

AMASSING WEALTH ILLEGALLY ACC now sues Mannan's wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After implicating former state minister for housing and public works Abdul Mannan Khan for amassing wealth illegally, the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued his wife Syeda Hasina Sultana with the same allegation.

ACC Deputy Director Nasir Uddin lodged against Sultana for illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 3.45 crore and concealing information about property worth Tk 1.86 crore.

According to the case, Sultana submitted her wealth statement to the ACC on April 9, stating that she had immovable property worth Tk 2.46 crore and moveable property worth Tk 9.50 lakh.

But according to Sultana's income tax return documents, her total movable and immovable property is worth Tk 3.59 crore and her valid income is only Tk 14.30 lakh, said an ACC official.

If found guilty, the accused could face up to seven years of imprisonment, a fine of unlimited amount and confiscation of

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Handcuffed Shibir man flees from Ctg police custody

On-duty cop closed
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Shibir activist fled from police custody several hours after he had been arrested in Chittagong city's Dhemsaha area early yesterday.

Md Rubel, 26, managed to escape dodging the law enforcers around 11:00am although he was handcuffed at Dhemsaha Police Investigation Camp, said Khalid Hossain, officer-in-charge of Satkania Police Station.

Rubel is an accused in several cases filed over creating violence right

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PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

The solid white line in the middle of the road means no overtaking allowed here, but a bus disregards the law to overtake a truck around a dangerous bend on the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Baoikhola yesterday, just a day after 33 people were killed when a bus tried to overtake a truck and collided head-on with another bus from the opposite direction in Natore.

FORCEFUL CONVERSION OF HINDUS TO ISLAM IN 1971

Another witness accuses Jabbar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another prosecution witness has testified that on orders of war crimes accused Abdul Jabbar, Razakars forced around 200 Hindus to convert to Islam at the end of May during the Liberation War.

In his deposition before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday, Mohendra Adhikari, 84, the 14th prosecution witness, said Razakars -- an auxiliary group to the Pakistan occupation army -- changed his name to "Mahbub Khan" after forcing him to accept Islam as his religion.

So far, four victims of the forced conversion at Phuljhuri village of Pirojpur testified

before the tribunals and all of them gave almost similar depositions.

The witness said about 30-40 Razakars led by Jabbar and the Pakistani occupation army attacked his village on May 17, 1971 and looted and set fire to about 360 houses.

About 8 to 10 days later, Razakars and Peace Committee members came to the village and told them that Jabbar had given them instructions that Hindus should convert to Islam if they want to live.

"Afraid for our lives, we conceded to accept Islam," he said. Two to three days after, several "converted Muslims" were forced to eat beef.

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Boy rescued in Ctg, two abductors arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police rescued an eight-year old boy from Fatikchhari upazila of Chittagong on Monday night, two days after his abduction from the city's Nasirabad area.

Police also arrested two abductors Najma Akhtar Ruma, 22, of the upazila, and Suiching Marma, 26, of Khagrachhari.

On October 18, Najma went to the house of the victim, Rabbi and started talking to his family members. At one stage, she sent him with

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ELECTION OF SHIRIN, SABER TO INT'L PARLIAMENTARY BODIES

It proves global confidence in current govt, JS Says Speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's victory in the top two international parliament-based organisations proves that the world leaders have full confidence in the country's democracy, parliament and government, said Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday.

Besides, there is no crisis regarding the January 5 poll, which had been labelled as non-inclusive, said Shirin who has become the first Bangladeshi to be the chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

"I do not think there is any crisis over the election. Had there been a problem,

Bangladesh would not have been elected in two key parliament-based international forums in a span of 10 days," she said replying to a query at a press conference at the VIP Lounge of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Awami League lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury, who was chosen to be the president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on Thursday, also spoke at the conference organised to brief the media about the duo's victories.

Bagging 169 votes in the election, Saber defeated Speaker of Australia's House of Representatives Bronwyn Bishop by 74

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Herbert Oberhaensli, vice president of Nestlé SA, Switzerland inaugurates a clean drinking water facility, donated by Nestlé, Bangladesh to Paburia Chala Ideal High School in Sreepur of Gazipur recently. Sanjay Khajuria, senior vice president of Nestlé, India and Stéphane Nordé, managing director of Nestlé, Bangladesh with other senior officials of Nestlé, Bangladesh were present.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Ctg Nursing College closes

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and then two more students who came to my rescue."

Denying the allegation, the principal, Hosne Ara Begum, said, "They all are lying. In fact, the students pelted brickbats and sandals at me soon after the results were published and also broke the showcase's glass in the teachers' room. They perhaps had hurt themselves during the vandalism."

On information, police rushed to the spot and controlled the situation, said sources.

Abdul Khalek, another third year student, said the principal deliberately failed them as the students had been vocal against her irregularities and corruption, which were also reported

by the media.

"Without attending our classes, the principal teaches in the nearby Divisional Continuing Education Centre to earn extra money," he alleged, adding that they had only two classes in Gynaecology and Epidemiology subjects in the academic session but had to attend examination of 200 marks.

The maximum number of students failed in those particular courses which were taught by the principal and the other female teacher, alleged the demonstrators.

About the allegations, Hosne Ara said it is the students who did not attend their practical classes regularly and two examiners had checked the

answer sheets, so there was no scope for manipulating the results.

Last year, only 12 among 71 students passed the first year final exam while this year 31 out of 83 succeeded which indicates improvement, Hosne Ara said, adding that she had already applied for her LPR (leave preparatory to retirement) yesterday.

Prof Dr Selim Mohammad Jahangir, dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Chittagong University, under which comes the college, said they also wanted more students to pass the exam and held the inadequate number of qualified teachers for the result bizarre.

But according to the CU ordinance, there is no scope for reviewing the results, he added.

Candidates submit memo

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days, or face a mass gathering of the demonstrators on the Central Shaheed Minar premises on October 25.

Earlier around 11:30am, as a part of their protest, candidates gathered at the base of Aparajaya Bangla to hold a rally there, but were barred by police and the university's proctorial team. The proctorial body snatched placards

and posters away from the protestors.

Afterwards, the group submitted the memorandum. In this regard, Prof Arefin Siddique said he received an unsigned memorandum.

The DU authorities on October 14 decided to allow candidates to sit for the exams once, and only those who passed their HSC exams within the year.

The university authorities will stick

to their decision as the VC says the decision will "Eliminate unequal competition and discourage tuition at coaching centres".

"Like previous years, this year we had 400 seats lie vacant in different departments as students, taking advantage of appearing in admission tests again, moved to other departments," he added.

Revise Section 7 for better

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Information Act, 2009" at Brac Centre Inn in the capital.

The function mainly discussed section-7 of the act that listed 20 types of information which are not mandatory to be provided by any authority.

These categories include information relating to state security and sovereignty, foreign policy, intellectual property, public security, contempt of court, cabinet decision, any investigation process and prejudicial to the rights of the House of the Nation.

MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman said the law was enacted to protect peoples' right to information and ensure transparency and accountability in government and non-government offices.

But some authorities do not provide information by misinterpreting and misusing section-7. It may jeopardise the main target of the law, he said.

Hasibur placed a series of recommendations, which were prepared on the basis of a survey conducted on 242 people by the MRDI from February to August, to revise the section.

A clause that said "any such information that may, if disclosed, impede the process of investigation" are not mandatory to be provided, can be amended as "any such information that may, if disclosed, impede the process of investigation and the process of taking a final decision", according to the recommendations.

Two subsections -- "any such information which is, according to the law, liable to be published only for a certain period of time" and "any such information pertaining to a governmental purchase process before it is complete or a decision has been taken about it" -- may be omitted, he proposed.

Hasibur also suggested that different subsections, which talked about almost the same issues, be merged together.

Other recommendations include -- clarifying all the subsections in detail, developing Information Disclosure Policy for all government and non-government institutions, and setting up help-desk and updating information preservation system at all offices.

Addressing the function as chief guest, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said restrictions on provid-

ing some types of information had been imposed for the security of the state and society as well as for protecting institutional and individual dignity. "It might be amended, if comprehensive suggestions and demand come from all stakeholders," he added.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, "We need to collect more evidence of how section-7 is being misused. Then we can show the authorities concerned in which sectors the right to information act does not work properly." Additionally, interest should be raised among the public about using the act more and more, she added.

Former information commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim cited different examples in the education sector where authorities show reluctance to disclose information, misusing the section.

Journalist Farid Hossain, also the CEO of INFOCUS, moderated the function which was also attended by Chief Information Commissioner Mohammad Farooq, Information Commissioner Nepal Chandra Sarker, and journalist Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul.



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