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ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH ACC presses charges against Haji Selim

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim and his wife Gulshan Ara Begum in a case filed against them for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in their wealth statements.

Meanwhile a Dhaka court has allowed the ACC to interrogate detained former health minister and BNP leader Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain at the jail gate in connection with amassing illegal wealth and giving false wealth information.

CASE AGAINST HAJI SELIM

ACC Deputy Director Abu Sayeed, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in

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Stephen Evans new British envoy in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Stephen Nicholas Evans has been appointed the next British High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

He succeeds Anwar Choudhury who will be completing his four-year tenure to Dhaka shortly.

According to an announcement made by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London yesterday, Evans will take up his appointment in Dhaka in June this year.

A press release from the British High Commission in Dhaka said Anwar Choudhury would shortly be completing his four-year tenure as British High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

Choudhury, whose position in Bangladesh had been extended by a year in April 2007, has been confirmed in his new appointment to a critical senior diplomatic position at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Evans, a highly experienced and accomplished diplomat with in-depth experience of South Asia, has

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Judicial probe body wants code of conduct for DU teachers, students

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Judicial Enquiry Commission that investigated the violent incidents on and around Dhaka University (DU) campus in August last year has asked the government to formulate a code of conduct for the DU teachers, students and officials.

"Behaviour of teachers, students, officers and employees of the university will have to be specified by formulating a code of conduct. And they will have to be apprised of it and compelled to follow it. Otherwise, administrative and disciplinary actions will have to be taken against an individual (in case of violation of the code of conduct)," the commission said in its report.

The report, made public on

March 23, also suggested that orientation classes for newly appointed teachers and freshers should be arranged to teach them the code of conduct to ensure a congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

Chief of the judicial commission Justice Habibur Rahman Khan placed the report to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed on November 15 last year with a 28-point recommendation that include a ban on slavish teachers and student politics by amending the Dhaka University Order 1973 and repealing the political parties regulations 1976, if necessary.

Section 56 (2) of the Dhaka University Order 1973 allows teachers to 'keep association' with any lawful organisation outside the university.

"The service condition shall be determined without any prejudice to the freedom of the teacher or officer to hold any political party views and to keep association with any lawful organisation outside the university and shall be clearly stated in the contract," it says.

Referring to this, the judicial commission says, "It means there is no bar on teachers from becoming members of any political party." This order allows excessive democratisation resulting in groupings among the teachers but there is no provision in it to ensure accountability of teachers, the commission notes.

"This section should be amended, if necessary, so that teachers cannot be grouped as white, blue and pink panels with

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UN chief lauds reforms in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has lauded the government's reform initiatives and expressed the hope that these would make democratic institutions in the country sustainable.

The UN secretary general's appreciation came when Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury called on him at the UN Headquarters in New York on Monday afternoon, according to a foreign ministry press release.

The foreign affairs adviser arrived in New York earlier in the day and was scheduled to chair a session on poverty alleviation and education yesterday. He will also address the General Assembly's plenary on Millennium Development Goals in his capacity as chairman of Least Developed Countries.

Iftekhar informed the UN secretary general about the determination of the caretaker government to hold "free, fair and credible elections in accordance with the road map before the end of December this year" which the secretary general "deeply appreciated" and offered any logistic assistance in this regard that the government may wish to seek.

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RMG workers protest death of co-worker for 'negligence'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of garment workers yesterday staged demonstrations for hours in the city's Shyamoli area following a co-worker's death that they blamed on factory authorities' negligence.

At least 20 vehicles were damaged as the workers of RN Sweater Ltd went on the rampage late in the evening. Vehicular movement on the Ring Road and adjacent roads remained suspended during the protest for about four hours.

Eyewitnesses said Russell, 22, an employee of washing section, died at around 5:00pm after the authorities refused to allow him time off work and go to hospital

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PHOTO: STAR

The foot-over bridge at Hatkhola in the capital has developed a large hole for lack of maintenance.

Prof Wahiduddin slates govt for taking loans to tackle liquidity crisis

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday criticised the government's decision to take loans from International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a foreign bank to tackle liquidity crisis.

He observed, "It cannot be a permanent solution. If they [government] take loans from external sources today to pay for fuel and rice imports, what will they do to solve those problems next year?"

Mahmud, chairman of the Institute of Microfinance, was speaking at a seminar in the city on 'Food Crisis in Bangladesh: Present and Future Challenges'.

The government on Monday decided to take \$300 million in hard loan from Standard Chartered Bank and \$220 million in soft loan from IMF to ease the pressure that rising cost of fuel and food imports has put on balance of payment.

A former adviser to caretaker government, Mahmud said, "If the

government continues its trend of giving large subsidies it would have to obtain more loans."

He said spending a huge amount in subsidies would obviously affect the other priorities like ensuring loans to private sector at lower interest rates, and strengthening social safety net and poverty alleviation.

Mahmud chaired the discussion organised by Institute of Microfinance, an institute dedicated to research in microfinance, poverty and rural development.

"We have to assess properly the benefits and abuses of giving subsidy," he observed.

For instance, he said, the government has to police marketing and distribution of fertiliser since the price came down because of heavy subsidies. But the ultimate result is no fertiliser is left in the market.

Turning to foods, he said lately there have been speculations

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US to provide 90,000 MT food aid

UNB, Dhaka

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide approximately 90,000 metric tons of food aid worth \$67.8 million to Bangladesh this year.

One third of the food aid will be used to assist Cyclone Sidr affected people of Barguna and

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GULISTAN-JATRABARI FLYOVER DCC sues Obaidul Karim and four others for forgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) last night filed a forgery case against Belhasa Accom JV and Associates, the construction firm that saw its contract to build Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover scrapped Sunday.

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BR to install theft proof sleeper clips on tracks

KAILASH SARKAR

The Bangladesh Railway (BR) authorities decided to install highly secured modern anti-vandal sleeper clips on rail tracks in theft-prone areas in the country.

The step was taken to prevent fatalities against the backdrop of the biggest ever theft of sleeper clips from rail tracks between Banani and Cantonment stations in the capital last week.

In the meantime, as an immediate preventive measure, the BR would temporarily weld regular sleeper clips that are currently in use on rail tracks running through some of the areas susceptible to theft.

Under this plan, the clips on the

track between Banani and Cantonment stations, from where 3,510 clips were stolen, would be welded first.

Abul Kashem, chief of BR engineering department, told The Daily Star, "Thieves can easily remove the regular sleeper clips installed on railway tracks. On the contrary, the anti-vandal clips provide the highest protection for the rail tracks as these cannot be removed without special equipment."

Anti-vandal clips have already been installed on some parts of rail tracks in theft-prone areas across the country to avert fatalities, he noted.

The Ashuganj to Shayestaganj line and the Ashuganj to Chittagong line via Akhaura and

Comilla have been fitted with the modern clips, he added.

Kashem, however, said, "While a normal clip costs Tk 110, an anti-vandal clip would cost Tk 350."

BR sources said 5,600 sleeper clips are used for installing 1,400 sleepers on a one-kilometre rail track. The state-owned Bangladesh Railway maintains 2,855 kilometres of rail tracks.

Belayet Hossain, director general (DG) of BR, told this correspondent yesterday, "Although it is much too costly to install the anti-vandal sleeper clips on the entire railway tracks, we are considering it seriously and will do it in future."

"The anti-vandal sleeper clips are imported from the UK and the

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Emon's aide killed in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sanjiddul Islam Emon's accomplice Taj Mohammad Ponir was killed early yesterday during a "gunfight" between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel and Ponir's gang members at Jigatala in the city.

Rab-2 officials claimed a Rab team went to Jigatala in the capital around 3:00am following information that Ponir is staying there

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Lanka accuses rebels of shelling a hospital 47 rebels killed in fighting

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka accused Tamil Tiger rebels of shelling a state-run hospital yesterday as fighting across the northern front lines reportedly left at least 47 rebels dead.

The hospital in Mannar district was partially damaged by heavy artillery from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the defence ministry said, adding that a few shells had also fallen close to a nearby state-run school.

"The explosions had caused panic and trauma among patients and civilians who were immediately evacuated by troops into safer shelters," the ministry said in a statement. It was not immediately clear if there were casualties.

Government troops exchanged fire with guerrillas in Mannar on

Tuesday, killing 12 rebels, while fighting in the north on Monday killed at least 35 more rebels, the ministry said, putting its own losses at six soldiers wounded.

There was no immediate comment from the Tigers, whose armed struggle since 1972 for an independent state for minority Tamils in the majority Sinhalese nation has left more than 60,000 dead.

At least 2,520 rebels have been killed since January, while 151 soldiers have lost their lives in the same period, according to defence ministry data.

Casualty numbers given by both sides cannot be independently confirmed since Colombo bars journalists and rights groups from front-line areas.

The government has vowed to defeat the Tamil Tigers and scrapped a truce with rebels earlier this year.

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Prayer Timing			
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Zohr	12:45	1:15	
Asr	4:45	5:00	
Maghrib	6:21	6:24	
Esha	7:45	8:15	
Source: Islamic Foundation			