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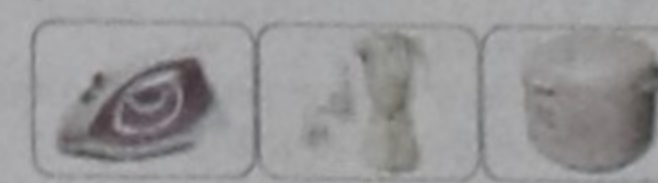
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## Corruption case against Hasina sent for trial

Prof Rafiqul shown held in Niko case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Tk 3 crore graft case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and seven others was transferred to the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka for trial yesterday.

Meantime, detained former state minister for power Prof Rafiqul Islam was shown arrested yesterday in connection with the Niko scam case.

After scrutinising the case docket and relevant documents, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani transferred the case against Hasina filed on charge of graft during the setting up of 100MW barge-mount power plant in Khulna.

The other charge-sheeted

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## Babar sued for hiding Tk 7.6 crore wealth

He fails to explain \$1m. bank deposit from S'pore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against detained former state minister Lutfozzaman Babar for hiding information about wealth worth around Tk 7.6 crore, which is inconsistent to his known source of income.

ACC Assistant Director Mirza Zahidul Alam in the case filed with Ramna Police Station mentioned that Babar committed a punishable offence by owning the wealth and stealthily keeping it under his possession.

The case said Babar submitted a wealth statement showing that he along with his wife, son and daughter

has moveable and immovable property worth about Tk 6.77 crore. He submitted the statement on July 7 last year through the senior jail super of Dhaka Central Jail following an ACC order.

Babar in the statement mentioned that construction cost of his 5,938sq-foot under-construction building at Madan upazila in Netrakona was Tk 8 lakh. But during verification the Public Works Department found the construction cost to be about Tk 34.43 lakh.

The case statement also said Babar did not mention over Tk 6.79 lakh deposited to his savings account with the Prime Bank Ltd in Gulshan.

Information collected from the

bank shows \$1 million was sent to Babar's account through demand draft from HSBC Singapore on June 20, 2007.

The former state minister did not give any appropriate reply or explanation when he was asked about the source of money. It suggests he kept the money deposited abroad as it was not earned through legal sources.

The ACC official also mentioned in the case that if further information or other people's involvement is found during the course of investigation that would also be included in the case.

Babar was arrested during a raid to his Gulshan residence on May 28

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## Cops beat up demonstrating RMG workers

Road blocked, vehicles damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police swooped on a group of garment workers in the city's Sheorapara yesterday after the workers took to busy Rokeya Sarani for their demands and vandalised several vehicles.

More than a hundred workers of the factory of Kimberly Fashion Ltd absented themselves from work and started demonstration at around 10:00am barricading the busy road for half an hour, which caused a halt in traffic movement.

Their demands included payment of salary and overtime allowances, Eid bonuses and attendance bonuses and leave facilities in line with the labour law.

At one point, they vandalised

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PHOTO: STAR

A policeman clubs a demonstrating garment worker at Sheorapara in the capital yesterday as the workers blockaded Rokeya Sarani for 30 minutes and started vandalising vehicles.



Expensive vehicles seized in areas under Shyampur Police Station in the city during joint forces' raids are kept under the open sky near the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at Postogola. A policeman is seen keeping tally.

## Astonishing Tk 1.44 crore made by govt typist

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against a detained ex-typist of the land ministry in connection with amassing assets beyond his known sources of income and for covering up the wealth.

ACC Assistant Director Mahfuza Khatun filed the corruption case against Kutubuddin Ahmed with

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## LOCKERS LOOT 9 BRAC Bank staff quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DB police yesterday interrogated nine BRAC Bank officials and three staffs of Hotel Nidmahal in connection with the heist at Dhanmondi Branch of BRAC Bank.

Meanwhile, acting on the confessional statements of the four gang members arrested earlier with stolen 200 tolas of gold and other valuables, DB police launched operations outside the

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## Wazed Miah hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Wazed Miah, a renowned nuclear scientist and husband of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, was admitted to Labaid Cardiac Hospital in the capital yesterday noon.

Dr Wazed was admitted to the hospital with severe breathing problems. He has been suffering from Broncho pneumonia and other complications, his physician Dr Sohrabuzzaman said.

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## "Iran world's leading sponsor of terror"

Bush asks Tehran regime to heed people's will

AFP, Abu Dhabi

US President George W Bush reached out to the Iranian people yesterday in the keynote address of a Middle East tour, telling them they had a right to live under a government "that listens to your wishes".

In the wide-ranging speech in the United Arab Emirates capital of Abu Dhabi, Bush hit out at the Tehran regime across the Gulf saying that it was "today the world's leading state sponsor of terror" and, with al-Qaeda, the main threat to the region's stability.

The US president also addressed Israelis and Palestinians telling the former that peace with their Arab neighbours was the best guarantee of security and the latter that they should "reject the terrorists who pose the greatest threat to a Palestinian state".

The United Arab Emirates is Iran's main trading partner with up to 10,000 Iranian firms operating in its commercial hub of Dubai and Bush's intention to use the platform to speak out against the Tehran regime had been well trailed.

"To the people of Iran, you're rich in culture and talent. You have the right to live under a government that listens to your wishes, respects your talents and allows you to build better lives for your families," he said.

"Unfortunately your government denies you these opportunities and threatens the peace and stability of your neighbours.

"So we call on the regime in Tehran to heed your will, and to make itself accountable to you.

"The day will come when the people of Iran have a government that embraces liberty and justice and Iran joins the community of free nations. When that good day comes you will have no better friend than the United States of America."

The Middle East tour, which Bush began in Israel on Wednesday has been overshadowed by renewed tensions with Tehran following a face-off between Iranian and US naval vessels in the entrance to the Gulf earlier this month.

Washington has since repeatedly warned Tehran that its commanders are authorised to use force in self-defence if necessary and Bush has stepped up his rhetoric against the Iranian regime.

"Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere," the US president said in Abu Dhabi.

"It seeks to intimidate its neighbours with missiles and bellicose rhetoric."

But in an embarrassing climbdown that was gleefully seized on by Tehran, the Pentagon admitted that a sound recording it had

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## Tigers face huge loss

BBC ONLINE, undated

Stephen Fleming and Daniel Vettori came close to centuries as New Zealand piled the pressure on Bangladesh's 143, ahead of 250.

By close on the second day of

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## Selim al Deen critically ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned playwright and cultural personality Selim al Deen's condition remained critical last night after he was provided with artificial life support at city's Labaid Cardiac Hospital.

"He has been provided with a temporary pacemaker and artificial ventilation now. His condition is quite critical. He had a cardiac arrest and had been transferred to this hospital on Friday from Birdem hospital," his physician Dr Sohrabuzzaman told reporters.

The renowned playwright and professor of Jahangirnagar University is expected to be flown to Bangkok for further treatment today, family sources said. They have called on the government to provide financial support to save his life.

Information Secretary Jamil Osman yesterday visited Dr Selim al Deen at the hospital. The government will consider his family's appeal positively, he said.

## ACC chairman escapes unhurt in car crash

UNB, Comilla

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury escaped unhurt from a road accident in Comilla Cantonment area yesterday morning.

The ACC chairman and his entourage were on their way to Feni when a microbus hit his car in the cantonment area on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at about 10:20am.

Mashhud afterwards headed for Feni in another staff car as two vehicles of his motorcade were damaged in the accident.

The microbus driver was arrested.

## Musharraf calls for Benazir exhumation

AFP, Washington

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, in a US magazine interview released Friday, called for the body of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto to be exhumed as he rejected charges that the government was complicit in her assassination.

In a wide-ranging interview with Newsweek published online, Musharraf also expressed his refusal to let the United States launch CIA operations against al-Qaeda in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been in turmoil since Benazir's assassination on

December 27 and her Pakistan People's Party has challenged the government's reports on her death. No autopsy was ever conducted.

While her party insists she was struck by a gunman's bullet before a suicide bomber blew himself up, the government says she was killed when her head hit her car's sunroof as she waved to supporters after a campaign rally.

Musharraf said Benazir's body should be exhumed to determine once and for all whether she was killed by a bullet.

"Yes, exhumate it. A hundred percent. I would like it to be exhumed," he told Newsweek from

Rawalpindi.

But he ruled out ordering a post-mortem without the agreement of Benazir's family.

Asked why he should not use his executive power to order one, he said: "Everything is not black and white here. It would have very big political ramifications. If I just ordered the body exhumed, that would be careless, unless (Benazir Bhutto's) people agreed. But they will not."

He said Benazir's supporters have not agreed to a post-mortem "because they know it's a fact there is nothing wrong."

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## Charges framed against Ctg mayor in Bijoy TV graft case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A court here framed charges against the mayor of Chittagong City Corporation, ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, and two other city corporation officials for illegally test launching a private television channel, Bijoy TV.

Chittagong Divisional Special Judge SM Solaiman framed the charges under sections 109 and 409 of penal code and section 5(2) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

The two other indicted are the city corporation's Chief Engineer Mokhter Alam and former chief executive officer Imtiaz Hossain. The accused, who were present in the court, pleaded not guilty and prayed for justice as the charges were read out to them.

The judge said the case will go to trial tomorrow and summoned the complainant to appear before the court on the date.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Kotwali Police Station on May 27 last year on charge of launching Bijoy TV without prior government permission.

The charge sheet was submitted on November 22 in which it was alleged that the trio drew Tk 1,78,02,000 from the city corporation fund in four phases and used up Tk 1,69,67,960 in the name of launching the private channel.

Citing sections of the Corporation Act, the defence lawyer argued during the charge-framing hearing that the mayor legally launched the test transmission of the television channel from Singapore with a view to broadcasting to the world the culture, history, heritage and business prospects of the port city.

Rebutting the charge of misappropriation, the defence said a big chunk of the money drawn from the city corporation fund was refunded.

State lawyer advocate AKM Jahirul Haq argued that Mayor Mohiuddin launched the test transmission without taking prior permission from the authorities concerned, including Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, local government and rural development and information ministries.

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## DU VIOLENCE IO finds links of 4 teachers, 15 students

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An Investigation Officer (IO) yesterday testified in court that he had found involvement of four teachers and 15 students of Dhaka University (DU) in violating Emergency Power Rules (EPR) on the DU campus in August last year.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Sirajul Islam of Shahbagh Police Station, IO of the case, in his testimony said that he has already pressed charges against the same.

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Prayer Timing		
January 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



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