

## ACC okays bringing

**FROM PAGE 1**  
from the three companies from October 24, 1996 to November 24, 1997. The amount was spent for buying a house in Dhanmondi for Bangabandhu Memorial Trust set up and controlled by Hasina.

The other accused in the case are former energy secretary Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, former Power Development Board (PDB) chairman Noor Uddin Mahmud Kamal, Managing Director of Summit Industries and Mercantile Corporation Private Ltd Aziz Khan and Director Farid Khan, United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmud Raja and Director Abul Kalam Azad.

None of the accused will be eligible to get bail now following the ACC approval of bringing the case under EPR.

The joint forces arrested Sheikh Hasina on July 16 in a Tk 3 crore extortion case filed by Azam J Chowdhury, managing director of Eastcoast Private Trading Ltd, also a power company.

On September 17, the ACC also brought the container handling case filed against another detained former

prime minister Khaleda Zia on September 2 under EPR.

In the case filed by ACC Deputy Director Golam Shahriar Chowdhury with Teigaon Police Station, Khaleda, her younger son Koko and 11 others were charged with corruption and misuse of power to help Global Agro Trade (Private) Company Ltd (GATCO), an indenting house, win the tender for container handling at Dhaka Inland Container Depot (ICD) and Chittagong Port ICD yard.

IO of the case Jahurul Huda filed a petition on September 5 recommending that the case should be brought under EPR.

Meanwhile, the ACC secretary also confirmed yesterday that the proposed ACC service rule ensures that all the ACC officers and employees would be given promotion based on their merit, qualifications and honesty at work.

Under this rule, an ACC officer or employee will get promotion at least twice during his service.

## Aalpin publication

**FROM PAGE 1**  
banned and legal action will not be taken against the publisher.

The order was issued under sub-section (E) (i) (iv) of section 20 of the Printing and Publication Act, 1973 (Declaration and Registration).

An official handout last night said the cartoon published in "Aalpin" on September 17 has hurt religious sentiment of the Muslims and it caused apprehension of deterioration of law and order in the country.

## ATTACK ON DAILY OFFICE Charges framed against ex-BNP lawmaker Rumi

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushitia**

Police yesterday framed charge against former BNP lawmaker Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi and three others for attacking a newspaper office in Kushtia in 2005.

The other accused are Kushtia district BNP joint secretary Sazedur Rahman Bablu, Nazrul Islam Mukul and Jalaluddin.

The news editor of the daily newspaper "Dainik Arshinagar" filed the case with a first class magistrate's court on June 10 this year.

According to the case proceedings, the newspaper published a news item on November 19, 2005 which infuriated the former BNP lawmaker of Kushtia-4 constituency.

Miscreants led by Mehedi stormed the newspaper office on November 19 night and ransacked it. They also beat up the news editor and other staff.

All the accused in the case are on the run, said the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station.

## Brac staff

**FROM PAGE 1**  
NGO workers from Brac and Grameen Bank are working in similar, if not worse, conditions in parts of Africa and he sees no reason for Bangladeshis to stop working in Afghanistan.

The abduction of the Brac worker is an isolated incident and Bangladeshis are not particularly being targeted by militant groups in Afghanistan, he added.

Nurul Islam was kidnapped from Kulangar district of Logar province in Afghanistan on September 15.

## Ex-NBR member

**FROM PAGE 1**  
handed down three years' simple imprisonment under Section 165 of the income tax ordinance for giving false information, and five years' rigorous imprisonment under Section 166 of the ordinance for concealing information about wealth.

Sarwar however will have to serve five years' jail term as both the sentences will run concurrently.

His jail term will begin from the day of his surrender or arrest.

Rabul Hasan Pradhan, deputy tax commissioner of the NBR, filed the case with a senior special judge's court on August 15 this year.

In the case statement, the complainant said that in different tax years from 2000-2001 to 2006-2007, Sarwar concealed information involving about Tk 4,31,90,106 in his tax returns and thereby dodged tax on the concealed amount.

Charges were framed against the former NBR member on September 13 while deposition of witnesses began on September 17. Five witnesses gave their deposition in the case.

Sarwar is one of the 50 influential political leaders, businessmen and former bureaucrats listed for the second phase of the joint forces' anti-corruption drive.

Case against Manjurul Ahsan and his family

On March 27, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case with Gulshan Police Station against Manjurul Ahsan, his wife Mazeda Ahsan and their sons Rizviul Ahsan and Rezwanaul Ahsan for submitting "false" statement of wealth to the watchdog.

On June 27, the ACC submitted charge sheet to the court accusing them of amassing wealth worth over Tk 5.37 crore through "illegal means".

Meanwhile, verdict in the tax evasion case against the wife of detained Awami League Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader Isratunnessa will be given on September 25.

## Khaleda's bail

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Later the case was brought under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) on September 17 that also curbed the right of an accused to seek bail from any court, they said.

But the prosecuting section of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) at the CMM Court did not get the order of bringing the case under the EPR from the authorities concerned till September 18. So, there was no obstacle to granting bail to their client, the defence added.

ACC Deputy Director Golam Shahriar Chowdhury filed the case against Khaleda, Koko and the others on September 2 with Teigaon Police Station following which law enforcement agencies arrested the BNP chairperson and her son at their cantonment residence.

Khaleda was later sent to a sub-jail at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban Complex after being produced before Dhaka's Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

The complainant alleged that the accused breached tender conditions by appointing Global Agro Trade (Private) Company Ltd (GATCO), an indenting house, for container handling at Dhaka Inland Container Depot (ICD) and in the restricted area of Chittagong Port ICD although the firm was lacking in experience and skill.

A three-member tender evaluation committee of the port also termed the company unfit for the work, the complainant added.

# NEWS

## Tailback stops city

**FROM PAGE 1**  
collapsed? Traffic authorities won't agree to take the blame.

The authorities said they have very little to do as the number of vehicles is "far far beyond" the road capacity, with road repair work in some places worsening the problem further.

The road divider replacement and road extension on the VIP road from Sonargaon Hotel to Dhaka Sheraton Hotel have shrunk the busy road. It is not only causing jam on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue but also equally affecting other adjoining streets, lanes and by-lanes.

"Traffic pressure here is quite maddening from 8:00am to 11:00am when people go to office," traffic constable Jahangir Hossain, on duty near Saarc Fountain at 1:15pm, told The Daily Star.

The congestion starts taking acute turn again by 2:30pm when people start rushing home, he added.

"Vehicles coming in full flow from different streets have to slow down due to shrinking of this VIP road, creating a long jam at their tails," said Jasim Uddin, joint commissioner of traffic police.

Vehicles coming through the roads hitting Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue can hardly advance, creating a nagging gridlock from Mohakhali flyover to Paltan through Farmgate.

The jam later engulfs Mirpur Road, Progati Sarani, Panthapath and Satmasjid Road.

The divider work is on at a slow pace and the traffic police have asked the Dhaka City Corporation several times to finish the work quickly, said Deputy Commissioner (DC) of south traffic zone Sayedur Rahman.

Workers on the site said they will need at least four more days to complete the work started about one and a half month ago.

"Nowhere in the world traffic police have to work so hard to maintain traffic as we do here. But the fact is that sudden rush of traffic on all the streets at 8:00am and during office breaking hours is not easy to manage," he said.

"During Ramadan, people have a short day to finish all their businesses outside as they start late and return home early. So all of them come out on the streets at the same time," Abdul Hannan, driver of a route No. 4 (Gabtoli-Sayedabad) bus said when stuck at Karwan Bazar.

Many drivers tend to break traffic rules as passengers ask them to drive fast, he noted.

"Absence of a footover bridge at Bangla Motor and people's negligence in using the footover bridge at Shahbagh contribute a lot to traffic congestion there," DC Sayedur Rahman said.

A fencing, like the one at Farmgate, may help stop people from crossing the road at Shahbagh, he added.

Pointing out the huge number of schools in Dhanmondi, Rahman noted that traffic rush to schools in the morning and school break hours is a major reason for congestion in the area.

Some traffic officials pointed out that makeshift iftar shops on the footpaths and walkways are also contributors to traffic congestion.

"We are not taking any hard stance to evict the iftar sellers, but asking them not to occupy space illegally," a traffic official said.

An inter-ministerial body on September 13 received a proposal for opening the road through Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters in Pikhana for general public for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. But it is yet to be implemented, said traffic officials.

"We're working to reorganise the bus routes through the city," Joint Commissioner Jasim Uddin said.

Passenger buses ply on 138 routes, stretching over 200-kilometre road in the city.

Talking on a proposal for cutting traffic stoppage time during traffic signals, some officials said it would not be of much help.

## EC for fixing ceiling

**FROM PAGE 1**  
political parties had reportedly sold nominations in exchange for crores of taka.

The EC's proposals say donations to the political parties will have to be made by cheque. On the other hand, a party must maintain accounts with a schedule bank. It must have its income and expenditure audited by a registered accounting firm every year and then submit a copy of the audit to the EC.

In addition, the commission has

proposed stringent provisions regarding code of conduct for the political parties and candidates in parliamentary elections with a view to reduce the overall polls expenditure.

By the same token, the EC did not propose increasing the limit on election expenditure which is currently Tk 5 lakh for a candidate.

Earlier, the EC announced a set of proposals outlining certain conditions for a political party to register with it. Registration will be the main criterion for a party to contest the parliamentary polls.

Those intending to be registered will have to furnish the commission with a number of documents that include among others annual audit report, accounts number with local and foreign banks, and sources of party funds.

In the face of strong opposition from the major political parties, the EC could not make the registration mandatory in 2001. This time almost all the parties are in favour of the system and the EC too is resolved to make the plan come about to ensure financial transparency in the parties.

The EC has already started a series of dialogues with the political parties on its proposals for electoral reforms. The proposals might be modified in the light of suggestions from the participants in the talks that began on September 12.

The proposals will be finalised in consultation with political parties and sent to the caretaker government to be made into laws.

## 2 JP factions

**FROM PAGE 20**  
party's Banani office yesterday.

"The meeting also discussed party reforms and decided to form a committee within Saturday to make reforms proposal," Anisul said.

Asked whether JP would take part in the next polls if BNP chief Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina were not released, Anisul said, "We took part in elections when our own chairman was in jail."

In reply to another question Anisul said, "Action will be taken against those [people in the other faction of JP] in due time."

JP Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, presidium member Ziauddin Bablu, Fakir Ashraf, MA Sattar, TI Fazle Rabbi, Nasim Osman were present at the meeting.

The Rawshan Ershad-led JP faction during its meeting held at the residence of Rawshan vowed to take stern actions against leaders of their opposing faction in the next party council meeting.

The meeting also discussed party reforms and holding of the party council.

Rawshan-led JP's Acting General Secretary Golam Moshiur Rahman Ranga, Jahangir Mohammad Adel were present at the meeting.

Rawshan Ershad, senior presidium member of JP and wife of Ershad, on June 26 proclaimed herself the acting chairman of JP and unveiled plans for intra-party reforms.

On June 30, JP chief HM Ershad quit his post and appointed Anisul Islam Mahmud, a presidium member of the party, the acting chairman of the party until a new party chief is elected by the party council.

## 24 killed in Afghan attack

**AFP, Heart**

A Taliban attack on a police post in western Afghanistan sparked a battle that left at least 20 militants and four police dead, a provincial governor said yesterday.

Dozens of Islamic fighters attacked a police position in Badghis province Wednesday, setting off a three-hour gunfight, governor Mohammad Ashraf Nasiri told AFP.

"Twenty militants were killed and nine militants were wounded in the fighting," he said. Four police were also killed.

Western Afghanistan is relatively peaceful compared to the insurgency-hit south and southeast of the country, where militant attacks are an almost daily routine.

But Bala Murghab district, the scene of the latest attack, has seen a spike in violence in the past months.

Seven Afghan soldiers and 20 militants were killed in a battle there last month that was sparked when Taliban militants ambushed an Afghan and Nato army convoy.

Taliban insurgents have waged a bloody insurgency since their ouster from power in late 2001 by the US-led invasion of Afghanistan, which has claimed thousands of lives so far.

In another incident related to the insurgency, a suicide bomber on a bicycle blew himself up on Thursday in the southern province of Ghazni, provincial police chief Alishah Ahmadzai said.

His target was an Afghan army truck, and a soldier was severely wounded.

Elsewhere Afghan soldiers carried out an operation in Wardak province in which three "enemies" were killed and nine wounded and arrested, police said.

Wardak, which adjoins Kabul province, is where Taliban-linked militants captured a German engineer two months ago. The operation did not appear to be related to the kidnapping.

A Bangladeshi national was seized in neighbouring Logar province on Saturday by unknown men whom police say were criminally motivated and not linked to the Taliban. Three suspects have been arrested.

## Bangladesh make

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Hafeez made a more sedate 23 off 21 deliveries.

Hafeez was caught in the deep of Syed Rasel and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzaq followed up with the wickets of Afridi and Younis Khan as Pakistan slipped to 69 for three.

There was another slump when three more wickets fell while the score rose from 102 to 119.

Bangladesh might have squandered a chance to pull off an upset win when Mahmudullah Riyad dropped Nazir at deep cover off Mortaza when Nazir was on four and the total 110 for five.

## Bangabandhu case

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Appellate Division, headed by Justice M Tafazzal Islam, fixed the date for order on the matter.

The hearings on the applications that began on August 7 continued for the last 26 working days, court sources said.

The condemned petitioners are Lt Col (sacked) Syed Farooq Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahrar Rashid Khan, Lt Col (ret'd) Muhiuddin Ahmed, Lt Col (ret'd) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Maj (ret'd) Bazilul Huda.

Country's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975. A case was filed on October 2, 1996.

On November 8, 1998, a trial court awarded death sentences to 15 retired and dismissed army personnel for the carnage.

The HC finally upheld the capital punishment of 12. Of them, five are now in jail, one died and the rest are still at large.

## BB increases limit

**FROM PAGE 20**  
A high official of a commercial bank, however, said amounts to come under the inspection could be fixed at Tk 10 lakh instead of Tk 7 lakh.

Central bank sources said there is no scope of considering a transaction suspicious if any customer transacts Tk 7 lakh or more.

Sources said following the start of the government's anti-corruption drive, a few bankers threatened its customers to disclose their accounts details to the central bank.

Before sending the transaction report, the bank concerned will have to examine the transactions. If they find any dubious transactions, they will have to describe the transactions and explain the basis of their suspicion, sources said.

Meanwhile, the BB yesterday informed the commercial banks that all crimes under the Money Laundering Act will be investigated by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

A clause of Money Laundering Prevention Act 2002 has already been amended in this connection recently by issuing an ordinance.

## Abbas, Amir Khasru

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Shafiqur Rahman Kiron, Chittagong Awami League leader Afsar Uddin's wife Hasna Ahmed, Ambia Group Managing Director Abul Kasem, former secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) Ali Haider Chowdhury, Mehedi Hasan of Orion Group and Basundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam.

Of them, only Abbas and Humayun Khan are behind bars.

Khairul Huda, also the investigation officer of the case, prayed for arrest warrants to be issued against Amir Khasru, Harris, Shah Alam and 20 others and orders for attachment of their properties.

The names of Harris and Amir Khasru and 11 others were included in the charge sheet since investigation has found their involvement in the offence.

The charges were pressed under section 409/109 of the penal code, section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 and section 15 of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007.

Huda said the charges have been proved primarily and so the accused should be brought to trial.

According to the prosecution, Abbas told parliament on June 7 last year that in accordance with the Bangladesh Abandoned Property (control, management and disposal) Order 1972, the housing ministry is authorised to control, manage and dispose of abandoned houses.

But before informing the House of the legal aspects, he had already ordered for measures to sell the abandoned houses. Accordingly, the Rajuk published an auction notice in different national dailies on April 5, 2006 for 10 of the houses.

They sold the 18 houses at a "fake auction" at prices much lower than the then market rates. The sale bypassing an open auction resulted in a loss of Tk 127.64 crore to the nation's coffers.

The houses sold are located in posh areas like Gulshan, Banani, Dhanmondi and New Eskaton.

As the housing minister, Abbas was vocal in his opposition to the use of residential plots for commercial purposes.

In response to a lawmaker's query, he told the House on June 7 last year that the law provides for punitive action against anyone using residential plots for commercial purposes.

It is Prophet Muhammad's way (Sunnah) to forgive after a sincere apology, he said, adding, "We hope people will also forgive because this paper will not engage in any criticism or mockery of religion in future."

## BOMB SMUGGLING

## Iranian detained by US in Iraq

**AP, Baghdad**

An Iranian officer accused of smuggling powerful roadside bombs into Iraq was arrested Thursday in northern Iraq, the US military said.

The arrest could add to tensions between Washington and Tehran already strained by the detention of each other's citizens as well as US accusations of Iranian involvement in Iraq's violence and Iran's disputed nuclear program.

The military said the suspect was a member of the Quds force, an elite unit of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and was seized from a hotel in the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniyah.

Two other Iranians were detained in the raid but later released, a Kurdish official said.

The Iranian officer was allegedly involved in transporting roadside bombs, including armor-piercing explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs, into Iraq, according to a military statement. It said intelligence reports also indicated he was involved in the infiltration and training of foreign fighters in Iraq.

**FROM PAGE 20**  
country's national parliament and its four provincial assemblies, which have all been in place since 2002.

The government said it was confident Musharraf would be voted back in.

"God willing we will re-elect him, we have got the majority, we have got the strength," Information Minister Muhammad Ali Durrani told AFP. "It's a step towards democracy."

But the opposition has called for Musharraf to seek re-election from a new parliament instead of the outgoing one and for him to quit his military role before a vote.

Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan said MPs from an alliance of key opposition parties called the All Pakistan Democratic Movement would resign from the assemblies "the day Musharraf's nomination papers are accepted."

Musharraf's plans to be re-elected in uniform have also apparently derailed negotiations for a power-sharing deal with self-exiled former premier Benazir Bhutto, who has vowed to return to Pakistan on October 18.

Her Pakistan People's Party, the country's largest, said the announcement of the election date was "taken in haste" and that the commission should have waited for the Supreme Court's decisions on the challenges to the election.

In an opinion piece in the Washington Post, Benazir also criticised the election commission for changing rules barring public servants -- such as army chief Musharraf -- from standing in polls unless they have been retired from

for commercial purposes.

Interestingly, he kept silence when his relatives built an automobile works on a large piece of land at Shahjahanpur. The plot was allotted to Abbas' family for residential purpose.

Abbas, also a former mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation, allegedly influenced the Rajuk authorities in 1996 to split a children's park into plots and allot those to his brothers, sisters and other relatives as persons affected by previous development projects in the city.

Meantime, ACC Secretary Mokhes Ur Rahman said that the charges have been brought not only against the 12 people who stand accused in the first information report (FIR) but also the 13 beneficiaries.

**CASE AGAINST SALAHUDDIN'S FAMILY**  
Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday ordered attachment of properties of former BNP lawmaker from Demra Salahuddin Ahmed's wife Shamsunnahar and son Imran Ahmed in two cases filed for tax evasion.

Earlier on September 16, the National Board of Revenue's (NBR) Additional Assistant Tax Commissioner SM Ibrahim filed the cases against them.

Shamsunnahar as director of ITS Enterprise Ltd had dodged income tax totalling Tk 2,132,178 between the fiscal years 2002 and 2007.

Her son Imran Ahmed evaded Tk 20,352,568 income tax for the fiscal years between 2002 and 2006.

Imran also withheld from the NBR information about his taxable income, earnings from sale of flats and shares, private car, money deposited in different banks and source of income.

## Khatib asks

**FROM PAGE 1**  
editor personally apologised to him.

"Since the Prothom Alo editor personally came here to admit that they made a mistake, apologised and asked for forgiveness, and said they are prepared to apologise in court, we feel it is not right to wage a movement or create tension among the general people by making this an issue," said Obaidul Haq.

It is Prophet Muhammad's way (Sunnah) to forgive after a sincere apology, he said, adding, "We hope people will also forgive because this paper will not engage in any criticism or mockery of religion in future."

"The Ulamas have agreed that it would be appropriate to forgive this; I also agree with this," the khatib said at a discussion following an iftar party organised by the Islamic Foundation.

The iftar party was attended by Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hosen, Religious Affairs Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) ASM Matiar, and editors of numerous daily newspapers.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiar Rahman yesterday apologised again for the inadvertent publication of the cartoon, and urged the Ulamas and pious people of the country to be forgiving about the incident.

The discussion was also attended by daily Jugantor Editor Golam Sarwar, Manabjamin Editor Matiar Rahman Chowdhury, Amader Shomoy Editor Naimul Islam Khan, Pesh Imam of Baitul Mukarram Maulana Nuruddin, Tamirul Millat Aliya Madrasa Principal Maulana Jaynul Abedin, Khelafat Majlish leader Masum Billah, and leaders of Ahle Hadith Jubashangha.

## Musharraf sets polls

their jobs for two years.

US-based organisation Human Rights Watch branded Musharraf's election plan as a "sham" and said the country's voters should be able to decide who is president.

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed an appeal against the retirement rule change that was filed by Imran Khan this week.

But it is still hearing a series of opposition appeals against Musharraf's dual military-civilian role, his eligibility to stand in the election, and whether it should be by the outgoing parliament.

It is expected to rule on Friday. Musharraf has been embroiled in crisis since he tried to sack the country's independent-minded chief justice, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, who was later reinstated after leading a mass protest campaign.

But Musharraf has also faced a wave of Islamist violence since a deadly government raid on the al-Qaeda-linked Red Mosque in Islamabad in July, a move that has apparently sparked bin Laden's latest verbal assault.

"al-Qaeda will declare war on the tyrant Pervez Musharraf and his apostate army through the voice of the lion, Sheikh Osama bin Laden, God protect him," an Islamist website quoted the new bin Laden tape as saying on Thursday.

Musharraf and one of Pakistan's support for the Taliban after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States and joined Washington's "war on terror". He has since escaped at least two al-Qaeda-linked assassination attempts.