

## Tarique says he has bank accounts in five countries

STAR REPORT

Tarique Rahman has admitted to having bank accounts in five countries—Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, South Africa and Switzerland.

Senior Joint Secretary General of BNP and the eldest son of Khaleda Zia, he gave away the information in the face of extensive questioning at the joint interrogation cell (JIC), sources said yesterday.

The investigators will soon seek assistance from the Bangladesh Bank (BB) and the foreign ministry to know how much money he has in those accounts and how he sent the sums abroad, according to the sources.

If the information is found authentic, the sleuths will start investigating how he had earned the money.

Besides, the authorities concerned will initiate measures to retrieve the money, added the sources.

The interrogators also quizzed Tarique about his reported huge investment in South Africa under a scheme styled '15-million project'. The sources, however, declined to elaborate on the matter.

Apart from this, reports have it that the Malaysian government has frozen his \$230 million, as he could

not explain the source of the money. He had allegedly siphoned off the massive amount to invest in the Southeast Asian country. The matter was even debated in the last parliament.

Tarique denied extorting Tk 1 crore from Amin Ahmed, owner of Al Amin Constructions, who filed the case against him.

The immediate past premier's son, who used to pull rank on the administration and always seemed beyond the reach of law enforcers during the BNP-Jamaat rule, said he only had some kind of business relations with the complainant and that Giasuddin Al Mamun had introduced him to Amin.

Sources close to the interrogation cell said the man who would lead an alternative powerhouse in Hawa Bhaban, the BNP chairperson's Banani office, looks glum during questioning at the JIC. He also grudges having meals.

Meanwhile, Gulshan police are examining documents of the bank

from where the complainant withdrew Tk 1 crore, police sources said.

Tarique will be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka tomorrow as his four-day remand expires today.

The sources also said the trial would be completed within a month.

As per section 10(2) of the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act, a charge sheet or final report against him should be submitted within seven days.

Tarique would be ineligible to compete in elections for the next five years if he is found guilty.

Even if his party returns to power, he would not be able to hold any portfolio or any post equivalent to a minister's.

If the charge against him is proven true, he might be sentenced to a maximum of five years or a minimum of two years in prison and might be fined as well.



## Falu's deer taken away from retreat

JU CORRESPONDENT

Officials of the forest department and Dulahazra Safari Park yesterday confiscated eleven deer, which were being raised illegally in a vacation home of Mosaddak Ali Falu at Ashulia near the capital.

There were 17 deer in total in the retreat of Falu, a former BNP lawmaker and political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia.

Caretakers of the place produced legal purchase papers for four of those deer, which had been bought in 1995 from the forest department for a total of Tk 2,000.

A team of about 12 officials of the forest department and the safari park initiated the drive around noon which went on till 7:00pm.

"The place lacks any arrangement or atmosphere for raising deer. The deer will be sent to Dulahazra Safari Park at Cox's Bazar after being tranquillised,"



A man tranquillises deer at a vacation home of former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu at Ashulia in Savar yesterday as preparation for sending the seized animals to Dulahazra Safari Park in Cox's Bazar.

## ELECTRONIC VOTING EC to study feasibility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) will study the feasibility of introducing electronic voting system in parliamentary election.

"First, the electronic voting machines could be tested at one constituency to see if they work. And we'll think about setting up a system only if the test is successful," he added.

The EC chief was talking to reporters after a meeting with representatives of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) at the EC Secretariat.

The Institute of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) of the university has developed an electronic voting machine (EVM) and yesterday they gave a display of how it works.

The same day a delegation of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) met the election commissioners and discussed different electoral issues including voter-listing.

**ZAKORIA CONTROVERSY** Meanwhile, joint secretary of the EC, Mohammad Zakoria, who was made officer on special duty

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## Powerful taskforces get legal cover

Vow to spare none in govt's crusade against corruption

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Soon after the taskforces put on the legal vest yesterday, the all-powerful corruption and crime busting forces vowed to spare none, not even the top two political leaders—Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina, if graft links found.

"Of course, it depends on the complaints that we receive (against them)," Chief Coordinator of the National Coordination Committee Major General Masud Uddin Chowdhury told The Daily Star, coming out of his meeting with the Anti-corruption Commission Chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday.

The general officer commanding (GOC) of Nine Infantry Division went to the ACC for reviewing the ongoing drive against high profile corruption suspects after the gazette notification on formation of the taskforce committees was

issued yesterday (but dated March 8), giving retrospective effect from February 4.

The chief coordinator also admitted that the taskforces, albeit unofficial then, masterminded all operations since February 4, when



Maj Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury

the political arena was caught off guard with the arrest of heavyweights like Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, former communications minister of BNP Nazmul Huda and ex-Awami League minister Mohammad Nasim.

Under the supervision of the National Co-ordination Committee headed by Communication Adviser Major General (retd) MA Matin, the taskforces will be authorised to detain persons without warrant, conduct search or confiscate properties of people linked with any types of crime and act tough on money-launderers.

"The taskforce has been working since early February. The formalisation process was completed giving retrospective effect to the taskforce actions," said the general, who warned his units would not judge who is who in their crusade against crime.

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## India responds positively to power import plan from Bhutan, Nepal

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has received a positive response from India regarding the plan for importing electricity from Bhutan and Nepal, as a measure for tackling the prevailing crisis, Power and Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury said yesterday.

He made this statement during a press briefing at his Secretariat office after his return from New Delhi where he attended the SAARC energy ministers' conference last week.

The adviser said now the Bangladesh Government is contemplating placing a formal offer to the Bhutanese Government to import electricity from the Himalayan nation.

He, however, said electricity import is a matter of long process that will take at least three years time to make it happen, even if the countries started the process today.

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## CA orders arresting price hike of essentials

Says corruption suspects to go on trial

UNB, Khulna

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday urged the field-level civil and military officials to take effective measures to keep prices of commodities at tolerable level through ensuring adequate supply in the market.

He directed the authorities to open the sealed godowns across the country so that the stored good quality foodstuff can be sold in the market, saying that keeping commodities in sealed godowns would not bring any benefit.

The chief adviser was speaking at an opinion-exchange meeting with high civil and military officials of Khulna Division at the local Circuit House.

This was his third meeting with government officials outside the capital after the first in Chittagong on February 27 and the second in Barisal on March 4.

About the ongoing drive for evicting illegal structures across the country, Fakhruddin cautioned the agencies concerned to ensure the poor do not lose everything. "It is not the intention of the present government," he said.

He also asked the government officials to be careful so that no slums or huts and bazzars, which are not causing any problem, are evicted unnecessarily.

"We want people's welfare. The eviction drive is going on against those who are living lavishly by grabbing government lands... the floating people living on roadsides or embankments, causing no problem to transport movement, should not be evicted."

About election, the chief adviser said reform is necessary for creating favourable environment for holding free, fair, transparent and credible elections. "Today, reform

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## Over 57-yr old dockers of Ctg port being sent on retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) started the process of sending dockworkers aged over 57 years into retirement yesterday.

The CPA has already issued retirement orders to around 200 out of 4,300 dockers currently employed at the port, sources said—adding about 650 workers will have to go on retirement due to a decision that fixes 57 as the age limit for the dockworkers.

The decision, which was taken on Saturday at a meeting between the port authority and the joint forces, is aimed at bringing pace in port activities, sources added.

Earlier the dockers could continue services depending on their physical strength and capabilities to work.

CPA Chairman Mosleh Uddin said, "They are going on retirement

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## Sobers ready to set the Caribbean alight

AGENCIES, Daniel Town

West Indies legendary all-rounder Sir Garfield Sobers will officially open the World Cup later Sunday at the culmination of a two-hour, 45-minute ceremony.

"It's a great honour to declare the Cricket World Cup open. I'm taking it in my stride and I'm looking forward to the occasion," said 70-year-old Sobers from his home in Barbados.

The former West Indies skipper said he was excited that cricket's showpiece event was coming to the region for the first time.

"It will be phenomenal for the Caribbean, especially for those people who haven't had the opportunity to see a Cricket World Cup. It will be a fantastic experience."

The ceremony, which is being held at the Trelawny Multi-Purpose Stadium here, comes two days before the first match of the seven-

week event takes place. That will see hosts West Indies facing Pakistan at Sabina Park on Tuesday.

The ceremony, which has been called "West Indian Energy", will feature reggae star Jimmy Cliff as well as a cast and crew of around 2,000 singers, dancers and performers. Rupee, Shaggy and Fayann Lyons will perform the World Cup's official song, The Game of Love and Unity.

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## Politicians finally find time for family

HASAN JAHIID TUSHER and RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

With a ban on indoor politics, leaders of major political parties are passing their time reading, writing, getting more involved in respective professions and business, doing social work, and giving more time to families, relatives and friends.

Many of the leaders including top leaders of all the front organisations of BNP and AL have been on the run to avoid arrests by the army-led joint forces.

However, most of the key leaders of the two parties, who are still not under threat of arrests, have been keeping their cellphones switched off to avoid contact with

the media and unnecessary calls from party activists.

As the political offices of the major parties have been closed since the ban on indoor politics was imposed, most of the AL leaders, echoing their party chief Sheikh Hasina, said they are passing their time reading, writing, running personal errands, and tending to family matters.

On Friday the AL chief said, "As political activities are banned I will pass my time writing, trying to complete my unfinished writings."

BNP leaders on the other hand have been apprehensive of getting arrested at anytime and they are now observing the current situation of the country, many of them

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## FAZEE'S CERTIFICATE CANCELLATION CU issues gazette

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University (CU) authorities yesterday published a gazette notification cancelling the LLB certificates of 49 examinees including controversial High Court

judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee for tampering with their tabulation sheets.

On Saturday, the office of the controller of examinations finalised the initial notification of 49

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

Watch 8th O & A Level Award Presentation Ceremony Programme of The Daily Star (held on 2 March 2007) on Channel-i with your family and friends.

Date: 13th March, 2007. Time: 6.30 pm.

DON'T MISS THIS GOLDEN CHANCE!

## AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE: 36, DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA-1000

### PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited in its 146<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007 recommended payment of 35% Dividend in the form of Bonus Shares for the year 2006.

The Board also decided that the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Bank will be held on Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 at 10.00 a.m. at 'Trust Milonayaton', 545, Puratan Biman Bandar Sarak, Dhaka Cant., Dhaka. In this regard the Board also approved Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 as 'Record Date' for no transaction of shares of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited in the Stock Exchanges. Shareholders, whose names would appear in the Register of Members of the Bank on the 'Record Date' will be eligible to attend the meeting and qualify for Bonus Share.

Date: Dhaka, 11th March, 2007

By order of the Board,

(Md. Mofazzal Hossain)  
SVP & Company Secretary  
Phone: 7113694

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