

**ACC sues Abbas, wife**  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against now detained former minister to the housing and public works ministry Mirza Abbas and his wife Afroza Abbas in connection with amassing huge wealth through illegal means.

The hearing on the charge framing against Afroza in connection with two tax evasion cases will be held on August 21.

Meanwhile, Joint Stock Companies and Firms filed four criminal cases against detained former Awami League (AL) lawmaker AHM Mostafa Kamal (also

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**SEC asks companies to report shares of Huda, Abbas**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday asked all listed companies in Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges, and Merchant Bank to submit detailed share information of eight corruption suspects, including former minister Nazmul Huda and his family, and former minister Mirza Abbas's son, brother and brother's wife and children.

The SEC sent letters to all the listed companies asking share

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**Govt to probe 'neglect' of flood duty**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government yesterday formed a high-powered enquiry committee to probe alleged negligence of government departments and officials in discharging duties to tackle the devastating floods in some districts.

Directed by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, the Cabinet Division yesterday issued a notification about the formation of the

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VOTER LIST  
**EC firm on starting work from October**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is determined to complete procurement of equipment and start field level task on a large scale for preparing the voter list with photographs in October as per its electoral roadmap.

"It is true that completion of procurement of equipment is being delayed for some time, but it will in no way delay preparation of the voter list," Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain yesterday told reporters.

Sohul said the EC cannot start the large-scale field level task from September as per its earlier plan.

"The field level task for voter listing will begin on a large scale from October. But it will not hamper completion of the voter list on time," he added.

On including Bangladeshi citizens living abroad in the voter list, he said the newly promulgated ordinance will be amended soon to include expatriates in the electoral rolls.

The EC in its electoral roadmap announced earlier that the all out field level work for voter listing would begin after completing procurement and deployment of all sorts of hi-tech equipment by October.

According to its roadmap, the EC floated tenders on June 7 for pur-

chasing the equipment, but bids for most of the equipment were disqualified. The EC has again floated the tender this week.

But the new tender documents show that the possibility of completing the procurement by October is slim.

It will be mid-September to complete the sale of tender forms and submission of the bids for different equipment. The technical evaluation committee will then take a few weeks to complete evaluating the bids. Selected companies will be awarded contracts for supplying the equipment within four

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**25 hurt in clash at passport office**  
UNB, Comilla

At least 25 people were injured in a clash with police over standing in a queue to submit passport forms to the regional passport office here yesterday.

Witnesses said hundreds of people started gathering in front of the passport office since night and at one stage, a clash ensued between them over keeping place in the queue.

As police tried to bring the

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**Tremors jolt country**  
UNB, Dhaka

The country yesterday experienced two tremors within a span of three hours.

The first tremor, measuring 3.3 on the Richter scale, jolted the country at about 02 hours 33 minutes 19 seconds (BST).

The epicentre of the tremor was about 171.6-km from Agargaon seismic observatory in Dhaka, 203-km from Ambagan seismic

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**CASE AGAINST HASINA Court to hear charge sheet plea again Sept 5**  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday re-fixed September 5 for deciding whether to accept the charge sheet against detained Awami League (AL) chief

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PHOTO: STAR

A mobile court confiscates counterfeit oral saline and unauthorised foreign medicines at drug stores at Babubazar in the capital yesterday. The court arrested five people in this connection and fined different stores a total of Tk 20 lakh.

**Peru quake kills 337 Patuakhali's former BNP MP gets 10 yrs in arms case**  
AFP, Lima

A powerful earthquake devastated several Peruvian cities killing at least 337 people in toppled buildings and forcing the government to declare a state of emergency yesterday.

As many as 1,000 people were injured and tens of thousands of panicked residents flocked onto the streets fearing aftershocks, after the 7.9-magnitude quake rattled the country for two terrifying minutes late Wednesday.

The towns of Pisco, Chincha, and other localities in Peru's southern coastal region were said to be in ruins after the biggest earthquake to hit the South American nation in decades.

Buildings left standing had their windows smashed and trees were toppled.

In the coastal city of Ica, 300km south of Lima, the Senor de Luren church collapsed during a service, killing at least four worshippers and injuring dozens.

The nearby city of Pisco was also hit hard with many people killed in their homes as roofs caved in.

The government sent a convoy of trucks to the region carrying medical supplies, doctors and nurses.

The quake and aftershocks sparked panic in the capital, Lima, where people camped on the

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OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Patuakhali court yesterday handed down 10 years rigorous imprisonment to Shahidul Alam Talukder, a former BNP lawmaker and secretary of the party's Baufal upazila unit, in an arms case.

ABM Sajedur Rahman of Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court delivered the verdict.

According to prosecution, joint forces on February 16 this year recovered two magazines of pistol

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PHOTO: STAR

Workers of Uro Mode Fashions Ltd at Chittagong Export Processing Zone yesterday protest manhandling of their colleagues by factory officials. Story on page 1.

**NAT'L SECURITY Iftekhar supports civilian supremacy over military**

*But wants closer civil-military cooperation*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury yesterday said there should always be civilian supremacy over the military in a democracy, but closer civil-military cooperation would bolster national security.

Iftekhar was speaking as the chief guest at the concluding session of a four-day workshop titled, "Democracy, Governance and Security Reforms" that concluded yesterday with a set of eight recommendations, including enacting a Political Parties Act, instituting anti-corruption and effective parliamentary procedures, and bringing

greater civilian control of security forces.

A number of academic, political, and military personnel participated in the workshop jointly organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies (APCSS) from the United States.

In her address, US Charge d' Affaires Geeta Pasi said, "In prosecuting corruption as well as other legal cases, it is imperative to meet the international standards of human rights and due process to ensure the legitimacy and credibility of the proceedings."

Iftekhar said that the security forces have been at the forefront of assisting the government and fighting terrorism, but in order to more effectively and competently perform these newer tasks "some reforms in the security sector in Bangladesh are only a demand of the time."

"These reforms must be aimed at facilitating greater coordination and integration of all security forces in the country with a view to contributing to the improvement of the law and order, helping move the economic wheels of the country

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**Fresh extortion case against ex-MP Shahidul**  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A fresh lawsuit was filed against former BNP lawmaker Shahidul Islam Master on charge of extortion.

Ruhul Amin Pintu of Boalia village under Moheshpur municipality filed a Tk 3 lakh extortion case with Moheshpur police station against the former BNP lawmaker of Jhenidah-3 constituency on Wednesday night.

The other accused are former

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**Announcement**

Please turn to page 11 for part one of "Sixty Years of Partition: Celebration or Lamentation," renowned columnist K.Z. Islam's provocative and thought-provoking two-part essay on the events that led to partition. Part two follows tomorrow.

**48,000 tonnes rice import okayed**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisers' committee on purchase yesterday approved procurement of 48,000 tonne of rice from local importers at a price higher than the local market to supplement the government's rice stock during the post-flood period.

"As we need to increase the supply of rice to the local market, the stocks should be strengthened by importing rice," Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, who chaired a meeting of the committee, said.

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Murtaja Baseer's landmark linocut artwork "Raktakto Ekushey" immortalised the Language Movement.

**Baseer exhibits lifetime artworks today**

SHARIER KHAN

In 1952 when the Pakistani government opened guns on processions demanding Bangla be made the state language, it was the beginning of the end of Pakistan. That atrocity triggered a young artist named Murtaja Baseer to make a linocut painting titled "Raktakto Ekushey". That art captured those moments so well that it became the symbol of the spirit of the language movement.

Till today, the linocut reprint of "Raktakto Ekushey" remains alive in newspapers, magazines and posters.

Baseer, now one of the senior most artists alive in the country, had seemingly lost the original linocut of this famous painting for about five decades.

The good news is, the first generation modern artist Baseer has decided to declare three limited edition prints from the original linocut plate of Raktakto Ekushey and sell them at an affordable price. Linocut is one kind of woodcut in which a sheet of linoleum is used for the relief surface.

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Prayer Timing		
August 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-38	6-41
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation