonment, Commander of the 98th Composite Brigade, Brigadier Osmann Gani, T. G. T. M. Akther Ali Sarkar in the chair, the meeting was attended by Maj Gen Muzahiduddin, GOC of Ghatal Cantonment, Commander of the 98th Composite Brigade, Brigadier Osmann Gani, T. G. T. M. Akther Ali Sarkar in the chair, the meeting was attended by Maj Gen Muzahiduddin, GOC of Ghatal Cantonment, Commander of the 98th Composite Brigade, Brigadier Osmann Gani, T. G. T. M. Akther Ali Sarkar in the chair, the meeting was attended by Maj Gen Muzahiduddin, GOC of Ghatal Cantonment, Commander of the 98th Composite Brigade, Brigadier Osmann Gani, T. G. T. M. Akther Ali Sarkar in