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MORE CONFESSION

## Babar cut \$10m Warid deal for Koko

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar spilled more beans as he told investigators yesterday that he had negotiated a \$10 million fast-track frequency allocation deal for Warid Telecom and the booty was shared by Arafat Rahman Koko and former BNP MP Ali Asgar Lobi.

Of the amount, \$9 million was given to former prime minister Khaleda Zia's younger son Koko and \$1 million to detained BNP leader Lobi who had close links with detained BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman and his wife Bhaban.

Babar also revealed during interrogation that Koko and former finance minister Saifur Rahman's

son Tony took commission from a Chinese company in the name of giving it a contract for supplying telecommunications equipment. He, however, denied his involve-



ment in the deal.

Babar, who is now on a four-day police remand, said BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman was the main backer of Pacific Motors.

The government decided to procure the 1,970 cars ahead of the Saarc summit in the capital in 2005.

The police headquarters floated a tender in which 16 importers participated. But at the last moment, the authorities changed the conditions of bidding through a circular in such a way that allowed only two importers to participate. That prompted the other bidders to lodge complaints with the government alleging corruption in the bidding process, but that did not work.

Sources said the former state

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purchase proposal.

"It was my mistake. I even did not go through the file before signing it," Babar was quoted to have said during interrogation.

The former state minister claimed that he had no option but to approve the controversial vehicle purchase for various law enforcement departments "under pressure from the high-ups". Pacific Motors owned by former foreign minister M Morshed Khan was the prime beneficiary of the



PHOTO: SHAFIQ ALAM  
The tube-well hooked up to a Wasa line releases filthy and stinky water. The photo was taken from Nazimuddin Road in Old Dhaka yesterday.

Ex-MP Gias,  
ex-power secy  
Akhter sued

Warrant against Kamal  
Ibne Yusuf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a graft case against former power secretary ANH Akhter Hossain and his wife while the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) filed two cases against former BNP lawmaker Mohammad Glasuddin.

An ACC official lodged the case against Akhter and his wife Naznin Banu with Uttara Police Station in

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PEACE STATUS  
Bangladesh ranked  
86th among 121  
countries  
UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been placed at number 86 of 121 countries in the first study to rank countries around the world as per their peacefulness and the factors that cause and sustain peace.

In South Asia, Bangladesh ranked second (after Bhutan) on the peace index.

The study, styled Global Peace Index, released Wednesday, was conducted by the Economist

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27TH BCS

Call for fresh  
exams after  
PSC reform

SURAJIT DEABNATH

The cancelled viva voce of the 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations should be held afresh only after reforming the Public Service Commission (PSC) to ensure credibility and fairness, say ex-officials, academicians and candidates.

Talking to The Daily Star, they said that the PSC is still run by members and officials who are accused of foul play and anomalies which has bogged down all of the four BCS examinations, including 27th BCS, during the immediate past BNP-Jamaat alliance government rule.

Newly appointed PSC Chairman

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Erratum

The Daily Star on Wednesday ran a report headlined "Master manipulator of state power" that inadvertently mentioned the name of Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad as an official who was promoted for supporting Bangla Bhai. We regret the error.

8 deceased  
Bangladesh  
peacekeepers  
honoured

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations has honoured eight deceased Bangladeshi peacekeepers with "Dag Hammarskjold  
Medal Awards".

The peacekeepers sacrificed their lives during UN peacekeeping operations in Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan last year.

They were Lance Corporal SM Miraz Ahmed, Lance Corporal Abdul Halim, Private Kamruzzaman Khan, Private Mohammed Miah, Private Md Mizanur Rahman, Lance Corporal Abidus Sattar, Private Amir Hossain and Lance Corporal Faruk Miah.

UN Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guehenno on Wednesday handed over the medals to Brig General Ilyas Iftekhar Rasul, defence adviser in Bangladesh permanent mission to the United Nations, at a ceremony in the UN Library auditorium in New York.

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Taskforce seizes  
Mufti Shahidul's  
luxury car

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) taskforce seized a luxury car belonging to former Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) lawmaker Mufti Shahidul Islam from Old Dhaka on Wednesday night.

Official sources said the taskforce with the help of police raided Liner Group of Industries at 21 Hazi Abdur Rashid Lane in Nayabazar and found the 4700cc Lexus car of the ex-lawmaker in the parking zone of the firm.

The taskforce seized the car

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KHALEDA'S OPTIONS

## Pick reforms or retirement

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Once acclaimed as an uncompromising politician, she is now desperate to negotiate an understanding with the authorities so they treat Tarique and Arafat leniently. That her younger son might as well be detained on charge of corruption has added to her anxieties about the future of her sons.

Sources say if she does not agree to leave the chairperson's post to allow changes in the party, a number of graft cases might be filed against her.

Intelligence agencies are assembling information about financial irregularities that took place in different ministries particularly in the energy and power ministry under her leadership in the last five years, added the sources.

The government has already gathered information about her bank accounts to detect shady transactions, if there's any.

Besides, a few of the BNP chairperson's kin might be rounded up in the ongoing anti-graft drive that, many believe, will force her into tighter corners.

Against this backdrop, she is dithering over whether to leave the country or try to work her way out of troubled times.

Earlier, the BNP chief had reportedly agreed to go abroad with Arafat and the other family members.

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ACC to submit charge sheets against Huda, Wadud next week

UNB, Dhaka

EXPORT POLICY ANNOUNCED

## Agro, light engineering, IT get the thrust

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday announced a three-year Export Policy for FY07 to FY09 setting a target to diversify the export basket, create employment and alleviate poverty.

The policy included pharmaceutical products in the list of thrust sector and nine more products identified as special development sector.

Under the new export policy, agro-products and agro-processing items, light engineering

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products including auto-parts and bicycles, shoes and leather products, software and ICT products, and home textile will be in the thrust sector.

Finished leather, frozen fish, fresh flower and foliage, jute products, textile items by indigenous people and diamond polishing are the new sectors added to the special development sector that already has handicrafts, agriculture and IT.

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CA seeks WB help for power sector dev

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government, Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday sought assistance from the World Bank (WB) for development of power sector, construction of Padma bridge, strengthening local government and improvement of agriculture sector.

The chief adviser placed the priority for development assistance when the visiting WB Vice-president for South Asia region,

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Praful C Patel, made a courtesy call on him at his office.

It is the first visit of the multilateral donor agency to Bangladesh after Fakhruddin assumed the office of chief adviser on January 12.

Responding to Fakhruddin, the WB top executive assured of extending support, partnering with other development partners of Bangladesh, to help in implementing the development plans and programmes of the government.

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Feed Mill

Agriculture Seed Production

Further Processed Chicken

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Certificate of Registration

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Hatchery

Poultry

Processed Chicken

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Navana Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Glad to Congratulate

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