

Aminul Haque,
3 other graft
suspects submit
wealth report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four more high-profile graft suspects including former telecommunications minister Aminul Haque and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's nephew Shahriar Islam Tuhin submitted wealth statements to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) through representatives yesterday.

The other two are ex-communications secretary Ismail Zabiullah and former Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Jessoror Ali Reza Raju.

Barrister Aminul Haque, who stands accused of aiding and abetting the Islamic militants, turned

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Banks asked
not to harass
importers of
essential items

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bank yesterday instructed the commercial banks not to harass importers of essential items by way of asking the source of money the clients pay to open letters of credit (L/Cs).

"Bangladesh Bank has given no instructions to the commercial banks to collect information on source of money," said a central bank statement.

The statement said it has come to the notice of Bangladesh Bank that the commercial banks were asking their clients (importers) about the source of money when they approach banks to open L/Cs

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Japan likes
to see early
election

UNB, Dhaka

Japanese Ambassador Massayuki Inoue yesterday said an early election and a new elected government in Bangladesh are an imperative to attract foreign investment, alongside keeping the ongoing reforms and anti-graft drive on steam.

"The world is very small...Every citizen in Japan knows what is happening in Bangladesh," he said, adding, "I am glad the present government is committed to reforms and anti-corruption activities. This is very good sign."

Ambassador Inoue, who was delivering a keynote speech at a discussion on 'Trade and Investment with Japan' at a city hotel, made the remark responding

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Prayer Timing

July 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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PHOTO: STAR

PRIMARY TEXTBOOK PAPERS

Govt to lose Tk 4.5cr as
lowest bidder ignored

SURAJNITH DEABNATH

Ignoring the recommendation of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) has initiated steps to award the second lowest bidder the contract of purchasing paper for primary textbooks, which is to cost Tk 4.5 crore public money in addition.

NCTB sent several recommendation letters to DPE to award the lowest bidder 'Krishna Traders' as paper price at their rate is around Tk

4.5 crore less than the second lowest bidder 'Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd' and Krishna Traders had provided papers to NCTB for the last three years, NCTB sources said.

Top office bearers of DPE are trying to award the tender to the second lowest bidder to get personal benefits, sources in NCTB and DPE said.

DPE Director General Khondaker M Asaduzzaman, for his part, said they recommended the second lowest bidder 'Hindustan

PC Ltd' because the organisation has five years' experience that the lowest bidder 'Krishna' does not have.

Krishna Traders will not be awarded the tender due to their not having five years' experience that is one of the main conditions of the World Bank, he added.

The DPE DG, who is also programme director of the Second Education Development Programme, said Tender Evaluation Committee (TEC) will

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27TH BCS EXAM
HC rule on PSC
why viva voce
was cancelled
UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the Public Service Commission to explain why its decision canceling the viva voce results of the 27th Bangladesh Civil Service examination should not be declared "illegal".

It also asked the PSC to show cause why its decision on holding a fresh viva exam should not be declared "without lawful authority".

After hearing three similar writ petitions, filed by a group of aggrieved selected candidates, an HC division bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Monir Rahman and Justice

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Graft charges pressed
against 3 BNP leaders

Charge framing against
Babar Wednesday

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against detained former deputy minister for land Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, ex-BNP lawmaker Salauddin Ahmed and former political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Harris Chowdhury, in graft cases.

A Dhaka court fixed Wednesday for order on charge framing against Babar in connection with a case filed for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition at his residence.

Another court fixed July 30 for order on

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Ex-state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar being taken to a Dhaka court yesterday.

Retrenched jute
mill workers to
get their dues
by August

UNB, Dhaka

Industries Adviser Geetara Safiya Choudhury yesterday said the government will pay off the retrenched workers of the closed jute mills by this or next month.

"We will bid farewell to them only after paying their just dues within July-August. Those who will lose job will be paid their dues, including all the benefits. But, it

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BB official shot
dead in Dhamrai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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RMG MINIMUM WAGE
Deadline for
implementation
now Aug 31

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday extended the deadline for implementation of minimum wages for the workers of readymade garment industry till August 31 this year.

"We've decided to extend the deadline due to progress in implementation," Labour and Employment Adviser Mohammad Anwarul Iqbal told reporters, after a meeting on the progress of

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Hannan Shah,
son freed
on bail

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah and his son were freed from Kashimpur jail yesterday as the High Court granted them ad interim bail for two months in two cases.

Hannan Shah and his son Shah Rezaul Hannan walked to freedom at around 4:00pm, two months and eight days after they were arrested

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window grills of the kitchen.

As the robbers entered the room, Hedayetullah's daughter and son-in-law, who were sleeping, started shouting.

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Hedayetullah's left eye from point-blank range as he rushed to the room hearing the shouting, Iqbal Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of

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amra Police Station, told The Daily Star.

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Dropouts remain high
at SSC, HSC levels

Finds Banbeis survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dropout rates at secondary and higher secondary levels of education remain alarmingly high despite government efforts to reduce the rates, a survey report of the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis) revealed yesterday.

Over 80 percent high school students quit schools without

having their secondary school certificates (SSC) while 36.52 percent intermediate college level students dropped out without having their higher secondary certificates (HSC) in 2005, the survey said.

"Post Primary Education Institution Survey 2005", which was disclosed yesterday, shows that a

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Indian Border Security Force (BSF) gunned down a Bangladeshi citizen on Lohakuchi border of Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat yesterday, BDR and police sources said.

The victim was identified as Minhaz Uddin, 30, son of Abdul Mazid of the upazila.

The sources said a group of patrolling BSF troops of Koirami camp under 46 BSF battalion suddenly opened several rounds of fire on Minhaz while he was walking in the border area at about 4:45am.

Minhaz was killed on the spot

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Indian minister pushes
for transit facilities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka needs to grant New Delhi transit facilities and agree with the large scale investment proposals by the Indian companies to reduce massive trade gap and up bilateral trade between the two countries to \$20 billion in five years, said the visiting Indian State Minister for Commerce Joyram Ramesh yesterday.

Ramesh also asked Bangladesh to allow India's access to the New Mooring Terminal, open up the Demagiri-Thegamukh land route and hold equity share in a 1,110 MW power station, which is being set up in Agartala.

The Indian state minister said transit is a political 'hot potato' in Bangladesh. "But I want to make a point that transit is not only a concern for India but also for Bangladesh," Ramesh felt. "Because Bangladesh could be a major supplier to the north and eastern parts of India using the transit facility," he explained.

Ramesh said there is no conspiracy in India to keep Bangladesh an underdeveloped country forever. "And therefore, we want to help Bangladesh to grow its trade volume."

The visiting state minister made the comments to the reporters

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