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FIRING OF SHARIF ACC puts up 13 allegations

The former officer refutes them all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three days after sacking Sharif Uddin, the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday came up with 13 allegations against the former officer whose investigation into a land acquisition scam made headlines in 2020 and 2021.

ACC Secretary Mahubb Hossain at a press conference at his office in the capital said Sharif was sacked to bring order to the commission.

"He [Sharif] tortured Idris, an accused in a graft case filed on March 10, 2020. It is a clear violation of the law," Mahubb said.

Soon after the ACC press conference, Sharif sent an email in the evening to journalists with his response to the allegations.

He said Chattogram Medical College Hospital in a report on January 29 concluded that Idris was not tortured.

Another allegation mentioned that Sharif did not properly investigate the case regarding the land acquisition scam in Cox's Bazar.

Sharif said he submitted his investigation report to the deputy director in January 2021. "If there were loopholes, why wasn't it mentioned at the time?"

Another allegation against Sharif mentioned that he imposed no debit status on 33 bank accounts of



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Poet Quazi Rosy passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey Padak-winning poet Quazi Rosy, who played a significant role as a prosecution witness in the war crimes case against executed Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah, died at a city hospital yesterday.

She was 74. Former MP Rosy, also a freedom fighter, was hospitalised on January 30 after contracting Covid-19, said her daughter Sumi Sikander.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and many cabinet members and noted personalities and organisations expressed condolences at the demise of Rosy, a lawmaker in a reserved seat for women in the 10th national parliament.

Born in Satkhira on

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Diplomacy on amid war fears

Putin says US, Nato must take Russia's security demands 'seriously' over Ukraine



Protestors gather to oppose a US war with Russia over Ukraine at Grand Central Terminal in the Manhattan borough of New York City, US on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

AGENCIES

Last-ditch diplomatic efforts were underway yesterday to prevent what Western powers warn could be the imminent Russian invasion of Ukraine and a catastrophic European war.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy yesterday called for an immediate ceasefire in the eastern part of the country, where clashes between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces intensified in recent days.

He also said Ukraine supports peace talks within the Trilateral Contact Group, where Ukraine

participates along with Russia and the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE).

"We stand for intensifying the peace process. We support the immediate convening of the TCG and the immediate introduction of a regime of silence," Zelenskiy said on Twitter.

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday called Russian leader Vladimir Putin about the situation in Ukraine.

During talks with Macron which lasted 105 minutes, Putin blamed Kyiv's 'provocations' for escalation on frontline and said US and Nato

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Facing it together

SHAFIA KHATUN

As the vice president of Women's Students' Union, I was responsible for organising female students. I sent some of them to girls' schools to bring the girls to the meeting at Amtala [February 21, 1952]. I can't forget their enthusiasm for the movement. They have immense contribution to the language movement.

The meeting started around 11:00 am. Initially, student leaders were not in favour of violating Section 144.

It created a heated debate. Finally, someone suggested that students should come out in groups of four. I was adamant to break Section 144. I told them to take a firm decision and march forward unitedly instead of in groups. Seeing them hesitant, I denounced the meeting and went to the women's common room. After some time, some male students came and requested us to attend the meeting in the greater interest of students' unity. Then we decided to go and face it together.

Meanwhile, police took position in the campus area. As the meeting ended, students started coming out in groups. We were in the third batch. Police stopped the first two batches of male protesters and rounded them up. But they let us march forward. When we reached the main gate of the Medical College, police started firing tear gas shells. I was seriously affected by tear gas. Someone took me to the Medical College for treatments.

After getting some first aid, I came out and tried again to organise female students. Meanwhile, police opened fire on students. I managed to gather some girls, and took shelter at

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কোটি বারেন মানিনি তো হার, একুশ অমর, একুশ আমার অহংকার
শ্রদ্ধাভরে স্মরণ করি ৫২'র ভাষা শহীদদের যাদের আত্মত্যাগে অর্জিত হয়েছে বাংলা মাতৃভাষা। আমাদের রাষ্ট্রভাষা।

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ICJ ROHINGYA CASE Fresh hearing, fresh hope

PORIMOL PALMA

The International Court of Justice will begin a fresh round of hearings into the Rohingya genocide case amid renewed hope for justice today, a little over two years after The Gambia filed the case with the court.

The first round of hearings from Myanmar and The Gambia will be held at The Hague on February 21 and 23 and the second round on February 25 and 28 in a hybrid format, combining virtual and in-person presence.

The Gambia, backed by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), opened the case against Myanmar at the ICJ in November 2019 for failing to prevent the genocide against Rohingyas.

About a million Rohingya refugees, who faced persecution in Myanmar's Rakhine State, are sheltered in Bangladesh. The largest influx of Rohingyas - some 750,000 - to Bangladesh was in 2017 following a military crackdown that the UN said had "genocidal intent".

After a preliminary hearing, the ICJ found that The Gambia's claims were substantial

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