



Citycell CEO gets bail in graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Mehboob Chowdhury, chief executive officer (CEO) of Citycell (Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd), in a corruption case, considering his physical illness.

But an Anti-Corruption Commission Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Abdus Salam said the lower court had no jurisdiction to grant bail to any accused in such cases according to the provisions of the ACC Law. Only the special judge can grant bail in such cases, said the PP. Metropolitan Magistrate Laskar Sohel Rana in his order said the accused is not a public servant and he had been suffering from different ailments including heart disease. Moreover, the charge brought against him was bailable, he added.

The ACC on Wednesday filed the case against Mehboob, former foreign minister M Morshed Khan, his wife Nasrin Khan, and 13 others with Banani Police Station for allegedly embezzling over Tk 383 crore of AB Bank between 2011 and 2015.

An ACC team led by its Deputy Director SK Abdus Salam arrested Mehboob at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Saturday afternoon when he arrived from Sri Lanka.

According to the case statement, AB Bank unlawfully guaranteed loans of Tk 348.5 crore given to PBTL by eight other banks and non-bank financial institutions. The board and other top officials of AB Bank approved the move without taking any collateral from PBTL, in violation of the rules and regulations of Bangladesh Bank.



The divider remains broken on Amin Bazar bridge near Gabtoli in Dhaka, creating scopes for accidents any time. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Rural people also at risk of chikungunya

Say experts citing studies that detect Aedes mosquito in rural areas

BSS, Dhaka

Although chikungunya outbreak is limited in Dhaka city this year, people in rural areas are at risk of the disease as studies showed presence of aedes mosquitoes.

Senior Scientific Officer of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Dr SM Alamgir told the news agency, "Two species of mosquito -- aedes aegypti and aedes albopictus -- cause chikungunya diseases. Presence of aedes albopictus mosquito in rural areas is very high compared to urban areas.

The virus is transmitted from human to human by the bites of aedes mosquitoes, he said, adding, "Suspected chikungunya patients should visit nearby health complexes and hospitals to prevent outbreak of the disease."

Dr Alamgir said, "People living in rural areas and Dhaka city should be

aware of chikungunya disease... First case of chikungunya disease in the country was reported in Poba upazila of Rajshahi in 2008."

"We also found some chikungunya cases in rural areas after its first outbreak in Bangladesh. So, rural areas are also vulnerable for the disease," he added.

He said though IEDCR is getting three to five samples for chikungunya case every day against 25 to 30 cases, it does not indicate that outbreak of the disease is decreasing as a huge number of people left Dhaka during Eid-ul-Fitr.

"We are apparently thinking that outbreak of the disease has decreased a little bit but we have to wait for next few days to confirm the real scenario of the disease," he said.

"Alongside eliminating the breeding sources of mosquito, people should be educated on the diseases as there is no special treatment of the diseases."

Director of Epidemiology, Disease

Control and Research (IEDCR) Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora said, "We got 1,930 chikungunya suspected cases till June 21 this year."

She suggested destroying all potential mosquito breeding sources as the outbreak of chikungunya disease in the capital has increased sharply this year.

Dr Flora said a massive awareness campaign is needed to destroy the breeding sources of mosquito for stopping outbreak of chikungunya disease.

Health experts said chikungunya affected people should drink much water and take full rest. There is no need of any laboratory test as the diseases could be recognized easily by observing some common symptoms.

At a press conference held recently, Director General of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Abul Kalam Azad said, "Chikungunya is not

serious like other mosquito-borne diseases. After a particular time, patients get recovery without receiving any special medical treatment."

Chikungunya infected patients should not be admitted to hospitals and even they do not need to go to hospitals for any test to diagnose the disease, he added.

Chikungunya is a viral disease which is transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. Health experts said symptoms of the disease appear between four and seven days after a person is bitten by an infected mosquito.

Chikungunya is characterized by an abrupt onset of high fever frequently accompanied by joint pain. Other common signs and symptoms of the disease include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash, they said, adding, the joint pain is often very debilitating, but usually lasts for a few days or may be prolonged to weeks.

NEWSIN brief

One held for 'attacking' Rangpur mayor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested a youth for allegedly attacking Rangpur City Corporation Mayor Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu in Guptopara area of the city yesterday evening.

Witnesses said the arrestee, Saddam Hossain, 20, of Golakata area, stopped the mayor on his way home from a mosque and urged him to visit his ailing mother at his house. When the mayor turned down his request saying he was also feeling unwell, the youth suddenly started slapping him.

Later, locals rescued the mayor and handed the youth to police.

Five injured as compressor of air conditioner explodes in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five people sustained burn injuries when a compressor of an air conditioner exploded at a shop in Lalbagh area of Old Dhaka yesterday noon.

The victims -- Mamunur Rashid, 45, Zakir Hossain, 20, Shamim, 25, Masum, 37, and Abul Kashem, 65, -- are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Sub-Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the hospital's police outpost, told The Daily Star.

They sustained 16 to 50 percent burn injuries, SI Bachchu added.

JU to offer job to slain AC Robiul's wife

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University authorities decided to offer a job to the wife of Additional Commissioner of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Robiul Karim who was killed during a rescue operation for the hostages on last year's July 1 Gulshan cafe siege.

Robiul Karim graduated in Bangla from the university. About the post to be offered, JU Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique said they could not reach any decision in this regard yet, but discussion was still going on.

Meanwhile, JU paid homage to all the people who lost their lives in the terror attack on that day.

It's the last chance

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gazette notification is issued, he said.

Anisul Huq was talking to reporters after attending the inaugural sessions of a training course for the assistant judges as chief guest at the Judicial Administrative Training Institute in Dhaka.

Replying to a question, he said the government is working on formulating the digital security act.

A meeting will be held among the ministers and officers of the ministry of law, information and communication technology (ICT) division and ports and telecommunication division and home ministry on July 9 when a final draft on the digital security act will be prepared, he said.



Low-income people returning to the capital from across the country after enjoying Eid holidays with their near and dear ones. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SC disposes

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High Court on March 1.

In the petition, she requested the HC to stay the trial proceedings of the case and to issue a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why the lower court's rejection order should not be declared illegal.

The ACC filed the case on July 3, 2008 accusing Khaleda, her elder son Tarique Rahman and four others for misappropriating over Tk 2.10 crore that was received as grants for orphans via a foreign bank.

Of the six accused, Khaleda, former BNP lawmaker Salimul Haq Kamal and businessman Sharfuddin Ahmed are on bail while the others including Tarique have been absconding.

Tourist cop held after beating wife

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in 2012 but separated within two years as Ruhul used to viciously torture her and demand dowry. Ruhul had soon asked for a divorce.

Nilima had filed a case on December, 2014 against her husband and brother-in-law for torture and divorce. Both of them were arrested and sent to jail.

Later, the family settled the issue after holding meetings between the families and with Ruhul promising he would not torture Nilima anymore. Then Nilima withdrew the case and they got married again after two months.

Ruhul, however, never corrected himself and continued beating and torturing Nilima over the last three years, during his postings at different districts of the country, claimed Nilima's family.

His tortures grew in frequency and proportion as revenge for sending him and his brother to jail, Tania claimed, adding that Ruhul had also forced her to have two abortions.

In face of this continuous torture, Nilima left Ruhul's house on 11 May this year and took shelter in her parent's house in Belabo of Narsingdi.

One day, Ruhul, along with his father and some other people, forcibly took Nilima away while she went to a nearby market in Belabo to buy an Eid dress just a day before

Eid-ul-Fitr, claimed Nilima.

Nilima was tied in iron chains and confined to her room which was also locked from the outside.

Nilima's sister Tania Akther Hanufa, said they tried to bring her sister back from Ruhul's house but Ruhul's family kicked them out after beating them up. "We also tried to take the local police's help but Ruhul managed to convince them that Nilima was mad and had to be confined for everyone's safety," said Tania. Tania added that the police did not even ask for any evidence of Nilima's mental health and blindly-believed Ruhul's claims. They further did not take any action for the fact that Tania and her family members were assaulted by Ruhul. On Saturday, Nilima was brought to Dhaka by a microbus.

Ruhul, while bringing her to Dhaka, allegedly discussed how they would prove Nilima to be mentally-ill by taking a certificate from any private mental health clinic.

This correspondent managed to talk to Ruhul in police custody. He refuted the allegation of torture and said Nilima was mentally ill. When queried on the many injury marks on her body, Rahul claimed they were the result of an accident.

Ruhul, however, was not able to tell when the accident actually took place.

HC asks 5 SC lawyers to explain on July 10

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two separate applications before it for exempting them from personal appearance before it in connection with the rule.

Three lawyers -- Motilal Bepari, BM Sultan Mahmud and Mohammad Ali -- told the court that they were not present in the courtroom during the incident on June 19.

The lawyers allegedly assaulted bench officer Rafiqul Islam and threw

the court documents as their motion petitions were not included in the cause list for hearing on June 19. The incident took place after the judges left the courtroom following court hour on that day.

Meanwhile yesterday, BM Sultan Mahmud told reporters that he has submitted an application to Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha for taking proper steps against bench

officers -- Rafiqul Islam and Mamunur Rashid and member of lower subordinate services (MLSS) Sojib allegedly for committing corruption and anomalies in making the cause list of the bench on June 19.

A number of SC lawyers including Mohammad Oji Ullah, SM Rezaul Karim, Bodruddoza Badal and Azhar Ullah Bhuiyan appeared for the five lawyers.

headed by KM Nurul Huda is that they will not retreat in taking any step for protecting the commission's image. "The commission has also the power and legal authority to do so."

About the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies, the EC secretary said the constituencies will be redemarcated considering applications the EC would receive over it. The commission will also hear both petitioners and defendants before redrawing constituencies.

updated before the dialogue.

He said only political parties registered with the EC will be invited to join the dialogue.

On July 16 next, the commission will finalise seven plans of the 11th national election roadmap and publish a book on the roadmap. And the books will be provided to all political parties and participants of the dialogues, Abdullah said.

Replying to a question, he said the desire of the incumbent commission

It depends on parties

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the armed forces lost the authority to arrest without warrant.

Turning to EC's dialogue with different stakeholders, including registered political parties, he said the dialogue is likely to begin on July 30 next amid talks with civil society members.

Noting that the EC secretary is now preparing the dialogue agenda, he said its Secretariat has a previous list of civil society members, which will be



Piles of garbage lie haphazardly on the road median in Bhatara Notun Bazar area in the capital yesterday, spreading bad odour, polluting the environment, and making the movement of pedestrians difficult.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN