

Graft cases against Falu, Hashem stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for six months the proceedings of two separate corruption cases against former BNP lawmakers Masaddak Ali Falu and MA Hashem.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the cases in 2007 against Falu and Hashem on charges of amassing wealth illegally and concealing information about the wealth.

Upon two separate quashment petitions filed by the BNP leaders, the HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Rais Uddin also issued separate rules upon the ACC and government to explain within four weeks why the cases should not be quashed.

Both the former lawmakers are now free on bail in the cases.

Advocate Ahsanul Karim appeared for the petitioners.

JMB PATRON CASE

Aminul denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday rejected bail prayer of former BNP minister Aminul Haque in connection with a case for abetting and patronising outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

M Mohsin Ali, father of JMB atrocity victim Monwar Hossain Babu of Chalk Sarkutia, filed the case after his son was killed during the operation by JMB's executed leader Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai in Bagmara in 2004.

Judge ABM Mahmudul Haque of the Court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Rajshahi, however, granted Aminul bail in the case for misappropriation of corrugated iron sheets from the government relief funds.

Aminul, a key patron of Islamist militant outfit JMB in Rajshahi region in 2004-2005, this regard.

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 injured in blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two youths were injured in a home-made bomb explosion in Sylhetabadi area in the city yesterday afternoon.

Locals said the incident occurred when the victims -- Md Nadim, 18, and Jummon Ali, 20, -- were preparing the bombs on the 3rd floor of an under-construction building at Swamibagh around 5:30pm.

The victims were rushed to a local hospital immediately and brought to Jatrabari Police Station later, sources said.

Free medical service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pancare Hospital authorities yesterday provided free medical services for around 300 underprivileged patients at Rayerbazar in the city, says a press release.

With a view to creating health awareness among the destitute, the hospital organised the programme in the area.

Patients got opportunity of having free blood test, prescription and drugs.

Under the leadership of Maj (retd) Dr Abdul Matin, chairman of the hospital, Dr Mehedi Hasan, Dr Pilu Mamta and Dr Gulshan Ara rendered conducted the programme.



Nestle Bangladesh Limited donated 12 computers for 12 schools in Gazipur district on Sunday. Jatinder Middha, manufacturing director of the company, and other high officials handed over the computers to the headmasters of the schools. Mirza Golam Hossain, senior manager, Corporate Affairs and Communication, spoke on the occasion.

Workshop on agri dev

METRO DESK

Bangladesh Protibandhi Kalyan Samity (BPKS) organised a workshop on 'Agricultural development in persons with disabilities' at AKM Gaias Uddin Milki auditorium at Khamar Bari in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The objective of the workshop was to expedite national development by participation and inclusion of the persons with disabilities in the agriculture, fishery and livestock sectors of the country.

Agriculturist Sowkat Momen Shah Jahan MP, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on agriculture ministry, was the chief guest the programme.

Agriculturists Dr ANM Walulah of Department of Agriculture Extension, Dr Md Mehedi Hossain of Department of Livestock, Tofazuddin Ahmed of Department of Fisheries were the resource persons at the workshop.

Investigate CG's unconstitutional acts

Pro-BNP lawyers demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP lawyers yesterday demanded formation of an investigation committee led by a senior judge of the Supreme Court (SC) to probe into "unconstitutional acts" of the immediate-past military-backed caretaker government (CG).

The demand was made by Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon, also a BNP lawmaker, at a press briefing at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) building in the city.

The BNP demand came three days after a remark by just-elevated SC judge Surendra Kumar Sinha saying that an attempt was made to remove him illegally from the High Court during the rule of the caretaker government.

Barrister Khokon also alleged that the law ministry had provided "untrue" information to the chief justice

about the number of pending cases of the appellate division before the recent appointment of four new judges to this court.

He said the ministry in a letter on June 29 said there were 1,20,095 cases pending with the appellate division till December 31, 2008.

But in a reply to the law minister on June 30, the chief justice said the number of pending cases in the court was 6,247 till that date, he added.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed has turned down the allegation, saying that an assistant registrar of the SC had officially provided him with the number of cases of the apex court for placing at parliament during a question-answer session.

He, however, said his ministry will examine if there is any confusion about the number of pending cases at the apex court.

Police find no allegations against three ICS workers

Lawyer tells HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

was hauled before the court during hearing of his bail prayers.

He surrendered on July 7 after staying two and a half years as a fugitive abroad and applying to the government for withdrawing all the 13 cases against him.

In the case filed by Mohsin, some 58 people were accused, but later eight including BNP Organising Secretary Mizanur Rahman Minu were dropped from the charges.

With the killing of Babu on April 1, 2004, Bangla Bhai along with his gang began their so-called state-sponsored vigilante operations.

Aminul purposely patronised JMB militants abusing the police and administration during the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance rule. He was eventually handed down 31 years and six months of imprisonment in Rajshahi in 2007 in this regard.

A lawyer for three detained members of Islami Chhatra Sangstha (ICS) yesterday told the High Court that the police did not find any allegations against them.

The police arrested the three members -- Tania Akhtar, Syeda Faizia Akhtar, and Jasmine Nahar -- from a madrasa in Pirojpur on July 3, suspecting them to be involved in criminal activities. ICS is a female student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Three separate writ petitions challenging their arrest were filed with HC on Sunday.

During the hearing of the petitions yesterday, their lawyer Barrister Abdur Razzaq said that the police submitted a report to the chief judicial magistrate's court in Pirojpur yesterday (Monday) where they stated that there was no allegation against the three members and they should be exonerated.

Barrister Belayet Hossain, another lawyer for the petitioners, yesterday told The Daily Star that the copy of the police report was submitted to HC for its consideration.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui fixed today for issuing orders on the petitions, he said.

The AL leader was earlier sentenced to total 34 years in jail in the four cases.

Upon four appeals filed by Hasnat against his convictions, the HC bench of Justice MA Wahab Miah and Justice Abdur Razzak passed the bail orders.

The bail to Hasnat will remain valid until disposal of the appeals.

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