

GRAFT CASE Ex-Ctg mayor Mohiuddin granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday granted bail till February 16 to Awami League's city unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in a graft case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission.

Chittagong Divisional Special Judge SM Ataur Rahman passed the order after Mohiuddin, also former mayor of Chittagong City Corporation, had surrendered to the court seeking bail, court sources said. The court fixed February 16 for the next hearing. On Monday, the same court issued arrest warrant against the AL leader in the case as he was not present before the court while four witnesses gave their testimonies, said Public Prosecutor Mahmudul Haque Mahmud.

On December 2, 2007, Abu Mohammad Arif Siddique, deputy director of ACC, Chittagong, filed the case with Double

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Three fishing cats huddle together for warmth at Chittagong Zoo yesterday, as the winter temperature dips again coupled with chilly winds.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Eight DB police impersonators held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of Police Monday arrested eight persons impersonating DB personnel in the capital's Banasree area.

The arrested are Md Ali, Ripon, Abul Khayer, Monir, Anik, Md Iqbal, Rubel and Sumon Mia.

A microbus with two DB stickers, a locally made pipe gun, a pair of handcuffs, and two walkie-talkie sets were also seized from their possession, said Shaikh Nazmul Alam, deputy commissioner of DB (North) yesterday at a press briefing at the media centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

On information, a team of detectives arrested them when they attempted to pick up bank clients in a bid to snatch their money in front of Brac Bank at block-C around 12:40pm, said Nazmul.

In preliminary interrogation, the gang confessed that they had committed five similar crimes.

Of the arrestees, Ali, Rubel and Ripon were arrested five months ago on charges of impersonating cops and, later, released on bail, a DB official said.

ATTACK ON WOMAN UP MEMBER Bangladesh Mahila Parishad urges female lawmakers to protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) yesterday urged all women representatives of the national parliament to protest the recent attack on Nurjahan Begum, a female union parishad member in Chapainawabganj, which left the tendons of her hands and legs severed.

Apprehending that such a brutality will terrorise female politicians in the future, the BMP leaders observed that it was a responsibility of female parliamentarians to raise their voice. They also demanded exemplary punishment for the culprits to stop recurrence of such atrocities.

BMP held a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital to protest the attack carried out allegedly by BNP-Jamaat men.

Ayesha Khanam, president of the organisation, said, "The attack committed in broad daylight is a serious blow to women's empowerment in the country." She demanded that the home ministry and law enforcers take immediate steps to ensure women's safety in society.

"The government must take immediate steps to stop all forms of political violence in the country," Khanam added.

Rakhi Das Purakayastha, acting secretary of BMP, also spoke at the event.

Central BCL leader suspended for disrespecting women on Facebook

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League last night suspended a central leader and served a show-cause notice on a Dhaka University hall unit president over allegations of harassing and demeaning women on the social networking site Facebook.

Liton Mahmud, deputy secretary of hospitality affairs of BCL central committee, was suspended for 15 days, while Kabi Jashimuddin Hall unit President Mehedi Hasan Rony was asked to reply in seven days over the allegations against him.

"We have taken the action as we received complaints of breaching the organisation's code of conduct against the duo," BCL President

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ATTACKS ON HINDUS

BNP continues to call it political

STAR REPORT

A second BNP investigation committee yesterday came up with the conclusion that the pre- and post-election attacks on Hindus were not communal but political.

Led by Abdul Halim, an adviser to the BNP chairperson, the five-member investigation team made the remarks after visiting different villages in Nilphamari.

Another such probe body said on January 26 that the attack on Hindus at Kornai village in Dinajpur sadar upazila was political but mysteriously made to look like communal violence.

To back their observations, Halim said many Muslims were also affected by the attacks along with Hindus, which indicated that the attacks were not aimed only at Hindus.

In the face of criticism over BNP-Jamaat's involvement in the attacks, BNP chief Khaleida Zia formed four probe bodies on January 23 to get a "clear picture" about

violence against Hindus, human rights violations, and killing and oppression of the BNP-led alliance men.

In Nilphamari, apart from attacks on Hindus, five Awami League men were killed while an election procession of AL MP Asaduzzaman Noor, now cultural affairs minister, was attacked on December 14.

Before talking to reporters, Halim-led five-member team visited different affected villages of Tupamari and Laxmichhap unions of Nilphamari sadar upazila and talked with the victims.

The team also visited family members of the deceased BNP leader, Golam Rabbani, 35, prime accused in the case for attacking Noor's motorcade, which led to the killing of the five AL men.

The committee also talked to the family members of local Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Atiqur Rahman Atiq, 30, another accused in the case.

Both the accused were found killed mys
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ACC to sue Tarique's mother-in-law for not submitting wealth statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday decided to sue Syeda Iqbalmand Banu, mother-in-law of BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman, for not submitting her wealth statement.

Banu was asked on January 25, 2012 to submit the statement but she acquired a stay order from the High Court later, said an ACC official.

Then the ACC obtained an order from the Supreme Court on September 26 last year on stalling the HC stay order and thus paving the way to obtain Banu's wealth statement to investigate the corruption charges against Tarique. But Banu did not comply till date.

In September 2007, ACC Deputy Director Jahirul Huda sued Tarique, his wife Dr Zubaida, and mother-in-law Banu for concealing wealth information.

BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon told The Daily Star that the government was using the ACC to harass Banu only because she was Tarique's mother-in-law.

He also described Banu as a renowned social worker, wife of an ex-navy chief, and founder of Surovi school, an education institution for the underprivileged in the capital.



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting the recent attack on Union Parishad Member Nurjahan Begum in Chapainawabganj allegedly by BNP-Jamaat men that left the tendons of her hands and legs severed.

PHOTO: STAR

PM appoints 4 special assistants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday appointed four people as her special assistants on a contractual basis.

Abdus Sobhan Golap, Selima Khatun and Ferdous Ahmed Khan will enjoy the rank and status, and salary of a full-fledged secretary while Mahbubul Hoque Shakil of an additional secretary.

The public administration ministry yesterday issued separate circulars in this regard which would remain effective until the premier's tenure ends or based on her wish.

Golap, Shakil and Ferdous were special assistants to the prime minister earlier while Selima was the premier's private secretary since 2009.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Sayedee's lawyer doubts authenticity of PW's testimony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some statements made by prosecution witness Mahbubul Alam Hawlader against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 are not believable, a defence lawyer told the Supreme Court yesterday.

SM Shahjahan argued that the witness had heard from people that the members of the Peace Committee of Parerhat in Pirojpur were waiting at Parerhat rickshaw stand to receive the Pakistani army on May 7, 1971.

The witness testified that then he (Mahbubul) hid himself in the back of the rickshaw stand and saw the Peace Committee members standing there, the lawyer said, adding that the witness was a 12-year-old school-going boy and it was not believable that he observed that incident during that turbulent period.

Shahjahan raised questions about the testimony while placing arguments on the appeal filed by Sayedee against the death penalty given to him by the ICT-1 for committing crimes against humanity during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Mahbubul testified that at Parerhat on May 7, 1971, Sayedee talked to Capt Ejaz in Urdu, and then the accused accompanied the Pakistani army to the houses and shops of the civilians, supporters of the Liberation War, loyalists of Awami League, and Hindus and then those houses and

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ACC CASE AGAINST EX-JUDGE

Bashundhara official quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday quizzed a high official of Bashundhara Group in the graft case against former judge Motahar Hossain, who had acquitted a son of the business group's Chairman Ahmed Sobhan Shah Alam in a murder case in 2011.

Pobitro Sarkar, deputy general manager of the group's Law Division, arrived at ACC's office in the capital around 10:00am and left more than two hours and a half later.

Deputy Director of ACC Harun-ur-Rashid, who is leading the probe, said, "We found some information (about the allegations against the judge), so we called him to cross-check that."

While serving as the judge of Speedy Trial Tribunal-4, Motahar Hossain dropped charges against the five accused,

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