



## 50 given 72 hours to submit wealth report

All property to be attached if they fail to appear in person before ACC; 370 names in the pipeline; separate lawyers' panel to handle these cases fast; law mulled to bar successors from possessing ill-gotten wealth

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday published a list of 50 persons, including three dozen former ministers and lawmakers, and top politicians and businessmen, in the first phase of publishing names of 420 top corrupt suspects.

The 50 were asked to appear before four assigned ACC directors and submit their wealth statements at the ACC office in Segunbagicha within 72 hours of receiving the notification.

If they fail, their movable and immovable properties will be attached for a temporary period.

The list has the highest number of 26 leaders from the BNP, 18 from the Awami League (AL), one each from Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami

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## List of 50

On the list are former Home Minister Mohammad Nasim (AL), former Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda (BNP), former adviser to the prime minister Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury (BNP), former Works Minister Mirza Abbas (BNP), former

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## Relief goods seized from ex-deputy minister Dulu's village home

Ex-lawmaker Salahuddin on 5-day remand

## STAR REPORT

Law enforcers seized corrugated iron (CI) sheets of government relief fund yesterday raiding the village home of former deputy minister for land Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu in Natore and from a college established by former BNP lawmaker from Shujanagar upazila in Pabna, Selim Reza Habib.

Meanwhile, detained former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed was placed on a five-day remand in

connection with three cases filed against him recently for land grabbing, extortion, and illegal possession of foreign currencies and arms.

The army-led joint forces yesterday for the first time since the anti-corruption drive had begun arrested a Bangladesh Civil Service cadre. They arrested Habiganj's Madhabpur Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) M Shahadat Hossain on charges of corruption and bribery.

Meanwhile, detained former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed was placed on a five-day remand in

The crack forces also detained Central Committee Secretary of Parbatiya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Satyabir Dewan with a pistol in his possession and four other PCJSS leaders in Rangamati early yesterday.

Touhidul Islam, Bheramara municipality chairman and also a brother of former BNP lawmaker from Kushtia Shahidul Islam, surrendered to the joint forces in Kushtia yesterday while Tangail

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AL won't defend criminal party men

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil last night said the party will not take any responsibility for those leaders and workers who have been proven guilty of criminal offences.

"If anyone is convicted and not victimised then the party will not take responsibility for them," he said while briefing newsmen after a meeting of AL presidential members at Sudha Sadan residence of party chief Sheikh Hasina.

Following a two-hour-long meeting with Hasina in the chair, Jalil told reporters that they discussed the present political situation and the list disclosed by the Anti-corruption Commission.

Why some of the AL leaders were on the list while there were no specific allegations against them,

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## Govt to reign in hoarders

Moves to review anti-hoarding regulations

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has initiated steps to review the anti-hoarding regulations to set limits on the quantity of essential goods the businessmen can store for a certain period of time.

The government is also mulling reintroduction of the business intelligence system to intervene market manipulation so that the importers and other businessmen cannot dictate price artificially.

"We will sit with the law ministry

and other ministries concerned soon in order to review the existing hoarding regulation," Commerce Secretary Feroz Ahmed told reporters after a meeting with business leaders at the commerce ministry conference room.

The ministry is assessing options about how the now defunct market intelligence system can be reintroduced under the Consumer Protection Rights, the secretary said.

Earlier Finance and Commerce

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Govt to show no tolerance to money whitening

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Mainul Hosein yesterday said the government will consider whitening of black money as a corrupt practice in contradiction to taxation laws that unequivocally accept it as legal.

"This would be part of corruption and it has been raised in government discussions," Mainul told reporters when asked to comment on Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's demand for catching everyone who whitened black money.

The adviser was talking to journalists after the second meeting of the Advisory Committee on Anti-Corruption.

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Shopping malls to turn dark in evenings from Sunday

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will stop power supply to all shops and shopping malls across the country from 7:00pm to 11:00pm every evening from Sunday next as part of its load management initiatives.

Power Adviser Tapan Chowdhury informed the Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity, a shop owners' body, about this during a meeting yesterday.

The shop owners demanded re-fixing office hours from 8:00am to 3:00pm from the existing 9:00am to 5:00pm to pull buyers for shopping before 7:00pm.

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## MEGHNAKHAT 2 Orion chief blames media for fund crisis

Seeks time for defaulted payment for project from hideout

## SHARIER KHAN

From his secret hideout, Orion chief Obaidul Karim in a letter to the Power Development Board (PDB) sought "some more days" for his defaulted payment for Meghnaghat-2 495 megawatt power project, thus avoiding its cancellation by next week.

Karim blamed the press for negative reports that, he claimed, affected his cash flow situation. He, however, did not write a single line explaining why he is avoiding arrest and how he would face the graft cases against him.

PDB sources meanwhile said it has made primary preparations to cancel the Meghnaghat-2 deal.

"Ideally, the sooner we cancel the Meghnaghat-2 deal, the better for the country. Orion can never do this project and it is simply wasting our precious time," said a PDB high official, adding, "How can he implement the project if he is hiding and wanted in major graft cases?"

On January 21, the PDB served a notice of "Project Company Event of Default" on Karim's shell company BON Consortium Power Company Ltd, asking it to pay up Tk 6.22 crore as Meghnaghat-2 project's land rental by February 22 or

face cancellation of the contract. The PDB gave the BON Consortium 20 acres of land for this project.

"If the government wants it can simply cancel the deal tomorrow and move on because the Land Lease Agreement allows the government to cancel the deal instantly for its default."

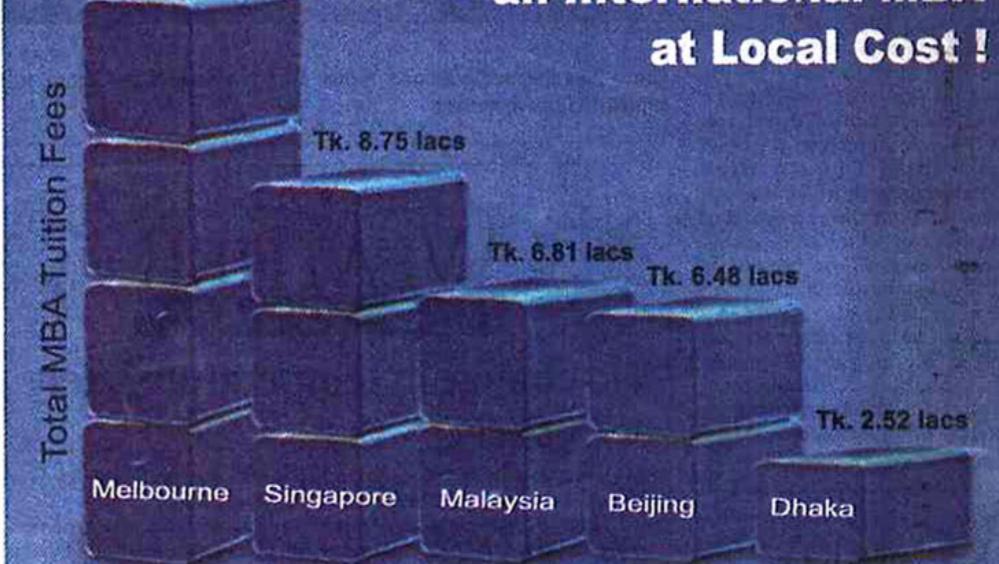
The BON Consortium, which bagged the power deal as a political favour by the immediate past BNP-led alliance government, gave the PDB on January 21 a cheque for Tk 6.22 crore as land rental and initial development payment, but the cheque bounced.

As per the Land Lease Agreement (LLA) on Meghnaghat-2, the PDB can cancel the contract instantly for such a fault, if but gave BON Consortium one month's time.

In his letter that reached the PDB on February 7, Karim said his enterprise faced financial setback due to negative press reports. Karim, who has been absconding to avoid arrest on multiple graft charges, signed the letter on January 29.

He said, "...against the allegations published in various dailies regarding Oriental Bank upon

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## Shahjalal Islami Bank

L I M I T E D

### Lottery

#### Notice for Lottery of Share Application

Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited announces with pleasure that the lottery for allotment of shares against IPO will be held at 10.30 A.M. on Tuesday the 20th February 2007 at the Plenary Hall of Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

All concerned are requested to kindly attend the event.

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