

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 Shahrin 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 Jessore Ali Reza Raju.

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

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		

PRIMARY TEXTBOOK PAPERS

Govt to lose Tk 4.5cr as lowest bidder ignored

SURANJITH 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 Masaduzzaman, 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.

Krishan 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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

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 Mominur Rahman and Justice

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

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 bails 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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

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 the 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.

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 Salahuddin 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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

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

BB official shot dead in Dhamrai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers gunned down a Bangladesh Bank official during a robbery inside his residence in Dhamrai municipal area of Dhaka early yesterday.

The victim, Hedayetullah, 52, was a deputy general manager of the central bank.

Quoting family members, police said a gang of five to six entered a room on the 1st floor of a two-storey building at around 2:30am cutting

window grills of the kitchen.

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

The robbers shot into Hedayetullah's left eye from point-blank range as he rushed to the room hearing the shouting. Iqbal Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Dhamrai Police Station, told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Retrenched jute mill workers to get their dues by August

UNB, Dhaka

Industries Adviser Geeteara 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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

BSF kills 1

BSS, Rangpur

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 Koimari 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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Motorists prefer to stay on the fast lanes of a waterlogged street in Naya Paltan in the capital as the water is less deep there. The photo was taken during the downpour yesterday.

Bangladesh's school of peace in Ivory Coast

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK, back from Ivory Coast

If you walk pass a remote village of Ivory Coast cut off from the rest of the world, rings of a bell and a clamour of schoolchildren will suddenly wake you up. You may not believe your eyes, but it's really a school in the deep forest. Locals love to call the only educational institution in miles "Bangladesh School" as it is solely run by Bangladeshi peacekeepers deployed in the ethnic war torn African country.

Konssaddougou village is situated nearly 400 kilometres off Abidjan, the economic capital of Ivory Coast which is also called the Paris of Africa.

The signboard of the school says in French "School of Peace" and "Established by Bangladesh Battalion-4".

The Bangladeshi troops under the UN Peace Keeping Mission have set up the school and therefore the villagers call it Bangladesh School.

A camp of Bangladesh battalion 4 (Banbat-4) is situated near the school. Though this village is located 400km off "Africa's Paris", conditions prevailing here are completely opposite.

The poverty-stricken village has no electricity and water supplies, and one has to drive through remote jungles to arrive at it.

Ivory Coast has malarial mosquito infestation and chances of getting malaria in this village stand very high. Besides, there is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

In the remote Konssaddougou village of Ivory Coast, children of "School of Peace", popularly known as Bangladesh School as it is run by Bangladeshi peacekeepers, receive a visiting media and Bangladesh Army delegation by singing the Bangladesh national anthem.

Charge framing in extortion case against Naser deferred again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet yesterday again deferred the charge framing in the Tk 2 crore extortion case against former BNP lawmaker Naser Rahman, Sylhet city BNP chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury and five others.

Now the charge framing will be held on August 5, court sources said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3