

Naser gets 9yrs

FROM PAGE 1 He alleged that Naser and six others had demanded from him Tk 2 crore on October 10, 2003. Of the accused, Shafiqui, Abdul Khaleque, and Wali Siddique have been on the run since filing of the case.

District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet on 5 August shifted the case to the court of Third Additional District and Sessions Judge Binoy Kumar Majumder for trial.

Both Naser and Aniful Haque were among the first 50 graft suspects announced by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Nuruzzaman hit the headlines first four years ago when he brought extortion charges against Naser, then a ruling party lawmaker from Moulvibazar Sadar.

He accused the then finance minister's son and his men of attempts to coerce him into giving them huge sums after he won some contracts under the Roads and Highways department. Soon he was implicated in a number of cases filed allegedly on Naser's dictates.

Our court correspondent in Dhaka adds: A Dhaka court will decide today whether to accept the charge sheet of a Tk 2.99 crore extortion case against Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana and their cousin Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim.

Another Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Dhaka City Corporation Ward Commissioner Monwar Hossain Dipjol after the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a tax evasion case.

Besides, two other courts rejected bails of detained advocate Sigma Huda in two criminal cases filed with Shahbagh and Tejgaon Police Stations.

After scrutinising the case documents, Metropolitan Magistrate KM Ruhul Amin will pass order on the issue.

Gulshan Police Station Officer-in-Charge Obaidul Haq, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Hasina, Rehana and Selim to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on July 24.

Twenty-four people were shown as prosecution witnesses in the charge sheet.

Azam J Chowdhury, managing director of Eastcoast Trading Pvt Ltd, filed the case with the Gulshan Police Station against Hasina and Sheikh Selim on June 13 for extorting Tk 2.99 crore from him.

Rehana's name was included in the charge sheet as her involvement with the extortion was found during investigation.

Joint forces arrested the AL chief in connection with the case on July 16 and produced her before a magistrate's court that sent her to a sub-jail.

Two more extortion cases were filed with Tejgaon Police Station against Hasina on April 9 and June 13.

Besides, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on Sunday filed a case with the same police station against Hasina and six others for taking bribe.

DIPJOL CASE Metropolitan Sessions Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq passed an arrest warrant against Dipjol after

Mohammad Muhtasibur Rahman, deputy tax commissioner of the NBR, filed a case.

Muhtasibur said Dipjol, proprietor of Dipjol Food Industries Limited, had evaded income tax upon his earnings of Tk 121,402,999 from fiscal year 1989 to 2007.

Earlier, Dipjol was awarded 27 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition at his Mirpur residence.

SALAHUDDIN CASE The same court yesterday issued custody warrant against detained former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed after Additional Assistant Tax Commissioner Abdul Halim filed a case for evading income tax of Tk 3,046,655 from fiscal year 2003 to 2007.

SIGMA HUDA CASE Two metropolitan magistrates yesterday issued rejection orders after the counsel of Sigma Huda, wife of detained former communications minister barrister Nazmul Huda, submitted petitions seeking bail for her in two criminal cases.

The magistrates in their orders mentioned that her bail was rejected as the charges brought against her were primarily proved and the investigation was underway.

Delwar

FROM PAGE 1 Dhaka and Delwar had got into a conflict over the former's claim that he has been given the job of chief coordinator. Dismissing Hannan's claim, Delwar had maintained that the BNP constitution does not provide for any such post.

However, at last night's briefing, both the leaders of the pro-Khaleda faction were united in denouncing as 'illegal' the meeting held by those loyal to expelled secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

They said a few partymen had attended the meet under duress from vested quarters.

Hannan alleged that family members of Khaleda Zia have been harassed in the name of searching the Moinal Road residence while a certain quarter within the government has been out to ensure that the former premier does not get bail.

Expressing interest to join the dialogue with the Election Commission, Delwar said they want an elected government and hope the proposed dialogue would help hold a free and fair election.

"But we will have to think twice if the commission sends an invitation to any illegal faction," he said.

Both the leaders ruled out the possibility of having any discussion with the expelled leaders, but urged all to remain united under the leadership of Khaleda Zia.

Erashad trial

FROM PAGE 1 Chittagong, Jamalpur and Dhaka), Mollah Mostafa Kamal (retired as district judge), Abu Bakkar Siddiq (whereabouts not known) and Aman Ullah (now an additional metropolitan sessions judge in Dhaka).

The trial of the case began at the special set up adjacent to Dhaka Central Jail on November 24, 1996. The verdict of the case was adjourned seven times before.

Prothom Alo

FROM PAGE 1

Dhaka metropolitan detective police picked up Arif from his Uttara residence around 2:00pm and took him to their Minto Road office for questioning.

Arif was later handed over to Tejgaon police around 6:00pm.

Reacting to the incident, Law Adviser Mainul Hosen yesterday called a meeting of select Islamic experts led by Baitul Mukarram Khatib Maulana Obaidul Haque.

Mainul informed the experts that the cartoonist has already been arrested and Prothom Alo authorities have also promised to take action.

"There is a conspiracy to create a dangerous and unwanted situation," Mainul said, adding, "Everyone has to remain united against the conspiracy to destabilise the country."

The meeting was attended by Home Secretary Abdul Karim, Information Secretary Didarul Anwar, Religious Affairs Secretary Atowar Rahman, Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) Chairman Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini, IOJ Vice President Maulana Muhammad Mahiuddin, Secretary General Mufti Faizullah, Masjid Mission Secretary General Muhammad Khalilur Rahman al-Madani, Kamaluddin Zafri, among others.

At the meeting, the Islamic experts demanded that the Prothom Alo editor and publisher--also the editor and publisher of The Daily Star--surrender to the law enforcers. They urged the government to take legal action against those who are guilty.

The government ordered seizure of all copies of the Aalpin issue as it was banned for marketing, selling, reproduction or partial reproduction, publication or preservation for hurting the religious sentiment of the people of Bangladesh.

PROTHOMALO STATEMENT The daily Prothom Alo in a statement yesterday apologised for inadvertently publishing the cartoon, describing it as "impertinent" and "completely unacceptable".

The statement said the daily will no longer publish any written piece or cartoon by freelance cartoonist Arif. The Prothom Alo authority also assured that it will be extremely cautious to prevent similar incidents in future.

Probe body

FROM PAGE 16 police stations gave their accounts to the commission.

As of yesterday, 58 people including DU teachers and students, police and army men and other witnesses gave statements.

The commission has sent a letter to the home ministry to make necessary arrangements to produce four detained DU teachers, and student leaders before it, according to sources.

Dhaka seeks

FROM PAGE 1 stances," he added. Iftekhar requested Spanta to give necessary publicity to this appeal.

BRAC CHIEF APPEALS In a statement sent from New York on Monday night, Brac Founder and Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed has expressed great concern over the kidnapping of Brac staff Nurul Islam and appealed for his immediate release.

He has also expressed deep sadness at the recent killing of Brac Area Manager Md Abdul Alim in Afghanistan.

Abed in his written statement said, "I am extremely concerned at hearing the news of abduction of our co-worker Nurul Islam in Afghanistan on Saturday and appeal to the abductors to release him immediately. The government of Bangladesh has been extending all possible collaboration in our efforts to secure his release by contacting relevant authorities in Afghanistan. I also request the authorities in Afghanistan to do all that they can to secure the release of Nurul as early as possible. Brac will cooperate fully with the Afghan authorities and provide all necessary support.

Abed expressed his sympathy for Nurul's family and assured them of doing everything in its power to bring Nurul back to safety at the earliest. Expressing his deep sorrow at the killing of Abdul Alim in Afghanistan, the Brac chairperson urged Afghan authorities to quickly bring the perpetrators of this horrible crime to justice.

"I send my deepest condolences to Alim's family and my thoughts are with them at this time as they come to terms with this terrible loss. I assure them that Brac will do everything in its capacity to provide them with continued support," said Abed in his statement.

Dulu

FROM PAGE 1 militancy was transferred to the Rajshahi Speedy Trial Tribunal from Natore yesterday.

Natore District Sessions Judge's Court issued the order following a gazette notification of the home ministry for shifting the case to the tribunal.

Selim Reza of Ramsa Kazipur village, who was allegedly tortured, filed the case.

Charges in the case are expected to be framed on September 25.

Voter listing

FROM PAGE 1

October 10, the CEC said, the commission will select some districts and upazilas where it will begin voter listing with photographs by the middle of the month.

The CEC said 10 percent of the task of voter listing will be finished by the end of this month.

The EC already received around 1,800 laptops as donations from different agencies, with which it already started voter listing in some areas in August.

The commission in its electoral roadmap announced earlier that the procurement and deployment of all sorts of hi-tech equipment for voter listing will be completed in October this year.

The EC Secretariat on July 7 invited tenders for supplying 8,000 laptops, 8,000 webcams, 8,000 finger print scanners, 8,000 Bangla keyboards and 3-button mice, 550 desktop computers with UPS and monochrome laser printers, 3,000 portable electricity generators, 90 desktop computers with UPS, and 64 colour laser printers.

Evaluating the bids, the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) of EC found only three bidders as qualified for supplying the laptop computers, finger print scanners, Bangla keyboards, and the mice. The TEC recommended that the commission signs contracts with the qualified bidders for supplying the equipment and invite tenders again for the rest of the equipment.

Complying with the recommendation, the EC Secretariat in mid-August invited tenders again for the rest of the equipment, the submissions of which the TEC is now evaluating. After evaluating the bids, selected companies will be awarded contracts for supplying the equipment within four to eight weeks of signing the contracts.

Meanwhile, before the previously selected company could sign a contract with the EC for supplying the 8,000 laptops, a losing bidder lodged a complaint against the EC's selection process. A government review panel on September 10 asked the EC to invite fresh tenders for the 8,000 laptops too, as it had found anomalies in the process of selecting the previous company.

EC Secretary-in-Charge Humayun Kabir on September 11 told The Daily Star that they would re-invite tenders as soon as possible for the equipment.

The EC Secretariat however did not issue any fresh invitation for tenders till yesterday. Many fear that the EC might face time constraint in completing the task of preparing the voter list with photographs by October next year due to the delay in procuring the equipment.

The CEC however yesterday said there is no reason for apprehending a delay in procuring the equipment. "Everything will be done on time," he said.

22 promoted

FROM PAGE 1 the ministry and Finance Division Acting Secretary Mohammad Tareque made secretary of the division.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry Acting Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali has been made secretary of the ministry while Tariff Commission Acting Chairman M Shafiqul Islam made chairman of the commission.

Acting Secretary of the CHT Affairs Ministry M Abdus Sabur has been made secretary of the ministry while Acting Secretary of the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat M Humayun Kabir made secretary.

Land Reform Board Acting Chairman M Monirul Islam has been made chairman of the Board while Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry Acting Secretary M Abdul Matin Chowdhury made secretary of the ministry.

Acting Secretary of the Post and Telecommunications Ministry Sheikh Khurshid Alam has been made secretary of the ministry while Acting Director General of the BCS Administration Academy M Delwar

Hossain made director general (DG) of the academy.

Acting Secretary of the Environment and Forest Ministry Abul Hasan M Rezaul

Kabir became secretary of the ministry while additional Secretary of the Home Ministry Mohammad Mohsin was appointed executive chairman of the Board of Investment.

Acting Secretary of the Housing and Public Works Ministry ASM Rashidul Hye has been made secretary of the ministry while Acting Secretary of the Youth and Sports Ministry M Golam Mostafa Talukder made secretary of the ministry.

Planning Commission acting members Mohammad Abdul Majid and M Shah Alam have been made members of the commission while Privatisation Commission acting member Nasiruddin Ahmed made member of the commission and Women and Children Affairs Ministry Acting Secretary Begum Rokeya Sultana made secretary of the ministry.

Prof Neem sent to jail

FROM PAGE 1

On September 9, police brought charges against four teachers and 15 students of DU for instigating violent protests on the university campus as well as in adjacent areas including Shahbagh.

On September 13, the same court accepted the charge sheets of the cases and issued arrest warrants against Prof Neem and Prof Sadrul Amin.

Prof Sadrul Amin, president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) and an accused in the same cases, was sent to jail after he surrendered before the same court on September 16.

Prof Neem's attorneys Syed Rezaur Rahman and Porimal Chandra Guha submitted two petitions on his behalf--first one for Neem's surrender and treatment and the second one for seeking division in jail.

Moving for the petitions, the attorneys mentioned that they did not submit a bail petition because bail is not allowed for a person accused under the Emergency Power Rules.

Prof Neem's name was not in the first information report (FIR) of the cases but his name was included in the charge sheets, they said adding that to create panic on the campus, the complainants of the cases accused more than 5,000 unknown students, teachers and outsiders.

Since their client was sick and a person of high status, he should be treated in a specialised medical facility and given first class division in jail, they argued.

Following the hearing, the magistrate ordered jail authorities to give him appropriate division in jail considering his status and under provisions of the Jail Code.

Prof Neem's family members and a number of DU teachers including Neem's colleagues were present at the court during the hearing.

Two other accused teachers, Duta General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain and DU Science Faculty Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid, and one of the accused students, Moniruzzaman, are in jail now.

In Rajshahi, a magistrate court for speedy trials framed charges against 14 people including two RU teachers yesterday in connection with violating the Emergency Power Rules, 2007 and torching of a DGFI vehicle during the August violence, reports our staff corre-

US expects

FROM PAGE 1 ensure democracy not only for the people of Bangladesh but also in the political parties. It is especially important for the future of Bangladesh's democracy," Gastright said.

Asked if he gave any suggestion to the EC at the meeting, he said, "My job is to suggest solutions for the people of Bangladesh, and the Election Commission by the way has really announced an outstanding plan, five-point plan, to move toward democracy."

Gastright, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday, is expected to meet Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed and civil society personalities during his visit.

Shamsul Huda told reporters that the EC informed Gastright about its roadmap announced earlier for holding the stalled ninth parliamentary election.

Asked whether Gastright suggested holding of election much before the already announced deadline, the CEC said the EC told him that according to the roadmap, parliamentary election will be held before the end of December 2008.

"Election will however be held earlier than the deadline if preparation of voter list is completed earlier than the schedule," he reiterated.

In reply to a question, Shamsul Huda said the EC told Gastright that it might seek assistance of US experts, if necessary, to delimit parliamentary constituencies.

The EC would ask the government in December to lift restrictions on indoor politics in areas where local government polls will be held from January next year, he said.

Ctg Chhatra Union

FROM PAGE 16 "We have enough evidence of her involvement," Faruk claimed, adding that she will be produced before a court today.

At least 40 students, teachers and law enforcers had suffered injuries in a clash between the general students and cops on the campus in which some outsiders allegedly took part.

The agitators vandalised windows, doors and furniture of the Arts, Commerce and IT faculties and the CUCSU during the clash.

Sub-inspector Anisur Rahman of Hathazari PS on August 26 filed a case accusing 1,400 to 1,500 unidentified students and outsiders of instigating the vandalism and clash.

Among them, Monti is the second held by the police. Earlier, Bijoy Kumar Das, an activist of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, CU unit, was picked up from a students' mess near Kamal Gate in the city on September 2.

Judiciary

FROM PAGE 16 contempt cases against 13 bureaucrats for impeding the process of separating the judiciary from the executive.

Additional Attorney General Salah Uddin Ahmed appeared for the government.

In December 1999, the Supreme Court in the Masder Hossain case had given the government a 12-point directive for separating the judiciary.

Since then, the successive political governments on several occasions had sought extra time for the implementation of the SC directives, but to no effect.

The present caretaker government has started implementing the SC directives. In the meantime, the government framed four sets of new rules and announced the CrPC (Amendment) Ordinance in a bid to separate the magistracy from the executive control.

2 AL leaders

FROM PAGE 16 regarding the incident.

On September 12, AL Acting General Secretary Mukul Bose, Organising Secretary Abdul Mannan, AL leaders AKM Jahangir Hossain and Prof Abu Sayeed were abused by some party activists before and after the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meeting.

Talking to the reporters after the second day's investigation, Sajeda reiterated that although there are some differences in opinion among the leaders over some issues, there is no division in the party. She also denied any possibility of splitting of the party.

The AL leader observed that it is their duty to maintain the unity of the party at any cost for the sake of the Bengali nationalism, its culture and the spirit of the Liberation War. She sought cooperation of the media in keeping the party united.

Sajeda urged the government to allow indoor politics across the country so that the party can stand beside the flood victims.

AL leader BM Mozammel Haque was present.

Drug administration

FROM PAGE 16

Because of the small manpower the DA cannot even demand autonomy that might bring transparency and reduce government interference, they added.

The yearly transport allowance for a DA district superintendent for market monitoring is only Tk 2,000. But these superintendents do not have any magistracy power and security force like the Department of Narcotics.

According to the DA report prepared this year, the local drug production in 1982 was 32 percent of the total demand, which has now increased to 96 percent. The drug market has also boosted up to Tk 5,000 crore from only Tk 173 crore in 1981.

DA Deputy Director Sultan Ahmed said it is not possible for the DA alone to do all the tasks including monitoring the market situation perfectly.

"The two drug testing laboratories in Dhaka and Chittagong also cannot work properly because of small manpower. Machines worth over Tk 10 crore have remained useless at these labs for years due to lack of expert technicians," Sultan said.

The two laboratories can test 3,000 drug samples every year but there are more than 14,000 brands of drugs in the market, he said.

"It means around 11,000 drugs in the market remain unexamined every year. This encourages fraudulent businessmen to market harmful substandard drugs," said Prof ABM Faroque of pharmacy department of Dhaka University.

A proposal for making the DA a directorate was sent to the health ministry on December 12, 2005.

"Now it is the duty of the establishment ministry to send the proposal to its finance committee. The proposal will be later sent to the secretary level and then to the advisory council for approval," said Health and Family Affairs Secretary AKM Zafar Ullah Khan.

Structural change in the DA will change the charter of duty of its officials and quality of its service will also increase, he added.

However, experts said upgrading the DA to a directorate by only recruiting more employees and increasing its budget will not solve the present crisis. The internal corruption of the DA will also have to be removed.

However, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, projects coordinator of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, said, "The DA should take some temporary steps to gain people's trust and if it can do that, only then the health ministry can think about making it a

Musharraf

FROM PAGE 16 Earlier this year he said his army uniform had become "part of my skin."

But his military role became the major stumbling block in months of talks with Benazir Bhutto.

Benazir, who has been living in Dubai and London since 1999 to avoid corruption charges in her homeland, announced on Friday that she intends to return to Pakistan on October 18, with or without a deal.

Her Pakistan People's Party said in a statement that it "cannot accept a uniformed president. General Musharraf's decision to get himself re-elected in uniform is both unconstitutional and undemocratic."

It said it could resign from parliament if the government does not take steps for reconciliation, including an amnesty for Benazir's terms in power from 1988-1990 and 1993-1996 and a repeal on a ban on premiers serving a third term.

But there was no direct comment from Benazir. Newspaper reports this week said Musharraf would announce his intention to quit as part of a secretly-struck deal with her backed by the United States and Britain.

It would allow her to contest general elections due by early 2008.

Musharraf's move was also condemned by the party of another former premier, Nawaz Sharif. Sharif was deported to Saudi Arabia last week when he tried to fly home to challenge Musharraf, the man who ousted him.

"The announcement is just a threat from Musharraf. He means that if you elect him he will take off his uniform, otherwise you will get nothing," said senior party member Raja Zafar ul-Haq, a former law minister.

Musharraf could still face trouble in even standing for election.

The Supreme Court is hearing petitions against Musharraf's re-election from the country's main fundamentalist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, the cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan and a lawyers' association.

There is controversy too after the election commission changed a rule that previously forbade any officials -- including army officers like Musharraf -- from standing for polls within two years of retiring.

Attention has also turned to who would replace Musharraf as army chief amid reports of growing dissatisfaction in the ranks at the political turmoil and at the growing threat posed by Taliban and al-Qaeda militants.

directorate. Otherwise, there is no need to increase bureaucracy.

"The DA has huge power but it does not use it. It can even suspend the licences of companies and traders that manufacture and sell substandard, spurious and counterfeit drugs," he said, adding that to apply the power the DA does not even need magistracy power.

Experts suggested training for the health and family planning directors at the upazila level to get around 500 efficient officials to monitor the drug market in their respective areas. There is also a need to establish laboratories in the northern and southern parts of the country to test drugs.

They said laboratories at different public universities and Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research could be used meanwhile to test drugs.

On May 27, Health Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) ASM Matiur Rahman told reporters that the DA lacks monitoring and needs radical change. In an interview with a TV channel he later said several steps have been taken for the reform of the DA.

When contacted, the health and family welfare secretary however told The Daily Star on last Tuesday that he is unaware of any government step except for the move to make the DA a directorate.

The process of making the Drug Administration a directorate started during the tenure of the immediate past government.

Tigers get rid

FROM PAGE 1 smashed an unbeaten 66 off 42 balls and Malik chipped in with 52 not out as Pakistan virtually assured themselves of a place in the semifinals.

England seemed on course for a win when they restricted New Zealand to 164 for nine.

New opening pair Darren Maddy and Vikram Solanki put on 64 for the first wicket. Maddy seemed well on the way to a man-of-the-match performance when he made 50 off 31 balls after pulling off a direct-hit run-out and taking two wickets but he became the first of three run-out victims as the England challenge subsided.

Needing 20 to win off the last two overs, England's hopes crashed when Owais Shah was run out after he and Luke Wright had put on 42 for the sixth wicket.

New batsman Dimitri Mascarenhas was caught at deep cover off the next ball from Shane Bond and Wright followed in the same way three balls later.

Pakistan's second win in the group, following the 33-run win over Sri Lanka on Monday, left them needing a point against Bangladesh in Cape Town on Thursday to move into the last four.

Australia, who must beat Sri Lanka on Thursday to stay in contention for the semi-finals, were left to ponder the jinx that the Wanderers ground holds for them.

The result in Durban meant that New Zealand would reach the semifinals while England faced almost certain elimination.

Maoists

FROM PAGE 16 Associated Press.

Leaders of the top four parties in the government, including the Maoists, met at the prime minister's residence Tuesday in a last-ditch attempt to avert a political crisis.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Maoist party leader Prachanda who goes by one name and leaders of the Nepali Congress Democratic and United Marxist Leninist Communist Party of Nepal met until early afternoon, when the negotiations broke down.

The former rebels had been threatening that they would walk out of the eight-party coalition government by Tuesday if the prime minister did not meet their demands, including one that Nepal become a republic instead of a constitutional monarchy.

They also are demanding that a commission investigate the disappearances of their supporters