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India to allow 2m pieces of RMG a year duty free

Announces Pranab
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee yesterday announced duty-free access for two million pieces of readymade garments to India from Bangladesh every year.

Talking to reporters at Zia International Airport prior to his departure for New Delhi ending his daylong visit to Dhaka, Pranab said both Dhaka and New Delhi agreed to take steps to place bilateral

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Review appeal of JMB man on death row rejected

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday summarily dismissed the review petition filed by Khaled Saifullah, one of the six condemned JMB outlaws in prison, for non-prosecution.

The order came since the court found no specific grounds for review of its earlier order.

On November 28 last year, the Supreme Court rejected all the six applications filed by the condemned JMB militants, including Khaled Saifullah, seeking leave to appeal against their death

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Announcement

Today's issue of *The Daily Star* contains the second part of our 16th Anniversary Special Supplement titled "From Crisis to Reform Opportunity" (40-page) along with our 20-page regular issue plus Lifestyle, retail priced at Tk 12/- only.

Editor & Publisher

ACC's LIST OF 50 'CORRUPTS'

State minister owns 132 flats in capital

Ex-BNP MP has no tax files

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

A former state minister of the previous BNP-led alliance, among the 50 people named by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) suspected to have amassed illegal wealth, owns 132 flats in Dhaka city under various names.

The tax file of another former BNP parliamentarian, known to be very rich, could not even be found by the investigators, according to a well-placed ACC source.

The caretaker government's inquiry into the 50 suspects found widespread instances of massive tax evasions by almost all of them. "We have found evidence of corruption against all of them and we are now digging deeper," said the

source.

Meanwhile, out of the 50 suspects served with notices to submit wealth statements within 72 hours, nine contacted the ACC through their representatives asking for procedural details for filing the statements.

Eight of the representatives of the suspects who appeared in person at the ACC are the representatives of Mirza Abbas, Mir Nasir Uddin, Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, Shamim Osman, Nasiruddin Pintu, Rashiduzzaman Millat, Chowdhury Alam and Giasuddin. Meanwhile, Dr HBM Iqbal's representative contacted the ACC over the phone.

"The ACC asked the representatives why the suspects who are not

in jail did not appear before the commission themselves, and why did they send representatives?" the source said.

The government intends to complete the investigation of the 50 suspects within this month and file cases against them in the first week of March, the source added.

The government is going to introduce a new law soon to complete the graft trials within 60 days at the lower court level.

Meanwhile, the caretaker government is considering a step to give legality to the ACC's move to ask for wealth statements in absence of its commissioners.

The ACC secretary is spearheading the current actions which

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67 killed in Indian train blasts

Victims are mostly Pakistanis returning home on 'friendship' train; India terms it 'act of terrorism'; new type of explosives used

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

At least 67 people, mostly Pakistani nationals, were burnt to death when two powerful bombs went off aboard a Pakistan-bound train from India Sunday night in a suspected terror attack, which the officials said was aimed at derailing the bilateral peace process.

Some 15 people were injured in the blasts that set fire to two of the 'friendship' train's coaches.

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) with attached timers exploded ripping apart the two coaches at around 11:55pm when the train was speeding through Deewana, 80 km north of New Delhi, at 100km per hour. The bombs might have placed on the train at Old Delhi Railway Station, from where it started at 10:40pm.

Bodies charred beyond recognition, mangled metal of the two coaches, burnt bangles, footwear

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Indian security personnel and bystanders beside the charred carriages of Samjhauta Express near Deewana Railway Station in India. Two blasts Sunday night triggered a fire in the train which was going to Lahore from New Delhi.

PHOTO AFP

IRREGULARITIES IN DISTRIBUTION

Allocation of 897 Uttara plots cancelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Housing and public works ministry yesterday cancelled allotment of 897 plots that Rajdhanee Unnayan Kartipaksha (Rajuk) made under 'genuine and deserving' category during the allocation of 6,640 plots at Uttara in the third phase.

A ministry order signed by Senior Assistant Secretary Rashida Ferdous asked the chairman of the Rajuk to take necessary measures to this end and inform the ministry about the matter immediately.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Mainul Hossain told the journalists that the allotments were cancelled due to irregularities

in the distribution process, not due to corruption.

In last week, a special investigation team seized some files and list of the allottees in Uttara, Gulshan-Banani, Tongi and Badda plot allocation projects. The team has been looking for huge corruption at Rajuk occurred during last five years, the Rajuk sources said. This was the first step since the special investigation team started their work.

The team found 'ambiguous identity of some people for whom the plots were allotted', the Rajuk sources said.

The plots under Uttara third phase were allocated in two terms

in 2005 and 2006 through computerised lottery and through evaluation process.

The Rajuk authorities invited applications under 12 categories for about 6,640 plots in 2004. They held lottery for three categories in 2005 and the others were allotted in 2006 under close monitoring of the then housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas, sources said.

Other than computerised lotteries, some plots were allotted through the evaluation process in other categories meant for ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers, lawmakers and people of their status; judges, freedom fighters,

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Evicted slum dwellers to be relocated

Body to submit plan
Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a seven-member high profile committee to take steps for rehabilitating the recently evicted slum dwellers of Dhaka city.

The Ministry of Housing and Public Works formed the committee yesterday at a meeting with voluntary and rights organisations Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST), Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) and Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK). Adviser to the ministries of law, housing and public works barrister Mainul Hossain chaired the meeting.

Headed by Prof Nazrul Islam, an

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Ex-private secretary spills graft beans about Khaleda

The Prothom Alo on Monday ran a revealing interview with AHM Nurul Islam, who worked as Khaleda Zia's personal secretary during her term as prime minister in 2001-2006. The interview suggests how Khaleda turned a blind eye to numerous acts of corruption by her son and relatives. The Daily Star has translated the interview considering the importance of the subject and its public interest.

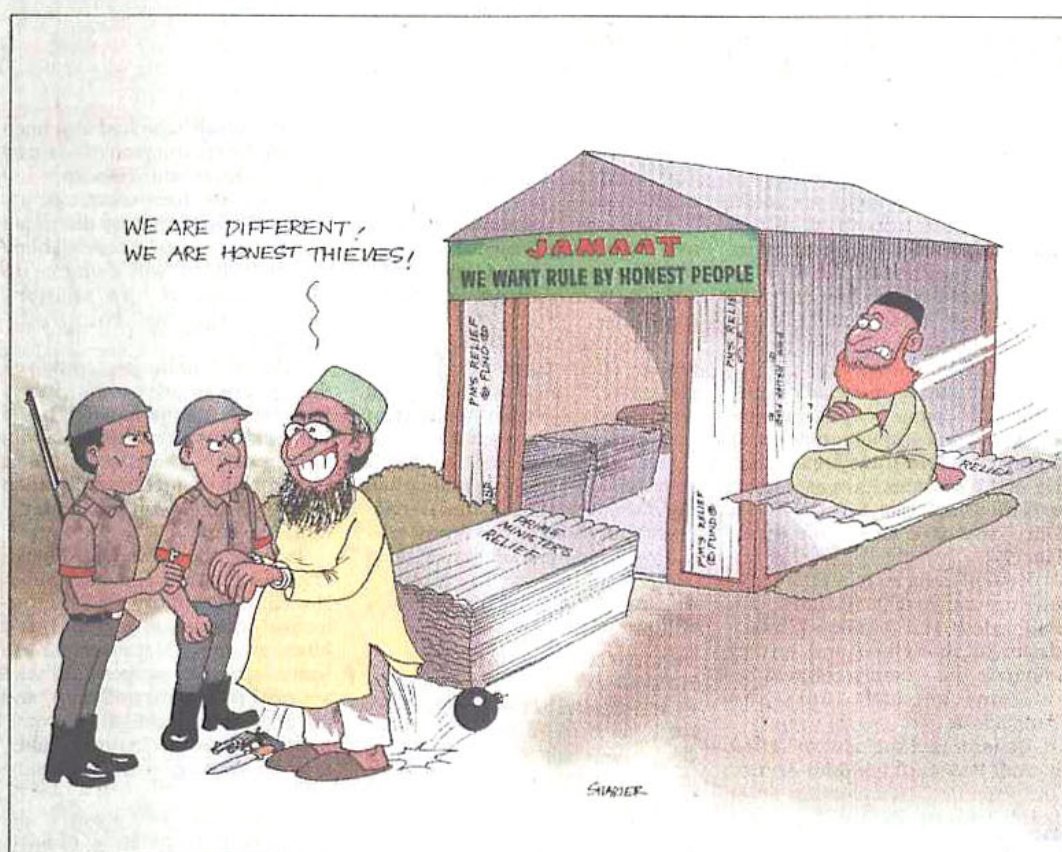
Prothom Alo (PA): Bangladesh topped the international corruption list for five years. The names of several officials from the Prime Minister's Office and people close to it have been linked to corruption. You were working in the PMO for three of those years. What are your comments?

Nurul Islam (NI): According to the country's rules of business, the ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers have been given full responsibility for each minis-



try. Even then, a minister's corruption cannot be done without the assistance of the ministries' officials. In most cases of corruption in the last five years of the coalition government, ministers have looted state resources with the help of corrupt government officials. If any of these corrupt government officials got into trouble, it was often the case that the other corrupt officials would come to their rescue.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Wanted ex-Jamaat MP surrenders, sent to jail

DCC commissioner held; more
relief materials recovered

STAR REPORT

Former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker from Nilphamari-3 constituency Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, who was wanted in a criminal case, was sent to jail with one month's detention after he surrendered before a Nilphamari court yesterday.

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, meantime, cancelled the membership of Mizanur Rahman yesterday for unethically using corrugated iron (CI) sheets of government relief fund that the joint forces recovered from his house.

Separate cases were filed against former deputy minister for land Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu and former BNP lawmaker from Pabna Selim Reza Habib yesterday on charges of misappropriating CI

sheets of government relief fund.

The army-led joint forces recovered 100 pieces of CI sheets meant for government relief from Bir Muktiyoddah Abdul Gani College, an institution run by former BNP lawmaker Abdul Gani, and 200 pieces of relief CI sheets from Jamaat-controlled Al-Madina Cadet Madrasa in Gangni upazila of Meherpur yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested the commissioner of Ward No 45 of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Atiqul Islam Martin from his Lalmatia office in the city yesterday.

The joint forces arrested top listed criminal and Tangail municipality commissioner Hafizur Rahman Swapna alias Hatkata

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Ex-MP Amini sued for 'looting' shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed last night against Fazlul Haq Amini, a former MP and chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote, for looting a shop in the city's Lalbagh area in 2005.

Mufti Md Sanaullah filed the case against Amini and six others for looting his shop along with 12 others at Bara Katra of Lalbagh on June 5, 2005, Lalbagh police told

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

230 tonnes of milk powder seized

The inedible item was to be used
in condensed milk

STAR REPORT

A mobile court yesterday raided Abul Khair Consumer Products Ltd in Chittagong and seized around 230 tonnes of milk powder to be used as ingredient in its Starship brand condensed milk.

The court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Munir Chowdhury raided Abul Khair Consumer Products Ltd at Bayezid area, an enterprise of Abul Khair Group, and seized the food items imported from various countries,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

GP Telenor's most profitable venture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameenphone, the most profitable part of Telenor's global mobile network in the final quarter of 2006 the Norwegian company reported, with subscribers in Bangladesh almost doubling during the year.

Grameenphone is a joint venture owned 62 per cent by Telenor and 38 per cent by Grameen Telecom Corporation. Last year its number of subscribers almost doubled, ending the year at 10.759 million, up from 5.542 million a year earlier.

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SUPERCETE CEMENT

WE BUILD YOUR DREAM

Lofarge Surma Cement Ltd.

A company of Lofarge and Surma



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Project Director for

MONNO ADARSHA HOSPITAL

a Project of Monno Welfare Foundation

We are looking for a qualified and experienced person for immediate appointment as **Project Director** of Monno Adarsha Hospital, a Modern Hospital under construction at Gilondo, near Manikgonj town.

Requirements:

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- ❖ Individual should be capable to coordinate construction with the help of Architect and Engineers
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The candidates should have sound academic background and possess higher degrees in **Medical Science / Hospital Management** with proven experience of implementing similar project. Special training on Project Management at home or abroad will be preferred. Sri-Lankan/Indian is also encouraged to apply.

Attractive salary and other facilities will be offered to the right person.

Application with detailed CV to be sent to the General Manager (Admin.), Monno Group of Industries, Islampur, Dhamrai, Dhaka-1350 or e-mail: admin@monno-group.com by 5 March 2007.

আবাসিক প্লট বিক্রয়

আবাসিক প্লট বিক্রয়

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