

Sedition charges pressed against Bahauddin Nasim

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday pressed charges against Awami Swetchasebok League President AFM Bahauddin Nasim in connection with a sedition case.

Assistant Superintendent of CID Munshi Atiqur Rahman, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, showing 17 people as prosecution witnesses.

In the charge sheet, the IO said the charges brought against him were primarily proved and he should be brought under trial.

On March 11, 2002, Police filed the sedition case with a Dhaka court, accusing Nasim of acting against the country's sovereignty and tarnishing its image abroad.

Mohammad Dulal Uddin

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Govt accounts pile up as parliament missing

CAG asks govt to form ad hoc PAC to restart auditing

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has asked the caretaker government to immediately constitute a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on ad hoc basis to scrutinise the accounts of the government and reports of the CAG in absence of parliament.

In a proposal submitted to the finance adviser on Tuesday, the CAG said the ad hoc committee would continue its functions until formation of the next parliament paving the way for formation of the PAC, which also investigates cases of wastage, corruption and inefficiency in the conduct of financial matters.

"We will examine the proposal to

see whether an ad hoc committee can be formed," Finance Adviser Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam told The Daily Star last night.

The World Bank in a letter to the government last month also suggested it to form an ad hoc PAC for emanating recommendations to recover public money that may have been improperly withheld by persons outside the consolidated fund and further strengthen the arrangements for good governance.

In defence of constituting an ad hoc PAC, the CAG has drawn the government's attention to specific problems like increase in the number of unresolved audit reports involving hundreds of crore taka and the cases of retired govern-

ment officials who are not getting their pension due to unsettled objections, officials at the office of the CAG said.

With the dissolution of the eighth parliament on October 27 last year, the PAC was dissolved, putting all of its activities suspended. The new parliament was supposed to be formed following the January 22 general elections, which was stalled over political crisis.

Now a new parliament is expected to be formed in early 2009, as the next election is scheduled to be held at the end of 2008. So, resumption of functions of the PAC is unlikely before next one and a half years.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Another car from Sudha Sadan seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The anti-corruption taskforce yesterday seized another bullet-proof Mercedes Benz car from the residence of detained Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

The taskforce members along with Officer-in-Charge of Dhanmondi Police Station Manwar Hossain came to Sudha Sadan at about 12:10pm and took the car to the Dhanmondi Police Station, a Sudha Sadan staff told The Daily Star.

Talking to The Daily Star, Manwar said that the car has been seized as an investigation has been going on about the purchase and ownership of the vehicle.

On July 16, police seized another Mercedes Benz car from Sudha Sadan immediately after the arrest of Sheikh Hasina.

AL chief's special aide Dr Hasan

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

The bullet-proof Mercedes Benz car seized from detained Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's Sudha Sadan residence in the capital yesterday.

BNP reformists to form bodies

Plan 'respectable' position for Khaleda in party after reforms

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Pro-reform BNP leaders led by party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan have decided to form a few sub-committees for holding the party council as soon as possible to bring changes in the party constitution, sources said.

They are also planning to keep Khaleda Zia in a respected position in the party after implementation of the reform proposals since she would then cease to remain party chairperson.

Council preparatory committee, councillors selection committee,

finance committee and an organisational committee would be formed soon to make the council well represented and successful.

According to the sources, the preparatory committee will play the key role in holding the council and the selection committee will finalise the list of councillors in line with the party constitution.

"Preparatory committee will also decide who will preside over the council if party Chairperson Khaleda Zia does consent to holding it," a pro-reform leader told The Daily Star yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Prayer for quashing graft case against Hasina stayed

Hearing of extortion case now Aug 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday re-fixed the hearing of a petition for quashing the Meghnaghat power plant graft case against detained former prime minister Sheikh Hasina on August 2 following a time petition submitted by her counsel.

Hasina's counsel Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud submitted the petition seeking two weeks' time, as he needs to consult with his detained client before start of the hearing.

The court granted one week to Hasina's counsel.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Babar faces trial in arms case

Verdict in Mohiuddin's graft case today; arrest warrant against Bashundhara chief

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A special tribunal in Dhaka yesterday framed charges against Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir will be delivered at a special court today.

BABAR ARMS CASE

Judge Sayed Jahed Mansur of the Special Tribunal-7 framed charges against Babar in connection with the arms case rejecting the petition submitted by the defence lawyers.

Babar pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the judge read out the charges to him.

The court fixed July 31 for trial of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Matin plays down graft by Jamaat leaders

STAR REPORT

Communications Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin yesterday said only three Jamaat-e-Islami leaders were arrested so far, because most of the other party members might not have any link with corruption as partners in the last BNP-led four-party alliance government.

But a litany of reported accusations surrounds at least 13 of the top Jamaat leaders. The crimes, which were allegedly committed by those Jamaat leaders while they were part of the immediate past government, include murder, looting, encroachment, and embezzling of relief materials, among others.

"Well, questions were raised

regarding this issue [lack of Jamaat arrests]. But it might well be that they were never involved in any corruption," Matin told reporters in



Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin

his office yesterday.

He said, "Jamaat is not being spared. If we receive any specific allegation, orders will be issued for an investigation."

However, three of the seventeen Jamaat lawmakers in the last parliament -- Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher, Gazi Nazrul Islam, and Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury -- are already under arrest on numerous charges.

Police sources said primary investigations into the allegations revealed numerous misdeeds of Jamaat leaders.

Jamaat ameer and former industries minister Matiur Rahman Nizami is accused in the August 21, 2004 grenade attack

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Hasina's detention could prolong without a trial

Fears US congresswoman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Congresswoman Yvette D Clarke expressed fears that the detention of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina could be extended indefinitely without a trial, as she said the former prime minister has 'no right' to contest the charges, hire an attorney, or receive bail.

Clarke in a letter urged the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to implement all diplomatic resources to encourage the "military government" to adhere to international human rights laws and to advocate for fair and open legal proceedings for everyone who has been arrested, including Sheikh Hasina.

"If the Bangladeshi government will not grant basic human rights and fair trials to those imprisoned, then they should be released

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

200 RU teachers seek a day's leave, Hasina's release

RU CORRESPONDENT

Some 200 teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) decided to go on leave en masse today in an extraordinary move to demand the release of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

Their other demands include lifting the ban on politics, holding general elections at the earliest possible time -- before the timeline declared by the Election Commission and freeing educational institutes including RU from corruption.

The teachers in a joint press handout yesterday afternoon announced the decision. At least 181 teachers belonging to Progressive Teachers' Association (PTA) yesterday submitted their leave petitions and the others are to follow today.

In the handout, the teachers expressed their concern about the way the present government is conducting its affairs as it is veering off from its primary responsibility of holding a free and fair election.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

A man on a boat collects drinking water from a roadside Wasa pipe near Trimohony Bazar in Khilgaon in the capital as drinking water crisis has gripped the flooded low-lying eastern part of the city.

More areas inundated as flood spreads further

2 lakh people marooned in north, northeastern regions

STAR REPORT

Around 2 lakh people have been marooned in the northern and north eastern districts of the country as monsoon rains and onrush of water from hills across the border worsened the flood situation yesterday.

Rising waters in the two major rivers -- Jamuna and Padma -- might worsen the situation even further in the next 24 hours as these two rivers have crossed danger level at several points already, said

officials at Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).

The Surma in Sylhet is expected to rise further and cross the danger level at Sunamganj in the next 48 hours, the FFWC officials added.

Low-lying areas in Sirajganj, Pabna, Tangail, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Dohar and Nawabganj are likely to be flooded soon, reports BSS.

Vegetables and crops, especially Aman seedlings and recently

planted Aman plants, have been damaged by floodwaters and waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and skin diseases are on the rise.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj reports, the Jamuna crossed the danger mark there yesterday evening, inundating 46 unions of five upazilas and marooning thousands of villagers. Many of the affected people took

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Four more graft suspects submit wealth report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four more high-profile corruption suspects including BNP vice-chairman and former home and commerce minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury submitted their wealth statements to the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday.

The three others are former state minister Rafiqul Islam, Awami League leader Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and former CBA leader Molla Abul Kalam Azad.

In his statement, Altaf showed his income and expenditure over Tk 5 crore and 67 lakh without any surplus.

Altaf earned around Tk 1.20 crore as salary and other allowances during his 35 years in service at home and abroad, the statement said.

He also received Tk 1.68 crore as house rents, Tk 33 lakh allowance as a minister and MP, Tk 70 lakh conveyance allowance from the ministry and Tk 2 lakh as gift from parents and in-laws house. He also earned Tk 26 lakh as retirement benefit.

Altaf in his statement mentioned that he spent about Tk 1.67 crore to buy the properties now he is possessing. He also expended Tk 3.40 crore as payment of bank loans, travelling, donation and other purposes.

He spent Tk 25 lakh as family expenses, Tk 25 lakh as special

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

