



FROM CANDIDATES' AFFIDAVITS

Dipu Moni's immovable assets rise 6-fold in 5yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni's annual income has increased three times over the past five years – from Tk 40.5 lakh to Tk 1.2 crore – as per her affidavit submitted to the Election Commission ahead of the upcoming national polls.

Dipu Moni, also Awami League joint secretary, and an incumbent MP from Chandpur-3, reported an annual income of Tk 1.2 crore in 2023, a sharp rise from the Tk 40.5 lakh in 2018.

Her main sources of income include teaching, physician, lawyer and consultancy fees, as



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Hanif's income Tk 3.64cr, loan Tk 102.86cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League candidate Mahbubur Rahman Hanif for the Kushtia-3 constituency has a loan of Tk 102.84 crore from banks and financial institutions.

Hanif, also the joint general secretary of AL, showed no loans in the 11th parliamentary election, while he had a Tk 13.99 crore loan in banks and financial institutions in the 10th parliamentary election, as per the affidavits he submitted to EC.

In the "liabilities" section, he disclosed loans of Tk 47.42 crore in Premium Bank, Tk 5.38 crore in National Bank, a security



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GM Quader's wealth triples in 5yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader's wealth has increased three times over the past five years, according to an affidavit he submitted to the Election Commission.

Meanwhile, his wife, Sherfia Quader, an incumbent lawmaker from reserved seat and candidate from Dhaka-18 constituency for the upcoming polls, has seen a twofold increase in her wealth in the same period.

In the affidavit, GM Quader submitted recently, he mentioned possessing Tk 49,88,253 in cash, while the



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Dastagir bought 242 plots of land since 2008

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Since Jute and Textiles Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi became an MP from Narayanganj-1 in 2008, he has purchased 236 plots of land.

Most of the land purchased is in North Rupshi and Khadun of Rupganj, Brahmanaon of Bikrampur and Khadun of Narayanganj.

He owns 388 plots, and most of these were purchased after he was elected a parliamentarian, as per his affidavit and relevant documents submitted to the EC.

However, he doesn't own any arable land, the documents show.

Gazi is once again contesting the national elections from



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Haji Selim's son Solaiman earns Tk 1.46cr annually

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Annual income of Awami League candidate for Dhaka-7 constituency Mohammad Solaiman Selim is Tk 1.46 crore, as per the affidavit he submitted to Election Commission.

Solaiman, making his debut as a parliamentary candidate, is son of incumbent member of parliament for the same constituency, Haji Selim.

According to Selim's affidavit, his cash reserve is Tk 11.79 crore. In addition, there is a deposit of Tk 20.56 lakh in banks and financial institutions.

Solaiman's financial portfolio extends to shareholdings in



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Ferdous' annual income Tk 51 lakh, no loans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Film actor and Awami League candidate for Dhaka-10 constituency Ferdous Ahmed's yearly income is about Tk 51 lakh.

According to the affidavit he submitted to the EC, there is no record of any bank loans under his name.

Ferdous has cash of Tk 31,28,658 according to his affidavit. In addition to his Tk 11,25,000 worth of shares in various companies, he has Tk 31,57,997 in bank accounts. Also, he has invested Tk 1,09,32,296 against fixed deposits.

He has a car worth Tk 20 lakh. His current business capital is Tk 10,55,310. His immovable property is worth Tk 34,27,250.



A loud scream, followed by complete silence

Hit by brick, 2-month-old dies in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was 1:30pm yesterday in Matuail. Two-month-old Labib was playing on his mother's lap.

Moments earlier, Bithi Akhter gently placed a black teep (bindi) on her only son's forehead after giving him a bath, believing it will keep her baby boy safe from all evils.

Little did she know that a tragedy would strike soon.

While the mother was affectionately holding Labib, a brick flew towards them and hit his head. Labib cried out, which abruptly ceased, leaving a heartbreaking silence that would last forever.

The family rushed him to

DMCH in an unconscious state. Labib died around 3:30pm while undergoing treatment there.

An inconsolable Bithi said her brother-in-law threw the brick, which killed her son.

The teep was still visible on Labib's head. His innocent life was lost over a trivial matter.

"My younger brother Khairul took a bicycle from our house. But he got angry when I warned him about the faulty brakes. Then he threw a brick at me, which hit Labib," said the child's father Din Islam.

Madhusudan, assistant commissioner of Demra zone police, said they are trying to arrest Khairul.

Shahjahan Omar faces backlash from pro-BNP lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahjahan Omar yesterday faced outrage from the pro-BNP lawyers when he went to the Supreme Court reportedly to meet Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan at his office.

Omar had to return without meeting the chief justice, who was busy with court functions, chief justice's personal secretary Hassan Ariful told The Daily Star.

While leaving the SC premises around 12:15pm, a group of pro-BNP lawyers chanted slogans against Omar and labelled him a "traitor".

Omar then visited room-126 at the SC Bar Association building to meet his former BNP colleague Gazi Kamrul Islam Sajal. However, Sajal didn't respond.

Omar later confronted Sajal in his room, while police waited outside. He wanted to know why pro-BNP lawyers were after him and why his posters on the SC premises were torn.

This led to a heated argument, where Sajal

reportedly said, "You cannot have any picture with Khaleda Zia."

As Omar left, pro-BNP lawyers continued to follow him. One of them shouted, "A person implicated in the chief justice's residence attack case is freely moving around, that too under police protection."

Later, he left SC premises under police escort.

From there, Omar went to the office of the Detective Branch of police around 1:15pm and had lunch with DB chief Harun Or Rashid. Omar then came out of Harun's room and told reporters that he was a victim of cyberbullying.

Just a few days ago, the detectives remanded him after his arrest in a sabotage case filed with New Market Police Station.

He came out of jail on bail on November 29 and the next day submitted his nomination paper from AL. On November 30, BNP expelled Omar for violating the party discipline.

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EC gets transfer list of 110 more UNOs, 338 OCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lists of 110 more UNOs and 338 OCs of different police stations were sent to the Election Commission by the authorities concerned yesterday for transfer ahead of the January 7 national polls.

This time the list of UNOs is made up of the ones who served over a year at their station, while in the first phase, UNOs who served over two years were proposed for transfers.

For the OCs, this was the first list, and OCs who served over six months made the list, said officials at the public administration ministry and the Police Headquarters.

The EC held a meeting yesterday after receiving the list from the PHQ and had a discussion on it, but did not take any decision, said EC sources.

The commission will sit again today.

"Following the EC directive, our section concerned sent a list of OCs who served over six months to the commission. I have heard the number is 338," Anwar Hossain, deputy inspector general at the PHQ, told The Daily Star yesterday.



BANGLADESH STANDS WITH PALESTINE... Holding candles, a group of people form a human chain in front of the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday evening, protesting the killing of women and children in Palestine.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

FEMALE MIGRANTS

37pc returned empty-handed

Says BNWLA report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jameela (pseudo name) migrated to Jordan as a domestic worker around five years ago, hoping to change her life. Her life did change, but not in the way she had imagined.

In Jordan, she was subjected to physical and sexual abuse by her employer for months.

Eventually, she had to return home, pregnant and empty-handed. Her child now lives with her and her parents.

Jameela's case is not an isolated one. Like her, around 17.1 percent of women migrant workers had to escape from their employer's homes because of abuses, while 37.3 percent returned without being paid their wages, according to a study of Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association.

BNWLA president Salma Ali highlighted the gap between existing laws and the actual provision of victim-centric support services for women expatriate workers. She emphasised the need for collaboration between the government and stakeholders.

Half of the returnee women migrants did not seek any legal support, primarily because they did not know where to seek legal support, according to the "Strengthened and Informative Migration System 2022-23" (SIMS) report by BNWLA.

The study findings were presented at a discussion yesterday at a Dhaka hotel. With the technical support of Helvetas Bangladesh, the SIMS project is funded by Switzerland.

In 73 percent of cases, women chose to go abroad due to economic and social vulnerabilities, including marital strife and a lack of family support, according to SIMS analysis.

Nearly half of them encounter difficulties in securing jobs, mainly because of limited skills among those migrating from Bangladesh.

Between April 2021 and October 2023, BNWLA received a total of 1,697 complaints from migrant victims and their families, with 90 of them filed by women migrants. The analysis says most cases of sexual abuse remain underreported due to victims' fear of social repercussions.

Saleh Ahmed Mujaffor, director general of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training, and Salma Ali, BNWLA president, spoke at the event.