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## ANTI-GRAFT DRIVE

# Deadline must to restore business confidence

EC envoy says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

European Commission (EC) Ambassador Stefan Frowein yesterday said Bangladeshi government must clearly state the duration of its anti-corruption drive if it wants to gain the confidence of the business community, maintain economic stability, and avoid uncertainties.

The government would also need to maintain political stability to allay foreign investors' fear of an unpredictable investment climate, said Frowein in reply to audience questions at the EU Information Day seminar in the capital.

"If there is uncertainty and shortage of clear-cut information, foreign investors would not be interested in investing here," he said adding, "Without private sector and foreign direct investment, this country cannot get further -- it is so much desperately needed."

Frowein went on to say the international media is not report-

ing positive developments in Bangladesh, and that adversely affects the country's image abroad. He added foreign investors need to 'get the right information and perception' in order to be attracted to the country.

"If perception improves, order books will improve, and if order books improve, employment situation will improve," he quipped.

A number of EC staff also made presentations regarding trade and economic assistance, reporting that the EC will give a grant of 205 million euros to Bangladesh over three years for the fields of governance, human rights, economic development, disaster management, and food security.

The EU imported 5 billion euros worth of goods from Bangladesh in 2006, marking a 27 percent rise from the previous year.

## Iajuddin off to New York

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed left Dhaka yesterday for New York on a weeklong official visit to the United States.

Caretaker government advisers Barrister Mainul Hosein and Maj Gen (Retd) MA Matin, head of the diplomatic corps, cabinet secretary, navy and air chiefs, charge d'affaires of the US Embassy and high civil and military officials were present at the airport to see him off.

"He will arrive in New York on October 31 via Dubai by a regular flight of the Emirates Airlines," said a Bangladeshi announcement.

During his seven-day visit to the USA, the president would attend functions in Ohio and New Orleans.

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## One killed as BDR opens fire on illegal loggers

UNB, Feni

An illegal logger was shot to death and 20 others, including BDR soldiers, were wounded in clashes that erupted after the border guards opened fire to prevent timber smuggling in Feni's Phulgazi upazila yesterday, officials said.

They said Harun-or-Rashid, 40, a resident of Chagolnaiya upazila, died on the spot as the law enforcers opened fire on three smugglers who, carrying Indian timber in a pick-up van, defied a BDR order to pull up at Tarakucha village at about 1:30pm.

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## ট্রেস কমান্ডার ফোরাম



PHOTO: STAR

The Sectors Commander Forum comprising the sector commanders of the Liberation War holds a press conference at the Liberation War Museum in the capital yesterday. (Story on page 1)

## Quader sued for hiding wealth

### ACC okays charge sheets against 12 top graft suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against detained former state minister for youth and sports Obaidul Quader for accumulating wealth illegally beyond his known sources of income and concealing information in the wealth statement submitted to the commission.

ACC Assistant Director Ashraful Islam filed the case against AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader for concealing information about wealth worth Tk 15.55 lakh and accumulating wealth worth Tk 62.85 lakh illegally.

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## SALE OF GOVT HOUSES

### Arrest warrant against Amir Khasru, Harris Chowdhury, 10 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again issued arrest warrants against former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, former premier Khaleda Zia's political secretary Harris Chowdhury, Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam and 9 others in a case filed in connection with the sale of 18 government houses at lower prices.

Another Dhaka court issued arrest warrant against Akther Hamid Paban, son of Khondaker Delwar Hossain who was appointed BNP Secretary General

by Khaleda Zia, in connection with a carjacking case.

Trial of a sedition case against Awami Svechchhaseba League President AFM Baubuddin Nasim began yesterday.

Judge Mohammad Azizul of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order as the accused have been absconding to avoid the arrest.

The same court on September 25 issued arrest warrants against them but they did not comply with its order for appearing before the court.

Names of Khasru, Harris and Chowdhury

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## Tarique surprised at latest changes in BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The detained senior joint secretary general of the BNP, Tarique Rahman, yesterday expressed surprise at the latest development in the party in which two key party posts were reshuffled and expulsions of three leaders overthrown.

Tarique expressed his astonishment at a meeting with his wife, Dr Zobaida Rahman, his aunt Tahera Rahman, younger brother Koko's wife, Syeda Shamila Rahman, sister-in-law Shahina Khan Zaman and her husband Air Commodore (retired) Syed Shahruzzaman at the Dhaka Central jail.

The BNP leader wanted to know what led to the recent changes in the party, sources said adding that he also inquired about the health of his mother and Koko -- both now behind bars -- and other family members.

The family meeting took place in the presence of jail and Special Branch of Police officials.

Tarique, facing several criminal charges, was arrested at his family's cantonment residence on March 7.

## EXTORTION CASE No-confidence petition against final report on ex-MP Abu Hena

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The plaintiff of a Tk 1.5 lakh extortio- n case filed against former BNP lawmaker Abu Hena and two others submitted a "nariji" (no-confidence) petition yesterday for the second time after police placed the final report of the case before a court following a re-investigation.

The Rajshahi court scheduled November 22 for hearing on the petition.

On September 5, police submitted a final report of the case and said no witnesses or evidence was found to prove the allegations.

Plaintiff Ashraful Islam filed his first

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## Law secretary seeks exemption from SC show cause notice

UNB, Dhaka

Responding to a show-cause notice issued by the Supreme Court (SC) regarding a law ministry circular for district judges, Law Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday sought exemption for his ministry from the show-cause obligation.

The SC on Sunday stayed the operation of the October 24 circular requesting the district judges not to ask for courtrooms, manpower, etc. of judicial magistrates, transport and other logistic supports following separation of the judiciary.

Apparently taking the ministry's posture as a non-cooperation ahead of separating the judiciary with effect from November 1, the SC also issued a suo moto show-cause notice, asking the law secretary to explain within 48 hours why the impugned circular "should not be declared inoperative".

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Chemicals being sprayed on bananas to ripen those before supplying the fruit to Dhaka and elsewhere in the country from Mahasthangarh in Shibganj upazila, Bogra.

## Rokon-Ud-Doula made OSD at last

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has stripped Rokon-Ud-Doula of his magistracy and made him an OSD (official on special duty) at the establishment ministry.

It issued a circular to that effect on Monday night, a few hours after getting the president's approval.

Rokon who rose to fame for his role in the anti-adulteration drives in the capital became subject to controversy after he called for the government to defer separation of the judiciary from the executive till 2021.

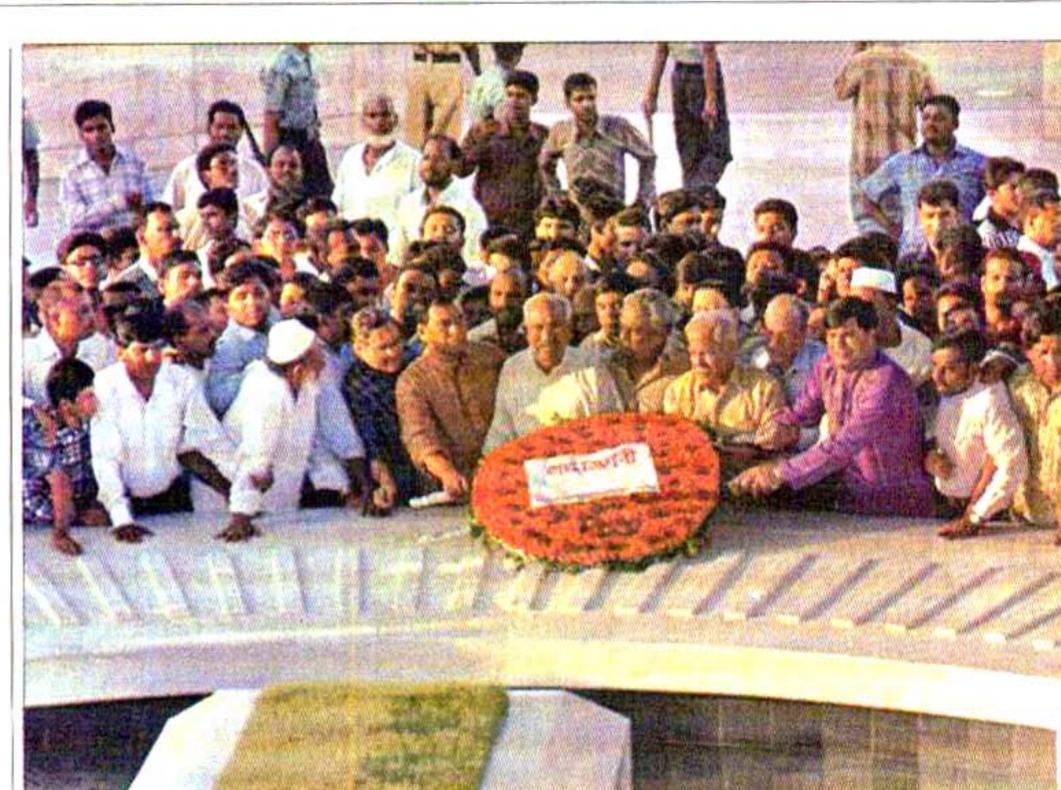
Addressing a seminar in the city on October 21 he also asked the executive magistrates to go on a work stoppage from November 1 in the event of his arrest.

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### Prayer Timing

October 31		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr 4-50	5-25	
Zohr 12-45	1-15	
Asr 4-00	4-15	
Maghrib 5-32	5-35	
Esha 7-15	7-45	

Source: Islamic Foundation



BNP leaders led by M Saifur Rahman place a bouquet on the grave of party founder Ziaur Rahman in the capital yesterday. BNP made changes to its top brass the night before.