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## Charges framed against Bangla Bhai's wife, 22 others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court yesterday framed charges against 23 Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) activists including Fahima, wife of executed JMB kingpin Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhai, in six cases filed in connection with militant activities, serial bomb blasts in Mymensingh on August 17, 2005, and making bombs and carrying explosives.

Judge Mainul Haque of the Fourth Additional Sessions Judge's Court conducted the proceedings of the charge framing. There were 10 cases filed against them but the charges were framed in six of them.

The accused are Fahima, Salah Uddin, Asaduzzaman, Mustafizur

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## ACC probes Nico link to Khaleda, Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) is probing into allegations against two former premiers -- Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia -- for their alleged involvement in illegally awarding 'gas field development' and 'gas exploration' jobs to Nico.

"The investigation report will decide how the case will be filed and against whom," said Mokhles Ur Rahman, ACC secretary, during a routine press briefing at the ACC head office yesterday. "I hope the inquiry report will be submitted by November."

During initial inquiry, the country's corruption watchdog has found involvement of both Hasina and

Khaleda's governments in awarding the job to Nico illegally. The investigation, however, is yet to be completed, said sources at the ACC.

The ACC secretary told the journalists that if the allegations are found to be true after the investigation, action will be taken against both the former premiers along with cabinet members and government officials concerned during both tenures for processing and finalising the Nico deal by violating rules.

The persons will be accused of causing huge loss to the state by "declaring different gas fields -- which were discovered afresh -- in the country abandoned" and by "awarding gas exploration work to

Nico without floating any tender," Mokhles added.

"Two different ACC officials have been tasked with the job to inquire into the alleged corruption done during the tenures of the two different governments," he said.

He, however, could not confirm whether both the premiers and others would be accused in a single case or separate cases would be filed against them.

ACC Deputy Director SM Sabir Hasan is investigating the part of Nico deal done during the tenure of Hasina government while Deputy Director Mahbub Alam is investigating the part of Khaleda government's tenure.

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## KHALEDA CASE Ex-PMO official, Gatco accountant quizzed

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday questioned ex-director of the Prime Minister's Office Talebur Rahman and a Gatco accountant in connection with the container-handling scam case against former prime minister Khaleda Zia, her younger son Arafat Rahman Koko and 11 others.

Sources said investigation officer and ACC Deputy Director Jahurul Huda managed to contact Taleb on Wednesday night and asked him to appear in person at the Commission where he was quizzed.

Gatco accountant Monirul Islam Rahat faced the questioning after being summoned by the

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## HARMFUL CHEMICALS

# 10 consignments to EU rejected since Jan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Union (EU) has rejected 10 consignments of Bangladeshi food items since January this year as those contained various harmful chemicals.

The food items are frozen peeled shrimp, mango, pickles of olive, chalta, satkara, green chilly and chana-chur. Chemicals including sudan dye, uric acid, antibiotics and aflatoxin were found in those.

Dr KM Formuzul Haque, director (in-charge) of Institute of Food Science & Technology (IFST), said this while talking to journalists on

the sidelines of a seminar at Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) in the capital yesterday.

The seminar on 'Meeting international standards for food and drug: a challenge for Bangladesh-LC/MS/MS approach' was jointly organised by the IFST of BCSIR, Applied Biosystems of USA, Bangladesh Scientific & Chemical Mart and Scientific Solution (Pvt) Ltd.

Formuzul said the food items were not tested before shipment from Bangladesh as there were no facilities for such tests at that time. "We have recently commis-

sioned a food toxicology research laboratory equipped with LC/MS/MS system, the most sophisticated equipment for analysing the toxic ingredients in food and drug items," he said.

Food items can now be tested only in two days in this system, he mentioned.

The food science expert hoped that Bangladeshi exporters would now get their export samples tested at this laboratory to make sure that their consignments are not rejected anywhere in the world. Laws should also be enacted making it mandatory that food items

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## Ban on rickshaws on Mokhali-Moghbazar road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) placed a trial-ban on the plying of rickshaws from Moghbazar intersection to Mohakhali intersection with effect from yesterday.

Besides, the process of establishing separate lanes for motorised and non-motorised vehicles on several city streets has begun.

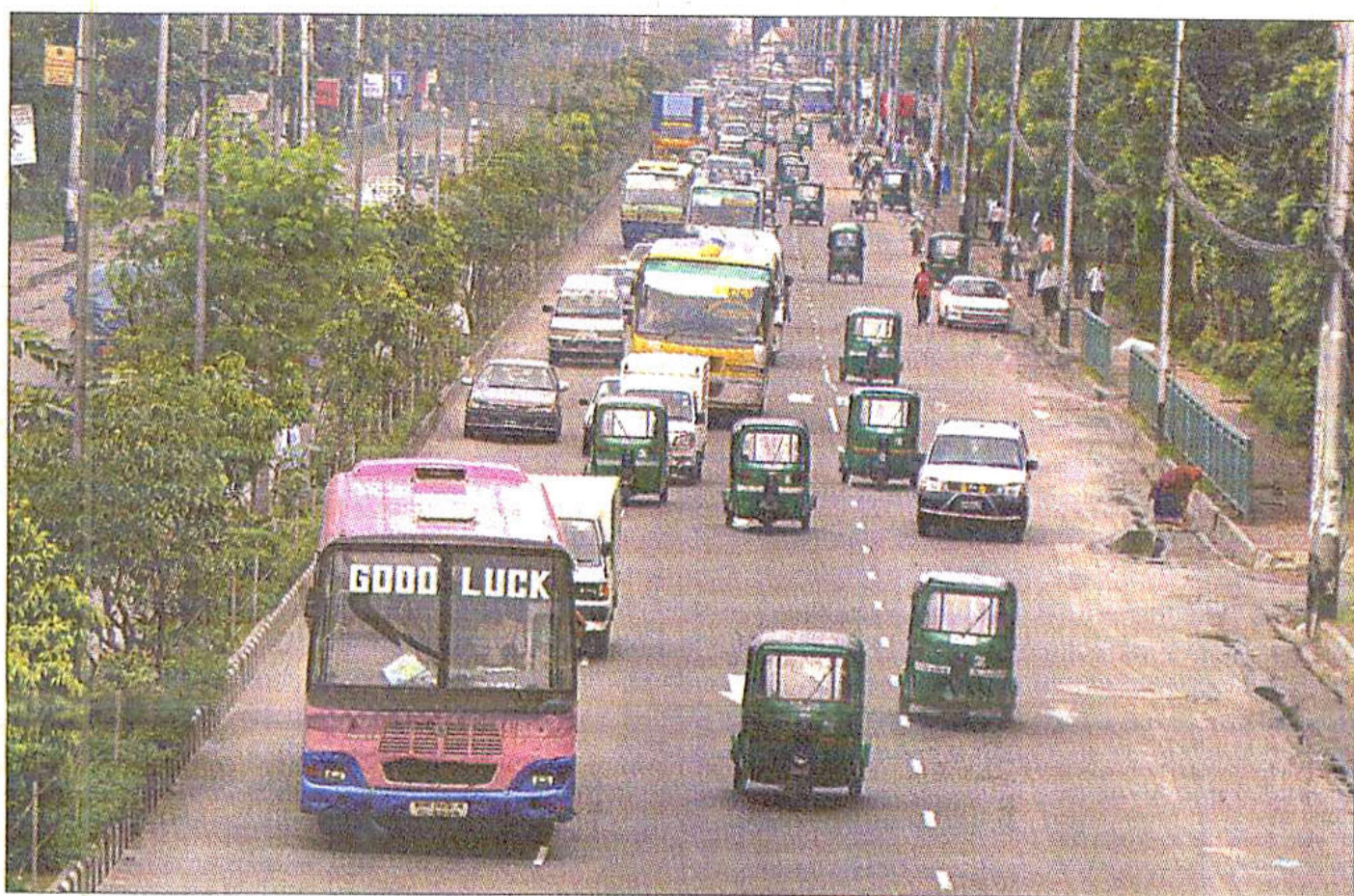
DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday evening that the plying of rickshaws had been banned between Moghbazar intersection and FDC-Tongi Diversion Road intersection earlier. "This time the ban has been extended up to Mohakhali on test," he added.

The DMP commissioner also said the ban would be made permanent if the traffic situation benefited from it; otherwise the DMP may change its decision.

However, rickshaws have been allowed to cross the road considering the convenience of the people in Tejgaon Industrial Area, he added.

He said the process of making separate lanes for non-motorised vehicles has begun in Kakrail.

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The photo taken at Sat Rasta junction shows smooth flow of vehicles on Tongi Diversion Road yesterday as Dhaka Metropolitan Police slapped a trial-ban on rickshaw on this road.

## Enacting law not enough to make EC free

CEC points at goodwill of political parties

UNB, Dhaka

Enacting law is not enough for the Election Commission secretary's independence rather goodwill of political parties as well as political governments is a prerequisite, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda said yesterday, responding to politicians' critical observations.

He expects the EC secretariat will become truly independent before the next election, and has made it clear that they are the final arbiters in matters of elections.

Meanwhile, the CEC said they will request the government to lift the state of emergency country-wide from December since elections to the local bodies are to be held from March next year.

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## Oli finds no reason to get back to BNP

UNB, Dhaka

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed yesterday said there is no reason for him to return to BNP but a political party can make proposals to his party on any issue.

"Despite being a founding member, I was compelled to quit BNP and float LDP protesting against corruption, terrorism and extortion by some BNP ministers, MPs and leaders," he told UNB in an interview at his New DOHS home yesterday.

Oli said, "It is our priority to consolidate LDP and prepare it for the next election. Some tried to misinterpret my remarks to create a smokescreen. I have protested whenever I saw wrongdoing and injustice. It does not mean I have sided with any party."

He categorically said any

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## Deliver just justice in free judiciary

Chief justice asks judges

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin yesterday advised the judges of subordinate courts to deliver evenhanded justice to people as the judiciary becomes independent of the executive control from November 1.

"We have to prove our capability through our work in fulfilling the long-desired aspiration of the people about dispensation of justice," he said while inaugurating an orientation programme for the district and sessions judges at the Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI).

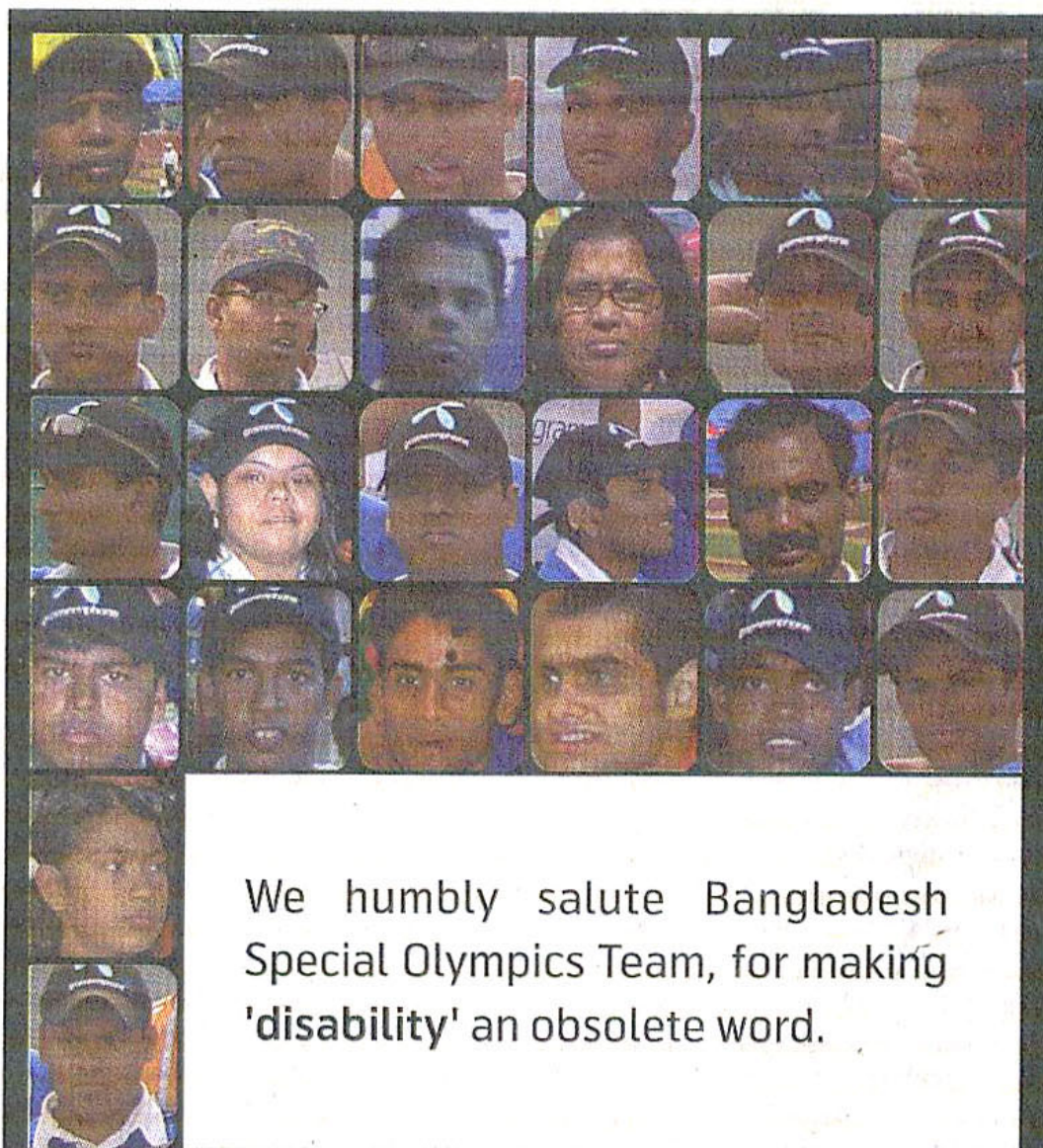
Sixty-three district and sessions judges are participating in the programme. They will monitor the performance of the judicial magistrates from November 1.

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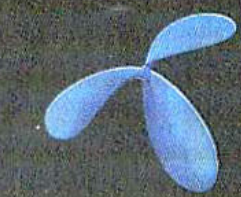
Terming the newly introduced judicial magistrates at the subordinate courts as members of the same family in the judiciary, the chief justice said that some mess still exists in dispensation of justice at magistracy level. He, however, did not elaborate.

Justice Amin urged the judicial magistrates to act cautiously while dealing with criminal cases where people have extensive involvement.

On disposing of application of an accused for bail before a magistrate's court, the chief justice said that the necessary order in this regard should be delivered at open court instead of Khas Kamra (Judge's Chamber) to avoid any whispers. "Why should we shoulder the share of such whispers?"



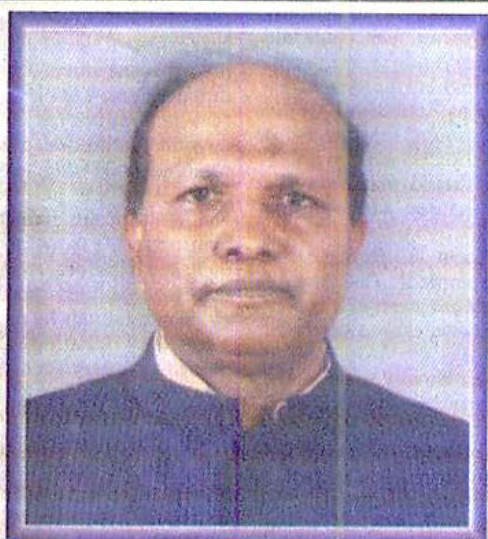
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## 12TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM



Today, October 19, 2007 is the Twelfth Death Anniversary of Late AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM, the Founder and Chairman of ISLAM GROUP OF COMPANIES.

We request all his relatives, well-wishers, colleagues, friends and employees to pray for the peace of the departed soul.

MRS. JAHURUL ISLAM & FAMILY

## আমরা শোকাত

বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি জনাব আবদুল ওয়াদুদ সিদ্দিক -এর পিতা এবং ইসলামিক ফাউন্ডেশনের মহা-পরিচালক জনাব ফজলুর রহমান সাহেবের শ্বশুর বিশিষ্ট ব্যবসায়ী, সমাজ সেবক, দানশীল আলহাজ্ব আবদুর রহমান সাহেব গত ১৭ই অক্টোবর, ২০০৭ইং দিবাগত রাত্রি ১১-৩০ মিনিটে ৮০ বৎসর বয়সে সেন্ট্রাল হাসপাতাল ঢাকায় বার্ধক্যজনিত কারণে ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইলালিল্লাহে... রাজেউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তিনি স্ত্রী, ৭ পুত্র, ৩ কন্যা, নাতি-নাতনী ও আত্মীয়-স্বজন সহ অসংখ্য গুন-গ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন।

মরহমের রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনার জন্য আজ শুক্রবার ১৯শে অক্টোবর, ২০০৭ইং বাদ আছর ১০৫-১০৬, বি.বি. রোড, উকিল পাড়া (হাজী মঞ্জিল), নারায়ণগঞ্জে দোয়া ও মিলাদ মাহফিল অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

আত্মীয়-স্বজন, বন্ধু-বান্ধব, শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষীদের উক্ত মাহফিলে উপস্থিত হয়ে মরহমের রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

.....মরহমের শোকাত পরিবার বর্গ