

Charges pressed against top Ctg Wasa engineers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday submitted charge sheet against the three detained top Wasa engineers and two others in a graft case.

ACC Assistant Director (AD) Jahangir Alam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted it to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court at about 10:45am.

Chittagong Wasa Chief Engineer Shafiqul Islam, Superintendent Engineer Mohammad Shafiullah, Assistant Engineer AKM Abdul Kuddus, Assistant Engineer (retd) Abu Taher and contractor AN Faruk Ahmed have been accused in the charge sheet.

Magistrate AKM Shahidur Rahman transferred the case to the court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge AKM Anwar Hossain.

An ACC team detained the three engineers on Wednesday for misappropriating Tk 1,689,964 in 2002.

9 dead in Myanmar as troops open fire

Thousands keep up protests defying junta retaliation

AFP, Yangon

Security forces swept through Yangon's city centre yesterday, arresting hundreds of people and warning of "extreme" action in a crackdown on protesters who took to the streets in their thousands.

Nine people, including eight protesters and a Japanese man, were killed Thursday in a crackdown on anti-government protests, Myanmar's state media said.

Another 11 demonstrators were injured including one woman, and 31 security forces were also injured,

it said in an evening television bulletin.

"The protesters threw bricks, sticks and knives at the security forces, so because of the desperate situation the security forces had to fire warning shots," it said.

Undeterred by the deaths, large crowds faced off against troops and police around the Buddhist Sule pagoda in downtown Yangon.

Nine people, including eight protesters and a Japanese man, were killed Thursday in a crackdown on anti-government protests, Myanmar's state media said.

After earlier firing warning shots, troops issued an ultimatum threatening "extreme action" unless the protesters dispersed.

Thousands scattered in panic but at least 100 were arrested and thrown into military trucks after the ultimatum.

There were reports of tens of thousands more protesters in different parts of the city, remaining defiant against the regime.

It was the 10th straight day that large protests have erupted against the ruling junta, which infuriated

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AL starts talks with 14-party components tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) starts tomorrow its meetings with the components of the 14-party alliance and other like-minded parties to take a common stance at the Election Commission dialogue.

As part of the plan, AL will first sit with the Workers' Party of Bangladesh tomorrow at the Gulshan residence of AL Acting President Zillur Rahman.

The party will also meet Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and other progressive political parties outside the coalition.

Talking to the reporters yesterday, AL leader Tofail Ahmed said that they will hold discussion with their 14-party allies so that they can

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FEMALE WORKERS Govt mulls safe houses in ME

PORIMOL PALMA

The government has decided in principle to set up safe houses in the Middle Eastern countries, making basic training mandatory for women aspiring to work in these countries as domestic aides.

It has also been decided that from now on no individuals can process their visas or demand letters and other documents themselves; recruiting agencies of Bangladesh and labourer receiving countries will do it for them. As a result, the domestic aides, if undergo any trouble overseas, can be identified and the agencies will be held accountable.

These rules were set in a guideline prepared by the Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment following allegations of fraud and exploitation. There are allegations that female workers are often subject to fraud and exploita-

tion by brokers and human smugglers at home and by employers abroad.

A gazette notification on the guideline issued and taking effect on September 1 was distributed to the Bangladesh missions in Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Manama, Doha and Amman, and to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET).

"The safe houses will be set up in favourable places on the basis of demand and the Bangladesh missions will receive fees for its establishment and maintenance while attesting work permits or visa advices," the guideline says.

Aspirant migrants must undergo a 15-day training programme either at the BMET training institute or under recruiting agencies' own arrangement on modern household work and basic skill in language and culture of the

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Back from KL, 11 workers partly get money back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11 cheated job seekers staying at Zia International Airport (ZIA) since their arrival from Malaysia on September 25 finally left for their homes yesterday upon receiving partial payments from their recruiting agency and the government assurance of payment of the balance money they had paid to the agency.

Their recruiting agency, Golden Arrow, yesterday handed them 11 cheques -- Tk 84,000 each -- while the government gave assurance that the balance of their cost, Tk 2.3 lakh each, would be arranged by October 3.

The cheques were handed over to the job seekers yesterday afternoon at the office of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training at Kakrail in the capital.

The 11 job seekers are the first batch among 80 who staged

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Get Prayer times from Warid Menu

Iftaar

Sehri

5.53 PM

4.29 AM

Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Sept	Sehri	Iftar
15	28		5-53
16	29	4-30	5-51
17	30	4-30	5-50

Prayer Timing

September 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-53	6-08
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

LDA urges govt to stop provocative activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) yesterday urged the government to prevent provocative activities of the fundamentalist forces in the country.

In a press statement, it said fundamentalist forces are trying to exploit the issue of publishing a cartoon by Prothom Alo and another article by Saptahik 2000, even though the authorities concerned apologised for it.

"It is a threat to democracy and secular harmony of the nation," they said, adding that the

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Musharraf files nomination for Oct 6 presidential polls

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf yesterday formally applied to run in the October 6 presidential polls, in a bid for five more years of power that could yet be derailed by the Supreme Court.

Two opposition candidates also filed nomination papers to stand against Musharraf -- a key US ally who seized power in a 1999 coup -- saying that he cannot be re-elected while he remains army chief.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and several cabinet ministers swept up to the election commission in Islamabad in a convoy of black limousines to lodge the nomination on behalf of Musharraf.

Hundreds of riot police and

commandos were deployed around the building and at the Supreme Court across the road to guard against protests by the opposition and all key roads were sealed off.

The government has defied international condemnation and detained hundreds of opposition workers in raids, which started at the weekend to thwart planned demonstrations.

"Today is a historic day for Pakistan," Aziz told state television.

"This election will strengthen democracy and is in the interest of the nation. The government will take every step to ensure a free, fair and transparent election," he said.

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One beaten to death in city by mob

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged burglar was beaten to death by a mob at Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday during an attempted burglary.

Earlier on Wednesday, severed body of an unidentified male was found on the rail tracks near Cantonment rail station.

At Mohammadpur, the alleged burglar, a youth aged around 24 years, succumbed to his injuries at around 12:30pm following mob beatings as he broke in a house on Humayun Road, said police.

As the members of the household screamed out for help after sensing burglary, a mob caught up

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