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CA calls for turning educational instts into centres of excellence
UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed yesterday called for transforming educational institutions into "centres of excellence" instead of "centres of politics" to elevate Bangladesh to a moderate-income country over the next decade.

The head of the caretaker government proposed incorporation of three-point component in the strategy of national development for advancing the already attained progress and turning Bangladesh into a moderate-income-group country.

He mooted the proposals while inaugurating the four-day 16th SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

DU teachers' ordeal drags on as charges framed again

2 RU teachers acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Another Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against four teachers and 15 students of Dhaka University (DU) of breaching the emergency power rules during the August violence on campus.

The same day two Rajshahi University (RU) teachers and an official were acquitted on charges

of torching a DGFI vehicle on August 22 while 10 students and an employee each were sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment.

In Dhaka, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Habibur Rahman Siddiqui set December 19 for recording statements of the witnesses. Before that, he read out details of the charges. Five of the

accused were in the dock yesterday while 14 others were absconding.

The court rejected the discharge petitions filed by the detainees—DU Teachers Association (Duta) President Sadul Amin, General Secretary Anwar Hossain, social science Dean Harun-or-Rashid, Chairman of applied physics department Neem Chandra

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Manju, wife face bribery charge

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, his wife Tasmina Hossain and his cousin Mahmud Hossain in a case filed in connection with taking Tk 1 crore as bribe from a construction company.

Meanwhile, the ACC filed a case against former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa and his wife Nurunnahar Parul with Ramna Police Station in connection with concealing their wealth and amassing properties through illegal means.

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Kazi Zafarullah, arrested under section 16(2) of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR), to jail after he was produced before

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Govt needs \$2.2b for Sidr rehabilitation

Fears 1 percentage point drop in GDP growth, jump in inflation

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

The country needs \$2.2 billion for rehabilitation projects and budgetary support and the government expects a one percentage point drop in expected GDP growth while one percentage point jump in inflation in FY08 due to Cyclone Sidr.

The government told this yesterday to the Local Consultative Group (LCG), a platform of Bangladesh's development part-

ners, at a meeting held in the NEC auditorium in the capital.

The government also reiterated its case for food assistance when four secretaries of the government met the donors to present their assessment on the budgetary effects of floods and cyclone, economic damage to infrastructure and the expected cost of recovery, and the food situation in the country.

"We need immediate assistance to get back to pre-Sidr situation and the money required will be

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

ACC to probe Syed Iskander's wealth

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has decided to initiate a primary inquiry into the wealth of former prime minister Khaleda Zia's younger brother and former BNP lawmaker Major (ret'd) Syed Iskander.

According to sources, the commission has already appointed its Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Khan to conduct the inquiry against Iskander, also a BNP vice-chairman.

At the onset of the Awami League government in 1996, now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption issued a notice to Iskander directing him to submit his wealth statement.

Subsequently, the High Court, SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Aziz appointment as CEC was illegal for holding dual offices

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared "illegal" the appointment of Justice MA Aziz as the chief election commissioner who preceded the current CEC, sealing the scope for the government to allow any person to concurrently hold two constitutional posts.

A division bench, comprising

Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Syed Ziaul Karim, pronounced the judgment, making its twin-rule absolute.

The HC on June 18 in 2005, following a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), had issued a ruling upon the then CEC Aziz, the Election Commission and the government, asking them why

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Hasnat Abdullah gets 8yrs for tax evasion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

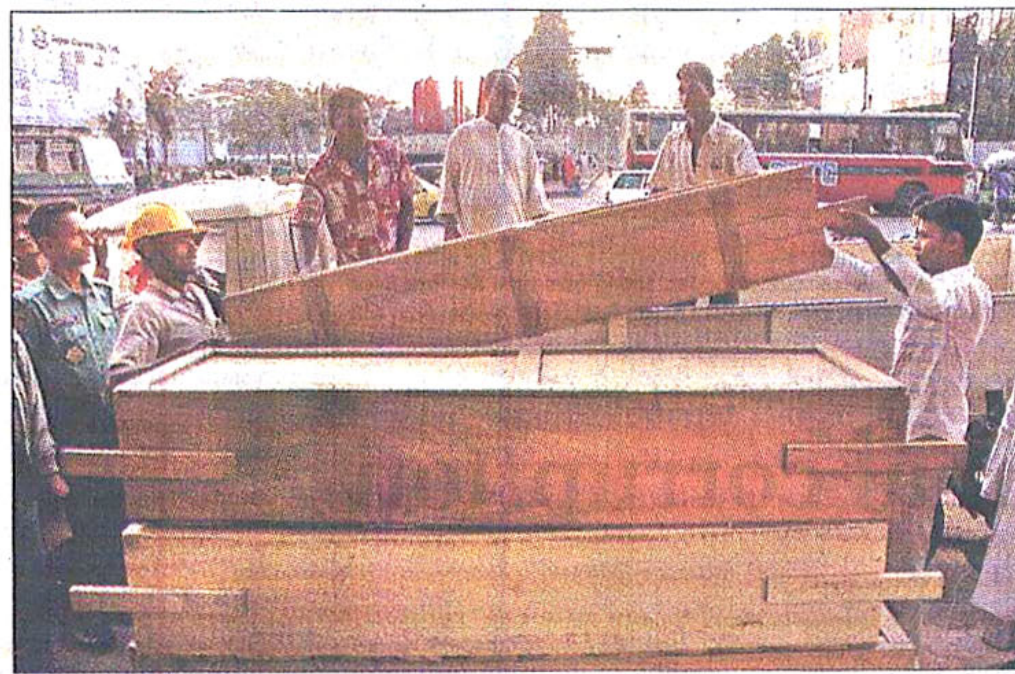
A special court yesterday sentenced former chief whip and Awami League leader Abul Hasnat Abdullah to eight years' imprisonment for three counts of tax evasion.

Judge AK Roy of the second special court, set up at the MP hostel on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, delivered the verdict against Hasnat, who is on the run.

The court also fined him Tk 40 lakh; in default of which he would have to stay in jail six more months. It also ordered the authorities to confiscate his properties worth Tk 1.65 crore that Hasnat did not mention in his tax returns submitted to the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Abul Hasnat was sentenced to one year's imprisonment for not submitting his tax return for 2004-05 tax year and another three years

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



Coffins are brought to Rangs Bhabani in the capital yesterday for the bodies of workers trapped, assumed dead, inside the collapsed building. The recovery work, however, could not continue for more than 10 minutes due to the vulnerability of the structure.

Journalists march streets to protest wage board award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists, press workers and employees of newspapers and news agencies in the capital yesterday took to the streets demanding amendments to the recently announced sixth wage board award for them.

The agitating journalists and others ignored the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) and held a rally on the road in front of the Jatiya Press Club blocking traffic for over two hours from 11:30am, and issued an ultimatum to meet their demands by December 16.

Amid presence of law enforcers, they brought out a brief procession and chanted slogans against Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain.

A four-hour abstention from SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

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