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Brac to write off Tk 100cr loan in Sidr-hit areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac has decided to write off micro-finance loans amounting to Tk 100 crore in the areas devastated by cyclone Sidr.

The decision was taken yesterday based on the NGO's initial assessment in the Sidr-affected areas, says a press release.

Brac had decided earlier not to collect micro-finance instalments from its borrowers in the cyclone-

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Magistrate feels embarrassed to hold trial of DU teachers

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A magistrate yesterday felt 'embarrassed' to hold the trial of the case against four Dhaka University (DU) teachers and 15 others on charge of instigating violence on DU campus in August this year.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sultan Mahmud transferred the case to the chief metro-

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Legal experts, academics term seditious case a 'conspiracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government should try the war criminals under special tribunals and the seditious case filed by an individual at a regular court is a conspiracy since war crimes are not recognised under the Bangladeshi Penal Code, said legal experts, academics and freedom fighters yesterday.

The speakers made the comments

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MISSION INSTITUTIONAL CORRUPTION

ACC targets grafts in service sector

Plans to recommend govt remedial measures

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Public service oriented institutions in government and private sectors

will be the prime target of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) at the beginning of its new dimensional drive against institutional graft set to start this month.

The commission will not only investigate alleged corruption and irregularities of the organisations

but also recommend that the government take remedial measures to check institutional corruption.

ACC sources say they are working to prepare a list of organisations providing public service as well as having allegations of gross corruption and misdeeds against them.

The anti-graft watchdog is not going to reveal names of these organisations now, but will take legal actions based on its findings

through investigations.

Explaining the basis of the commission's selection of organisation for investigation, Col Hanif Iqbal, director general (administration), told The Daily Star, "Negative public perception would be considered to choose the institutions."

ACC Chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury told the press recently.

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ILLEGAL VOIP BUSINESS

GP-supplied equipment seized from house of AccessTel owner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday raided the head office of Grameenphone after it "found out Grameenphone's involvement" in providing illegal VoIP (voice over internet protocol) equipment to an internet service provider (ISP).

Rab officials said Grameenphone supplied VoIP switches to AccessTel, which was running illegal VoIP business using the switches. Rab personnel claimed they seized VoIP equipment worth Tk 50 lakh from the house of AccessTel owner on Road-105 of Gulshan-2 in the city yesterday.

Grameenphone authorities last night said "some additional irregularities were found" regarding Grameenphone providing special services to illegal VoIP operators.

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GP CEO admits 'additional irregularities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lt Khandaker Al Moin of Rab's intelligence wing told The Daily Star last night, "Earlier, we raided the Grameenphone office and found that customers used Grameenphone's SIMs [subscriber identity module] to run VoIP business."

He said at that time Grameenphone denied they were involved in the act. "Now we have found evidence of Grameenphone's direct involvement," Moin said.

Major Shamsuzzoha, who was leading the drive, told reporters at the Grameenphone head office last night that they have seized technical data showing Grameenphone's involvement in the act.

"We are trying to get to the bottom of this whole affair and I can assure that stern measures will be taken against anyone involved within Grameenphone," he added.

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Police refuse to record seditious case against Jamaat leaders

Say they didn't receive govt nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite a court order, Tejgaon police yesterday refused to register a seditious case against two top Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and a former Islami Bank chairman for their anti-liberation activities, saying they did not have necessary government sanction.

"Sanction of the government is required prior to register a seditious case. But it [Tejgaon Police Station] did not get the sanction yet," the officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station told a metropolitan magistrate's court.

The OC sent back the case to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate seeking directives about the next course of action in such a situation.

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Govt halves rice import estimate

Says 14, not 31, lakh tonnes rice to be purchased

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shifting from its earlier estimate, the government yesterday came up with a fresh calculation, saying import of 14.20 lakh tonnes of rice, and not 31 lakh tonnes, is needed to meet the domestic deficit due to crop damage in floods and cyclone.

On Saturday, the agriculture ministry at a press conference in presence of the adviser said 31 lakh tonnes of rice have to be imported from the international market in the current fiscal year.

"Import requirement changes every day and that is why we can say the latest figure is also correct," Karim said.

Food Secretary Aiyub Mia however tried to justify the fresh import requirement of rice saying there is

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School of poison still

Only change seen is transfer of edn officer

PINAKI ROY

It was only 11:00am and the day was sunny. But still the premises of the Bakchar Primary School looked foggy Monday morning.

A follow-up visit to the Bakchar Primary School, Shyampur, where students attend their classes wearing masks, found no improvement in conditions since the scandal was revealed three weeks ago. Still thick poisonous smog from the heavy industries around the school hangs over the area.

Nothing has changed. Following a report on "School of Poison" published in The Daily Star, the only action the authorities have taken is the transfer of assistant thana education officer (ATEO) to another district as punishment.

"We have transferred the ATEO as

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PHOTO: STAR

Students pump water on Bakchar Primary School premises amidst heavy smog that makes it look like an early winter morning even at midday. Schoolchildren are still attending classes amidst this pollution.

Empower poor through IT access: CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday called for empowering poor, disadvantaged and rural population through providing them with access to the information superhighway for building a prosperous Bangladesh.

He made the call while formally declaring open a two-day launching programme of Mission 2011, organised by Bangladesh Telecentre Network (BTN) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

The head of the caretaker government urged all to help make the

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Khoka claims he owns Tk 9 crore wealth

His property includes 5 houses, 6 flats, 8 plots, over 28 acres land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in his wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday declared that he owns movable and immovable property worth Tk 9 crore.

The statement showed immovable property worth about Tk 8 crore and movable property worth Tk 1.22 crore in the names of Khoka, his wife Ismat Ara, son Israt Hossain and daughter Sarika



Sadeque Hossain Khoka

Sadeque.

A number of sources, including his salary as a minister, lawmaker and the DCC mayor, and profits from his business were shown as the sources of his income.

According to the wealth statement, immovable property worth Tk 2.92 crore are in Khoka's name, property worth Tk 3.71 crore are in his wife's name, and property worth Tk 58.48 lakh and 16.4 lakh are in the names of his son and daughter.

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RU VERDICT
DU teachers stage silent protest

Class boycott at RU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Dhaka University (DU) teachers yesterday staged a silent demonstration, protesting against the imprisonment of four Rajshahi University (RU) teachers in connection with the August campus violence.

Over 40 teachers stood in front of the Aparajeyo Bangla for half an hour, displaying placards demanding immediate release of all the convicted and detained teachers and students of the two universities.

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Dhaka University teachers stage a silent demonstration on the campus yesterday demanding immediate release of all university teachers and students detained after the August violence.

PHOTO: STAR

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