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ACC allowed to quiz Babar Warrant against Manju, wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The ACC yesterday obtained permission to interrogate detained former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar at the jail gate in the case filed against him for amassing wealth through illegal means.

A Dhaka court has issued arrest warrants against Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju and his wife Tasmina Hossain in the case filed against them for amassing wealth illegally.

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AL warns of tougher move for Hasina's release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League, its front organisations and former leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday concurrently warned the caretaker government that they would go for tougher movements if detained Awami League President Sheikh Hasina is not released immediately.

Mentioning that Hasina had been forcibly taken to jail from

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Optical fibre line snapped, restored after 8hrs

Net users face trouble

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's telecommunication and internet links were once again disrupted from Sunday night for about eight hours as miscreants snapped Dhaka-Cox's Bazar optical fibre line that links the nation to the submarine cable system.

According to Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB), the line was snapped at around 11:30 pm Sunday and it was restored at 7:45 am Monday.

The BTB in a press release said two technical teams from Dhaka

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PUBLIC SERVANTS ACC suggests mechanism to examine wealth reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday suggested that the cabinet division introduce a permanent system at ministries or government offices immediately for scrutinising the wealth statements submitted by government officials.

The system would help maintain discipline at ministries or government offices and curb

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Govt to reconstitute CHT Land Commission soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The present caretaker government will soon reconstitute the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Land Commission to settle the long-standing land disputes between indigenous communities and settlers in the region.

Food and Disaster Management Adviser AMM Shawkat Ali yesterday said at a roundtable titled "Land Disputes in Chittagong Hill Tracts: Ways to settling the issue".

The government will appoint a new chairman to the Land Commission and is also planning to appoint two fulltime members to facilitate the works of the commission, he said.

"The present government will finish reorganising the Land Commission so that the next government can take it forward," the adviser said during the roundtable organised by eminent citizens at the city's SWA Auditorium.

Educationist Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui chaired the event and Prof Ajoy Roy presented the

keynote paper.

Asked how the government will reorganise the commission, he said they will start reorganising the commission and the land ministry would finally work on the matter.

If the commission is reconstituted in the true sense, the long-standing problem would be settled, he said.

Shawkat said that they are yet to decide whether there would be one commission for the community of indigenous people in CHT region and indigenous people on plain lands or two commissions, one for each community.

He said the government would investigate why lands in the CHT area have been handed over to settlers despite the ban on reallocation of all lands there.

Special guest of the roundtable Chakma Raja Debashis Roy, also a special assistant to the chief adviser, said no governments, including the present one, has any cohesive policy regarding CHT affairs. Neither the government nor its ministries have any policy to

reorganise settlements in CHT areas, he said.

He, however, said the present government is trying to focus on CHT development issues as much as it can.

Terming the "supreme power" of the chairman of the CHT Land Commission unconstitutional, he said the chairman is the main obstacle to settling the land disputes in CHT areas. He said there could be consensus between the commission and the regional parishad in settling the disputes and work on drafting laws to this end could be started by the present government.

He said after CHT Land Commission decides on the matter, it is the duty of the government to implement the decisions. He said the issue of CHT people's rehabilitation would certainly come to fore if the commission is reconstituted.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said settling the longstanding land dispute in CHT areas is must. "As a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

CA for discipline in business

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday urged all concerned to maintain peace and discipline in the business arena and refrain from activities that cast negative impact on the national economy.

The head of the caretaker government made the call while addressing National Export Trophy distribution function jointly organised by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and the commerce ministry at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

He called for increasing the country's export to keep pace with the fast rising economies of China, India and Vietnam.

The CA said there is high demand in the international market for agro-based and processed agricultural goods, light engineering items, shoes and leather products, medicine, ICT and home textiles.

He believes that Bangladesh will turn into a middle-income country in the next one decade if all work together.

The export income of

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HASINA'S PASSPORT Police asked to submit report by Apr 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed officer-in-charge (IO) of Dhanmondi police to submit a report by April 30 on whether passport of detained former premier Sheikh Hasina would be returned or not.

Earlier on March 12, another Dhaka court ordered to return Hasina's passport following a petition submitted by her lawyers on grounds that she needed to go abroad for treatment. Following a

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PHOTO: STAR

A fire at a market in Kamrangirchar on the outskirts of the capital yesterday leaves many shops gutted. Story on page 3.

Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover deal scrapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) finally cancelled the contract with Belhasa Accom JV and Associates regarding the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover project.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka Sunday evening signed the contract cancellation letter and sent it to Belhasa JV and Associates. The DCC is also preparing to file a criminal case against Obaidul Karim, managing director of Belhasa and chairman of Orion Group, for cheating.

This new development halts the eight-kilometre-long Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover project.

Earlier, the LGRD ministry asked the DCC to cancel the contract with Belhasa and the law ministry also expressed similar views.

Allegation of submitting a fake bank guarantee to get the work order was raised against Belhasa, the concessionary private investor of Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover project.

A task force carried out the

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PHOTO: STAR

A Bomb Squad member of the Detective Branch of Police opens a packet suspected to contain a bomb on the pavement near Gate-2 in Chittagong city yesterday. The packet created panic in the area but nothing harmful was found in it.

Dr Kamal for realising compensation from corrupt, plunderers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday demanded compensation from corrupt people who plundered people's assets.

"We demand compensation from the corrupt people who occupied power and plundered people's assets in people's name. They (corrupt people) have to apologise," he said while speaking at the chief guest at the foundation-laying programme of a Proshika

housing project in Garon Chatbari near Mirpur-Ashulia embankment yesterday.

He said, "They [corrupt people] would have to return the stolen assets as well as compensate. We will not tolerate the angry eyes of corrupt people."

Prior to his speech, Kamal laid the foundation stone of the project titled "Housing Project of the Urban Poor", a project to build permanent housing for slum

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

KL warns of deporting workers living in open space

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia has warned Bangladesh of deporting Bangladeshi workers living in open spaces in Kuala Lumpur if problems regarding those workers are not resolved soon.

The Bangladeshi workers living in open spaces would be deported even if they have valid work permits and travel documents, said Malaysia's Immigration Department Enforcement Director

Datuk Ishak Mohammed, reported Malaysian newspaper The Star on Saturday.

Ishak said the department could no longer compromise on the matter as the workers have been tarnishing the image of the country.

The Star reported that 150 Bangladeshi workers have been living along the riverbanks near the Damai LRT in Kuala Lumpur after leaving their hostels in Kajang, which became overcrowded.

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Buriganga can be saved thru' augmentation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a seminar yesterday said that the River Buriganga can be saved by setting up an augmentation route through the New Dhaleswari-Pungli-Bangshi-Turag-Buriganga rivers.

They said a budget of about Tk 616 crore is needed to implement the proposed 140-kilometre long augmentation route. Tk 6 cr will be required every year for the maintenance cost of this route.

The water experts were addressing a seminar on 'Sustainability of

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US airstrikes, assaults in Baghdad kill 41

AFF, Baghdad

US airstrikes and military assaults have killed 41 "criminals" in Baghdad, including 25 who died when an alleged mortar team was bombed, the American military announced yesterday.

The killings occurred on Sunday in eastern and northeastern Baghdad where US and Iraqi forces have been battling the Mahdi Army militia of radical Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr since Tuesday.

The deaths push the toll from six days of fighting between security forces and Shia militiamen in

Baghdad, the southern city of Basra and several other Shia areas to more than 320, at least 140 of these in Baghdad.

On Sunday, Sadr ordered his fighters off the streets while the government agreed not to pursue those involved in the fighting provided they stowed their weapons.

A US military statement said American soldiers were hunting for the launch site of a rocket or mortar attack in eastern Baghdad on Sunday when their Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle

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Hasina not forced to appear in court IG (prisons) says

UNB, Dhaka

Refuting news reports that detained Awami League President Sheikh Hasina was compelled to

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Prayer Timing

April 1

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 4-40 5-15

Zohr 12-45 1-15

Asr 4-45 5-00

Maghrib 6-21 6-24

Esha 7-45 8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



Mr. Wasim Rahman, Managing Director MBM Garments Limited, receiving National Export Trophy Silver (2004-05).

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the team of MBM Garments Limited, for receiving the National Export Trophy, Silver 2004-05 and for maintaining the market lead on their 25th Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) in the Apparel Industry of Bangladesh.

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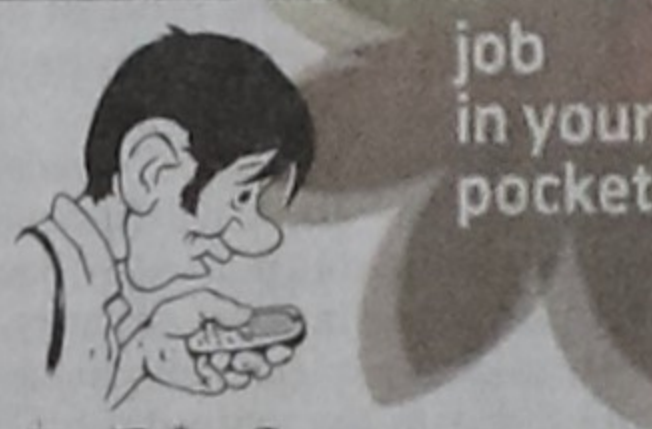
Biman to take off with 49pc stake sale this year

SOHEL PARVEZ

The government plans to sell 49 percent of its shareholding in national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd this year through the stock markets.

The offer, and subsequent listing in the country's stock exchanges, will help the beleaguered state-owned airline improve its cash flows substantially and take on private carriers.

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Champions and Runners-up Teams

Girls' Championship (Scholastica)

Boys' Championship (BIT)

Both the Boys' Championship and Runners-up Trophies kept by the Home Team - BIT

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