

## Banks told

**FROM PAGE 1**  
While the order to freeze Khaleda's account was delayed, she and her sons Tarique Rahman and Koko in July-August applied to the NBR to let them legalise their undisclosed money.

The NBR okayed Khaleda's Tk 1.30 crore undisclosed money on payment of Tk 33 lakh tax this month but rejected Tarique and Koko's bid to legalise Tk 18 lakh and Tk 1.5 crore respectively by paying a total tax and fine of Tk 44 lakh.

Wednesday's NBR notice identified Khaleda with various names - Begum Khaleda Zia, Mrs Khaleda Zia, Khaleda Zia and Mrs Khaleda Rahman - using the same address House-6, Shaheed Moinul Road, Dhaka Cantonment.

The nine other family members are Koko's wife Syeda Shamila Rahman and their daughters Zafira Rahman and Zahiya Rahman; Khaleda's nephew Saiful Hossain, Rashida Begum, Rupa Shikdar, Md Abul Khaer and Faridun Fatema.

The notice asked all banks to freeze and provide information on individual or joint current or sav-

ings accounts, term deposits, loan accounts, foreign currency accounts, credit card, vault, locker and various types of savings instruments. The banks will also provide the NBR with transaction records.

In a similar fashion on August 2, the NBR had directed all commercial banks to freeze the accounts of Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina, her husband Dr M Wazed Miah, sister Sheikh Rehana, son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, and Rehana's husband Dr Shafiq Siddique.

But within a week, Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam told The Daily Star that if the family members badly needed money, the government may relax the NBR order.

This consideration came because Wazed Miah was critically ill and under treatment. Besides, Hasina's lawyers had expressed concern about continuing the operations of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Bangabandhu Memorial Trust and Welfare Trust for Grenade Attack Victims since the accounts of those non-profit organisations were also frozen.

## Politics ban

**FROM PAGE 1**  
under a well-thought out plan. "Masterminds behind the incident will be brought to book."

He said the time of the one-member inquiry commission, now investigating the DU incident, may be extended, if necessary. The inquiry report will be made public if it is not connected with state security or state secret.

On reopening of the universities and colleges, he said the matter was discussed at the meeting but the education ministry will take a decision in this regard.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim said the meeting reviewed the overall law and order situation. "The overall situation, excepting the incidents of Dhaka University from August 20-23, remains peaceful."

Education Adviser Ayub Qudri, secretary and senior officials of the ministries concerned and chiefs of different law enforcement and intelligence agencies attended the meeting.

## Shab-e-Barat

**FROM PAGE 1**  
occasion.

The Islamic Foundation and other religious and socio-cultural organisations held Quankhwani, milad and discussion meetings.

Bangladesh Television (BTV), Bangladesh Betar and private TV channels aired special programmes, highlighting the significance of the night.

Former prime minister Khaleda Zia and Acting Awami League President Zillur Rahman, in separate statements, greeted the countrymen as well as the Muslim Ummah on the occasion.

## Prof Yunus

**FROM PAGE 1**  
winning the Nobel Prize.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed released the commemorative postage stamp and the first day cover at the International Conference Centre in the afternoon.

Appreciating the eight-month-old caretaker government's various pragmatic steps and institutional reforms, Yunus said, "Our main task is to hold elections in a fair manner."

He said the caretaker government took various reform measures and important decisions in only six months, which may take a long time for a political government.

Yunus said all will have to be careful so that such steps go smoothly to reach the goal and do not deviate from the main objective of holding the election in due time.

The winner of the Nobel Peace Prize said the country has got an election commission acceptable to all which is moving ahead wonderfully in the right direction as per its announced roadmap to hold elections by December 2008.

Asked about the price hike of essentials, Yunus said it is a temporary matter. Some day-to-day incidents may take place. "But all will have to be careful so that we don't deviate from our main objective."

Expressing his feelings about the commemorative postage stamp, he said, "I'm so glad and happy for this event to make the achievement (winning Nobel) memorable. (My) Colleagues in Grameen Bank will also be happy."

## FTA talks

**FROM PAGE 1**  
one billion as discussed at the foreign secretary-level talks on the day.

He informed that the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting would be held in the first half of the next year and expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the joint working group meeting held in Islamabad in July this year.

The Pakistan foreign secretary said some items could be put on the fast track for quick solution.

He said purchase of coarse rice from Pakistan is possible through government-to-government or private sector deals. The CA said his government would follow it up as it has a plan to import a large amount of rice.

On the performance of the caretaker government, Riaz Mohammad Khan said Pakistan has a great deal of interest in the reforms undertaken by the caretaker government.

The CA said his government and the Election Commission are carrying out efforts to hold a free, fair and credible election by December 2008 to make a room so that honest, dedicated and competent persons can contest the next election as well as other future elections.

The Pakistan foreign secretary informed that the presidential election in Pakistan would be held between September 15 and October 15, according to CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim who was present at the meeting.

The CA recalled his fruitful bilateral meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on the sidelines of the last Saarc Summit in New Delhi.

The Pakistan foreign secretary conveyed the sympathy of the Pakistan prime minister for the flood-affected people in Bangladesh. He also conveyed the best regards of the Pakistan president and the prime minister to the chief adviser.

Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Almagir Babar Khan and Secretary of CA's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam were also present.

## Shajahan Siraj

**FROM PAGE 1**  
for two offences while Rabeya Siraj was sentenced to eight years' simple jail for the same number of offences. The verdict also said the three-year and five-year sentences, for the two offences, against Shajahan and Rajib would take effect consecutively while the same sentences against Rabeya would take effect concurrently.

NBR Assistant Commissioner Rahima Khatun, Assistant Tax Commissioner Prapat Chandra Pal and Deputy Tax Commissioner Abul Kalam Azad filed a total of 11 cases against Shajahan, Rabeya and Rajib on July 16. Of the cases, five were filed against Rabeya, five against Rajib and one against Shajahan.

On August 27, the same court sentenced Rabeya to 32 years' simple imprisonment in four tax evasion cases. Rabeya will have to serve only five years in jail as the court ordered that her sentences would run concurrently.

A court also issued arrest warrants against the three who are absconding since the filing of the cases. They were tried in absentia. The sentences against the three would take effect from the date of their arrest or surrender before the court.

Senior Special Judge Mohammad Azul Haq of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, issued arrest warrants against the three on July 17 following the filing of the cases as the charges brought against them were preliminarily found to be true.

Changes were framed at the special court against the accused on August 8 while recording of witnesses' deposition began on August 12.

Farzana Khan, daughter-in-law of Shajahan and wife of Rajib and also the managing director of Garden Fresh Preservations Ltd in Savar, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment on August 15 in another tax evasion case.

Syed Zakir Hossain, deputy tax commissioner of Companies Circle of NBR, had filed the case in connection with evading income tax of Tk 81.45 lakh between fiscal years 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 and concealing information about her real income of Tk 2.91 crore.

Judgment of four other tax evasion cases against Rajib will be pronounced on September 5. The court fixed the date for delivering judgment on August 28.

**INDIVIDUAL OFFENCES**  
Rabeya bought 3.28 katha and 2.6 katha of land worth Tk 4.12 lakh and Tk 2.6 lakh on July 14, 2005 at Sitapur in the capital, which she did not mention in her wealth statement and her tax return submitted in 2006-2007 fiscal year, NBR sources said.

According to NBR sources, Rajib in his tax return submitted in 2004-2005 fiscal year concealed information about Tk 8.36 lakh he spent with credit cards of two banks in 2004. Rajib in the tax return also concealed information about his balance of about Tk 44.89 lakh in a bank account. Rajib also concealed information about the interest he received from the money kept in that account.

## ACC asks

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The ministries whose secretaries were given the directives include finance, defence, LGRD, health and family welfare, education, law and parliamentary affairs, communications, personal division, President's Office and Ministry of Energy, Power and Mineral Resources. The other organisations include Passport and Immigration Department.

The ACC secretary said the commission has scanned well these allegations before instructing the chiefs of the organisations to take actions in accordance with the rules. "It's some sort of disposal."

Responding to a question, he said the complaints had come to the ACC from different places, including the Chief Adviser's Office and ministries.

## No problem

**FROM PAGE 16**  
demanded immediate resumption of all political activities.

Even if the government does not resume indoor politics, the AL should be prepared for a dialogue with the Election Commission so that the government cannot blame the party later for its non-cooperation if the election is delayed in any case, he said.

They do not want to take the responsibilities for delaying the elections, he said, adding that if necessary they would discuss among themselves over sitting with the EC.

The AL leader, however, observed that there is a sense of indoor politics in the country.

"When we could sit to chalk out programmes for observing the 15 August, the 32nd death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, why will there be a problem if the party leaders have a dialogue with the EC?" he said.

Terminating the arrest of Hasina said and condemnable, the dissident reformist leader said there should be some political programmes alongside the legal battle for release of the AL chief.

Amu said the government should sit with the political leaders, members of the civil society, businessmen and different professionals to get rid of the current crisis.

The AL should be ready to sit with the EC in November, Amu said, adding that the AL is a political party with long tradition and they are ready to go for election in any circumstances.

He said there would be no impact of Sheikh Hasina's arrest on the meeting with the EC as the reform proposals were placed on behalf of the party.

Earlier AL leaders Mukul Bose, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Nazma Rahman, and Habibur Rahman Khan, among others, met Amu.

## BNP to observe

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The programmes include hoisting the national and party flags at all party offices in the morning, visiting the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman, founder chairman of the party, and placing wreath there at 10:30am.

As per the condition set by the government, 20 leaders and workers at a time can place wreath at Zia's mazar in a disciplined manner. No procession, slogan, banner, placard and festoon would be allowed during the programme, said a BNP release.

In the release, BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan called upon the party leaders across the country to take up the programme in consultation with the district and upazila administrations.

Earlier on Wednesday, Home Secretary Abdul Karim told reporters at the ministry that no discussion would be allowed marking the BNP's founding anniversary.

## Indian Maoists

**kill 12 cops in ambush**

**AFP, Raipur**

Maoists shot dead 12 Indian policemen in an ambush in the densely forested central state of Chhattisgarh, police said yesterday.

The 12 were part of a team dispatched to clear Maoist landmines in Dantewada district, 500km from state capital Raipur, late Wednesday.

"We have received information about 12 bodies recovered," said police official RK Vij.

The rebels, who launched their campaign in 1967 and today operate in 14 of India's 29 states, say they are fighting for the rights of landless farmers.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh last year described them as the most serious threat to national security.

The killings follow the deaths of 24 security personnel in another insurgent ambush on July 11.

In March, 55 policemen were killed in the worst-ever Maoist assault in Chhattisgarh, the epicentre of rebel attacks.

Tens of thousands of people have been displaced in the state by the conflict and now live in shelters as counter-insurgency forces operate in the increasingly lawless countryside.

## Survived

**FROM PAGE 16**  
bhat [stale rice] with salt last night and since then we had nothing."

On the two-kilometre-long embankment, also known as the Raniganj-Wapda embankment, in Sirajganj Sadar he just waits for better days, as he can do nothing to improve the situation. "Now I surrendered myself to Allah," he said.

The conditions of around 900 people who took shelter on the embankment are almost the same.

The coming days of these people, whose homes and livelihoods were lost, look bleak. They claimed they neither have any work nor are there any programmes going on in the area to rehabilitate them.

Like many others, Mamata, a mother of two, approached The Daily Star correspondent taking him for a relief distributor.

She said, "Won't you write my name? We [she and her child] had nothing to eat since last night."

After knowing the identity of the correspondent, she said, "At least write down my name... It would be some consolation."

Mamata has no work since the floodwater damaged her loom with which she earned her living for the last seven months.

Her only possessions apart from the weaving job were a goat and a number of chickens. She lost them too in the floods.

Women and children seemed to be the worst hit and they are being forced to pass days unfed or half-fed.

Parbati, wife of Nibash Shah, said she has already sold two out of her three goats to survive. "My husband used to pull rickshaw which was lost. So, I had to sell my goats to feed my family," she said, adding, "We only eat once a day."

"My four children cry as they are hungry. But how can I manage food for them when there is no work anywhere," she said, adding, "Where should I go for help when other families are in the same situation."

The spread of water-borne diseases took a serious turn for worse on the embankment and its adjacent areas recently. A large number of people on the embankment are suffering from diarrhoea, respiratory tract infections and skin diseases.

Rahela came to the embankment from Raniganj last month. Her seven-month-old son Babu was suffering from diarrhoea and high fever for the last five days.

"I took Babu to the Sirajganj Sadar Hospital two days ago but there is no change of his condition. I fed him saline and other medicines but no improvement is seen," she said. Babu started having sores all over his body.

Shapla Begum is eight months pregnant. She said she had rice with lentil last night and had nothing since that morning. "My husband goes to different places looking for work but no one gives him any work," she said.

Arani Khatun is also seven months pregnant. She knows that she has to be vaccinated but could not get the vaccines. "I went to the hospital but could not be vaccinated as the crowd was too much for me," she said.

Ismail Hossain, project manager of an NGO, said every year floods devastate vast areas in Sirajganj. This year the devastation was even worse.

Sources in the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) said the women and children are suffering from malnutrition as they were the worst affected during this disaster.

Unicef Representative in Bangladesh Louis-Georges Arsenault said Unicef has distributed BP5 biscuits, essential drugs and water purification tablets especially for women and children. About 17,000 families of Sirajganj have received the assistance so far.

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## CSB's frequency

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Sources said getting frequency allocation through forgery is a punishable offence, which can lead to cancellation of the allocation under the Telecommunications Act, 2001.

Although CSB has got the frequency allocation, the CSB authorities are yet to submit the original application to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), the sources added.

CSB submitted an approval letter of the information ministry to the BTRC on October 17 and got the frequency allocation. The probe body found that the signature on the approval letter was forged. The information ministry did not issue any approval letter to the CSB on that day.

The probe body formed on July 31 observed that the CSB News might have an ill intention in getting the frequency allocation. It also said some officials of the information ministry were involved in the forgery.

Meanwhile, CSB Manager (administration) Chowdhury Mahmud Hussain in a press statement said the approval letters were issued by the information ministry on October 17 and 19.

## Prof Anwar

**FROM PAGE 1**  
soldier to the army chief," he continued.

"From the heart, we offer our apologies for the incident. And we don't feel any shame, or anguish to do so," added Prof Anwar.

"We are sorry for the humiliation and injury dealt to the reputation and esteem of the army personnel," he observed.

"This army is the emblem of the state of Bangladesh, sovereignty and solidarity. And we can feel how much it pains an army personnel to watch an attack on their uniforms," the detained DU professor told the reporters.

He also said, "We expect that every army man will accept the apologies, and forget the grievances they had suffered."

## Power-sharing deal

**FROM PAGE 16**  
resolved with Musharraf, who has kept his army position since seizing power in the Islamic republic of 160 million people in a bloodless coup in 1999.

Benazir told Britain's Guardian newspaper Thursday that Musharraf had also agreed to drop corruption charges against her, her husband and dozens of other lawmakers in a general amnesty covering the period from 1988 to 1999.

"A lot of progress has been made, particularly on the uniform. But it's for the president to make an announcement," she said.

She said he had until Friday to respond, noting, "There are no ultimatums, but we need to know where we stand by then."

Benazir, a two-time premier from 1988 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 1996, said she may now return to Pakistan as early as September. She still faces a raft of corruption charges that have caused her to live abroad.

The negotiations with Benazir began to cause rifts in the government.

Religious Affairs Minister Ijaz-ul-Haq - the son of General Zia-ul-Haq, the late military dictator who had Benazir's own father hanged - said Musharraf should take parliament into his confidence if he wanted it to re-elect him.

"Benazir Bhutto is blackmailing President Musharraf in a bid to come to power through the back door. This will not be allowed," Haq told private Geotelevision.

But another minister close to

## Saarc transport

**FROM PAGE 16**  
would be placed on the table for consideration at the ministerial meeting.

They said as per the Saarc roadmap, a network involving 6,540 km of rail and 11,844 km of road corridors would be built to connect about 1.5 billion people in the region.

The roadmap, which involves 16 ports, two inland waterways and 16 airports, is to be discussed at the first-ever Saarc transport ministers' meeting.

One important proposal of the proposed project is setting up a road link to Myanmar through Bangladesh and another to Afghanistan via Pakistan. India is likely to persuade Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Saarc transport ministers' meeting today to grant transit facilities.

This is the first ministerial meeting since the Saarc Summit in New Delhi on April 3 and 4. The meeting is also aimed at discussing the ways of removing physical and non-physical barriers, which have been identified in the Saarc Regional Multi-modal Transport Study.

At the last Saarc Summit, the heads of Saarc countries recognised the importance of connectivity in fulfilling the objectives. They agreed to improve intra-regional connectivity, particularly physical, economic and people-to-people connectivity.

They also agreed to the vision of a South Asian community which would have a smooth flow of goods, services, people, technology, knowledge, capital, culture and ideas.

The importance of strengthening connectivity in South Asia was recognised at the Islamabad summit in 2004 and it was decided that a regional transport study for enhancing multi-modal transport connectivity among SAARC countries would be undertaken.

The study highlighted that South Asia inherited an integrated transport infrastructure from the British, which was fractured not only by partition but also by the political aftermath, and needed to be rebuilt within the context of greater political

## RU official held

**FROM PAGE 16**  
professors of RU Dr Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan Sajal and Dr Golam Sabbir Sattar Tapu. Four RU students were also accused in the case. They are Dipayan, Mithu, Ayaj and Sunon.

The accused have been charged with arson and vandalising of government properties. A vehicle belonging to DGTI was torched during the violence on RU campus on August 22, the complainant said in the case statement.

Law enforcement agencies meanwhile intensified their watch on professors Chowdhury Sarwar and Golam Sabbir.

The two professors played a crucial role in identifying masterminds of the gruesome murder of geology and mining department Professor Dr ST Taher Ahmed.

They are also key witnesses of the murder case in which Prof Mia Mohammad Mohiuddin and Mahabul Alam Salehi, former president of Islami Chhatra Shibir RU unit, are prime accused.

**DETAINED TEACHERS TAKEN BACK TO RAJSHAHI**  
The three detained RU teachers, shown arrested in a case filed on August 23 under Emergency Power Rules, were brought back to Rajshahi only a day after they were taken to Dhaka for quizzing by the taskforce interrogation cell.

On Wednesday, Judge Maksud Ahmed of the district and sessions judge's court rejected the teachers' petition to reconsider the 10-day remand against them.

Some 15 lawyers led by Golam Arif Tiplu and Hamidul Haque submitted the petition in favour of the teachers challenging the remand by a lower court.

On August 24, members of Rapid Action Battalion had arrested the three - former RU vice chancellor Prof Dr Saidur Rahman, Prof Dr Abdus Sobhan and Prof Moly Kumar Bhownik on alleged charges of fuelling violence on the campus on August 22.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rabul Reza placed the arrested teachers on a 10-day remand on August 25. They were sent to Dhaka on August 28.

Charges against them include murder, vandalising public properties as well as the residence of the RU vice chancellor and torching a DGTI vehicle.

The president is already under intense pressure over the government's inability to quell extremist violence in tribal districts bordering Afghanistan and attacks in other cities.

He also came off worse in a feud with the head of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, whose suspension triggered a wave of protests across the country that eventually forced his reinstatement.

The violence and political chaos even led Musharraf to consider declaring a state of emergency earlier this month.

Meanwhile another former premier, Nawaz Sharif - the man Musharraf ousted in 1999 - has pledged to return to contest general elections due here by early 2008 after winning a court battle against his exile.

Sharif has strongly criticised Bhutto's talks with Musharraf, warning in the Guardian that "if she calls herself a democrat, she can't get into any deal with a military dictator."

Also playing the pressure on the president is the Supreme Court's agreement Wednesday to hear a legal challenge against his role as army chief. The lawsuit was filed by the head of Pakistan's coalition of Islamist parties.

## Two DU teachers

**FROM PAGE 1**  
(CMM) Court, Dhaka at 2:30pm after the end of their previous four-day remands yesterday.

Police petitioned the court to place them on a 10-day remand each for interrogation in the new case.

In the forwarding report of the first case, investigation officer (IO) Sub-Inspector (SI) Ali Asgar Khan said the accused have admitted to having involvement in the incidents mentioned in the first information report (FIR).

Besides, they have given some vital information about vandalism at different points across the campus. So, they should be in custody till the investigation is completed, added the IO.

SI Sirajul Islam of Shahbagh Police Station submitted the petition for the detainees to be shown arrested in the new case and sought for a further 10-day remand for interrogation.