



Mia, wife concealed assets in tax returns

Their declared assets alone are worth over Tk 14cr, but their tax files don't reveal all

SHARIFUL ISLAM and DIPAN NANDY

When Asaduzzaman Mia retired as the longest-serving Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner in 2019, by his own admission, he went home with about Tk 1.75 crore in service benefits. But that does not give a true picture of his wealth accumulation. Fact is, the career cop and his family became much wealthier long before that.

The five-member family, which includes three children, owns at least



Asaduzzaman Mia



Afroza Zaman

into allegations of ill-gotten wealth worth at least Tk 200 crore amassed by Asaduzzaman's family and five of their relatives. The figure is based on open-source information, and a formal investigation is currently underway. "We have sent letters to various offices and financial institutions seeking information about the movable and immovable assets of 10 individuals related to the Asaduzzaman couple, including their three children," said an ACC source who has knowledge about

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FAMILY'S WEALTH

|| **ACC'S PRIMARY FINDINGS || ASSETS SHOWN IN TAX FILES

Asaduzzaman Mia	At least Tk 45cr	Tk 6.01cr (2022-23)
Afroza Zaman	At least Tk 65cr	Tk 8.24cr (2023-24)
Asif Sahadat	At least Tk 15cr	Tk 2.76cr (2023-24)
Ayesha Siddika	At least Tk 16cr	Tk 2.98cr (2023-24)
Asif Mahdin	At least Tk 31cr	Tk 2.49cr (2023-24)
TOTAL	Tk 172cr	Tk 22.48cr

**FROM OPEN SOURCE; FORMAL PROBE UNDERWAY

two multi-story buildings in Dhaka's Basundhara and Nikunja, at least four apartments in the capital and Savar and at least 20 acres of farm and non-farm land in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Savar, Gazipur and Faridpur. The family also owns the majority shares in at least two transport companies and an IT firm set up between 2017 and 2019, an investigation by The Daily Star has found. It is difficult to put a concrete figure on these assets, but the Anti-Corruption Commission is now looking

the investigation.

Over the last three months, this newspaper has gone through hundreds of pages of tax files, land deeds and other official documents relating to Asaduzzaman, his wife and their three children as well as three of their close relatives.

Judging only from their recent tax records, land deeds and the records of the two transport lines, an IT firm and a gold shop filed with Registrar of Joint

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Parents look after Abdullah, a dengue patient on a drip, at Mugda Medical College and Hospital yesterday. The six-year-old from the capital's Meradia has been undergoing treatment at the hospital for four days. Dengue cases have surged in the city in recent weeks. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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BANGABANDHU-1 SATELLITE

Another white elephant

Project estimated to incur Tk 1,500cr loss

MAHMUDUL HASAN

The Bangabandhu-1 satellite, one of the marquee projects of the Awami League government, has turned into a financial black hole, costing the state coffers upwards of Tk 1,500 crore.

In September 2014, despite the Planning Commission's reservations, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina approved the Tk 2,968 crore project, whose cost later went



down to Tk 2,765 crore.

Of the amount, the government bore Tk 1,406 crore and about term loan facilities of 155 million euros from HSBC on a 12-year tenure. When the

facility agreement was signed in September 2016, 155 million euros amounted to Tk 1,400 crore.

As of now, the Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL), the state-owned company formed to operate the satellite, has failed to furnish a single paisa to the state coffers.

Every six months, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)

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No work, no pay if unrest doesn't stop today

Garment factory owners to activate labour law clause

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment factory owners yesterday threatened to shut down their production units for an indefinite period under the 'no work, no pay' clause of the labour law if the unrest in the sector continues from today.

Clause 13(l) of the Bangladesh Labour Act states that the workers will not be paid for the days in which the factories were not in operation.

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US TEAM IN DHAKA

Trade, labour reforms to top agenda

Bangladesh to get \$200m aid

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh is set to receive \$200 million in technical assistance to support its institutional and economic reform initiatives as a high-profile US delegation, including Assistant Secretary Donald Lu, lands in Dhaka.

In its first such visit to Dhaka since the formation of the interim government, the US delegation will discuss ways of boosting trade and economy through necessary reforms in the financial and labour sectors.

Economic Relations Division Additional Secretary AKM Shahabuddin and USAID Mission Director Reed J Aeschliman will sign an agreement on the \$200 million today, finance ministry sources said.

The delegation led by Brent Neiman,

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Brent Neiman

QUEST FOR DEMOCRACY Bangladesh at crossroads again

TANIM AHMED

More than half a century after its independence, Bangladesh still finds itself at the crossroads of crafting a state built on durable democratic foundations. Despite having been at the same crossroads twice before, democracy remains elusive, or rather ruling governments have prevented democratic ideals or institutions from taking root.

In fact, successive governments have amended the constitution, manipulated loopholes, politicised the administration and influenced the judiciary for political expedience with deliberate determination. In the process, the institutions which lend credence to elected public representatives and strengthen democracy have been ruined. Whether law enforcement or judiciary, whether the Election Commission or the Anti-Corruption Commission, they hardly enjoy the confidence of the people. Even the press and media establishments have lost the trust they used to enjoy once.

This had been most rampant during the last 15 years when former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime completely obliterated every last vestige of democratic principles. It had systematically decimated the institutions

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INT'L DAY OF
DEMOCRACY



Construction of a jetty on the Buriganga remains incomplete for about four years. Then state minister for shipping inaugurated the construction of the jetty in Pagla area of Narayanganj in March 2020. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Newly Elected
Chairman
of Bangladesh
Association
of Banks
BAB

Congratulations Abdul Hai Sarker

Eminent personality in the banking sector of Bangladesh and the honorable **Chairman of Dhaka Bank PLC**, Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker has been elected as the **Chairman of Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB)**. Dhaka Bank family is incredibly proud of his remarkable achievement and wishes him in his new capacity.

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