

Tarique, Babar

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Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam and his two sons Shafat Sobhan Sanvir and Sadaat Sobhan, Abu Sufian, director of East West Property Development Pvt Ltd, a sister concern of Bashundhara, and Tarique's private secretary Mia Nur Uddin Apu.

The ACC accused them of taking and giving the bribe to save the Bashundhara Group chairman's son Sanvir from the charge of murdering Humayun Kabir Sabir, a director of Bashundhara Group, on July 5, 2006.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Abul Kashem filed a case in connection with the bribery on October 10 last year, accusing six except Tarique and Saleemul. In an investigation later, investigating officer ACC Deputy Assistant Director Rupak Kumar Saha found involvement of the two.

The three-member ACC approved the charge sheet at a meeting yesterday, said a source in the commission, adding that the ACC also issued a letter to the investigating officer informing him of the approval.

Sources said investigation found that Tarique had taken Tk 1 crore out of the Tk 21 crore bribe offered by Shah Alam in cash.

Of the remaining amount, Tk 6 crore was paid in cash and Tk 14 crore through cheques and pay-orders to Babar, who mobilised the amount to the bank account of Saleemul Huq in Prime Bank. Saleemul was the chairman of the bank at that time.

Babar realised the bribe at different times between August 7 and September 13, 2006.

The allegation against Saleemul is that he kept the illegal money in his account and drew Tk 88 lakh interest against the amount, said a source.

Sanvir allegedly killed Sabir on July 5, 2006 using a broken bottle over a feud centring a woman and threw the body from a building in the Bashundhara residential area, according to Rapid Action Battalion sources.

After the murder, Abu Sufian arranged a meeting among Babar, Tarique, Shah Alam and Apu to save Sanvir. At the meeting Babar demanded Tk 100 crore bribe but



Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal

after bargaining it was fixed at Tk 50 crore.

After a few days, Shah Alam sent Tk 1 crore to Tarique via Apu. The remaining Tk 20 crore was transacted through Sufian to Babar. With the change of government in October, further transaction was stopped.

During this transaction, Saleemul was safeguarding the bribe money, sources said.

After the present caretaker government took office and the joint forces started anti-corruption drive, Saleemul tried to save his skin by giving the money to the national exchequer.

Arrangements should be made for replacement of damaged, lost and stolen ID cards and a permanent registration place can take care of such requirements, it said.

Most participants in the survey appreciated the presence of the army and their help in orderly voter listing and recommended their presence during election time, it added.

"Preparation of error-free voter roll is the responsibility of Election Commission (EC). The participants were emphatic that the responsibility should stay with the EC and that political parties, NGOs and civil society cannot be trusted and they should not be involved in the preparation of the voter role in anyway," the report said.

The charges have been brought under sections 161, 165 and 165(A) and 109 of the Penal Code and section 5(2) of the Corruption Prevention Act, 1947 (CPA). The penal code sections deal with bribery and abetting such an act while the CPA section deals with misuse of power.

Koko, Selim

FROM PAGE 1
Koko and his mother were detained on September 2 last year in a late night joint forces raid. Earlier, on August 29, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) asked all banks to freeze the accounts of Koko, his mother and nine others of the family.

This is the third time Koko is being accused in a case filed by the ACC. He is the prime accused in a Tk 1.20-crore extortion case and a co-accused in the Gato graft case.

ACC Deputy Director Abu Sayeed in his case statement mentioned that Koko in his January 9, 2008 wealth statement submitted to the ACC through jail authorities declared Tk 8,08,37,481 worth of movable and immovable properties under his wife, Sayeda Shamila Tabassum, their two daughters and his own name. However, the ACC during its investigation detected that the properties belonging to the Koko family are worth more than the declared figure.

The ACC investigators also found that Koko concealed information about the registration fee he paid for a flat he had purchased at Banani in Dhaka, the loans he received from different banks, and remuneration and other benefits he received from different businesses.

Koko also concealed information about 500 shares (Tk 100 each) he has in a business firm named Hasanco Aviation Ltd and two bank savings certificates (Tk 1 lakh each) under his wife's name.

The ACC conducted its investigation based on documents collected from different government and private institutions including banks, the NBR and different sub-registry offices of the land department.

Koko's wife's Tk 1.50 crore investment in a business and Koko's overseas travel expenses for 84 trips between September 2003 and

Hasina's release

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Gulshan residence of the acting prime minister Zillur Rahman last night.

Briefing journalists, acting general secretary Sayed Ashrafur Islam said they have instructed the district unit leaders to observe the mass hunger strike in a way so that the programme does not violate the state of emergency.

He said the party is yet to decide whether or not to sit for the proposed dialogue with the government without the release of Hasina.

The two-hour-long meeting observed that the Election Commission (EC) is becoming controversial as it is interfering in intra-party affairs. There is also a possibility that parliamentary election may not be held in time, he added.

The meeting chaired by Zillur Rahman asked the EC not to interfere in internal matters of political parties.

Presidium members Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sen Gupta and Motia Chowdhury attended the meeting.

Voter registration

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anticipating being negligible, possibly less than a percent," it said.

Among those who reported incorrect ID information, nearly two-thirds in Rajshahi, about one-fifth in Rangpur and all in Tahrirpur said that either the names of the ID card holders and/or names of parents were misspelled.

A small percentage of them reported that they had been waiting for delivery of cards.

To ensure a flawless list, the survey recommended vigorous publicity of registration schedule and follow-up schedule for those who were absent during the initial schedule of enumerators' visit at home.

The survey also suggested setting up a permanent office where persons missing initial or follow-up registration opportunity can go with proper identification and get registered. "This place may be kept open year round to facilitate updating of registration as an on-going process."

Arrangements should be made for replacement of damaged, lost and stolen ID cards and a permanent registration place can take care of such requirements, it said.

Both Tarique and Babar are now in jail, while Shah Alam, his two sons and Saleemul have been absconding abroad. Sufian is in hiding in Dhaka.

Investigating officer Rupak Kumar Saha yesterday told The Daily Star that he is yet to be informed about the ACC approval of the charge sheet.

ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal acknowledged the approval, saying the charge sheet will be submitted before the court shortly.

The charges have been brought under sections 161, 165 and 165(A) and 109 of the Penal Code and section 5(2) of the Corruption Prevention Act, 1947 (CPA). The penal code sections deal with bribery and abetting such an act while the CPA section deals with misuse of power.

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On whether the survey in three areas represent the national picture, he said it is not a national survey, but does give an idea of how things are going on around. "We can, however, learn from this," Lippert added.

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