

Charges framed against Naser in extortion case

UNB, Sylhet

Charges have been framed against former BNP lawmaker Naser Rahman and five others in a Tk 2-crore extortion case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (No.3) Binoy Kumer indicted the six on the extortion charges.

The other accused are Moulvibazar Municipal Chairman Faizul Karim Moyun, Moulvibazar BNP Joint Secretary Wali Siddique, former R&H executive engineer of Moulvibazar Abdul Khaleque, superintending engineer Monwar Sadik and executive engineer of Sylhet Shariful Islam.

Another accused, Sylhet City BNP President Ariful Haque Chowdhury, was not indicted on the extortion charge, as there is a stay order of the High Court.

After framing the charges, SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

LAST FISCAL YEAR

ADP implementation lowest in 13 years

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Only 83 percent of last fiscal year's revised Annual Development Plan (ADP) was implemented, which is the lowest rate in the last 13 years, according to planning ministry figures.

Expressing his displeasure at the low implementation rate, Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday told his cabinet that the current fiscal year's Tk 26,500 crore ADP will not be revised and asked all ministries and divisions to gear up for its full implementation.

Planning ministry sources told The Daily Star that last year's politi-

cal turmoil largely contributed to the low implementation rate.

The planning ministry presented a report on last year's ADP at a meeting presided over by the chief adviser yesterday, which showed only Tk 17,851 crore of the revised Tk 21,600 crore ADP was spent.

Of the local resource components, only Tk 11,629 crore out of total Tk 13,650 crore was used while Tk 6,222 crore of the total Tk 7,950 crore foreign-funded projects utilised.

The worst performing government organization was the Election Commission, which failed to spend even a single taka from the alloca-

tion. The planning ministry used only 15 percent of its budget.

The civil aviation and tourism ministry managed to spend 23 percent while the health ministry used 74 percent of their funds.

Labour and employment ministry implemented 60 percent of its ADP outlay, just below the law ministry's 65 percent.

The local government and rural development and cooperatives ministry was the best performer with 96 percent of its ADP funds utilised while the power and energy ministry used 89 percent and the forest and environment ministry 94 percent of their outlays.



PHOTO: STAR

Monera Khatun, 26, with her 9-month-old child Remon waiting for relief at the western embankment of Jamuna at flood-hit Khokshabari in Sirajganj yesterday.

In search of milk

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, Sirajganj

It was drizzling. The day darkening with heavy overhanging clouds. Thousands of hungry faces at the western embankment of the Jamuna at Khokshabari in Sirajganj were staring into the horizon hoping for a boat to arrive with relief goods.

The flood-devastated people who had taken shelter at the embankment were disappointed yesterday as an engine-boat with only a few journalists and no "relief" turned up.

As The Daily Star correspondent was taking photos, he was startled by a grumbling yet desperate voice. "What will photos do? Don't take photos... it won't solve our problems... it won't feed my child," a woman with a nine-month-old child wrapped in a black polyethylene said.

"Stop taking photos and give me some milk for my child if you can," SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

GRAFT CASE

BTTB CBA don Firoz Mia jailed for 13yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Special Court yesterday sentenced Firoz Mia, a CBA (collective bargaining agent) leader of BTTB, to 13 years imprisonment in a corruption case.

Firoz was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for amassing wealth illegally and to three years simple imprisonment for concealing information in his wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

"Both the sentences will run

consecutively," says the court.

The court also fined Firoz Tk 10 lakh, in default he is to suffer another year in jail.

However, the CBA leader's wife Rawshan Ara was acquitted of the charge, as she was not found guilty of abetting her husband in acquiring wealth through dishonest means.

The court also directed the government to confiscate Firoz's illegal wealth worth over Tk 1.35

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Money laundering charges framed against Harris Chowdhury

Trial to begin Aug 9

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Harris Chowdhury, detained political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, in connection with a case filed for possessing huge local and foreign currencies at his residence.

Proceedings of the arms case against detained former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman

Babar was adjourned while the hearing on charge framing against detained ntv managing director (MD) Enayetur Rahman Bappi and two others will be held on August 9.

Judge Sayed Jahed Mansur of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-9 framed charges against Harris and fixed August 9 for beginning trial of the case.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Babul SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Khaleda comes out of home after a month

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday came out of her cantonment residence after a month to attend a milad on the 23rd death anniversary of former navy chief Rear Admiral Mahbub Ali Khan at Dhanmondi in the capital.

Khaleda reached the residence of Mahbub Ali Khan, father-in-law of her detained son Tarique Rahman, at Road no 5 at about 7:10pm amidst tight security.

Hundreds of people thronged the residence to have a glimpse of the BNP chairperson but riot police

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62 Iraqis killed in blasts, US raids

AFP, Baghdad

Bombs, US raids and mortar attacks killed 62 people in Iraq yesterday, including 30 civilians who were wiped out when a suicide bomber blew up a truck packed with explosives in a northern Shia village.

The bomber detonated his deadly charge in Al-Quba, killing at least 30 people and wounding another 50, eight of them seriously, said provincial police spokesman Brigadier General Abdulkarim Khalafal-Juburi.

The reported death toll climbed rapidly through the morning with the

farming village 20km north of the much larger town of Tal Afar and the nearest emergency services.

Such attacks are increasingly common in villages, as militants flee to rural backwaters away from thousands of US and Iraqi security forces cracking down on Baghdad and other flashpoint cities under a five-month-old security plan.

Attacks elsewhere killed another 15 people in Iraq, including nine wiped out when a roadside bomb ripped through an unofficial

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HC asks govt to explain order cancelling nat'l mourning day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule on the government to explain within a week why the Cabinet Division's order issued in August 2002, cancelling the national mourning day and a public holiday on August 15, should not be declared illegal.

Following a writ petition filed by a Supreme Court lawyer and two others, a High Court bench in its rule also asked the government to show cause why August 15 should not be observed as the national

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Hospitals crammed with diarrhoea patients

More than 11,000 attacked

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and WASIM BIN HABIB

Public and private hospitals in the capital are struggling to cope with the steep rise in number of patients suffering from diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases in last few days.

City's hospitals witnessed a sharp increase in number of diarrhoea patients yesterday. The doctors feared that the situation might worsen in coming days.

The Health Directorate said that about 11,331 people fell victim to diarrhoea across the country since

July 30 while the number of diarrhoea patients admitted to hospitals stood at 2,524 in 24 hours till Monday morning.

Meanwhile, the number of diarrhoea patients admitted to International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) was 615 in the last 24 hours till Sunday midnight while it was 315 till yesterday noon.

But ICDDR,B and Health Directorate could not give any account of death caused by diarrhoea.

Scores of diarrhoea patients SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



A nurse sets a saline bag for a diarrhoea patient at ICDDR,B in Dhaka where hundreds of such patients have been admitted. According to health directorate, about 11,331 people across the country fell victim to the water-borne disease since July 30.

Benazir open to power sharing after polls

AFP, Washington

Former two-time Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto said Sunday she was open to a power-sharing arrangement with embattled President Pervez Musharraf, but only if Musharraf gives up his concurrent role as head of the military.

Benazir told CNN that her long-time rival would have to ensure a balance of power between the parliament and the presidency if she were to resume the premiership after elections expected early next year with Musharraf still president.

"There would need to be a bal-

ance between the powers of the presidency and the powers of the parliament," Benazir told the US network.

But she said that Musharraf would have to give up his military role.

"When the president of a country also wears the uniform it blurs the distinction between democracy and military rules. So I think it's very important for general Musharraf to take off the uniform."

"There are many issues to be discussed: whether the elections are going to be fair; whether the

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One killed as BDR, BSF exchange fire

AGENCIES, Joypurhat, Rangpur

A Bangladeshi youth was killed as BDR and BSF exchanged fire on Hathkola border under Panchbibi upazila of the district early yesterday.

BDR sources said the Indian border guards of Sidai camp fired three rounds of bullet towards

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Prayer Timing		
August 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		