

# Khaleda confessed abuse of power, says court

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an appeal against the verdict with the High Court today.

On February 8, Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman of the special court sentenced the BNP chief to five years' rigorous imprisonment in the graft case.

The court also sentenced Khaleda's eldest son and BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and four others to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment, and fined Tk 2.10 crore each.

The other convicts are Kazi Salimul Haque, ex-BNP lawmaker from Magura; Sharfuddin Ahmed, a businessman; Mominur Rahman, a cousin of Tarique; and Kamal Uddin Siddique, former principal secretary to the PM.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Ramna Police Station in July 2008, accusing Khaleda and five others of misappropriating over Tk 2.1 crore that had come from a foreign bank as grants for orphans.

## HOW THE MONEY WAS MISAPPROPRIATED

When Khaleda was prime minister in 1991-1996, she received \$12,55,000 from the United Saudi Commercial Bank, the court said.

Through her secretary Kamal Uddin, she opened an account named "Prime Minister's Orphanage Fund" on June 2, 1991 with the Ramna branch of Sonali Bank.

The amount \$12,55,000 was deposited to the bank account. It is equivalent to Tk 4,44,81,216.

Khaleda kept the money as fixed deposit and it eventually increased to Tk 4,66,76,298.

The amount was divided into two -- Tk 2,33,33,550 each. One part was transferred to Zia Memorial Orphanage Trust and the other to Zia Orphanage Trust on November 13, 1993 as signed by Kamal Uddin Siddique.

The money sent to Zia Orphanage Trust's account (STD-7) was deposited to Sonali Bank's Gulshan New North Circle on November 15, 1993, the court said.

There was no transaction in the Zia Orphanage Trust's account before November 15, 1993, it said.

Tarique and Mominur withdrew the money illegally from Sonali Bank's Gulshan New North Circle and transferred it to Prime Bank's Gulshan branch.

Later, Salimul Haque, being chairman of Prime Bank, abused his authority and transferred the money to Prime Bank's Eskaton Branch.

Using various tactics, he transferred Tk 2,10,71,643 to personal account of Sharfuddin, who later withdrew the money, the court said.

"This is how the money from the

government's orphanage fund or the government money was misappropriated," the court said.

It was proved from the documents that Khaleda and other accused abusing power transferred or helped transfer the money of the government's orphanage fund to a name-only Zia Orphanage Trust to get benefit or give benefit to others.

"This is how Tk 2,10,71,643 of Prime Minister's Fund was misappropriated," the verdict said.

The court said the money came in 1991 but it was not spent until November 1993 when the Zia Orphanage Trust was not even established.

"The series of facts proved that the money was provided to Zia Orphanage Trust for misappropriating," the court said.

Not spending money till 1993 after receiving it in 1991 falls under the purview of an offence, it said.

Moreover, till 2018, the money was not spent for orphans; only 2.79-acre land was bought but no orphanage was established there, it added.

## THEY WERE GOVT EMPLOYEES

In its full verdict, the court said a person has to be a government employee, a banker, a merchant or an agent to be accused under section 409 of the Penal Code.

Both Khaleda and Salimul were members of parliament, and as per the existing law, lawmakers are considered government employees, the court said.

Though Tarique and Mominur were trustees of the private trust, they will be considered government employees in line with the decision of the Supreme Court, it said.

Only Sharfuddin Ahmed is to be regarded as a merchant or an agent. "Therefore, the court thinks section 409 of the Penal Code is applicable to all of them," the verdict said.

## FINANCE CRIMINALS

It has been proved through evidence that the accused, in collusion with each other, misappropriated Tk 2.10 crore from the government's orphanage fund, the court noted.

Though the amount may not be big at present but it was a big sum when the corruption took place, it said.

Khaleda was the then prime minister while Salimul was a lawmaker.

Being a top government official, Kamal Uddin helped Khaleda to open a back account for government's orphanage fund.

Later, he transformed money from the fund to two private trusts (Zia Memorial Orphanage Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust) illegally which is tantamount to helping the two accused commit crimes, the court said.

Employing different tactics, three

accused -- Tarique, Mominur and Sharfuddin -- helped directly to misappropriate the money from government's orphanage trust in collusion each other, it said.

"By this way, the court thinks, all the six accused have benefited in one way or the other. They will be regarded as finance criminals of the state."

Financial corruption hampers the country's economic progress and its bad effect spreads to all tiers of the society, it said.

## THEY DESERVED LIFE SENTENCE

The court said all the accused deserve punishment under section 409/109 of the Penal Code for misappropriating Tk 2.20 crore from government's orphanage trust in collusion with each other.

Section 409 says, "Whoever, being in any manner entrusted with property, or with any dominion over property in his capacity of a public servant or in the way of his business as a banker, merchant, factor, broker, attorney or agent, commits criminal breach of trust in respect of that property, shall be punished with [imprisonment] for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine."

Section 109 talks about crimes and punishment for abetting any offence under the Penal Code.

As all the accused except Sharfuddin are considered as government employees and section 5(2) of the Corruption Prevention Act 1947 is also applicable to them, the verdict said.

Section 5(2) says, "Any public servant who commits or attempts to commit criminal misconduct shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or 4[ with both, and the pecuniary resources or property to which the criminal misconduct relates may also be confiscated to the State]."

But they were sentenced only under section-409/109 of the Penal Code as the said offences were committed simultaneously, the court said.

"The accused committed financial crimes in collusion with each other, and for this reason, example needs to be set by awarding them the highest punishment [life sentence]," the court said.

"However, the court thinks that awarding life sentence would not be appropriate considering their age, social status and amount of the misappropriated money," it said.

The court awarded Khaleda five years' rigorous imprisonment, considering her "physical condition, age and social status."

It sentenced the other five accused to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment each and slapped a fine of Tk 2.10 crore each, taking into consideration their

"age and social status". They were asked to pay the fine within 60 days.

Section 409 did not mention "rigorous" or "simple imprisonment", rather it just cited "imprisonment". But the convicts were awarded "rigorous imprisonment", keeping legal aspects in mind, it noted.

The court also gave directives for seizing the Zia Orphanage Trust's money kept at Sonali Bank's Gulshan New North Circle Branch in favor of the state.

**KHALEDA MAY FILE APPEAL TODAY**  
Khaleda may file an appeal with the High Court today, challenging the trial court verdict, one of her lawyers said.

"We will also seek her bail along with the appeal," Khaleda's lawyer Sanaullah Miah told this newspaper after receiving the certified copy of the judgment yesterday.

A convict needs the certified copy of the verdict to appeal against the judgment or file a bail petition with the HC.

Mokarram Hossain, an official of Special Judge's Court-5 in Dhaka, handed over the 1,100-page verdict to Sanaullah, 11 days after the judgment was delivered.

Following the verdict on February 8, the court cancelled Khaleda's bail and sent her to prison. Law enforcers then took her to the old central jail on Nazimuddin Road in the capital.

## Govt trying

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Fakhrul said, "Keeping guns on the shoulder of the judiciary, the government has framed and convicted Khaleda Zia in a false case."

The government would not be able to establish democracy in the country and win hearts of people by deceiving them, he said.

Reacting to the prime minister's criticism over dropping section VII from the party charter of the BNP, Fakhrul said no major change was brought to the party's constitution by bringing in amendments.

"I can't understand why they are [ruling quarter] having a headache over the BNP's constitution and its chairman," he said.

Responding to a query, Fakhrul said the party's senior vice chairman would be its acting chairman in absence of the chairperson according to the party constitution. Accordingly, Tarique Rahman was made the acting chairman, he said.

"This matter is not lined with the government. It is our own matter and the decision has been made in the party's council," Fakhrul said.

Asked about the BNP's next course of action to free Khaleda from jail, he said an appeal petition would be submitted to the High Court this week.

A Dhaka court handed Khaleda a five-year imprisonment in the corruption case on February 8. She is now in jail.

## Constable hurt

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Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) at for a surgery.

Law enforcers will investigate the incident, he added.

## Mock Mars

FROM PAGE 20  
relevant to a future Mars mission, including satellite communications, the psychological effects of isolation, radiation measurements and searching for life signs in soil.

Participant Guy Ron, a nuclear physics professor from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said the project was not only intended to look for new approaches in designing a future mission to the Red Planet but to increase public interest.

## Cauliflower sold

FROM PAGE 2  
Atul Chandra Roy, 40, who cultivated cauliflowers on eight bighas of land at Durakuti village in Sadar upazila, said despite very good production he is quite upset at fall of price.

"I got Tk 65,000 selling 6,500 kg of cauliflowers at Tk 10 per kg only a week ago. But I got only Tk 4,000 for 4,000 kg cauliflowers on Saturday," he added.

He said the growers spent up to Tk 4 to produce one kg of cauliflowers.

Morshedul Islam, 48, another farmer at Kamlabari village in

Aditmari upazila, said their produce has become a huge burden for them.

"I gained my desired profit from cauliflowers last year. But the fall of price has shattered all my hopes," he said.

Cauliflower was cultivated on 5,000 hectares of land in Lalmonirhat this season and around 90 percent of the production has been sold at fair price, Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension Bidhubhushon Roy told The Daily Star.

## Factory waste pollutes Halda

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However, the investigation was termed 'insufficient' by the PMO which again asked the directorate general of DoE to take necessary action to shut down the factories in a letter issued on April 2017.

Some of the factories that operate there include ones of tanneries; paper mills; knit, dyeing and washing; and condensed milk and beverages.

The Halda River Research Laboratory conducted tests at five points of the river to measure the level of dissolved oxygen in the water in December of last year, said Manzurool Kibria, its director.

There was less than one mg per litre of dissolved oxygen at the mouth of Khondokia Khal that runs from Bayazid; the minimum level for optimal aquatic life is 5 mg/litre, according to international standards.

At the four other points, there was less than 3 mg/litre of dissolved oxygen, said Kibria, who is also a professor of Zoology at Chittagong University.

Dissolved oxygen is necessary to many forms of life including fish, invertebrates, bacteria and plants; when it drops below 5 mg/l, aquatic life is put under stress. Oxygen levels that remain below 1-2 mg/l for a few hours can result in the death of large fish, experts said.

The study of dissolved oxygen, plankton and benthos reveals that Halda is not in good health, Kibria told The Daily Star. "The river cannot keep up with the pollution."

On the main cause of deteriorating river health, Acting Director of Chittagong DoE Altaf Hossen Chowdhury blamed the master drain that flows into the Halda River.

"We repeatedly asked CDA to fill up the drain so that effluents flow to Karnaphuli through Bamun Shahi Khal. But our requests have fallen on deaf ears."

The DoE regularly monitors the factories at Bayazid to check whether the ETP facilities are actually running or not. "Whenever we visit, the ETP are running. But as the study reveals a different scenario, we are gearing efforts to ensure that the ETPs run efficiently."

On the PMO's order, he said, "We do not have sufficient manpower to execute the order. Furthermore, shutting these large factories will have a negative impact on the local economy."

Roichul Alam Mondol, director general of DoE, said they are trying to ensure compliance instead of shutting the factories.

"We have made every factory there install ETPs. There must be combined efforts from all ministries involved to protect this unique water body," he said.

Due to the biochemical properties of its water, carps choose it as a safe haven to release spawns in Halda, said experts. But manmade hazards now threaten the natural habitat of these fish, they added.

## 6,500 Rohingyas

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Cox's Bazar on the southern tip of Bangladesh, but several thousand who arrived in a buffer zone along the border are now stuck.

Bangladesh security forces have been instructed not to let these Rohingyas cross the border, and many of them have said they would rather stay there to avoid becoming refugees in Bangladesh.

The no-man's land, which is about the size of 40 soccer pitches, used to be an area of paddy fields, but is now dotted with the tarpaulin and bamboo shacks of displaced Rohingyas.

**NO TIMELINE FOR RETURNS**  
"We are concerned about the reports of pressures directed at this group of people at the border," said Caroline Gluck, UNHCR Senior Public Information Officer at Cox's Bazar.

"People who fled violence and discrimination in Myanmar should not be forced to return against their will," she told Reuters in a message sent on Saturday.

Bangladesh's Kalam said there was no timeline for repatriations, that anyone going back must do so voluntarily and that Myanmar must provide a safe environment for their return.

"We cannot send them forcibly,"

he said. Most Burmese consider the Rohingyas as unwanted immigrants from Bangladesh, and the army refers to them as "Bengalis".

## Finish trial

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that the trials of the cases against the 139 are settled quickly.

The lawyer argued that several under-trial prisoners, who had been in jails for a long time, had been granted bail by the HC, including one person who had been in jail for 17 years.

Ripan Paul Sku, an official of the SCLAC, told The Daily Star that SCLAC prepared the case details of the 139 under-trial prisoners after examining the dockets of cases filed against 256 prisoners who have been in jails for more than seven years.

He said a number of the remaining prisoners were accused of militancy and complete information of the others could not be obtained.

On November 19 last year, the SCLAC sent a letter to the jail authorities seeking a list of the under-trial prisoners.

The jail authorities on December 31 submitted the list of 256.

## BPC for new oil pricing formula

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The World Bank, the finance ministry and many local economists had recommended introducing the automated pricing formula, but the government did not accept the recommendation.

The government slightly cut the prices in April 2016 and was supposed to slash it further, but that did not happen anymore.

The international price of crude oil was below \$50 a barrel before the price started going up in November last year. Currently the price hovers between \$60-\$70 a barrel.

According to BPC officials, the state-run company has been counting losses of Tk 3.90 per litre in sale of diesel, Tk 11.50 in kerosene and Tk 9.95 in furnace oil. Diesel and kerosene now sell at Tk 65 per litre and furnace oil at Tk 42 a litre.

Since the beginning of this year, the BPC has been incurring a loss of around Tk 10 crore a day. The loss amount got bigger as taka fell against the US dollar.

Officials said India follows an automated formula for fixing the petroleum prices. This month, diesel is being sold at Rs 65 per litre in Kolkata. The Indian Oil Corporation website yesterday showed that diesel was sold at Rs 65.10 per litre.

The price is Tk 24 higher than that of Bangladesh's. The BPC has written to all deputy commissioners in bordering districts to make sure that diesel was not smuggled into India.

The BPC in its proposal said the corporation should be empowered to adjust the prices every month as it would require more time to take approval from the government.

According to BPC statistics, the corporation started making profits since October 2014. It made a profit of over Tk 10,000 crore till December last year. During this period, international crude oil price hovered between \$30-\$40 per barrel.

In April 2016, the government cut the prices of octane and petrol by Tk 10 a litre and diesel and kerosene by Tk 3 per litre. Besides, the price of furnace oil, mostly used by industries and power plants, was slashed by over 30 percent.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund at that time suggested that the government should deregulate domestic oil prices and introduce a system that makes automatic adjustments of oil prices in line with global market rates.

They said as the price in the international market was low, it was the best

time for introducing the automatic price adjustment system. The finance ministry also sent a proposal outlining the economic benefits of the price cut.

However, the BPC did not accept the proposal saying that it needed to adjust its huge previous losses.

Asked why the automatic price adjustment system was not introduced when the petroleum prices were low, State Minister Nasrul Hamid said the BPC did not make such a proposal at that time.

He also claimed that the BPC could not have adopted the system at that time as it had a manual management system in place. "But now it can be done in phases. Prices can be adjusted in every one, two or three months."

In the last fiscal year (2017-18), the BPC had imported around 59 lakh tonnes of petroleum products. Of them, 64 percent is diesel, 17 percent furnace oil and five percent kerosene. The rest are octane, petrol and other products.

Of the imported diesel, 54 percent is used in the transport sector, 26 percent in irrigation, 14 percent in power, six percent in industry and the rest in other sectors.

The corporation estimates that it will import 64 lakh tonnes of petroleum products this fiscal year.

## Imran Khan ties knot

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eastern city of Lahore on Sunday, his Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party announced on Twitter.

Pictures of the ceremony, showing the bride in a full veil, were posted on the account. Khan, once known internationally for his high-profile tabloid romances, cuts a more conservative persona in Pakistan, often carrying prayer beads and nurturing beliefs in living saints.

PTI spokesman Fawad Chaudhry told AFP the couple had known one another "for a long time" but declined to provide further details. She has been widely reported to be the politician's spiritual adviser. Khan is loved by millions across the cricket-obsessed nation for winning Pakistan its only World Cup in 1992. His sporting prowess and rugged good looks also brought him international celebrity.

He married British socialite Jemima Khan in 1995 and had two sons with her before their divorce in 2004. The split was attributed to the difficulties she faced in Pakistan, where she was hounded for her family's Jewish ancestry, and to his obsession with politics.

He and second wife Reham Khan, host of a local TV talk show and a BBC weather segment, divorced suddenly in October 2015, just ten months after they wed.

She had been widely criticised after appearing at public meetings of PTI, with opponents accusing her of seeking to boost her own profile through her husband's fame.

Khan, born in Lahore into a comfortable family with origins in the Pashtun northwest, was educated at Pakistan's prestigious Aitchison College, at boarding school in England and then at Oxford University. He became one of the world's greatest ever all-rounders -- a fearsome fast bowler and dangerous batsman -- whose finest hour came at the 1992 World Cup, where at the age of 39 he led an inexperienced team to the title.

**বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা**

**আবশ্যিক**

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের নিমিত্তে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে:

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- ৫। পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ  
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- ৯। যন্ত্রকৌশল বিভাগ  
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- ১৩। ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইনফরমেশন এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজি  
লেকচারার-এর ১টি অস্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চঃ ২২০০০-৫৩০৩০/-

**শিক্ষক পদের ৬ নং ক্রমিক বাতীত অন্যান্য পদসমূহের আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখঃ ১২/০৩/২০১৮**

সকল পদের বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য বুকেট ওয়েবসাইট (regoffice.buet.ac.bd)-এ Search করা অথবা রেজিস্ট্রার অফিসের সফটওয়্যার সারসরি বিগোষণা করা যাইতে পারে।

জিডি-৪৫৭ জিডি-৪৫৭

**Synthesis of Carbon-rich Poly-yenes:**

**A Novel Class of Materials for Linear and Non-Linear Optics and Liquid Crystallinity Under the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), UGC**

Department of Chemistry, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet-3114  
Telephone: 0821-713491, Ext-260, Email: saiful-che@sust.edu, myounus-che@sust.edu

Ref No: CHE/CPSF/2017/15/22 Date: 19.02.2018

**e-GP Tender Notice (Goods)**

e-GP Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of package/Ref No.	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing & opening date & time
01	164639	Supply and Installation of Laboratory Equipments (CHE/SUST/HEQEP/CPSF/CP-2524/Proc/e-GP/G2/2017/25)	27-Feb-2018 15:45	28