



## CORRUPTION CONVICTION

## Once bigwigs now face poll exclusion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A good number of former ministers and lawmakers including some bigwigs who have been detained on corruption charges will not be able to contest the next parliamentary election if they fail to free themselves from conviction before the polls.

Detained Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will be disqualified from contesting the polls, if she is punished on charge of corruption under the Emergency Power Ordinance rules.

The authorities are also preparing to file corruption cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

One will be disqualified from contesting any polls including the parliamentary election if he or she is convicted by the trial court.

Filing appeal against the trial court's verdict will not remove the bar until and unless one is acquitted of the conviction through

Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

To realise its plan, the government has already formulated stringent rules blocking the ways for the graft suspects to contest the polls and it is determined to complete the trial before the polls, scheduled for December 2008 according to the Election Commission's roadmap.

To deal with the corruption suspects, there are tougher rules under the Emergency Power Ordinance.

The constitution says a person shall not be eligible to stand in any election if he or she is convicted for a criminal offence involving moral turpitude and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release.

But according to the Emergency Power Ordinance rules, any person convicted for corruption by a trial court will be disqualified from

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

CA for more interactions among advisers, secretaries

## Essentials prices up amid downpour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of essentials rose further in the capital over the last two weeks, and retailers and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) blamed the hike on low supply due to the recent downpour.

Edible oil, rice, flour, onion, aubergine, green papaya, cucumber, green banana, green and dried chilli, different types of leafy vegetables and spices... all saw a rise in their prices at the kitchen markets as well as the BDR-run shops and markets.

Col Abdul Halim, chief of the BDR Trade and Commerce Monitoring Cell, told The Daily Star, "The vegetable fields in different places across the country have

gone under water due to heavy rain and the supply became limited. So, the prices have gone up for the time being."

The price of soyabean oil has risen to Tk 80 per litre from Tk 76 last week. Retailers at the Karwan Bazar kitchen market said the price may rise further this week.

The BDR-run shops were selling soyabean oil at Tk 78 per litre; two weeks back they sold it at Tk 72.

Raihan, a retailer at Hatirjheel kitchen market, said oil companies took demand notes from the retailers several times last week but the supplies have yet to arrive. "Meanwhile, our stock is running low," he said.

A dealer of Teer soyabean oil said, "I placed order to the com-

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

3 schoolchildren killed in Ctg road crash

UNB, Ctg

Three students of a primary school were crushed under the wheels of a truck on the Chittagong-Najirhat highway at Charia under Hathazari upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Mahmud, 9, of class four, Aleya, 7, and Saleha, 6, of class two of Charia Government Primary School.

Witnesses said the Najirhat-bound truck from the port city ran

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Fire damages 8th floor office at CA Bhaban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted some furniture, documents and office equipment at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) in CA Bhaban at Karwan Bazar in the capital last night.

Monirul Islam Monir, a security guard of the building, said, "When I reached the building around 9:15pm as I had night duty there, I saw pedestrians looking upwards at the building and screaming 'fire'.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

CU asstt professor made lecturer for writing student's answer script

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) syndicate yesterday downgraded a teacher from assistant professor to lecturer on charge of writing on a female student's answer script.

This is the first instance of its kind since the university's launching in 1966.

The syndicate also terminated Mohammad Nazim Uddin, general secretary of CU Employees' Union, on different charges including bribery, fraudulence and making indecent proposal to a driver's wife.

The syndicate took the decisions in its 442nd meeting held with Vice-chancellor M. Badiul Alam in the chair.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Vegetable prices mark further rise at kitchen markets of the capital following the downpour across the country during the last few days. The photo was taken from Hatirjheel kitchen market yesterday.

## Credit growth dips in banks

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Growth of credit flow in the banking sector has decreased significantly in the first five months of this year despite no contraction measures taken by the central bank.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) data shows credit flow increased by only one percent during January to May, while the increase was 9 percent in January-June last year.

"We're witnessing a declining growth of credit flow from the banking sector that means we may not have to impose any specific measures to check the flow," said a central bank official.

"We're witnessing a declining growth of credit flow from the banking sector that means we may not have to impose any specific measures to check the flow," said a central bank official.

Explaining the unusual decline, officials of different commercial banks said entrepreneurs are in apprehension about investment as the country is going through a state of emergency.

"People did not take loans from banks during the first few months after the present government came to office. They were in fear. The situation has improved slightly only in recent days," said an official of a nationalised commercial bank (NCB).

He said the NCBs have been witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

The BB released six-month monetary policy early this month that had hinted to increase the rate of SLR (statutory liquidity requirement) and CRR (cash reserve ratio) in an apparent bid to reduce private sector credit flow.

He said the NCBs have been witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The branch manager of a pri-

vate commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

The BB released six-month monetary policy early this month that had hinted to increase the rate of SLR (statutory liquidity requirement) and CRR (cash reserve ratio) in an apparent bid to reduce private sector credit flow.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The branch manager of a pri-

vate commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January.

The BB has set a target to keep

growth rate of domestic credit

private commercial bank cited an example of three aspiring clients and said, "They had applied for loans, but are now taking time and may be observing the overall political situation." He said the investors do not want to take any risk.

He said the NCBs have been

witnessing negative growth of credit flows since January