

LEGALITY OF CG
HC adjourns
hearing
for 2 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday adjourned for two days the hearing of a writ petition filed on May 6 challenging legality of the present caretaker government, as the counsel of the petitioner is ill.

Petitioner Josneara Chowdhury submitted a prayer to the court to ask Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed and the 10 advisers to explain on what authority they are holding their public offices as members of a non-party caretaker government.

After partial hearing of the petition on May 6 a division bench of the HC fixed yesterday for the next hearing.

While Abdus Salam Mandal is the filing advocate of the petition, Syed Golam Mostafa moved in the court on May 6 as counsel of the petitioner.

But yesterday a lawyer on behalf of Mostofa prayed to adjourn hearing of the matter for yesterday and today saying that counsel of the petitioner is ill.

As the court granted the prayer, the petition is likely to be heard on Sunday.

Prayer Timing		
May 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Money whitening to stay in different way

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government may introduce a provision for whitening black money, but the offer will be made through alternative measures, not the upcoming national budget, Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam gave hints yesterday.

"Instead of keeping the provision in the budget, alternative measures might be offered to whiten black money," Mirza Aziz said at a consultative meeting of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in the capital.

Official sources meanwhile said the facility will be given through a special ordinance or a statutory regulatory order while the government is also considering offering a higher tax rate between 25 and 35 percent for this.

The NBR and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) jointly organised the meeting where leaders of the country's chambers and associations presented recommendations for the upcoming national budget.

At the meeting the finance

adviser put emphasis on expanding domestic revenue in order to minimise dependency on foreign aid.

"The harsh reality is that we are losing our major revenue sources because of adopting market-based open economic strategy. Therefore, we have to extend our domestic revenue sources," he said.

According to the United Nations policy, developed countries have to

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Mainul on letter of US senators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In reaction to the comments by 15 US senators, Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain yesterday said Bangladesh has to solve its problems on its own, rather than listen to the foreigners.

"It will not do if we listen to every word the foreigners say. We have to solve our problems by ourselves," Mainul Hossain said while talking to the journalists at his office.

The senators, including Hillary Clinton, in a letter to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed asked the Bangladesh government to declare

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41 Iraqis killed in fresh violence

AP, Baghdad

A parked car bomb exploded near a market in a Shia enclave northeast of the capital, killing at least 32 people and wounding 50, police said Wednesday. Hospital officials and wounded victims said chlorine gas may have been used in the attack, but police denied that.

Thousands of US forces continued to search for three American soldiers feared captured by al-Qaeda last week after an attack on their convoy south of Baghdad also killed four US troops and an Iraqi

soldier.

Meanwhile, clashes broke out in the mostly Shia city of Nasiriyah in southern Iraq on Wednesday, when a militia fought with police there after they arrested two wanted militia members, police said. Nine Iraqis were killed and 75 wounded, a police spokesman said.

A US government report released Tuesday showed that the recent US troop increase and security crackdown has had little effect on the high number of

attacks in the country.

The average number of attacks rose from 71 a day in January 2006 to a high of 176 per day in October, according to the report from the Government Accountability Office. In February, when the troop increase began to take effect, daily attacks dropped slightly to 164. Daily attacks averaged 157 in March and 149 in April, the report said.

The report, which cited the US-led forces in Iraq for the figures, did

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Hearing on graft case against Hasina July 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday scheduled July 25 for the hearing of a petition by former prime minister and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina for quashing a four and a half years old graft case against her.

Following a sudden move by the state, an HC division bench decided to start the hearing of the petition for quashing the Meghnaghat Power plant graft case against Hasina after the Supreme Court's (SC) summer vacation is

over, which will start on June 8 and end on July 22.

Hasina filed the petition with the HC on December 2, 2002 for quashing the case and it stayed all proceedings of the case in the lower court.

Following the stay, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Helaluddin Mollah on Monday moved to a HC bench and prayed for a hearing of Hasina's petition. But after a submission by Hasina's counsel the bench ordered to scrap the case off the cause list.

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PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka City Corporation demolished illegal structures at Dholaipar in Jatrabari yesterday as part of its continued drive against encroachers.

Australian plastic surgeons to perform 60 free operations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of 11 Australian plastic surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses are visiting Bangladesh on a two-week tour to perform 60 operations for free and work with doctors at

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Wolfowitz begs for his WB job

AFP, Washington

World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz on Tuesday begged the lender's board to let him keep his job, promising changes in his management style in the wake of a damaging favouritism scandal.

The board of executive directors was to continue deliberations on his fate Wednesday, after the United States reiterated its support for the embattled bank chief.

However, a White House spokesman entertained "all

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Graft charges framed against Aman, his wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday framed charges against detained former state minister for labour and employment Aman Ullah Aman and his wife Sabera Aman in a corruption case.

Another court in Dhaka fixed Sunday for hearing on arguments in a graft case against Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, after completion of recording of two prosecution witnesses' state-

ments.

AMAN CASE

After rejecting the discharge petition, Judge Firoz Alam of the First Special Court framed charges against former state minister Aman and his wife Sabera in a case filed in connection with amassing huge wealth through illegal means.

Aman and Sabera pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the charges were read out to them.

The court fixed May 20 for trial

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