

## FLOOD RELIEF Govt sanctions Tk 11cr from CA's fund

UNB, Dhaka

The government on emergency basis yesterday allocated Tk 11 crore from the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund for the people of 15 flood-hit districts.

Food and Disaster Management Adviser Tapan Chowdhury disclosed it at a regular press briefing on the latest flood situation in the country in the conference room of the Chief Adviser's Office.

The districts receiving special allocation are Sirajganj Tk 1.5 crore, Kurigram Tk 1.5 crore, Bogra 50 lakh, Gaibandha Tk 1 crore, Pabna Tk 50 lakh, Tangail Tk 50 lakh, Manikganj Tk 1 crore, Jamalpur Tk 1 crore, Faridpur Tk 50 lakh, Rajbari Tk 50 lakh, Shariatpur Tk 50 lakh, Netrokona Tk 50 lakh, Sunamganj

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## BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE RESUMES SC rejects plea for time from convicts

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

On the first day of resumption of hearing of the Bangabandhu murder case after six years at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday, counsels for the convicts pleaded for adjournment of the hearing for one month but the court overruled it.

The counsels repeatedly tried to persuade the court to adjourn the hearing but the three-member SC bench took a firm position that the case had waited long enough, and now there is no justification for not hearing the petitions by four condemned prisoners seeking leave to

appeal against the High Court (HC) verdict.

The HC had awarded death penalty to 12 former army personnel including the four on April 30, 2001.

"We have sat not to deliver adjournment," said Justice Joydul Abedin, who is on the SC bench headed by Justice Tafazzul Islam with Justice Hassan Ameen as the other member.

The court sat to hear the leave to appeal petitions filed by four convicts -- Lt Col (ret'd) Bazlul Huda, Lt Col (ret'd) Syed Faruk Rahman, Maj (ret'd) Sultan Shariar Rashid Khan and Lt Col (ret'd) Mohiuddin Ahmed. Another condemned prisoner, Maj

(ret'd) AKM Mohiuddin, also filed an appeal through the jail authorities in June following his extradition from the US.

Lack preparation and sketchy statements of the defence counsels apparently irritated the judges.

As hearing of the case started at 9:15 am, counsel for Bazlul Huda Advocate Nurul Islam Bhuiyan was the first to pray for its adjournment for a month. He said the counsel who originally stood for Huda had expired and his next counsel former BNP parliamentarian

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## UN warns of looming health crisis in S Asian flood zones

AFP, Geneva

Millions of people marooned by severe floods in South Asia face a looming health crisis unless they receive clean water supplies within days, United Nations agencies said yesterday.

The UN children's fund (Unicef) and the World Health Organisation said that stagnant floodwaters were breeding grounds for diarrhoeal and waterborne diseases, including cholera as well as insect-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

The plight of more than 28 million flood victims in India, Bangladesh

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## Millions grapple with diseases, food dearth

### Rivers continue to swell; crops on 15 lakh acres damaged

STAR REPORT

Floodwater started receding significantly in the north and north-eastern parts of the country, but sufferings of people are compounded with thousands getting infected with waterborne diseases and farmers facing challenges in future production.

The rivers in the central parts of the country including those around the capital continued to swell, forcing the affected to pass days with shortages of drinking water and food.

As of yesterday, crops on nearly 15 lakh acres of land were completely or partially damaged by floods, according to the flood control room of the information ministry.

Flooding of low-lying areas of the eastern part of Dhaka could continue at a lower rate, the situation could even remain unchanged. There could be a slight delay in flood-situation improvement in the central part of the country, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday reported.

Small rivers surrounding Dhaka

and Narayanganj continued to swell but at a lower rate. The Balu at Demra, the Lakhya at Narayanganj, the Turag at Mirpur and the Tongi canal at Tongi were flowing 50cm, 55cm, 60cm and 74cm above danger levels. The Buriganga at Dhaka was flowing 2cm above danger level yesterday.

The flood situations in Manikganj, Munshiganj, Faridpur,

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## PEOPLES JUTE MILLS Payment to retrenched workers starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The retrenched workers of closed Peoples Jute Mills in Khulna started getting paid their dues from yesterday.

Out of 3,100 retrenched workers, 650 will be paid off in the first phase.

BJMC Chairman Ataharul Islam said that the dues of the remaining workers would be paid in phases.

Two BJMC high-ups - General Manager (Quality Control) Abu Taher and General Manager (Finance) Mosharef Hossain - reached Khulna from Dhaka on Monday night to monitor the payment process. Besides, two finance ministry officials were staying in

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Sacks of fertiliser piled up in the open at a terminal of Narayanganj river port inundated with floodwater. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Dulu sued again for patronising JMB militants

UNB, Natore

Another case was yesterday filed against former deputy minister for land Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu and 27 others on charges of patronising Islamist militants, extortion and looting.

Munser Ali of Mominpur village under Naldanga Police Station filed the case with the cognizance court.

According to the allegations made in the case, Dulu demanded Tk 50,000 from Munser in May 2004 as he refused to join Bangla Bhai's militant group.

Later, Dulu and his associates tortured Munser and realised Tk 12,000 from him in three phases. They also looted valuables worth about Tk 50,000 from his house.

Dulu was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment in arson and looting case on July 26.

## Hasina gets bail in another case

### HC orders not to try her under emergency power rules; AL hires foreign lawyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted Sheikh Hasina bail in another extortion case and ordered the government not to bring her to trial on the charge under the emergency power rules.

A bench comprising Justices Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury also asked the military-backed interim administration to reply within four weeks why its

approving the case filed by businessman Noor Ali to be under the emergency rules should not be declared illegal.

The same day the bench stayed operation of the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) instructions for Awami League (AL) President Hasina to submit a wealth statement. It ordered the anti-graft body to explain in four weeks why its order shall not be declared illegal.

Yesterday's ruling in Noor Ali's

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## Hasina's wealth report to be submitted today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina will submit her wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) today willingly, not under any pressure following the ACC notice which was stayed by the High Court yesterday, said Hasina's tax lawyer Khandakar Maniruzzaman yesterday.

"She [Hasina] told me that she would submit her wealth statement," AL president's counsel Maniruzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday after holding a three-hour-long meeting with the AL chief at the special jail on the Jatiya Sangsad premises.

He said Hasina, who was detained on July 16 in connection

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## News analysis

### Oops! I forgot the tax

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Surprise, surprise! He is the man who would decry the culture of not paying tax. And she is the woman who would sit at the helm of the government and run the country with taxpayers' money. And yet both of them dodged taxes. Or, as they claim, "forgot" to show their incomes.

M Saifur Rahman, who served as finance minister for 12 years in various terms until October 28, 2006, has legalised more than one crore taka by paying Tk 31 lakh in tax and penalty after the NBR allowed legalising undisclosed money. Former prime minister

Khaleda Zia also grabbed the chance and legalised Tk 1.33 crore by paying Tk 33.87 lakh.

Saifur is a chartered accountant and is supposed to catch other people evading tax. He went around the tax departments scowling at the taxmen for their errant behaviour and waged a trade against tax dodgers. "If the people paid their taxes, the country would not require to depend on foreign aid," he had once said in his budget speech. Yet he conveniently forgot to be diligent.

Khaleda was always the leader

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## BB bars trading of AB Bank shares in IFIC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday put a bar on trading AB bank's and AB Bank Foundation's 18.31 percent shares in IFIC bank.

The central bank ban on the share trade followed an earlier investigation by it which had found AB bank and AB Bank Foundation in violation of the Bank Company Act in purchasing the IFIC shares.

The central bank is also seeking legal advice from its lawyers to find out a lawful way to confiscate the IFIC shares owned by AB bank and AB Bank Foundation.

The central bank sent the order to IFIC bank yesterday.

The anti-money laundering and foreign exchange department of BB is also currently scrutinising the

irregularities found by the investigation in purchasing IFIC shares by former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu, and Beximco Group.

AB Bank, and AB Bank Foundation together hold a total of 7,44,237 shares or 18.31 percent shares of IFIC bank, with AB bank owning 4,03,461 shares while its subsidiary AB Bank Foundation holds 3,40,776 shares.

Besides, AB bank also owns 99.60 percent shares of AB Bank Foundation. On top of that, eight directors of the foundation were also appointed by AB bank, making the bank and the foundation a single entity which holds over 10 percent shares in IFIC bank flouting the Bank Company Act.

Sources said after examining

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## 8 firearms, 6 bombs seized in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered eight firearms, six bombs and ammunition from a mango orchard at Goashpur-Dhopaghata village in Pabna.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab members led by Rab-12 Company Commander Maj Mohammed Amjad Hossain, Capt Md Taifur Mahabub and ASP Tanvir Arafat, cordoned off the mango orchard of Md Sohrab Mollah at about 10:30 am yesterday.

They recovered three rifles,

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## FAIZEE CASE CU to appeal against HC verdict

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong University (CU) Syndicate in an emergency meeting yesterday decided to appeal to the Supreme Court (SC) Appellate Division against the High Court (HC) verdict that declared the cancellation of the LLB certificate of Justice Faisal Mahmud Faizee illegal.

The HC delivered the verdict on Monday stating that the CU's decision to cancel Faizee's LLB

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