

Ex-DAB leader Zahid

FROM PAGE 1
Mokbul Hossain and his wife Golam Fatema in cases filed against them in connection with amassing wealth illegally.

Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order for showing Paban arrested in the case after ACC Deputy Assistant Director Mahbubur Rahman, the IO of the case, submitted a petition in this regard.

On December 18 last year, ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Paban in connection with amassing Tk 1.02 crore through illegal means.

The first information report (FIR) said Paban, in his wealth statement submitted to the ACC, concealed information about his properties worth Tk 10.1 lakh.

It was also mentioned in the FIR that Paban amassed wealth of Tk 7,491,829 beyond his known sources of income.

On February 7, ACC Assistant Director Helal Uddin Sharif, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet against Zahid, Rifat and their lawyer Mujahid before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka, showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for arrest warrants against them and attachment of their properties as they have been in hiding since the case was filed.

ACC Assistant Director Nasiruddin lodged the case with Ramna Police Station on October 3 last year, accusing Zahid of hiding information of over Tk 12 crore. His wife and lawyer were accused of helping him in the offence.

ACC Assistant Director SS Sahidur Rahman, IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the Siraj couple before the CMM's Court yesterday showing 41 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for arrest warrants against them and the attachment of their properties as they have been absconding since the case was filed.

On September 24 last year, ACC Assistant Director Khairul Huda filed the case with Ramna Police Station against the couple in connection with concealing Tk 3.60 crore in their wealth statements submitted earlier to the ACC. They had also amassed Tk 3.75 crore beyond their known sources of income.

Earlier, the Siraj couple were convicted of evading income tax and sentenced to different terms of punishment.

ACC Assistant Director Nurul Alam filed the case with Sutrapur Police Station against Maya and six others on June 13, 2007.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case ACC Assistant Director Towfiqul Islam submitted the charge sheet against the former minister and four others to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on October 25, 2007 showing 40 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO dropped the names of Maya's son Rifat Sayeed Chowdhury and Rashed's wife Farhana Chowdhury from the charge sheet as their involvement was not proved in the probe.

According to the case statement, the accused accumulated wealth worth Tk 6.29 crore illegally and concealed information about Tk 5.90 crore of assets in the wealth statement.

On November 4, 2007, a Dhaka court ordered to attach the properties of Maya and four of his family members, who are currently on the run, in a graft case.

Offshore
FROM PAGE 1
least one offshore acreage and offshore production of 25000 barrels of oil equivalent (BOE), biddable work programme commitment over and above the mandatory programme, and bank guarantee for performance of minimum exploration programme.

The details of the bidding round 2008 are available on the Petrobangla website: www.petrobangla.org.bd.

Petrobangla is also selling the bidders a basic information package which includes a model production sharing contract for US\$ 100.

In addition, the bidders can purchase technical data at a promotional price.

Emergency
FROM PAGE 1
government is responsible for holding the elections.

"It is the responsibility of the Election Commission (EC) and the government's duty to provide the commission with necessary assistance," the law adviser observed.

Asked what the government would do if the EC cannot finish its job on time for holding the parliamentary elections by 2008, Hassan Arif said, "I won't reply to any 'ifs'."

Responding to a query on deployment of armed forces following the promulgation of state of emergency, the law adviser said there is no nexus between the two.

"The troops were called out in aid to the civil administration."

Arif informed the briefing that the formation of independent Election Commission Secretariat is at the final stage.

Asked about setting up of Human Rights Commission as pledged by the government, he said it is also in the concluding stage and would be formed within the tenure of the caretaker government.

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4 traders held

FROM PAGE 1
met the four traders posing as potential buyers. The traders were operating from a house they had rented from Jahangir Alam Mintu in the village two months ago.

EC restarts talks

FROM PAGE 1
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) and JP led by Anwar Hossain Manju are scheduled for February 27 while Gonetantri Party, Krishak Samik Janata League and Islami Oikya Jote are scheduled for February 28.

would soon initiate steps to hold talks with the parties.

The traders demanded a price of Tk 35 crore for the amount of poison they could deliver. The Rab team bargained for Tk 30 crore. As a price was fixed, the traders - sure of a real deal - displayed the products at which point Rab arrested them.

But a number of advisers later said the talks between the government and the political parties will begin after the EC talks are over.

Rab recovered 12 pounds of snake poison packed in 6 jars. The jars were labelled as products of the 'Red Dragon' company in France.

Since its reconstitution on February 4 last year, the EC has initiated massive tasks for electoral law reforms. On April 5, it announced a set of proposals for electoral reforms. Earlier at a meeting with the then law adviser on April 4, the CEC asked the government to lift the restriction on indoor politics so that the EC could hold talks with the parties to discuss the draft proposals.

Major Amjad Hossain and Flight Lieutenant Ahmed Faisal led the Rab operation team.

On September 10, the government lifted the restrictions on indoor politics only in the capital and the EC started its talks with the parties from September 12.

The four arrested are Md Sakhat Hossain son, 38, son of Khalilur Rahman of Suja village in Ullapara thana under Sirajganj - Md Abdul Aziz, 45, son of late Kargali Pramanik of Pachuriabari village, Md Saiful Islam, 35, son of Md Akher Uddin of Khagorbaria village and Sarajul Islam, son of Md Ayub Ali of Ramnagar village - all under Faridpur upazila in Pabna.

As per the electoral roadmap announced on July 15, the talks were supposed to be completed in November, but the BNP issue stalled the process.

Once the second round talks are completed, the caretaker government will initiate steps to hold dialogues with the parties. Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in an address to the nation on January 12 announced that his government

Once the proposals are finalised after holding talks with the parties, the EC will send those to the caretaker government to make laws for an conducting the stalled ninth parliamentary election.

Flight Lieutenant Ahmed Faisal said that they expect the traders can give them valuable information regarding the smuggling rings.

He also said that the team is yet to establish the exact commercial value of the amount of poison they confiscated, though it would not be less than a few crore taka.

Major Amjad Hossain of Rab-12, Kusthia camp, said that the snake poison, which fetches a high price in the market because of its medicinal use, is probably smuggled through to India and other countries from Bangladesh.

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French FM

FROM PAGE 20
attraction at the dinner organised by the International Women's Health Coalition, where he received a 'Global Leaders' award.

DCC commissioners

FROM PAGE 20
honourarium allocated for the 120 commissioners in 90 wards and 30 women commissioners (reserved seats) with three wards under their jurisdiction.

A number of commissioners, however, said they maintain all the expenditure from their own pockets since they became commissioners promising people's welfare.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) commissioners are also not given any honourarium.

During the meeting, the commissioners alleged that ward-16 commissioner Kaiyum Khan died inside jail due to lack of treatment. They demanded judicial investigation.

The commissioners of Barisal City Corporation (BCC), Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) each get Tk 3,000 as monthly allowance while commissioners of the newly formed Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) get Tk 5,000 each.

Regarding the Election Commission's decision, DCC Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka said, "We are not accountable to any adviser or bureaucrat, we are accountable to the people."

Reserved ward-6 commissioner Shireen Rukhsana said, "Allegations of corruption against commissioners may have become more frequent now but the fact remains that people become dishonest under force of circumstances."

About the proposed honourarium, the mayor said the LGRD ministry will decide about the honourarium, not the DCC.

She said since lawmakers get honourarium as elected representatives, the commissioners should also be given honourarium.

He said, "We cannot tolerate the arrest of our fellow commissioners without any reason or their death due to improper treatment."

Commissioner Mahmuda Islam of reserved ward-13 said she has to spend about Tk 59,000 a month for her offices as she rents three offices in three wards with Tk 18,000. She said she spends Tk 21,000 to employ three people at those offices and spends Tk 20,000 on other office related things. She said she is given only Tk 6,000 a month.

The commissioners of reserved seats receive only Tk 6,000 as office rent since they do not have office space like other ward commissioners.

The list will be available for view at the offices of district and upazila election officers or assistant registration officers, and union parishads, municipalities, wards, cantonment board and polling stations used as voter registration centres.

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