

ACC summons

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yesterday to probe allegations of illegal wealth accumulation by former state minister for water resources Mahbubur Rahman Talukder and his wife Pritee Rahman.

Following leads from newspaper reports, the ACC on January 22 launched probes into corruption allegations against seven former ministers and lawmakers of the ninth parliament.

The anti-graft watchdog on the same day appointed seven investigators to investigate the allegations against Bodi and six others for "discrepancies" in wealth statements they had submitted to the Election Commission seeking candidature in the 10th parliamentary election.

NOTICE SERVED ON BODI

Serving a notice on Bodi, the ACC warned that legal action would be taken for failure to respond to the notice.

The move came just weeks after media

reported that the MP's wealth had increased by around 351 times during the tenure (2009-2013) of the last AL government.

Investigation officer Ahsan Ali, a deputy director at the ACC, will record his statement at 10:00am on February 16 at the ACC headquarters in the capital.

ACC OFFICIAL IN PATUAKHALI

Khairul Huda, deputy director at the ACC, reached Patuakhali yesterday to investigate the allegations against ex-state minister Mahbubur Rahman Talukder, reports our Patuakhali correspondent.

According to media reports, Mahbubur's wealth has increased by 143 times in last five years.

Khairul said, "I will talk to some people, including local elites, government officials concerned, his [Mahbubur Rahman] business partner and party men, in connection with the allegations."

Jinnah made matters worse

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police action of March 11. The Students Action Committee formed against the backdrop of the incidents of March 11 made it known that a strike would be called on March 15 to emphasise the grievances of the people of East Bengal (now Bangladesh) before the assembly.

The provincial government, needless to say, was thus placed in a tight spot through this move by the students' community. Of particular concern to the chief minister and his colleagues was the fact that governor general Mohammad Ali Jinnah was expected to arrive in Dhaka on March 19, a visit that ought not to be sidelined by the students' agitation. As a way of placating the students, Nazimuddin agreed to meet their representatives, among whom were Prof Abul Kashem, Mohammad Toaha, Kamruddin Ahmed, Syed Nazrul Islam, Naimuddin Ahmed and Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, on the morning of March 15 before the Legislative Assembly session got underway.

In the course of the meeting, Nazimuddin agreed to release all individuals arrested on March 11 as a way of defusing tension in the province. He also

assured the students that at the session of the Legislative Assembly in April, a resolution proposing the adoption of Bangla as one of the two state languages (the other being Urdu) of Pakistan would be introduced. In the event, all those arrested on March 11 were released. However, as events were to show subsequently, Nazimuddin reneged on his promise to have a resolution on Bangla be adopted by the provincial legislature.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the all-powerful leader of Pakistan (he was governor general, president of the constituent assembly and president of the ruling Muslim League all at once), arrived in Dhaka on March 19 on what would be his first and last visit to Pakistan's eastern province. On March 21, he addressed a public rally at the Race Course (subsequently Suhrawardy Udyan), where he warned the people of East Bengal to be on guard against elements conspiring against the unity of Pakistan. He clearly had in mind the Bangla language issue.

As events were to show, Jinnah would only make matters worse for himself and for Pakistan during his Dhaka visit.

Judge replaced

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Asaduzzaman Khan Rochi, public prosecutor of the court, told The Daily Star that the delivery of the judgment slated for February 10 may be deferred, as the new judge being unaware of the case contents may hear arguments of both sides on several dates.

Former military dictator Gen HM Ershad, now special envoy of the prime minister, is the main accused in the case.

The four other accused are Maj Gen (retd) Abdul Latif, Lt Col (retd) Mostafa Kamal Uddin Bhuiyan, Lt Col (retd)

Shamsur Rahman Shams and Maj (retd) Kazi Emdadul Haq.

The proceedings against Latif and Shamsur have been stayed by the High Court.

Maj Gen Abul Manzoor was killed at Chittagong Cantonment on June 1, 1981, just two days after the assassination of the then president Ziaur Rahman.

Manzoor, who was commander of Sector-8 during the Liberation War, was believed to have executed the abortive Chittagong coup in which Zia was killed.

Moudud, Rafiquel

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around 9:30am yesterday, said Jahangir.

On November 8 last year, Moudud and Rafiquel were detained from outside Hotel Sonargaon after they were coming out of a programme there.

Mahbub was picked up by detectives in front of the Jatiya Press Club on January 7.

Police filed six cases against Moudud, five against Mia and two against

Mahbub.

Moudud and Mia were shown arrested in two cases filed for "attempted murder" of cops and creating violence in the capital during May 5 Hefajat rally.

At least 28 central BNP leaders including its standing committee members were arrested by the law enforcers in the last three months. Of them, 10 have so far been freed.

It was designed

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On January 30, the tribunal handed down death penalty to 14 accused, including the then ministers Motiur Rahman Nizami and Lutfozzaman Babar, in the smuggling case. The same 14 were awarded life terms in the other case filed under the Arms Act.

The cases had been lodged with Karnaphuli Police Station a day after the arms haul at the jetty of state-owned Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd in the early hours of April 2, 2004.

The seized items included 4,930 sophisticated firearms, 840 rocket launchers, 300 rockets, 27,020 grenades, 2,000 grenade-launching tubes, 6,392 magazines and 11.41 million bullets.

In its verdict synopsis, the court observed that it was possible to build a cantonment with the seized weapons and ammunition.

The full text of the verdict in the smuggling case was of 260 pages while that of the arms case 256 pages, Omar Fuad, a bench assistant of the tribunal told The Daily Star.

The full verdicts would be sent to the High Court for the next course of action, he added.

According to the smuggling case verdict, it was revealed from the evidence that the ministers of the then government and top-ranking officials of the military and civil administrations in connivance with each other and Paresh Barua had attempted the smuggling in a planned way.

The verdict said the accused intelligence officials did not bother to consider the possibility of destroying good relationship with a neighbour country.

"The derailed army officials stigmatised our glorious foreign policy by getting involved in the incident stated in the cases ... the accused got engaged in such a severe crime without considering the glory of the country's armed forces; it is extremely regrettable and frustrating," reads the verdict summary.

It also said the incident of the largest

arms haul had taken place at a time when Babar and Nizami were at the helm of the home and industries ministries respectively.

"Lutfozzaman Babar tried to tactically hide the entire incident without taking minimum legal actions against the accused," reads the summary.

For smuggling or other terrorist activities, it said, international smugglers and criminals usually choose the countries where policymakers and top ranking military and civil administration officers could easily be managed.

Ulfa leader Paresh Barua took the lead in this case, says the observation, adding that, "Had the officials of NSI and DGFI not allowed and given him [Paresh] shelter, such a big crime would not have taken place."

In their statements, accused NSI officials confessed that they had received thousands of dollars and attractive gifts by keeping contacts with embassy officials of some countries. They had also accepted hospitality of Paresh and other countries and attended several secret meetings at home and abroad, the tribunal observed.

It is implicit from their confessional statements that they were engaged in destroying the nation by pushing its existence at stake, the tribunal said, adding, "So the derailed high officials of military and civil administrations deserve the highest punishment for the crimes. Otherwise, such incident may recur."

Referring to the statements of witnesses, the tribunal in its observation also stated that Babar implicated two eye witnesses of the arms haul -- sergeants Alauddin and Helal Uddin -- in an arms case and inhumanly tortured them physically and mentally.

Although the two were implicated in that case filed in connection with theft, and possession and sale of AK-47 rifles, no such evidence was found, the tribunal observed.

Shahid Commissioner

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commanding officer of Rab-10 told reporters at the elite force's headquarters in the capital's Dhalpur area.

He said acting on a tip off, a Rab team had raided Shahid's house on Satish Sarkar Road around 3:00am, while he along with his six to seven accomplices were planning subversive activities.

During the raid, the accomplices had managed to climb down from the second-floor balcony of the five-storey building using a rope, said the Rab official.

He said the law enforcers had recovered three illegal and one licensed firearms, and 62 bullets from the house.

Shahid had been convicted in a number of cases and awarded the capital punishment in a murder case in the lower court. Later, the high court acquitted him, Mehedi Hasan, officer-in-charge of Gendaria police told The Daily Star.

The former commissioner participated in the 10th parliamentary polls held on January 5 this year as an independent candidate from Dhaka-6 constituency. However, hours after the polling had begun he withdrew his candidacy alleging rigging. Jatiya Party candidate Kazi Firoz Rahsid won the seat.

On January 2, three days prior to the election, a team of Rab seized three firearms and 35 bullets, and arrested one

2 arrested

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to Faitong police camp.

Shahajahan Khan, officer-in-charge of Lama Police Station, said both the criminals were outsiders, who tried to create panic among the local Hindus by vandalising the idols.

Local Awami League leaders visited the spot and consoled the affected people.

Lakshimpado Das, general secretary of the Bandarban Durga Mondir, also visited the spot, and expressed deep concern over the attack on the temple.

He condemned the attack and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Gun-toting

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Ahmed Setu, Samsuzzman Emon, Sudipto Salam, Mustkim Billah, Anwarul Islam Shuvro and Faisal Ahmed.

Sudipto, a former joint secretary of RU BCL, was seen roaming the campus in the last two days. He even talked to journalists yesterday and lamented that police were after him because of newspaper reports.

Of the remaining five, Mustkim is the environment secretary, Shuvro deputy publicity secretary and Faisal Ahmed an organising secretary of the pro-AL student body's RU unit.

The BCL has suspended Nasim Ahmed Setu, RU unit joint general secretary, and Samsuzzman Emon, organising secretary. In the past, expelled armed cadres were brought back with honour.

The BCL high-ups suspended eight leaders and activists including Tawhid Al Hossain Tuhin, Akheruzzaman Takim, Nasim Ahmed Setu and Atikur Rahman, after a hall unit convener was shot dead in a factional feud on July 16, 2012.

All of them were taken back.

Setu was expelled twice after December 4, 2012, for beating RU Sangskritik Jote president Arif Parvez at Bangabandhu Hall.

Tuhin was made the general secretary of the current RU BCL committee formed on July 20 last year. Around the same time, Takim became a central committee member and Atikur a vice-president.

Former RU BCL president Awal Kabir Joy and general secretary Majedul Islam Apu were expelled after a BCL activist killed at Shah Makhdum Hall on August 23, 2010. Both of them are now active in BCL politics.

RU BCL Vice-President Mehedi Hasan said some BCL men think brandishing firearms is an easy way to get vital posts in the organisation.

"It is a reality nowadays that armed cadres become leaders quickly. Chhatra League takes a lot of flak for them, though the organisation has many good students among its ranks."

On Sunday's incident, he said a certain quarter had used some cadres to get the blessings of the university authorities and win tender bid. He, however, would not go into details.

PM FOR ACTION

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she has already ordered the home ministry and inspector general of police to take legal action against the gun-toting BCL men.

Those who were carrying arms have already been expelled from the BCL, claimed Hasina, also the chief of Awami League, in parliament.

She also warned that the government will not tolerate Islami Chhatra Shibir men intruding into the movement of left-leaning students.

Earlier, speaking on the point of order, opposition chief whip Tajul Islam Chowdhury demanded the government take stern action against the BCL men for attacking RU students.

He also asked the government to file cases against the BCL men under the arms act.

Countering Tajul, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury cited some incidents of killings during the regime of HM Ershad, including the murder of Dr Milton.

Investigate

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said she believes government abuses haven't been systematic enough to rise to the level of "crimes against humanity."

In yesterday's filing, Cadman's office identified alleged instances of government forces shooting, detaining and torturing civilian protesters.

"Numbers are difficult to quantify due to the absence of credible investigations and the inability of the media and international nongovernmental organisations to properly document crimes," said the filing.

Requests for a response from Bangladesh's foreign ministry and Hasina's office went unanswered yesterday.

Cyborg

FROM PAGE 16

cell was announced at IEEE MEMS 2014, a San Francisco conference.

If the power source is combined with a technology to control an insect, it will become possible to use insects for wirelessly transmitting various sensor signals.

'Killer force' in action

FROM PAGE 1

Khaleda urged the government to take steps immediately to hold a national election as soon as possible. "Otherwise, there is no reason to think that we will keep making calls for holding dialogue for an indefinite period."

Top leaders of the BNP and its allies were present at the press conference.

The BNP chief said the way state terrorism is rising in the absence of rule of law and justice, the country would face a humanitarian crisis. And the suppression of political and democratic rights is paving the way for the rise of extremism and militancy.

Khaleda said her party has a lot of experience in running the country and knows what decision should be taken in which situation. "The BNP is moving forward by formulating short and long-term strategies on political and organisational issues."

Replying to a query, the former prime minister said the opposition alliance would soon launch a fresh anti-government agitation.

Giving accounts of "oppression and killing" of opposition men by law enforcers and Awami League men, she alleged that more than 300 opposition activists were murdered and forcibly disappeared between December 26 and January this year.

Of them, 242 were killed and 60 were forcibly disappeared, Khaleda said without giving the names and identity of all the victims.

In the statement, she mentioned the names and posts of only seven BNP leaders and one from the Jamaat-e-Islami, a key ally of the BNP.

"Though my party prepared the list based on information it had obtained, the actual situation is more alarming and dreadful," Khaleda said in her second press conference since the January 5 parliamentary polls.

The BNP-led combine had boycotted the election, as it was not held under a non-party government.

On January 15, Khaleda briefed journalists on the political situation after the 10th parliamentary election.

The BNP chairperson yesterday once again defended the BNP-led alliance's decision to boycott the January 5 polls,

and said her party would have secured two-thirds majority in parliament had the election been fair and inclusive.

"The BNP and our alliance partners think our decision to stay away from the election was right. By boycotting the polls, people have proved that no free and fair election can be held under the present government," she said.

"We did not make any mistake by boycotting the polls. It is the present illegal government that made a mistake by holding the one-sided election against people's will."

Khaleda placed a set of 10 demands, including immediate holding of national election under a non-party administration, putting a stop to "oppression and killing" of opposition activists, release of all detained opposition men and withdrawal of "false" cases against them.

On the ruling party's call for severing ties with the Jamaat, a key component of the BNP-led alliance, Khaleda said, "We will decide everything on our own. Who are they to dictate us?"

Asked why the BNP is allowing its leaders to contest upazila polls while it has been saying it will not join any election under a partisan government, Khaleda said anyone can participate in local body polls as these are non-partisan in nature.

At least one person was killed in each of Jhenidah, Magura, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Kishoreganj and Munshiganj, two each in Naogaon, Rangpur, Kurigram, Rajshahi and Chuadanga, three in Natore, four in each of Thakurgaon, Kushtia, Jessore, Khulna and Comilla, five in each of Dinajpur and Bogra, six each in Nilphamari, Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat, seven in each of Pabna and Meherpur, nine in Feni, 11 in Noakhali, 12 in Joypurhat, 13 in Chapainawabganj, 14 in Sirajganj, 15 in Chittagong, 17 in Cox's Bazar, 20 in Laxmipur, 23 in Chandpur and 27 in Satkhira, according to data provided by Khaleda.

At least one person was forcibly disappeared in Khulna, two in each of Jhenidah, Comilla and Laxmipur, three each in Sylhet and Chittagong, six in Satkhira, nine in Nilphamari, 11 in Gaibandha and 21 in the capital, it said.

11 die, 30 missing

FROM PAGE 1

Defence, said, "Six bodies were recovered from the river until the rescue effort was stopped due to heavy fog around 3:00am yesterday."

Five more bodies were recovered scouring the river after search operation resumed yesterday morning, he said, adding that the bodies were badly burnt and hardly recognisable.

Rescue workers and locals said around 50 to 60 passengers managed to swim ashore. But 30 others remained missing as of filing this report last night.

Of the deceased, four were identified as Rokeya, 30, of Barabari village in Khaliajuri upazila, Kohinoor Mia, 12, Roman, 12, and Sakib, 8.

Commonwealth

FROM PAGE 2

that violence against the minorities had declined.

He lauded political leaderships in Bangladesh for speaking in public against violence and attacks on minorities.

The Commonwealth had not deployed election observers for the January 5 parlia-

mentary election as it was not inclusive.

On January 6, its secretary general in a statement expressed disappointment over the election and called for a dialogue that would lead to a more inclusive and peaceful political process, in which the will of the people could be fully expressed.



RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited

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PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited in its meeting held on February 03, 2014 between 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. has approved the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2013. The significant features of the said Financial Statements and other major decisions of the meeting were as follows:

1. Financial position of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2013:

Particulars	As on 31 Dec 2013	As on 31 Dec 2012
Turnover	BDT 5,169.22 million	BDT 4,908.17 million
Gross profit	BDT 2,096.22 million	BDT 1,943.50 million (Restated)
Income from other sources	BDT 14.19 million	BDT 9.57 million
Provision for Taxation	BDT 385.13 million	BDT 370.22 million (Restated)
Net profit after Taxation	BDT 682.41 million	BDT 608.12 million
Earnings per Share (EPS)	BDT 2.23	BDT 1.99 (Restated)
Net Asset Value (NAV)	BDT 5,815.97 million	BDT 5,551.14 million
Net Asset Value (NAV) per Share	BDT 18.99	BDT 19.94
Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFS)	BDT 2.92	BDT 2.38 (Restated)

2. Recommendation for Dividend

: The Board unanimously recommended dividend @ 15 % in cash and 10 % in stock of the paid up capital of the company for the year 2013.

3. Date of AGM

: April 02, 2014

4. Time of AGM

: 10:00 a.m.

5. Venue of AGM

: Bashundhara Convention Center, Block # C, Umme Kulsum Road, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh

6. Record date for AGM and entitlement of dividend 2013

: February 13, 2014

By order of the Board of Directors

Sd/-
(Muhammad Shahidul Islam ACS)
Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka, February 03, 2014