

WEALTH STATEMENT
Hasina's lawyers
free to meet her

UNB, Dhaka

Lawyers of detained Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina can meet her whenever necessary for preparing her wealth statement sought by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

"The lawyers of the former prime minister can meet her for preparing the replies to the notice issued by the ACC seeking her wealth statement," DIG (prisons) Major Shamsuddin Haider told reporters yesterday.

On Tuesday, the ACC served notices on Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, asking them to submit their wealth statements within seven working days.

Responding to a query, Major Haider said the relatives of the AL chief can meet her once a week as per the rules.

Meanwhile, jail sources said a television set has been supplied to the sub-jail from Hasina's residence.

Govt criticised
for filing case
against Hasina
on old issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday strongly criticised the caretaker government for its handling of issues of crime and corruption.

"The caretaker government has filed a case against Sheikh Hasina based on an incident that occurred eight years ago but it is not taking any step to run the trial of those who were behind the grenade attack on Hasina and other leaders on August 21, 2004," AL President Member Motia Chowdhury said.

Motia and AL President Member Abdur Razzak yesterday

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DU teachers protest treatment of 2 ex-PMs

Wear black badge, will boycott classes today; BCL calls for student strike

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) teachers yesterday taught classes wearing black ribbons in protest at the arrest of Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina and the harassment of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, as part of their two-day demonstrations which end today with a half-day work abstention.

The demonstration was the first

protest by the teachers of the country's highest academic institution against the current caretaker government's actions, which had come to power in January and soon declared a state of emergency banning all protests against its actions.

The DU teachers will observe the five-hour work abstention till 1:00pm today protesting the treatment of the two ex-premiers of the

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PHOTO: STAR

A teacher wearing black badge takes class at Dhaka University yesterday demanding release of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and an immediate stop to harassment of all political leaders including BNP chief Khaleda Zia.

Adviser slams NCBs for 'harassing' clients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday blasted the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) for grilling clients about sources of the deposited money.

"Even today I hear complaints that when a person goes to a commercial bank, particularly to an NCB, with a hundred thousand taka deposit into the bank he is questioned for an hour about where he got the money from," Azizul said.

"It's not your business to inquire into the sources of a client's money. You are no NBR [National Board of Revenue] or central bank or Anti-Corruption Commission, and neither are you the national task force," he said.

The adviser was addressing a seminar on 'Janata Bank: Changing Corporate Culture' at the city's Brac Centre Inn.

He observed that many of the problems that the NCBs now face have been caused or worsened by political interference in management, in portfolio choices and even in day-to-day running of the banks.

Aziz said ministers in the past would use the banks as sources of money for their political and business interests.

Besides, he said, political affilia-

tions of the CBAs (central bargaining agents) adversely affect the bank officials' efficiency and integrity.

Lack of service orientation is one of the maladies, he said adding that the NCBs have not been able to do justice to optimising the stakeholders' value, and perhaps the value of many has rather been neglected, if not completely ignored.

Performance of the bank officials has not been up to the mark. Many officials could be accused of professional incompetence and moral turpitude.

He said: "Unless we can do something to solve this sort of problem, I am afraid, a mere change in organisational structure will not be adequate to change the corporate culture of the NCBs."

According to the finance adviser, the present caretaker government has committed itself to seeing these banks function independently and competently.

The policy-based loans that once used to have negative impacts on the operation of nationalised commercial banks have been drastically reduced, he said adding, "The finance ministry does not

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College girl Nawshin committed suicide

Finds autopsy report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An autopsy revealed that Sadia Nawshin, a student from Vidyarunni Noon School and College, found dead inside her residence at Moghbazar on Wednesday, had committed suicide.

Nawshin had passed the SSC this year with GPA-5.

Her autopsy report submitted yesterday morning stated that there was no sign of attack or injury to the body and the cause of death was suicide, forensic department sources said.

Police could not make any headway in the investigation without details of the victim and the prime suspect, victim's maternal uncle, as the victim's parents are still not available for questioning.

Nawshin's parents left for their village home in Pirojpur on Thursday for her burial.

Police have been conducting raids at possible hideouts in the capital to capture the prime accused in the case -- Zahidul Haque Rintu, Nawshin's uncle.

The other accused in the case,

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Pratibha elected
India's first
female president

AP, New Delhi

India elected Pratibha Patil as the country's first female president yesterday in a vote seen as a victory for the hundreds of millions of Indian women who contend with widespread discrimination.

Patil received 65.82 percent of the votes cast by national lawmakers and state legislators, said Election Commission head PDT Achary. She had been widely expected to win.

Patil, the 72-year-old candidate of the governing Congress party and its political allies, defeated incumbent Vice President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the candidate of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party.

"I am grateful to the people of India, to all the men and women of

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Bangladeshi made chief of an Ivory Coast village

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK, back from Ivory Coast

The Bangladeshi forces of the UN Peace Keeping Mission have won the love and trust of the people of Ivory Coast so much that the people of a village have made a Bangladeshi army officer their honorary chief.

According to the local tradition, the village chief is the most honourable person and the guardian of a village. Villagers accept the chief's decisions as the final word and implement those without any hesitation.

Contingent Commander Bangladesh Battalion-4 (Babat-4) Lt Col Md Jahangir Talukder was given the honour in Lazarekro village in December

Rangs claims its building absolutely legal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of the much talked about Rangs building in the capital yesterday claimed that the building was constructed with proper approval from the authorities concerned and the land was 'not illegally occupied'.

Terming the building 'absolutely legal', they however said the government has the right to acquire any land including the one that has the Rangs building on it by compensating the owners for the acquisition, but it will be unacceptable if it demolishes the building by terming it illegal.

Hinting at a group of businessmen, whom the building authorities accuse of being 'behind the conspiracy' against the Rangs

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Political will must to sustain anti-graft drive

Roundtable asks govt to ensure transparency, due process of law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must ensure transparency and due process of law in the ongoing crackdown on corruption to make certain its success while political will of the future governments is required to guarantee its sustenance, said discussants at a roundtable on corruption yesterday.

The caretaker government should also review its policies as public confidence in the crackdown

on corruption dipped recently, said the speakers who were participating in daily Prothom Alo roundtable titled "Effective steps to curb corruption" at Hotel Sheraton in the capital.

Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashud Chowdhury said the anti-corruption drive will not be sustainable without the political will of the next elected government.

"Some errors may occur as this is an experiment but it is serving

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50 injured as train derails in Chandpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

At least 50 passengers were injured when Chandpur-bound intercity Meghna Express from Chittagong derailed near Shaharasti Railway Station on Friday night.

Railway sources said nine compartments of the express train, carrying about 500 passengers in 14 compartments, went off the track at 10:00pm, halting train services on Chandpur-Laksam-Chittagong route for nearly 14 hours.

However, train communications on the route resumed at noon yesterday.

A railway official said the passengers were injured as they scrambled to get out of the train.



Temporary stalls of hawkers between Gulistan intersection and GPO in the capital are covered with colourful plastic sheets to protect their goods from downpour the city experienced yesterday.

MANPOWER EXPORT TO SOUTH KOREA Fraud brokers swindle with false promises

PORIMOL PALMA

Fraud manpower exporters are swindling people with promises of jobs in South Korea, a country which does not allow any private

firm to send workers.

Vested interest groups are also cheating people saying that they have good links with a government recruiting agency, which is actually the only authorised agency right

now for sending workers to South Korea.

Anisur Rahman of Munshiganj told The Daily Star that he and his cousin paid over Tk 1,000 each,

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BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi on Lohakuchi border under Aditmari upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Minhaz, 32, son of Abdul Majid of Baroghatiya village under the upazila.

BDR sources said the Indian border guards opened fire on Minhaz while he was walking along

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