



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVII NO. 56

DHAKA SUNDAY MARCH 11, 2007

COMMITTED TO  
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

SECOND EDITION

Plus 32-page Star Campus



Govt must be alert to adverse effects of war on corruption  
Says finance adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday said the government must be on guard against adverse effects that might result from its 'war against corruption'.

Speaking at a seminar, he said there is no question about the need to increase accountability and transparency in public services, but the government will have to be careful about the flip sides of going all out against the corrupt elements.

Titled "To the MDGs [Millennium Development Goals] and Beyond: Accountability and Institutional Innovation in Bangladesh", the seminar was organised by the World Bank (WB) and East-West University (EWU) at the varsity auditorium in the city.

Azizul said the present government has been in a 'war against graft' and the dishonest public servants are not out of its reach. But one of the drawbacks is "this has created some kind of uncertainty and panic among the government officials".

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New car found abandoned on road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A brand new Toyota Raum car with no numberplate has been found by the Barisal-Dhaka highway in abandoned condition.

Mizanur Rahman, assistant superintendent of police, said local people on Friday informed police about the car, which was parked by

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Khaleda visits ailing party leader in city

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday visited ailing party leader Advocate Khandaker Mahbub Uddin Ahmed at his Naya Paltan residence.

She stayed there for some time and enquired about the present

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## Tarique disclosing his financial web

Obaidul Quader sent to jail

STAR REPORT

during the last five years of BNP-led coalition rule.

Tarique Rahman, now under custody of the joint interrogation cell (JIC), has disclosed names of some top 'Hawa Bhaban men' who used to control major businesses and look after his bank accounts, said sources.

BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General and the eldest son of Khaleda Zia, Tarique has also divulged identities of his business partners and associates who include several ex-state ministers.

Besides, he talked about his 'syndicate' in Bogra, a BNP stronghold, added the sources.

The joint forces arrested him in the early hours Thursday at his mother's cantonment residence. The same day he was placed on a four-day remand on charge of extorting Tk 1 crore from a construction firm.

Ashiq, Bakul and Apu are among those identified as the ones who would play a vital part in running the Hawa Bhaban, widely considered the ultimate powerhouse



Awami League Joint Secretary General Obaidul Quader being taken to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

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PHOTO: STAR

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Violent protest after 2 RMG workers killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Hundreds of garment workers yesterday blocked traffic on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Kanchpur for two hours, damaged a number of vehicles and set fire to a bus that killed two garment workers at Tatki on the highway in the morning.

The accident occurred at about 8:45am when the Sylhet-bound passenger bus collided with a tempo.

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Ex-AL MP Azam charged with car sale paper forgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Mirza Azam, one of the 50 graft suspects listed by the Anti-Corruption Commission, was yesterday charged with forging documents to sell a luxury car.

Sub-inspector Shawkat Kabir of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) unit-1 filed the case with Gulshan

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APPOINTMENT OF 300 UZ POLL STAFF

## Agency reports graft, suggests action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An intelligence agency report identifying corruption and opacity in recruiting 300 upazila election officers through the Public Service Commission (PSC) in 2005 has recommended taking actions to free the Election Commission (EC) from such controversy before the next elections.

The Ministry of Home Affairs recently sent the probe report to the EC requesting it to take actions in the light of the recommendations made by the intelligence agency, sources said.

On receiving the report, the EC at a meeting last week decided to examine the efficiency of the controversial upazila election officers through authorising an organisation other than the PSC to review their capacity for doing the job, sources said.

"Each of the upazila election officers will have to prove their ability to do the job, appearing in an examination. An officer will be

dismissed if he fails to prove his efficiency," said a source present at the EC meeting.

Terms and conditions of service of the upazila election officers also allow the EC to dismiss anyone from the service within two years of his joining without consulting with the PSC, if he or she is found incapable of doing the job.

The upazila election officers, who joined the posts on September 26, 2005, will complete their two years' probationary period in September this year. They were supposed to complete various training programmes including a foundation course during the probationary period. But the EC Secretariat did not provide them any training since their joining, sources said.

Serious controversy followed their joining as they were recruited on political considerations and through bribery. A large number of them were involved with Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student front

BNP. Last year, the upazila election officials were involved in updating the voter list that contained an unusually large number of fake voters.

But the then EC led by Chief Election Commissioner Justice MA Aziz did not take any action against them. Justice Aziz, on several occasions defended their appointment saying that the PSC recruited them following proper procedure.

The credibility of the upazila election officers, who were appointed on political considerations and through corruption, has been questioned but no steps were taken to resolve the controversy over the officers who are directly involved in the task of holding the election, said a intelligence agency probe report recently submitted to the home ministry.

A policy decision is immediately required to avert further controversy before holding the next parliamentary election, the report said.

## UNHCR for citizenship of Biharis

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) wants the Bangladeshi government to declare the Urdu-speaking Biharis as Bangladeshi citizens and include the eligible ones in the voter list.

Urdu-speaking Biharis are the citizens of Bangladesh as per its constitution, nationality-related legislation and the 2003 High Court verdict which was not challenged, "UNHCR Bangladesh organised the daylong workshop on "Reporting on Refugees" at a city hotel. Senior Regional Public Information

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## Partying on the beach

Ex-ministers, MPs from four-party take over Cox's Bazar's coastline, destroy its pristine beauty

MUAZZEM HOSSAIN SHAKIL, Cox's Bazar

The BNP-led alliance government during its five-year term allotted 90 plots on the Cox's Bazar beach to its top leaders for setting up hotels and motels.

Sources said the one-acre plots were allocated at unusually lower price and violating rules and regulations for this 'ecologically critical' area.

On May 20, 1999, the then government declared 10,465

hectares of land in Cox's Bazar and adjacent areas as 'ecologically critical area' to preserve the bio-



Promptly erected structure to maintain the possession of plots for motel on the Cox's Bazar sea beach, left, and billboard of a developer advertising for apartments on the land meant for a motel.



## ICC WORLD CUP 07

## WC opens in Windies today

SPORTS REPORTER

Caribbean heritage will be put on show in the opening ceremony of the eighth Cricket World Cup which the gala event takes place at the Trelawny Multi-Purpose Stadium in Jamaica today.

The much-anticipated ceremony will be telecast live on Bangladesh Television at 4:15am Monday.

As organisers remain tight-lipped, it was learned that the show

was slated to have some spectacular lighting effects. They have also roped in two lighting consultants for this grand affair one of whom has worked for the American Super Bowl just a few months earlier. A budget of 2 billion Jamaican dollars has been estimated for this showcase event.

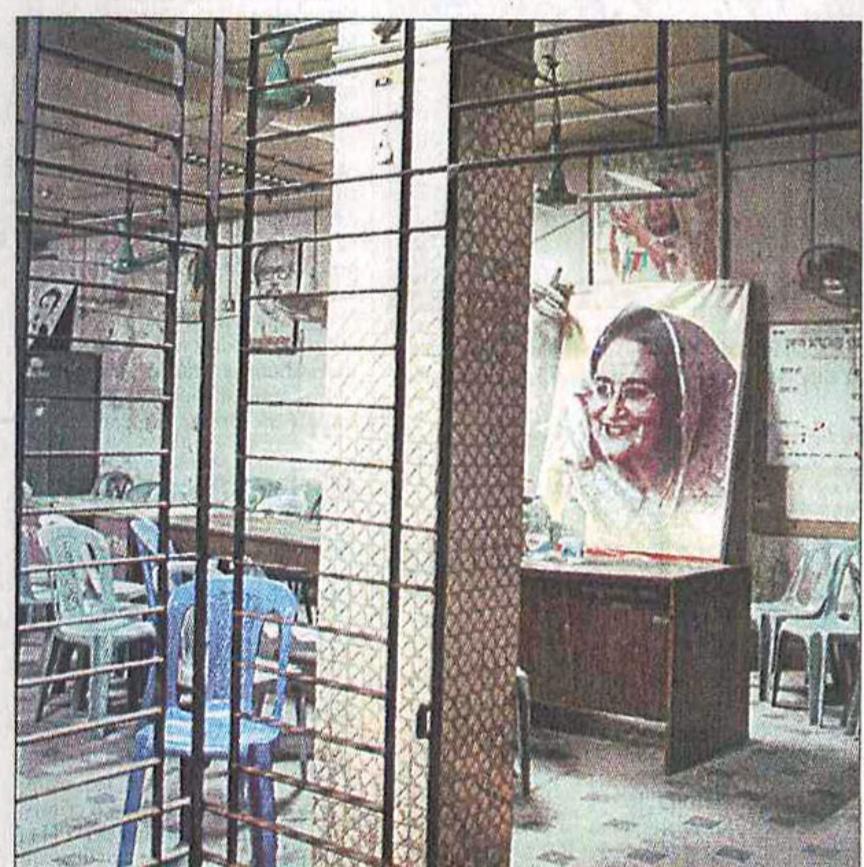
The organisers plan to put forth the rich heritage of the Caribbean nations as well as the talent and creativity of the local people.

Legendary West Indies all-

rounder Sir Garfield Sobers will officially announce the tournament open. It is expected that some cricket greats and top officials will grace the event.

The stadium at Trelawny, especially built for the World Cup, will see all sixteen teams taking part in the ceremony in a parade that will officially introduce the players to the islands.

Hosts West Indies take on Pakistan in the opening match at Kingston on March 13.



Empty office of the Awami League on Bangabandhu Avenue, left, and locked BNP office at Naya Paltan in the capital yesterday as the government banned all sorts of political activities.



Suspected JMB man held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police yesterday arrested an alleged member of the outlawed Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Debadangi Union of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, the law enforcement officers raided the house of Rezwanul Haque alias Rezu at Laxmipur village in the morning and arrested him. He was taken to Thakurgaon Police Station for quizzing.

Police said Rezu was a listed JMB activist and went into hiding soon after August 17 countrywide serial bomb blasts.

CPA fixes 57 as age limit for dockers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has fixed 57 as the age limit for the dockers.

The decision was taken at a meeting between the CPA and the joint forces yesterday.

An official order on this will be issued today or tomorrow, sources said.

Auditor General suggested government authorities concerned to take actions against the individuals involved with the crimes and to recover the loss.

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury had been the city mayor during the period, who was arrested by the joint forces on Wednesday night on charges of corruption against him.

The bureau also submitted charge sheets in connection with

lands, issued work orders without tenders, and paid large amounts of funds in advance to his flunkies.

Fourteen corruption cases were filed against Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury by the now defunct Bureau of Anti-corruption after investigation of allegations of corruption against him.

The bureau also submitted charge sheets in connection with

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## Mayor's graft costs CCC Tk 19cr

RAFIQ HASAN from Chittagong

A special audit of the accounts of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) for the years 2003 '04 and '05 detected specific cases of irregularities including embezzlement and violations of government rules, which caused a financial loss of over Tk 19 crore to the corporation. The audit report prepared by the District Office of Comptroller and



## 8th O & A level Special Supplement

A four-colour, 32-page Special Supplement in tabloid size on 8th O & A level Award Presentation Ceremony for the students who achieved outstanding results in the June 2005 and June 2006 sessions will be published on Monday, 12th March 2007 along with the regular newspaper of the day.

*There will be no extra charge for this Special Supplement.*

*please make sure you get your copy from the hawkers.*

*8th O & A level Award Presentation Ceremony will be held on 2nd March, 2007, Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Dhaka will be telecast by Channel 10 at 6:30 pm. All are invited to watch this gala event with their family and friends.*

**DON'T MISS IT!**