

Khaleda's bank accounts

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violating tender conditions and appointing Gato, ignoring its lack of experience and skill, to manage the cargo handling at the ports.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court gave the investigation officer (IO) of the case the permission to interrogate Khaleda about the graft charges brought against her at the gate of the sub-jail set up for her at the Jatiya Sangsads Bhaban premises.

BANK DOCUMENTS

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Jahirul Haque submitted a petition for allowing him to seize all bank-account records and documents of Khaleda in Sonali Bank, local branch Motijheel, in Dhaka, and Prime Bank, Banani branch.

Sources said the ACC requires the documents and records to see if there were any payments made to her in connection with awarding Gato the job.

Court sources said the IO in his petition mentioned that the records and documents at the two banks should be seized for the sake of proper investigation of the case.

KHALEDA TO BE QUIZZED

Metropolitan Magistrate Mizanur Rahaman yesterday allowed the same IO to interrogate Khaleda Zia at the gate of the sub-jail, where she is detained, as an application seeking to interrogate her was submitted before the court.

In the petition, the IO said he needs to quiz the former premier to have her statement regarding the allegations brought against her in the Gato case.

Meanwhile, the ACC questioned four members of the committee that prepared the tender for the container handling job at Dhaka Inland Container Depot (ICD) and Chittagong Port ICD yards and three other officials and employees of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) in connection with the Gato case.

The committee members were deputy traffic managers of CPA KM

Moazzem Hossain and Golam Sarwar, CPA Finance Officer Elias Reza and former plant manager Nazmul Haque.

The investigators are quizzing people concerned almost every day, since questioning five former ministers of Khaleda's cabinet and some former top bureaucrats on September 25, in order to submit the charge sheet and finish their investigation within the timeframe.

The tender preparing committee members were questioned on how the tender list was prepared and whether they prepared the list under political influence.

The co-accused in the case are ex-members of CPA Commodore (retd) Zulfiqar Ali and AMM Shahadat Hossain, ex-director (transport) of CPA AM Sanwar Hossain, former chief financial and accounts officer Ahmed Atif Qasem, former director Lutfiul Kabir, Ismail Hossain Simon, son of former shipping minister and BNP leader Col (retd) Akbar Hossain, Gato directors Syed Galib Ahmed, Syed Tanveer Ahmed and AKM Musa Kajol and Akbar's wife Jahanara Ansar and one Ehsan Yusuf.

Apart from Khaleda and Arafat, seven accused including Simon were earlier arrested. Moreover, Simon, Galib and Tanvir gave confessional statements admitting their involvement with graft.

In the case filed by ACC Deputy Director Golam Shahriar Chowdhury, it was alleged that the former prime minister and her son influenced the tender process and the CPA officials helped Gato win the tender even though a three-member tender evaluation committee of the port termed Gato unfit for the work.

A day after the filing of the case, joint forces, with an official of the ACC, arrested Khaleda and Arafat at their Dhaka Cantonment home.

Although the HC last week granted bail to Khaleda and stayed proceedings of the case, the Supreme Court later on stayed the HC order following appeals filed by the ACC.

3 JMB men charged

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tortured severely in custody.

The 40 detained individuals included Awami League (AL) leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mymensingh AL president Principal Motiur Rahman, writer-journalist Shahriar Kabir, Prof Muntasir Mamoon and journalist Enamul Hoque Chowdhury.

A few hours into the arrests on December 8, then prime minister Khaleda Zia during her visit to Aloka Cinema said the authorities had arrested some people for their suspected involvement in the blasts. Hinting at the opposition leaders and the intellectuals, she said those who had been running a smear campaign against Bangladesh -- at home and abroad -- bear links to such terrorist attack.

Ministers and high officials of the law enforcement agencies also gave the impression that those who were detained had connection with the blasts.

Over the submission of charge sheets against JMB operatives, the political leaders and intellectuals, who were detained for their alleged involvement in the blasts, said they were arrested and tortured deliberately despite their innocence.

Different quarters had criticised the then government for arresting political leaders and intellectuals.

Amnesty International at that time in a press release expressed concern over the arrests and said Saber was detained solely for being a vocal critic of the then ruling party.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent adds investigation officer (IO) of the case, Rashedul Islam, assistant superintendent of criminal investigation department (CID) of police, submitted charge sheets of the eight cases filed in connection with the serial bomb blasts in four cinema halls against the three JMB men to the No 1 Cognisance Court.

First Class Magistrate Shefali Begum accepted the charge sheets.

It has been mentioned in the charge sheets that Salah Uddin, during interrogation, has confessed to the plan of attacking the cinema halls with bombs. At the house of Shaikh Abdur Rahman in Jamalpur,

Nobel Prize

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"Gene targeting in mice has paved all fields of biomedicine. Its impact on the understanding of gene function and its benefits to mankind will continue to increase over many years to come," it said.

To date more than 10,000 mice genes -- approximately half of the genes in the mammalian genome -- have been knocked out.

Capecchi, born in Italy in 1937, is a human genetics and biology professor at the University of Utah, while British-born Smithies is a professor of pathology at the University of North Carolina.

Evans, born in 1941, is the director of the School of Biosciences and professor of mammalian genetics at Cardiff University in Britain.

Different religious organisations will hold discussions, doa and milad mahfils on the occasion. Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar and private TV channels will air special programmes highlighting the significance of the holy night.

B Chowdhury

FROM PAGE 16
He said unity among the political parties is necessary for the country's economic and social development.

When asked about the "government of national consensus," he said "It's a new idea. We need to discuss it within our party."

UNDP Resident Coordinator Renata Lok Dassalien, former adviser to the caretaker government Rokia Ataul Rahman, AL leaders Abdul Hamid and Tofail Ahmed, Jatiya Party acting Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud, BNP leader Zahiruddin Swapan, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Krishan Srinik Janata League Chief Kader Siddiqui, Secretary General of Bilkal Dhara Bangladesh Maj (retd) MA Mannan and editors of different national dailies attended the iftar party.

Mainul

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many things were not done correctly."

Mainul said the politicians caused harm to themselves by patronising politicisation in every sector in the past, resulting in a horrible situation.

The adviser said, "If we fail to establish a good government and justice, people's aspirations will not be fulfilled."

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Nasim gets 13yrs

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judge Firoz Alam delivered the verdict in a courtroom set up in the MP Hostel on the National Parliament premises.

In white pajamas and panjabi, Nasim was standing in the dock during the pronouncement of the verdict. His wife has been absconding since a Dhaka court issued arrest warrant against her in connection with the case.

Shajahan, former lawmaker of Tangail-4, constituency, has been absconding along with his family members.

4 alleged killers

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Muktar Hossain at Matuail in Demra on October 4. Acting on his information, they arrested three others the same day.

Salah Uddin is also accused in 14 other cases filed with different police stations in the country. He was awarded capital punishment in the Gang-Gomez and Hridoy Sarker内幕 cases filed with the Jamalpur court. Mizan is accused in 14 cases while Anwar Hossain is accused in four cases.

Among the injured in the blasts, 21 were maimed and disabled for life. The injured include Salimullah Babu, owner of Ajantha Cinema, Fazal, operator, Shahen, employee, Nikhil Sarker, a shopkeeper and Babu, spectator.

One of the injured, Shaheen, a young boy who now works at a local NGO, hoped that justice will be served. The victims of the blasts are living miserable lives and no one cares for them.

"Now it has been proved that I was not involved in the incident. But, I was sacked from the BSS job without proper investigation," said Enamul Hoque Chowdhury, a journalist who was arrested and tortured on suspicion of links to the blasts.

He demanded reinstatement of his job at the BSS and demanded compensation for his physical, mental and financial losses.

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Shab-e-Qadr

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their warm greetings to the countrymen. They prayed to the almighty for welfare of the country and the Muslim Ummah.

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