

JS body finds corruption, irregularities by DCC staff

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary sub-committee has detected corruption and irregularities in a number of cases of tender process, development work, tax assessments and leasing out of Dhaka City Corporation bus terminals in the last seven years.

The sub-committee yesterday decided at a meeting to set up a temporary office at the DCC Bhaban to gear up its investigation into corruption at the corporation.

The parliamentary standing committee on LGRD ministry formed the four-member probe body on July 21 to investigate widespread corruption and irregularities at DCC during the rules of the last

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New SC judge alleges move to remove him from HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Supreme Court Judge Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday said an attempt was made to illegally remove him from the High Court during the past caretaker government rule.

He made the remark at a reception by the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Attorney General's Office.

The felicitation to four new apex court judges took place at the Appellate Division's court No.1 shortly after they took oath yesterday afternoon.

Referring to the bid for his removal, Justice Sinha said, "You, the members of the Bar stood at citadel behind me and fought with the rulers for establishing rule of law and encouraged me not to budge to their unconstitutional

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Top criminal Bikash freed on bail

Detained again?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top criminal Bikash Kumer Biswas was freed on a bail from Kahimpur-2 jail yesterday after over 13 years of imprisonment.

However, Rab men picked up him from the jail gate soon after he came out from it at about 8:00 pm, sources said.

But SMAK Azad, director of legal and media wing of Rab, said, "I hard about the detention of Bikash from media men but I am not sure of the matter."

Kashimpur-2 jail superintendent Azmal Hossain said Bikash is wanted in a number of cases, including those of four murder cases, and he got bails in all the cases.

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Dangerous living in shadows of landslide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

At least 1000 people live in imminent danger of landslides in Khagrachhari town as the monsoons set in with rain pouring even yesterday evening.

The 150 families living at the foot of hills in Kadamtali were identified as extremely vulnerable after several landslides in the area left over 50 people injured last year.

Heavy damage to property also occurred at the time. Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC), the Public Works Department (PWD) and police jointly carried out the survey in the area last year and identified about 150 families living under high risk of landslides.

The people living in Kadamtali foothill area, and also slopes of the hill, are very poor and some also live inside the small shops they have set up here.

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BDR MUTINY

Charge sheet in Sept, 3,000 jawans found involved

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The charge sheet in BDR mutiny case might be submitted in mid-September by CID, while a military investigation found 3,000 border security force jawans' involvement in the incident.

"We're working hard to submit the charge sheet by August, but it might not be possible as the task is quite huge," said a source in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) which is tasked with investigating the case.

A CID investigator said about 100 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans might have been directly involved in the killings of army officers during the mutiny.

"We've yet to compile all the figures from the investigation. But I assume that the figure might be around 100," said the CID investigator wishing anonymity.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting on Wednesday that the CID investigation is nearing completion.

CID Special Superintendent of Dhaka Metro Zone Mir Shahidul Islam however declined to give an approximate timeframe for submitting the charge sheet when The Daily Star inquired.

He however said, "We're focusing on fairness and speed of the investigation to ensure justice."

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Bail prayers of 57 rejected in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The District and Sessions Judge's Court of Rajshahi yesterday rejected the bail prayers of 57 out of 93 suspected BDR mutineers arrested on sedition charge.

The BDR jawans were produced before the court amid tight security.

Public Prosecutor M Ibrahim Hossain submitted a time-extension prayer to the court for further investigation into the case.

The court of judge AR Masud sent the arrestees to jail custody and fixed August 11 for the hearing.

Family members of the arrestees gathered on the court premises to have a look at their near and dear ones.

The CMM court transferred

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CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

BNP, 9 other parties seek 6 more months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and nine other political parties have sought at least six months' additional time to ratify the provisional changes in their constitutions and submit those to the Election Commission as they cannot complete the task by the July 25 deadline.

On the pleas, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said the EC would ask the government to amend the Representation of the People Order to provide additional time to the parties.

Thirty-eight of the 39 registered political parties brought provisional changes in their constitutions to meet registration criteria before the December 29 parliamentary election, promising to ratify the changes within six months from the first sitting of the ninth parliament.

With the new parliament having begun its

journey on January 25, the deadline for the task is set on July 25.

However, none of the parties has so far taken any significant initiative in this regard.

A delegation of the main opposition BNP yesterday met with EC officials and sought another six months' time up to January 25 to complete the entire procedure for holding the party's national council to ratify the provisional changes in its constitution.

Bangladesh Jatiya Party and Islamic Oikya Jote--components of the BNP-led four-party alliance--also sought six months' additional time while others sought six to 10 months' time.

On the time extension pleas, Chief Election Commissioner Huda yesterday told reporters that the EC would review the applications and ask the government to amend the Representation of the People Order to extend the timeframe so that political parties can

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Hasina elected Nam vice-chair

She asks Malaysian PM to recruit more Bangladeshis

UNB, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been elected vice-chair of the Non-Aligned Movement for the next three years.

Hasina was made vice-chair when she was presiding over the general debate on 'Current Global Financial and Economic Crisis' on the opening day of the two-day summit of the forum that got off to a ceremonial start in this Egyptian resort city on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the PM attended the second-day sessions of the 15th Nam summit and presided over part of the opening programmes of the day.

Besides, she had a meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak on the sidelines of the summit in the meeting room of the summit venue, Maritime Congress Centre, yesterday morning.

During the meeting, Hasina requested the Malaysian prime minister to recruit more manpower from Bangladesh and ensure all facilities for professional betterment of the Bangladeshi expatriates working in the Asean country.

In reply, Najib assured Hasina of ensuring necessary facilities for the Bangladeshi people there.

PHOTO: PID

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Rare example of honesty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rupchan, a rickshaw-puller in the capital, has set a rare example of honesty by returning Tk 2.50 lakh to its custodian, which he found abandoned on the road of Nilkhet on Wednesday.

Mohammad Shahedul Islam, president of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries and also the owner of the money, rewarded Rupchan with Tk 50,000 while Dhaka Metropolitan Police authorities Tk 5,000.

Police said Rupchan found the bag containing the money at the Nilkhet intersection while he was crossing the area at around 2:30pm.

The rickshaw-puller and his passenger took the bag and handed it over to

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Arms case against Huda quashed

HC suspends convictions against Morshed Khan, Falu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday quashed all proceedings against former BNP minister Nazmul Huda in a case filed on charge of possessing illegal firearms and ammunition.

The HC in separate orders also suspended convictions against former BNP minister M Morshed Khan and former BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu in separate cases against them, and granted interim bail to former Awami League lawmaker Joynal Abedin Hazari.

Nazmul Huda, Morshed Khan and Mosaddek Ali are now free on bail, and Hazari is in jail custody.

NAZMUL HUDA Endorsing a quashment petition filed by Nazmul Huda, the HC bench of Justice AFM Abdur Rahman and Justice SM Justice SM Emdadul Hoque delivered the verdict quashing the proceedings of the case against Huda.

Dhanmondi thana police filed the case against the former communications minister under the Arms Act on March 8, 2007. The police later submitted charge sheet to the court against him

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Five outlaws held with arms, bombs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Rapid Action Battalion arrested five top Janajuddho cadres including a regional leader and recovered firearms, ammunition and explosives from them at a hotel in Chuadanga Wednesday night.

The arrestees are Sahanur Joardar, 33, regional leader of Shaikupa, Miron, 25, Faruq, 22, Selim 38 and Saiful, 27 of Shaikupa, Jhenidah.

Tipped off, a team of Rab-6 led by Maj Shafiqur Rahman raided the hotel near Chuadanga railway station at around 9:30pm. Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the activists fired a shot and blasted a bomb inside the hotel, Rab said.

Rab later surrounded and arrested them and recovered three pistols, four bombs and

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Young blood likely to rule next AL central body

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The young and dedicated leaders who served the party braving adversity during the post-1/11 days are likely to win vital posts in the next central committee of ruling Awami League.

The national council on July 24 may also see changes in Presidium, highest policymaking body in AL, and organising secretary- and secretary-level positions.

Those who worked against the party during the caretaker government rule and those who came from different leftist parties may find themselves in a tight corner, said AL insiders.

AL President Sheikh Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana and son Sajeeb Wazed Joy may be included in the new committee for their behind-the-scene work for the party in absence of Hasina, said a source close to the AL chief.

Rehana might be made a presidium member and Joy an executive member of the central committee. "It's pretty sure she [Rehana] is having a place in the committee as the time is ripe for her to enter politics," observed the

source.

Meanwhile, the AL ranks keep wondering about who is going to be elected general secretary and what will become of the party stalwarts who attempted to bring about reforms in AL with Hasina behind bars.

Some sources say Matia Chowdhury, a presidium member, might be given the post of general secretary in recognition of her service to the party in troubled times.

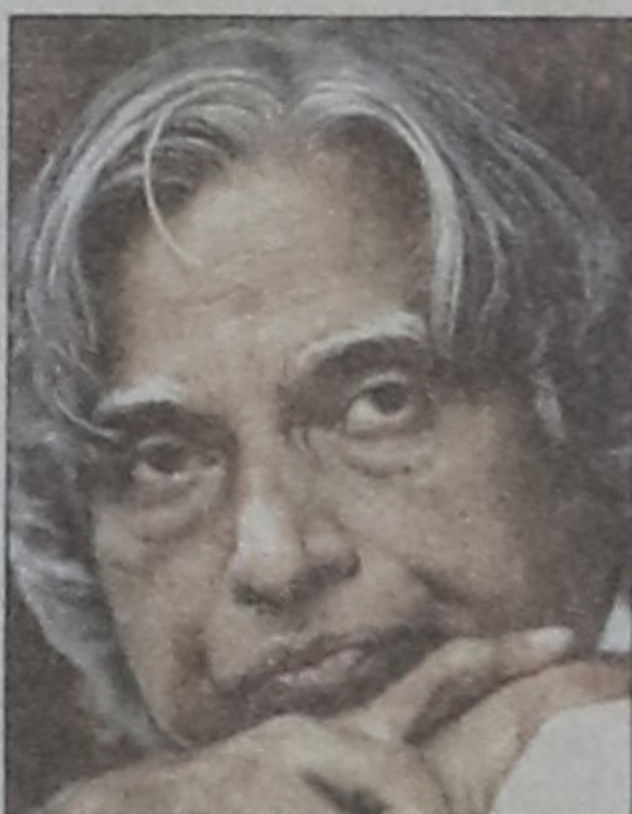
"If she agrees, she might come out as the next general secretary," said a close aide to Hasina.

Matia, also agriculture minister, however told The Daily Star, "I'm not a candidate for the post. I know my limits. The prime minister has given me charge of the agriculture ministry and I want to work sincerely there," she said.

Asked about the formation of the committee, Matia said she thinks it would be a mix of youth and experience.

Meanwhile, some other sources said one of the incumbent AL joint general secretaries--

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Former Indian president Abdul Kalam due Sunday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Former Indian president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam will arrive in Dhaka on Sunday on a three-day visit.

According to an announcement by the Indian High Commission yesterday, Dr Kalam will meet President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus during his stay here.

He will also visit the University of Dhaka, and Viharunnisa Noon School and College.

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Second Test starts today

TIGERCRICKET.COM

Buoyed by a first overseas Test win Bangladesh go into the second and final Test against the West Indies today at Grenada confident of another positive result. The Tigers were victorious by 95 runs in the first Test in St. Vincent and vice captain Shakib Al Hasan feels

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People of Zia Nagar cluster village in Khagrachhari built their homes cutting a hill ignoring what a landslide could do to their lives. No steps have yet been taken to relocate them.



PHOTO: STAR