

## NBR asks for account info of 26 graft suspects

6 BNP, Jamaat men on list  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has asked all commercial banks to provide account statements of 26 graft suspects including six BNP and Jamaat leaders and their spouses and children.

In a letter issued on August 6, the NBR sought statements of the graft suspects under the income

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## CA for proper coordination among govt, non-govt bodies

UNB, Louhajang, Munshiganj

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed yesterday called for proper coordination in relief operation among the government and non-government organisations so that no one is deprived.

He said the government will formulate plans for "long-term flood protection and post-flood rehabilitation taking into account the opinions of all stakeholders".

The head of the caretaker

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

## AMIN JUTE MILLS IN CHITTAGONG

# Workers clash with cops for wage: 1 killed, 80 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Clashes between police and workers agitating for outstanding wages left one labourer killed and at least 80 including 30 cops injured at Amin Jute Mills here yesterday.

Police arrested 18 people including five injured workers. Many of those wounded stayed away from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for fear they too might be arrested.

Of the injured policemen, 15 were rushed to the Police Lines Hospital while five received treatment at the CMCH.

The fight broke out when police charged baton to drive off some 600 workers who were barricading the rail line inside the mill and the Chittagong-Hathazari Road in front of the main gate at around 10:00am, said eyewitnesses.

Mostly hailing from the northern districts, the demonstrators were clamouring for wages unpaid for over three weeks. Dispersed, they took position in front of the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

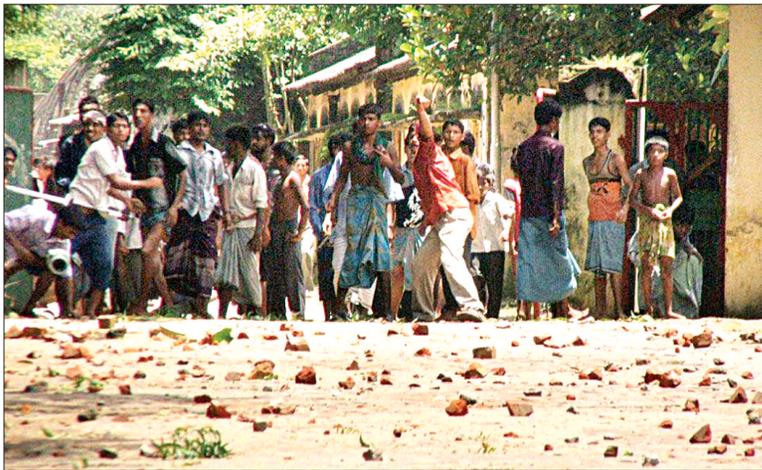


PHOTO: STAR

Workers of Amin Jute Mills in Chittagong, agitating for their arrear wage, throw brickbats at police yesterday. The clash left one person killed and 80 others injured.

# Poor work condition makes cops wobble

SHARIFUL ISLAM and EMRAN HOSSAIN

The draft Police Reform Programme (PRP) holds political influence as a major factor that prevents policemen from performing their duties, but field level policemen who constitute about 99 per cent of the total force blame it on lack of logistic supports and poor work condition.

These police officials ranked between constable and sub-inspector (SI) said no reform will be meaningful unless their salaries are increased, daily work hours are reduced to an acceptable level and all operational costs are met by the government.

These policemen earn extra money through illegal means to meet a major portion of the costs for conducting investigations and arrest drives.

The draft PRP only mentions that the government shall grant separate payment and allowances or a comprehensive compensation package for the police service based on the recommendation of the National Police Commission within one year of the promulgation of this ordinance.

The government shall provide the police chief with sufficient fund to cover the cost of investigations, says the draft undertaken by the government with the assistance of the United Nations Development

Programme, UK Department for International Development, and the European Union. It also focuses on improving the force's image that has already been tainted by sleaze.

Ironically, a good number of constables said they do not have any idea about the drafted reform proposals. They unanimously expressed their frustration and doubt that whatever the reforms are, nobody will think of them and that they will continue to lead inhuman life.

There are 1,23,197 policemen in the force at present. Of them, 1,21,659 are between the ranks of constable and inspector who work

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

# EC to go for reform talks with parties despite politics ban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will start communicating with political parties next month for dialogue on its draft electoral reform proposals regardless of the ban on indoor politics, an election commissioner said yesterday.

"We will send the draft proposals to political parties towards the end of this month so that they can study those before participating in dialogue with us," Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain said.

Due to the ban, the EC could not proceed with its plan for talks with the parties on the proposed reforms

for the last four months.

On July 15, the EC in its roadmap earmarked three months -- September to November -- for talks with political parties.

Talking to newsmen Sakhawat said, "We will start communicating with political parties in September to hold dialogue with them on electoral reforms. We are not concerned about the ban on indoor politics. It is a matter for the government whether it will lift the ban or not," told reporters yesterday.

Asked about field level task for simultaneously preparing the voter list with photographs and national identity cards, he said the EC is now

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

# Water sharing of Teesta, 7 other rivers held up for JRC meet

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India and Bangladesh have exchanged the principles of sharing waters of Teesta and seven other common rivers, which would be put up before the next meeting of the Joint River Commission (JRC).

The two countries also decided to exchange construction details of various riverbank works, including lift irrigation schemes, on common rivers, said an official statement released after two-day talks between Water Resources Secretaries of India and Bangladesh that ended in New Delhi Wednesday evening.

On the issue of principles of sharing waters of Teesta and other common rivers, the two sides

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

# Floodwaters recede; diseases spread

STAR REPORT

As floodwaters continue to recede, the number of patients infected with water-borne diseases is growing and the experts say that the situation might take a turn for worse in the coming days.

Meanwhile, prices of some medicines, including oral saline, rose in many flood-affected areas, even in the capital. The oral saline, which usually sells at Tk 3, was being sold at Tk 5 at many city pharmacies yesterday.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said floodwater in the central part of the country, including the capital, is expected to recede in a week.

In the last 24 hours, at least 4,744 people were diagnosed with diarrhoea in the 38 flood-hit districts, while the total number of diarrhoea patients now stands at 23,716, says the diarrhoea control room.

A total of 18 people died due to flood-related reasons in the last 24 hours, ending at 11:00am yesterday, raising the death toll to 210 across the country.

Scores of diarrhoea, pneumonia and typhoid patients thronged various hospitals, especially the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) and Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday compelling the authorities to engage more doctors and staffs to cope with the situation.

ICDDR,B authorities said around 600 to 700 diarrhoea patients are coming to the hospital every day.

A large number of children suffering from fever, pneumonia and skin diseases were rushed to DMCH, Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, and Dhaka Shishu Hospital yesterday.

DMCH Resident Mohammad Monir Hossain said more than 400 children suffering from various water-borne diseases, including diarrhoea, typhoid and skin diseases are admitted to DMCH every day.

"Fearing the outbreak of diarrhoea may take an epidemic form, Tongi Hospital authorities

demanding 50,000 bags of saline, but they got only 50 bags," a doctor of the hospital said on condition of anonymity.

Dr Rahima Akhtar Naju, who was treating patients at Rajarbagh Abhoy Binodini Girls' School at Sabujbagh in the city, said the situation might worsen if immediate supply of saline is not ensured.

Kamrunnahar Rosy, a housewife in Uttara, Dhaka said, "The pharmacies are selling saline at a higher price. The oral saline is selling at Tk 5, which was selling at Tk 3 earlier. I wanted to buy one box, but I could manage only a pack."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

# Donations to CA's relief fund tax-free Govt reiterates

UNB, Dhaka

Money being donated to Chief Adviser's Relief Fund has been declared tax-free as per a previous government order, an official announcement said yesterday.

"Money being deposited with Chief Adviser's Relief Fund will remain tax-free," it said, as there have been confusions whether such donors could face unnecessary harassment while giving donation for flood relief.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

An elderly woman, too weak to move, looks on from behind the grilles while others queue up for food at the flood victims' shelter at Abhoy Binodini High School at Basabo in the capital yesterday.

# Govt appeals against HC orders on Hasina's bail, ACC notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed separate appeals against recent High Court (HC) orders that granted bail to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and stayed Anti-Corruption Commission's notice seeking her wealth statement.

Another appeal was filed against the HC order that declared businessman Abdul Awal Mintoo's detention illegal.

The government attorney filed the appeal petitions with the Supreme Court (SC) seeking stay on the three HC orders.

The hearing of the appeals, however, did not take place at the SC chamber judge's court, which is likely to hear the appeals on Sunday.

An HC bench comprising justices

Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury on Tuesday granted bail to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in an extortion case filed by Noor Ali and ordered the government not to bring the trial under the Emergency Power Rules.

The court also asked the caretaker administration to reply within four weeks why its approval of the case being brought under the emergency rules should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench also stayed operation of the Anti-Corruption Commission instructions to Hasina to submit her wealth statement and ordered the anti-graft body to explain in four weeks why its order shall not be declared illegal.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

# Case against ex-secy Nurul Islam illegal

Declares HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal the initiation of a case filed by now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) in 2004 against AHM Nurul Islam, a former secretary to prime minister, for leaking "highly classified" information violating Official Secrets Act.

The court issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Nurul Islam in February challenging initiation of the case by the Bac since the sections or laws in the case do not come within the jurisdiction of the Bac or the present Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The petitioner argued that the Official Secrets Act is also not in the schedule of the offences of the Criminal Law (amendment) Act

1958 or the ACC Act 2004.

After hearing both sides for several days, an HC division bench comprising justices ABM Khairul Haque and Syed Ziaul Karim yesterday delivered the judgment.

Advocates Anisul Huq, Tawfika Karim and Sheikh Baharul Islam appeared on behalf of Nurul Islam in the case while Assistant Attorney General Zafar Imam appeared on behalf of the government.

The Bac filed the case against Nurul Islam on June 7, 2004 and forced him and three other government employees into retirement on charge of leaking "highly classified" information violating the Official Secrets Act.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4