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## The ministers' men who made millions

At least 10 PS, APS of former govt high-ups under ACC scanner

DIPAN NANDY

Not only did the ministers, state ministers and lawmakers amass huge amount of wealth during the Awami League's four terms in power, their personal secretaries and assistant personal secretaries managed to stumble into fortune as well.

Who doesn't know about Jahangir Alam, the peon (aide) of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who amassed wealth worth Tk 400 crore?

Hasina herself disclosed the information in one of her press conferences.

Sheer proximity to power helped these aides amass crores, and buy luxury cars and sprawling mansions.

For 15 years, these secretaries discovered just how lucrative it could be to answer phone calls and schedule meetings for ministers or state ministers.

Mere paper-pushing opened doors to lavish lifestyles -- through tender manipulation, commission cuts, and "favour" for jobs, promotions, and transfers.

And, all these were done in the name of their bosses.

**For 15 years, these secretaries discovered just how lucrative it could be to answer phone calls and schedule meetings for ministers or state ministers. Mere paper-pushing opened doors to lavish lifestyles -- through tender manipulation, commission cuts, and "favour" for jobs, promotions, and transfers.**

Now, following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, the Anti-Corruption Commission has woken up against widespread corruption by people in power.

The ACC has already launched investigations into at least 25 former ministers and state ministers.

But the spotlight has also been on their PSs and APSs -- who turned ministerial connections as a means to exploit and earn.

At least 10 of these secretaries are under the ACC's investigation. They now face questions about their suspiciously extravagant lifestyles.

Among those under investigation are Hafizur Rahman Liku, former APS to ex-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina; Dr Harun Or Rashid Biswas, former PS to ex-home minister, along with his APS Monir Hossain; Md Shahabuddin, APS to Mannujan Sufian, the former state minister for labour and employment; ANM Ahmadul Bashar, former APS to ex-state minister for shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury; Mizanur Rahman, APS to ex-social welfare minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed; Mir Mosharraf Hossain, APS to former health minister Mohammad Nasim; Shamim Ahmed, APS to ex-state minister for disaster management and relief Dr Enamur Rahman, Hasnat Hossain, APS to ex-planning minister MA Mannan; and Emdadul Haque, former APS to ex-textiles minister Golam Dastagir Gazi.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Devotees light up a sky lantern on the occasion of Prabbarana Purnima, one of the biggest religious festivals of Buddhists yesterday. The photo was taken on the premises of the Chattogram Buddhist Monastery in the port city's Nandan Kanon area.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## 35,384 killed in accidents in 5 years

Says report of Road Safety Foundation

UNB, Dhaka

In the last five and a half years, road, railway, and waterway accidents in Bangladesh have caused human resource losses worth Tk 87,884.12 crore, according to a report by the Road Safety Foundation (RSF).

From 2019 to June 2024, a total of 32,733 accidents were reported across the country, resulting in 35,384 deaths and 53,196 injuries. Among the fatalities, 5,103 were women (14.42

percent), and 4,785 were children (13.52 percent).

Motorcycle accidents accounted for a significant portion of the fatalities, with 11,593 deaths from 11,669 accidents, representing 32.76 percent of the total deaths. The motorcycle accident rate stood at 35.64 percent.

Additionally, 8,358 pedestrians were killed, making up 23.62 percent of the total fatalities. Drivers and their assistants made up 14.86 percent of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

SM Ali's 31st death anniv today



CITY DESK

Today marks the 31st death anniversary of Syed Mohammad Ali, founder editor-publisher of The Daily Star and a luminary in journalism of Bangladesh.

In a career spanning 44 years, SM Ali made his way up from a cub reporter to becoming one of the country's most brilliant editors. He also led the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) as its chairman.

Educated in Kolkata, Dhaka and London, he was one of the few Asian journalists who stood out in regional journalism.

Ali was born in a well-known family in Sylhet, in 1928. He was the eldest son of the late Syed Mustafa Ali, an official of the Assam Civil

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Govt doesn't consider Sheikh Mujib Father of the Nation: Nahid Prof Anu Muhammad says 'attempts to erase history will not be tolerated'



Bangabandhu has been made controversial by the Awami League. He has become a part of their 'fascist ideology'.

**Sheikh Mujib is a political figure, and of course, there will be criticism and analysis of his role, but attempts to erase history will not be tolerated.**



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government does not recognise Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the Father of the Nation, said Nahid Islam, adviser to the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology, yesterday.

"Bangabandhu has been made controversial by the Awami League. He has become a part of their 'fascist ideology,'" he said in response to a question from journalists at the Secretariat.

When asked if he personally considers Bangabandhu the Father of the Nation, Nahid replied, "The Awami League held power in a fascist

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## TAQI MURDER Azmeri's aide 'Pagla Hamid' held in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Abdul Hamid alias Pagla Hamid, who is known as Azmeri Osman's close aide, was arrested during a raid in Narayanganj's Fatullah area on Tuesday night.

Fatullah Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Shariful Islam confirmed the arrest.

"Hamid was on our target list. He was accused in a case of attacking protesters during anti-discrimination student movement. Initially, he was arrested in that case. However, he has been accused in several other cases like murder, extortion, and drugs," said Shariful.

A few hours earlier, in a joint operation, Hamid's close associate Anis was arrested, said police.

Pagla Hamid is known to locals as Azmeri Osman's "cadre".

Azmeri, nephew of former Awami League MP Shamim Osman, is the prime accused of Tanvir Muhammad Taqi murder in 2013.

Shamsher Mobin, wife not allowed to travel abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trinamool BNP Chairperson Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and his wife were denied permission to travel abroad and were sent back from Dhaka airport yesterday, as the immigration police allegedly did not allow them to board their flight without clearance from "top-level" authorities.

Contacted last night, Shamsher Mobin said they were headed to Bangkok for his wife's medical treatment. They were scheduled to fly on a Thai Airlines flight at around 1:35pm yesterday.

He alleged that while they were waiting in the VIP room, the immigration police took their passports, claiming they needed to make copies.

"They kept our passports for a long time and delayed us deliberately. When I asked, they said I needed clearance from an intelligence agency," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Kazi Farms Contract Broiler Farming: Better for Farmers, Better for Consumers

**The Kazi Farms Contract Broiler Farming (CBF) System is a safer alternative to traditional poultry farming.**

**Independent farmers buy chicks, feed, and medicines from dealers. Our contract farmers receive these inputs directly from Kazi Farms, at no cost. They raise the broilers, which remain the property of Kazi Farms, and are paid based on their productivity. This reduces the risk of losses for farmers, as Kazi Farms absorbs losses from disease outbreaks.**

**Independent farmers often administer "preventive" antibiotics to healthy chickens, but our CBF farmers do not. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that livestock farmers should avoid preventive antibiotics, which can make germs antibiotic resistant, and can lead to fatal infections in humans. Kazi Farms trains farmers in biosecurity. This reduces the need for antibiotics, and prevents antibiotic resistance.**



Kazi Farms' Contract Broiler Farming

**Maximises profit & minimises losses for poultry farmers.**

— Shopon Ahmed  
Hobiganj



নথ সাউথ ইউনিভার্সিটি (এনএসইউ) ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের সদস্য জনাব এম এ কাশেম, সাউথইন্স্ট ব্যাথকের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের চেয়ারম্যান হিসেবে দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করেছেন তিনি প্রতিষ্ঠানটির প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান ছিলেন। একই প্রতিষ্ঠানের ভাইস চেয়ারপাস্ন হিসেবে

দায়িত্ব নিয়েছেন এনএসইউ ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের আরেক সদস্য জনাব রেহানা রহমান।

জনাব এম এ কাশেম ব্যবসায়ীদের শীর্ষ সংগঠন বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ও বণিক সমিতি তিনি এনএসইউ ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা সদস্য ও প্রতিষ্ঠানটির চেয়ারম্যান হিসেবে চারবার দায়িত্ব পালন করেন।

প্রতিষ্ঠানে এনএসইউ বোর্ড অব ট্রাস্টিজ ও পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে

শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন



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