

Hasnat lands in jail

FROM PAGE 16
court in a tax evasion case in which he was earlier sentenced to nine years' imprisonment in absentia.

Judge AK Roy of the Special Court-2 passed the order when Hasnat along with his lawyers appeared before the court around 12:30pm.

Abul Hasnat's lawyers submitted three petitions--one for providing him with proper treatment, one for providing first-class division in jail and the other for sending him to jail.

Moving for the petitions, lawyers told the court that their client had earlier surrendered to the High Court (HC) and sought bail. But the HC asked their client to surrender before the trial court within four weeks.

Special Public Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajol did not oppose the petitions.

After the hearing, the judge directed the jail authorities to take necessary steps to provide Hasnat, also a former chief whip, with proper treatment and division in jail as per the Jail Code.

Meantime, Abul Hasnat's lawyers submitted another

petition for showing him arrested in a graft case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Sources say that his lawyers want Hasnat to be in jail for the time being so that they can move for his bail in higher courts.

On December 12, 2007, the same court sentenced Hasnat to nine years' imprisonment for dodging Tk 37.47 lakh income tax between 2001-02 and 2006-07.

The court also fined him Tk 40 lakh, in default of which he would have to stay in jail for six more months.

Assistant Tax Commissioner of National Board of Revenue (NBR) Mohammad Saful Azam filed the case against him on October 25, 2007 in connection with evading Tk 37.47 lakh income tax.

On March 3 last year, Hasnat was given 13 years' imprisonment in a case filed against him for amassing wealth through illegal means and concealing wealth in the statement submitted to the ACC.

Ctg arms haul

FROM PAGE 16
order yesterday to conduct the test at Chittagong jail on June 24 after hearing a petition CID placed Thursday in this regard.

Investigation officer of the case Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, a senior ASP of Chittagong zone, placed the petition for the TI parade to verify that former NSI DD Liakat was involved in the offloading of 10 truckloads of firearms and ammunition hauled at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Company Ltd (CUFL) jetty in the early hours of April 2, 2004.

Investigators are now preparing to conduct the TI parade under the supervision of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman.

Two former police sergeants Alaaddin and Helal Uddin, who were credited with the seizure of the consignment, would be present to identify and help pick up ex-NSI DD Liakat from a group of accused in the TI parade.

The CID is almost sure that the ex-NSI DD was involved in the case. The two former police sergeants informed the CID that the person's photo (of ex-NSI DD Liakat) they saw in newspapers had the same person who was supervising the offloading of the weapons on CUFL jetty that day claiming to be Abdul Hossain.

Detained ex-NSI Director (security) Wing Commander (ret'd) Sahab Uddin in his judicial confession had also claimed that ex-NSI DD Liakat was involved in the offloading of arms and he was the person who informed him of the seizure over telephone.

Earlier, Liakat in remand under Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) cell confessed to his involvement in the offloading of arms and agreed to make a judicial confession, sources said.

He, however, refused to make the statement when he was produced before a magistrate on June 07.

JMB

FROM PAGE 16
different border routes in Chapainawabganj and Jessore to smuggle in bomb-making materials and small arms from India.

He revealed that active members of Majlish-e-Shura are trying to keep the organisation afloat in Dhaka and other divisional towns. Some of the Shura members are "Bhaigna" Shahid from Gaibandha, Hossain alias Shakil and Mahfuz from Pabna, and Saifullah and Abdur Rahim of Chapainawabganj.

Saifullah, Abdur Rahim and a few other members are in charge of smuggling in bomb-making materials through different border routes of Chapainawabganj and bringing them to a recently opened office about 12-13 kilometres east of Rajshahi sadar.

Another office has been opened in an area between Bogra and Joypurhat districts for the same purpose. Houses of JMB workers have been hired for setting up the two offices. The owners of the houses look after the materials.

The JMB member said recruitment has been stalled since JMB's leadership was recast last November. They are including those related to JMB members through blood or marriage while both old ehars and gayeri ehars members are being accepted if they want to be active again, he said.

Shura member Bhaigna Shahid, who can make 12 bombs in an hour using electric circuits, had his bodyguard Russel arrested in Bogra two months ago. Shahid has revived his activities in Bogra.

The JMB is planning attacks in several important districts including Dhaka to embarrass the government, the gayeri ehars said, adding that recte would be done before implementation of the plan.

The court, however, said Zia had a valuable contribution to the war, and that he had never claimed in his lifetime to be the proclaimer.

Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim, petitioner's counsel Manzil Murshid, and Muntasir Mamun, a professor of history at Dhaka University, were present at the court during delivery of the judgment.

They hailed the judgment as an epoch-making event.

Talking to The Daily Star, they hope it would help restore the authenticated narrative of the Liberation War.

HOW THEY DISTORTED HISTORY

Originally, the information ministry compiled and published the documentary evidence of the Liberation War in 15 parts in 1982.

Edited by Hasan Hafizur Rahman, those were reprinted in 2003.

The Liberation War affairs ministry, set up during the BNP alliance regime, changed some of the facts in the second edition published in 2004.

It deleted the first document of the third part that contained Declaration of Independence made in the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and broadcast from Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra on March 26, 1971.

Instead, it included a document stating that Major Ziaur Rahman first declared independence from 'Biplobi Betar Kendra [Chittagong]' on March 27, wherein he claimed to be the 'provisional president and commander-in-chief of the liberation army'.

The second document of the third part stated that Zia made another declaration on March 28 from Swadhin Bangla Betar

subsidy, saying the tax is one of the major reasons behind incurring losses.

Ahmed Abu Doma, chief executive officer of Banglalink, urged the government to check the market's present situation to find out why operators are incurring losses.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, fellow of Centre for Policy Dialogue, said besides the tax on SIM card, price war and crackdown on illegal VoIP are the two other major reasons behind incurring losses.

It is the time to go to the untapped rural areas, said Ahmed Mushfeq Anam, managing director of X-Fer Limited and representative of Nortel Networks Netas. Operators should take up strategy to share infrastructure among them to expand networks in rural areas so that investment returns come to their expected level, he added.

M Rafiqul Islam, joint secretary of the post and telecommunications ministry, assured the mobile phone operators of passing their appeals to the telecom minister.

Md Rezaul Quader, director of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, also expressed the commission's support to the stance.

It's Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 1
proceedings on behalf of the Sector Commanders Forum.

The court completed hearing last month.

ORDERS AND OBSERVATIONS

The High Court bench observed that the Proclamation of Independence published on April 10, 1971, states beyond doubt that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made the declaration of independence.

The Proclamation is protected by article 150 of the constitution and thus cannot be changed at will, it added.

The court also declared illegal and unconstitutional the publications of the third volume of the books titled 'Swadhinata Juddho: Dalilpatra' (The Liberation War of Bangladesh: Documents).

It directed the government to confiscate the books painting late president Ziaur Rahman as declarer of independence.

Besides, it wants the government to stop sale, distribution and reprint of the books at home and abroad.

The bench said the government might take initiative to bring to trial those involved in attempts to establish an untrue version of the Liberation War.

It observed that the persons responsible have in fact committed an offence against the nation and the constitution.

The committee formed by the BNP-led alliance government to write and print history of the Liberation War had recommended that Ziaur Rahman be declared as the independence proclaimer in place of Bangabandhu, without having any authentic documents at its disposal.

The court, however, said Zia had a valuable contribution to the war, and that he had never claimed in his lifetime to be the proclaimer.

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Kendra, this time on behalf of Mujib.

In the first edition, the date was March 27.

As the second edition caused an outcry, officials told The Daily Star, the then secretary Dr Mahbubul Alam had asked to stop selling the volume published under a Tk 5-crore project.

Following his verbal orders, officials withdrew thousands of copies from the press.

THE PETITION

According to the petition, the government on February 13, 1979, constituted an authentication committee for writing and printing history of the Liberation War.

Dr Mofizullah Kabir was the committee chairman and Hasan Hafizur Rahman member-secretary.

The books published by this committee in November 1982 were reprinted in December 2003.

Both editions said Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared independence on March 26, 1971.

Besides, the petitioner says, the fact was recognised in the Proclamation of Independence.

The Liberation War affairs ministry on approval of the then prime minister Khaleda Zia formed a committee to reprint the 15-volume books.

Rejaul Karim, Prof M Moniruzzaman Mia, Prof Emazuddin Ahmed, Barrister Moinal Hossain, Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Prof Sirajul Islam, Prof KM Mohsin, Prof Abul Kalam Monjur Morshed and Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmed were members of the committee.

In June 2004, the committee published the books giving an inaccurate report of the declaration of independence.

During hearing of the petition, the court assigned Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, one of the drafters of the Proclamation of Independence, as an amicus curiae (friend of court) to make submissions on the issue.

JS trio

FROM PAGE 1
the trio requesting them to appear before the committee to clarify their positions.

Committee member Brig Gen (ret'd) SK Abu Bakr said the committee has collected some evidences, which indicate their involvement in the financial anomalies.

"The committee will be grateful to you if you kindly attend the meeting and clarify your position," said Bakr quoting the letters.

Talking to reporters Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque said the party will give its reaction to the summoning of its leaders before June 27.

BNP lawmaker Mahbubuddin Khokon said the committee did not follow proper procedures in summoning the former speaker, his deputy and former chief whip Delwar.

He said the committee should have informed the accused about the allegations brought against them before the summoning.

"The committee should have first served show cause notices on them seeking their version. If they did not respond, then the committee could have summoned them," he added.

Muhith

FROM PAGE 1
specific information as to how much black money is there in the economy," Muhith said.

In this regard, he referred to economist Dr Abul Barakat's statistics, but said that is questionable.

The minister said there are several types of black money -- untaxed money, illegal money from land transfer, and misappropriated public money, extorted money and bribe money.

The opportunity for whitening money would be further discussed within the government, and opinions of experts outside it would also be considered. Only then a final decision would be taken on this issue, and made known on June 29, he said.

The FICCI also wanted to know the government position on privatisation, and asked for weekly holiday on Friday.

Muhith said the issue of keeping Friday as a working day is under the government's consideration, but he cannot say what can be done in this regard.

On privatisation, he said, "We have said in the budget speech that due to the global recession, no industry will be privatised in the next fiscal year ... In many countries, the governments are taking over private organisations to cope with the recession. We will not privatised any public sector industry next year."

The finance minister noted that what has been said about privatisation in the draft industrial policy is not the government's position. A committee will be formed next month to finalise the industrial policy, he said.

DCC corruption

FROM PAGE 16
"We received various allegations against Dhaka City Corporation. Therefore, we formed the sub-committee. The committee will investigate allegations of irregularities in appointment, promotion, awarding of contracts and fixing of tax," Rahmat Ali, chief of the parliamentary standing committee, told reporters after a meeting.

Replying to a query, he said the sub-committee will investigate allegations of financial irregularities against anybody in the corporation including the DCC mayor.

Khoka, who was elected mayor early in 2002, is still the mayor of the DCC even though his tenure expired in 2007. The Election Commission (EC) could not hold polls to the DCC on time due to the state of emergency and issues related to the voter list.

Rahmat Ali said his committee would gradually investigate the alleged corruption in other organisations under the LGRD ministry. The organisations include Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA), Cooperatives Directorate, Milk Vita, Local Government Engineering Division and Department of Public Health Engineering.

LGDR Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam in the inaugural session of the ninth parliament termed the DCC a den of corruption.

India 'consulted'

FROM PAGE 1
need to sign to turn the convention into a law.

"As of today only 17 countries signed this and it has not become a law yet. And interestingly, India and Bangladesh also did not sign," added Pinak Ranjan.

Calling the dam a "death trap" is nothing but "scale mongering" and inciting people against India, he said, adding India has invited a team from Bangladesh to visit India and the site.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, chief guest at the seminar, said, "We need to build network and greater connectivity. Even the Saarc could not be made effective in all the years in the region due to lack of integration."

Three papers were submitted at the seminar. Prof Abul Barkat presented a paper titled "Economic implications of South Asian connectivity," while Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad presented his paper titled "Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna regional cooperation in water and energy development and sharing."

Adviser of Planning Commission Dr M Rahmatullah presented another paper, while former secretary Syed Margub Morshed and Dr Amina Hossain, among others, spoke.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad presided over the seminar conducted by Dr Selina Akter Jahan.

10 killed in Iran

FROM PAGE 16
Witnesses said there did not appear to be any opposition gatherings or demonstrations on Sunday, according to the AFP news agency.

Reports of Saturday's violence cannot be verified as foreign media in Iran are being severely restricted.

In other developments, Iran's most senior dissident cleric Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri called for three days of national mourning for those killed in street protests, Reuters news agency reported yesterday.

Meanwhile, former reformer Khatami calls for the release of detained activists while Iran police chief Gen Esmail Ahmadi Moghaddam warns any further unrest will be confronted "decisively". Also, Iranian officials have again attacked Britain for "interfering".

Last week, state media reported that at least seven people had been killed and many more wounded in the post-election violence and protests which have engulfed Tehran and other cities since last Saturday.

Mousavi, who is leading the massive wave of public opposition to the June 12 vote that returned hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to power, accused the country's rulers of "cheating" and warned of a dangerous path ahead if the crackdown on demonstrators continued.

He unleashed his broadside against Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's all-powerful supreme leader, after police firing tear gas and water cannon clashed with thousands of protesters who defied an ultimatum from Khamenei for an end to their street protests.

World leaders have voiced mounting alarm over the unrest, which has severely jolted the pillars of the Islamic regime and raised concerns over the future of the oil-rich Shiite Muslim powerhouse.

Iran has fired back, accusing foreign governments of meddling.

Britain was the latest target, with Iranian Foreign

Twenty20 glory

FROM PAGE 16
The International Cricket Council has already ruled out holding World Cup matches in Pakistan in 2011 following the militant attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore on March 3.

Shahid Afridi who was adjudged the man of the match hit an unbeaten 54 off 40 balls, his second consecutive half-century, and former captain Shoaib Malik made an unbeaten 24 during a match-winning partnership of 76 for the undefeated third wicket.

Pakistani openers Kamran Akmal and Shahzaib Hasan ensured there were no early scares as they put on 48 for the first wicket in seven overs.

Sanath Jayasuriya broke through with his first delivery in the next over when he beat Akmal in the air with his left-arm spin and had him stumped for 37 off 28 balls.

Jayasuriya then took a catch to get rid of Shahzaib off Mutiah Muralitharan for 19, but Afridi and Malik took Pakistan home amid loud celebrations from their fans in the stands.

Sri Lanka were dealt quick blows after captain Kumar Sangakkara won the toss and elected to take first strike on a slow wicket.

The Lankans slumped to 2-2 in the first nine balls and that became 34-4 before Sangakkara himself led the rescue act with a defiant unbeaten 64 from 52 balls.

Sangakkara and Angelo Mathews put on 68 for the unbroken seventh wicket as Sri Lanka plundered 59 runs in the final five overs.

Mathews returned unbeaten on 35 off 24 balls.

Pakistan got off to a sensational start when teenage fast bowler Mohammad Amir sent back the in-form Tillekaratne Dilshan with the fifth ball of the match.

Dilshan, who was later judged man of the series for being the tournament's leading scorer with 317 runs, miscued a pull shot off the speedy left-arm and was caught at backward square-leg by Shahzaib Hasan for nought.

Four balls later, Shahzaib grabbed his second catch at mid-off as Jehan Mubarak skied a leading edge off Razzaq, who shared the new ball with Amir.

Jayasuriya counter-attacked with a six and four in Razzaq's second over, but the bowler hit back two balls later as the left-handed veteran edged a ball on to his stumps after making 17.

Razzaq, who replaced the injured Yasir Arafat after ending his links with the rebel Indian Cricket League, struck again in his third over when Misbah-ul-Haq moved to his right at slip to remove Mahela Jayawardene for one.

Minister Manouchehr Mottaki accusing it of plotting for the past two years to sabotage the election.

Rafsanjani did not go to the prayer session in which Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei made a very tough speech endorsing the election result and saying that opposition leaders would be responsible for any bloodshed. That was another sign of the fracture in the leadership of this country.

Early reports said an unspecified number of people had died when "rioters" set a mosque on fire, but revised reports later said there had been no deaths at the mosque. A correction was also issued reducing the overall death toll to 10 from 13.

BBC's correspondent said the reports could serve as a warning to Iranians if they take part in further protests they risk getting embroiled in violence, or being identified as a "terrorist".

Rafsanjani's daughter, Faezeh - who addressed supporters of protest leader and defeated presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi on Tuesday - was among the Rafsanjani family members arrested on Saturday.

It is not clear whether they have since been released.

Mousavi, who was premier in the aftermath of the Islamic revolution, lashed out at Khamenei in an unprecedented challenge to the man who has ruled over Iran for 20 years.

Amnesty

FROM PAGE 1
the budget proposal to allow legalising 'black money' (earned through drug trafficking, money laundering, smuggling, corrupt practices and undisclosed legal income) on payment of a nominal 10 percent tax over the next three years.

This provision would not only discourage the genuine taxpayers but also act as disincentive for honest citizens. So, the proposal should be reconsidered for withdrawal, it said.

However, the business leaders welcomed the budget allocation of Tk 2,500 crore for public private partnership (PPP) initiatives.

Mahbubur Rahman, president of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh, Abdul Hafiz Chowdhury, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan, president of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fazlul Hoque, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Muhammad A. (Rumez) Ali, vice-president of Bangladesh Association of Banks, AKM Rafiqul Islam, chairman of Bangladesh Insurance Association, Zafar Osman, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdus Salam Murshedy, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Abdul Hai Sarker, president of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, K Mahmood Sattar, president of Association of Bankers Bangladesh Ltd and Kamran T Rahman, president of Bangladesh Employers' Federation are the signatories of the joint statement.

2 sisters

FROM PAGE 12
nature. On return, I heard a noise under the bed. As we screamed, Akash came out under the bed and rushed to the door. But he hurriedly returned and suddenly I felt my face was burning," recalled Shimu.

She added her sister Shantona, mother of two children who used to stay with them, underwent the same fate.

Shantona suspects Akash slipped into their room and was hiding under the bed so that he could pour acid on their faces during their sleep.

Shimu is a student at a Kamwi madrasa in Rangpur who had no say about the issue of the marriage proposal.

"The proposal was dealt at family level and my parents were not interested to marry me off to that family. So I did not bother about the issue. If I knew this vengeful man is waiting for more than a year, I would not come home on this summer vacation," the teenage girl sobbed.

Her parents told The Daily Star Akash sent the proposal of marriage to them around one and a half years ago and they straightaway turned it down.

But Akash continued persuading Shimu's father. Annoyed, the schoolteacher father Abdul Mannan insulted Akash in presence of his neighbours and relatives and threatened him not to come to their house again.

Officer-in-Charge of Kishoreganj Police Station Shohag Azal said they are yet to track the culprit. He said a team has been engaged to net Akash.

Political parties

FROM PAGE 1
is the truth that finally triumphs."

In an immediate reaction, she said neither Zia in his lifetime nor the BNP government between 1991 and 1996 claimed that Zia proclaimed independence on March 26.

The AL policymaker said BNP always tells lies and expressed hope that such practice would now come to an end after this verdict.

BNP Standing Committee member Moudud Ahmed said this is fundamentally an important political issue, which could not be resolved by any judgment of any court.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court should finally settle the issue, he told the news agency UN